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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.

[Based on 2,295 returns, viz.: 1,643 from Employers, 518 from Trade Unions, and 134 from other sources.]

In all the important industries an improvement in the state of employment has taken place during the month, with the result that the percentage of unemployed is lower than at any similar period of the year since February, 1891, whilst coal miners have had fuller employment than in any month during the five years in which the figures have been collected.

In the 123 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 491,790, 12,665 (or 2.6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, compared with 3 o per cent. a month before, and 4 4 per cent. in the 116 unions, with a membership of 466,362 from which returns were received for February, 1898, when employment was still affected by the engineering dispute.

The following chart enables a comparison to be made

with last year :-

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1898 and 1899. [The thick line applies to 1899, the thin line

Per- centage of Unem- ployed	Ja	n F	eb M	ar A	pl Ma	y Ju	 	ly Au	g Se	p Oc	t No	, 1
			100		ar i							
10							-	9,00				
9									3		0	
8												
7												
				100		The same		17/30				
6	PA IS											
5	-	-		1000								
4			1									
3			1	1								
			1	1	1			-			1	/
2										000		-
7		-		-		-		-				
-0-				1						238	2002	

The table below classifies the membership of the 123 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that were unemployed at the end of the under-mentioned periods :-

	At en	d of Februa	ry, 1839.	Corresponding Percentages for		
Percentage of members unemployed.	Number of Unions	Total Mer of such	mbership Unions.	A Month	A Year	
	making Returns.	Number.	Per- centage.	ago.	ago.	
Under 1 per cent 1 and under 2 per cent 2 " 3 " 3 " 5 " 5 " 7 " 7 " 10 " 10 per cent. and upwards	30 28 22 18 12 6	104,789 111,426 157,420 63,543 19,286 26,766 8,560	21'3 22'7 32'0 12'9 3'9 5'5	22.24 18.8 21.7 24.7 4.8 5.3 2.5	19.0 18.8 6.6 12.2 15.6 24.4 3.4	
Total	123	491,790	100,0	200.0	100.0	

Employment in Various Industries .- Coal Mining .-Employment in February was exceptionally good, the average time worked at the collieries included in the returns being higher than any previously recorded in the five years during which these statistics have been compiled. At these collieries, at which 437,440 workpeople were employed, the average time worked was 5.63 days per week in the four weeks ended February 25th, as compared with 5.24 days per week a year ago.

(For further details see page 75.)

Iron Mining.—Employment in February was better in the English districts but not so good in Scotland as a year ago. At mines and open works, at which 17,500 workpeople were employed, the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended February 25th was 5.86, as compared with 5.79 in the corresponding period of 1898. (For further details see

In the Pig Iron Industry the improvement in employment continues. Returns relating to the works of 113 iron masters show that 371 furnaces were in blast at the end of February, or three more than at the end of January and 16 more than a year ago. The estimated number employed was 23,975, or 72 more than at the end of January and 513 more than at the end of February, 1898. (For further details see page 76.)

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment at the end

of February, though not quite so good as at the end of January, was considerably better than a year ago. At the 211 works from which the returns were received 79,098 persons were employed in the last week of February, or 495 less than in the last week of January, but 3,061 more than a year ago. The average number of shifts worked was 5.60 in the last weeks of both January and February and 5.54 in the last week of February, 1898. (For further details see page 76.)

Tinplate Trade.—Employment in this industry recovered considerably during the month, and at the end was better than a year ago. The number of mills working at the end of February was 355, employing an estimated number of 17,826 workpeople, compared with 323 mills at work, and 16,259 workpeople employed at the end of January, and 341 mills with 17,351 work-people at the end of February, 1898. (For further details see page 77.

Employment in the Engineering and Metal trades has continued to improve. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of February was 2.4, compared with 2.6 in January, and

7.0 per cent. in February, 1898.* In the Shipbuilding trades employment has also improved, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February being 2.8, compared with 3.7 in the two previous months. The percentage for February,

1898, was 6.8. Employment in the *Building* trades (plumbers excepted) has continued good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 1.5, compared with 1.7 in the previous month and also in February 1808.

The Furnishing trades have improved and employment is now good in nearly all branches. The percent age of unemployed union members at the end of February was 3.0, compared with 4.3 in January, and

2.8 per cent. in February of last year. Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has improved in most branches and is now good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 3.5, compared with 4.4 in January, and

3.6 in February, 1898.

Employment in the Paper trade remains steady.

The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was the same as in January, viz., 3.2. The percentage for February, 1898, was 3.5.

In the Glass trades the percentage of unemployed was

11.5, compared with 11.8 in February, 1898. Employment in the *Leather* trades has improved, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February being 3.6, compared with 4.5, in the two

Employment in the Boot and Shoe trade has shown further improvement and is good in nearly every

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade has improved and is moderate; in the readymade branch it has been good on the whole in the factories, and not so slack in the workshops.

Employment in the Spinning branch of the Cotton trade continues good; in the Weaving branch it remains

Employment in the Woollen and Worsted trades continues quiet but shows a slight improvement. In the Hosiery trade it has again improved and is fairly good.

As regards the employment of women in the Textile trades, information respecting 474 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing 81,000 women and girls, shows that 82 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 84 per cent. during the previous month, and 70 per cent. in February, 1898. (For further details, see page 79.)

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—In the four

weeks ended February 25th an average number of 13,836 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with averages of 15,283 per day in the five preceding weeks and 14,057 in January, 1898. (For further details see

Agricultural labourers were generally well employed during the month of February, though in the earlier part of the month some men who take irregular work lost time owing to the wet and stormy weather which prevailed. Reports state that during the last half of the month farmers were employing as many hands as they could get, and that in a number of districts there was a scarcity. (For further details see page 77.)

Trade Disputes .- Thirty-six fresh disputes occurred in February, 1899, involving 5,348 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for January was 26, involving 2,194 workpeople, and for February, 1898, 25 disputes, involving 3,568 workpeople. Three disputes took place in the building trades, 7 in mining and quarrying, II in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 8 in the textile trades, and 7 in other industries. Of the 38 new and old disputes, involving 7,795 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 10, involving 1,719 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 13, involving 1,721 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 15, involving 4,355 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 92.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 272,400 workpeople were reported during February, of which number 270,600 received advances averaging 1s. 6d. per head, and 1,800 sustained decreases averaging 1s. 5\frac{1}{4}d. per head. The net result was an increase estimated at about 1s. 5\frac{3}{4}d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases were mainly in the mining industry (250,123), iron and steel manufacture (8,452), and engineering and shipbuilding trades (6,355). Changes affecting about 2,800 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 251,900 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and the remaining changes, affecting about 17,700 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or conceded voluntarily by the employers. (For further details, see page 88.)

Pauperism.—In 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom, 341,973 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of February. This number corresponds to a rate of 214 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, or 3 per 10,000 less than a year ago. (For further details, see page 94.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom during February for places out of Europe was 6,638, as compared with 7,086 in February, 1898. (For further details, see page 90.)

* Employment affected by the Engineering dispute.

ABSTRACT OF LABOUR STATISTICS.*

March, 1899.

THE 5th Abstract of Labour Statistics, which has just been published by the Board of Trade, relates to the statistics of labour in the United Kingdom, and consists of 225 pages, including a short introduc-tion, a detailed list of contents, and an alphabetical index. Forty-two of the tables give the figures for 1898, but as regards the others the latest available returns relate to 1897; in all cases comparative figures are given for a number of years wherever possible.

The first series of tables in the Abstract relate to the number, membership, income, expenditure and Funds of Trade Unions, a special table being devoted to the provision made by certain societies against old age. Tables are also given dealing with Trades Councils and the Federations of Trade Unions and of Trades Councils, together with some particulars respecting Trade Union Congresses held since 1866. The Associations of Employers are shown grouped by trades, Federations being distinguished from National and Local Associations.

The next series of tables deal with Co-operative Societies and Workmen's Clubs. Considerable space is devoted to Co-operative Societies, which are classified into those for retail distribution, wholesale distribution. societies for corn milling and for other forms of production. The tables show the membership, capital, sales, mode of distribution of profits, rates of dividend, number of persons employed in production and other particulars.

In the section dealing with Friendly Societies, details are given with regard to the membership, income, expenditure and funds of fourteen of the principal Societies, while a table and chart show in a condensed form the sickness and mortality experience of Friendly Societies as stated in a voluminous report (H. C., 303 of

1806) relating to this subject.

An important section of the Abstract deals with the fluctuations in employment in various industries in recent years, the subject being treated in different ways, according to the nature of the available data. When, as in the case of the textile and clothing industries, no statistical information exists with regard to the numbers unemployed, the export returns have been used as indicating approximately years of good and bad employment. The production of coal, iron ore and other minerals, pig iron, merchant and war vessels, corn and other crops, is closely connected with the state of employment, and tables are given on these subjects. The extent of the work done by labour bureaux in finding employment for those out of work is also

The number and magnitude of trade disputes during each of the years 1893-8 are shown in another section, together with the proportion that the number of workpeople engaged in disputes is of the total working population in the trades affected. The disputes are further analysed by trades and districts affected. causes, results, and methods of settlement. Tables are also given showing the work done by trade and district Conciliation and Arbitration Boards, besides other agencies for settling disputes.

In the section dealing with wages, there are tables showing the changes that have occurred during each of the years 1893-8 in the rates of wages and hours of labour in different trades, with the number of workpeople affected by such changes. Special tables are given dealing with the wages of railway servants, seamen, and agricultural labourers, while the changes in miners' wages, as disclosed by the percentage increases and decreases on the standard tonnage rates, are traced back for each principal district to 1886. The standard rates of wages recognised by the principal trade unions for various occupations at the end of 1898 are shown for 38 important towns. The results of the general census of wages in 1886 (and in part in 1891) are summarised for each group of trades, the average

* C 9011.—Price 113d. ex. postage.

weekly wages of men, lads, women and girls being

shown separately.
Other tables deal with profit sharing schemes and prices. The number of profit sharing schemes is shown, the trades in which such schemes have been adopted, the causes of certain schemes being abandoned, and the ratio of bonuses paid to the amount of wages. The prices of coal, pig and manufactured iron, are shown for those districts in which such prices are ascertained by accountants and published at regular intervals in connection with sliding scales, wages boards, etc. Tables are also given, showing the average prices of British wheat, barley and oats for a long series of years.

The statistics of Industrial accidents are brought together in another section, separate tables being given for coal and metal miners, quarrymen, factory and workshop operatives, seamen and railway servants, the cause and nature of the injuries being shown, while the whole set of tables is preceded by a general summary.

Another table deals with the number of cases of anthrax, lead, phosphorus, and arsenical poisoning reported to the Home Office as occurring to workpeople in factories. The number and result of actions under the Employers' Liability Act, and of prosecutions in connection with the administration of the Acts for the protection of factory and workshop operatives, miners, quarrymen, and seamen are also given.

A considerable portion of the Abstract is occupied with tables showing the numbers employed in the various trades carried on in the United Kingdom, the Census and Factory Reports being the sources of information. The ages of the people, and certain par-ticulars with regard to the housing of the people, with especial reference to overcrowded tenements, are also given, together with tables showing the number and ages of paupers, and the number, ages and nationalities of seamen. The conjugal condition of women workers in textile factories is also dealt with, the proportion of married, widowed, and single women employed being shown for each trade.

Several tables relate particularly to children. The number and wages of half-timers are shown by trades and districts, together with a summary of the legal regulations affecting the employment of children. Tables are also given showing the employments to which

children first go on leaving school.

Other tables show the estimated total population, the number of births, deaths and marriages that take place, the number of emigrants and immigrants, the amount of the deposits in the Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks, and the liabilities of building societies.

DISPUTE IN THE PLASTERING TRADE.

THE present situation in the plastering trade arose out of an attempt on the part of the National Association of Operative Plasterers to induce or compel foremen plasterers to join their society. With this object three London firms were struck early in January, about 106 plasterers and 62 workpeople of other classes being thrown out of work. It was contended by the Central Association of Master Builders of London that these strikes were a direct breach of the rule with regard to disputes, included in the terms of settlement of the dispute in the London Building trade which took place in 1896. This rule provides:-

"That in the event of a dispute arising on any job or works the District Officials of the National Association of Operative Plasterers shall send written notice to the Central Association of Master Builders of London, who shall inform them whether the said builder is a member of that body. If so, a strike shall not be sanctioned by the National Association of Operative Plasterers until six clear working days have expired from the receipt of such notice, during which time the matter shall be considered by the employers and the representatives of the workmen with a view to an amicable settlement.

The situation was considered at a meeting of London master builders and other employers of plasterers held in London on January 24th, when it was decided to refer the matter to the National Association of

previous months and 3.7 per cent. in February of last

Large Urban Rural and

Master Builders of Great Britain and Ireland. At a meeting of the representatives of this body held at Bradford on January 31st it was resolved to call upon the National Association of Operative Plasterers for an assurance that they would in future abstain from certain practices, and to request a reply by February 14th. The practices referred to were stated as follows:—

1. (a).—The persistent attempt to coerce foremen of plasterers or superintendents of plasterers' work into the membership of the National Association of Operative Plasterers; also

(b).—The threat to withdraw all members from the building firms employing such foremen or superintendents.

2.—The limitation of apprentices.

3. (a).—The practice of boycotting certain building firms and employers of plasterers, in spite of the fact that such firms adhere to the rules agreed between the Master Builders' Associations and the N.A.O.P.

(b).—The practice of printing and circulating amongst the members of the N.A.O.P. a list of such firms for whom they are forbidden under penalty to work.

4. The refusal to work on buildings where some of the workmen employed may not belong to a Trade Union.

5. (a).—The refusal to accept the decision of the employer as to which workmen shall do certain work in cases where plasterers dispute with other trades as to their right to do such work.

(b).—The practice of withdrawing all their members when such work may not be placed in the plasterers' hands.

6. The objection to submit all trade disputes to discussion at a conference between employers and employed with a view to arrive at an amicable settlement prior to any strike or withdrawal of workmen.

In the meanwhile, it was decided by the National Association of Operative Plasterers to take a ballot of their London members on the question whether the demand made that foremen should join their society should be maintained or withdrawn. This ballot resulted in a decision in favour of the withdrawal of the demand, the figures being 1,552 for withdrawing and 729 against.

The Plasterers' Association replied that as regarded I they agreed to the proposal so far as it applied to managing foremen or superintendents not working as plasterers, and that the resolution affecting the three managers in London was withdrawn; as regarded 2 the matter was purely a local question; as regarded 3 (a) and 4 they had no official knowledge of such practices; as regarded 3 (b) this was a legal right which they would not forego; as regarded 5 they claimed to be equally qualified with an employer to judge what was the work of a plasterer; whilst as regarded 6 they had never had any objection to submit disputes to a conference, "except in cases where an employer has refused a request that the disputed points (as to our right to certain work) should not be proceeded with pending such discussion.

After further corrrespondence between the parties, the Council of the National Association of Operative Plasterers decided to lay the matter before their members, their votes being returnable by March 1st. They expressed their willingness to take part in a conference to discuss the points in dispute. The National Association of Master Builders on the other hand, considering that the attitude of the Plasterers implied a determination to persist in the practices complained of, decided to declare a lock-out against members of the Operative Plasterers' Association, to take effect on March 6th.

The questions referred by the men's council to their members on which their votes were asked for were as follows:—

Are you in favour of submitting to the employers' demands?

Do you approve of the action already taken thereon by your

A negative answer was returned to the first question by 10,176 votes to 36, and an affirmative answer to the second by 10,211 votes to 36. In reply to other questions the branches reported that there were 2,368 boys employed in London and the provinces, of whom 807 were legally bound apprentices. All branches except four denied that they had been guilty of the practices alleged by the employers.

Up to the present no conference has taken place between the parties. As stated above, the plasterers expressed their willingness to take part in such a conference in their letter of February 20th. The master builders replied by requiring the men to send, in writing, the proposals they wished to submit to such a conference. To this the men replied that they had no proposals to make.

On March 9th a further letter was addressed by the Master Builders to the plasterers' representatives stating that the employers had expressed their willingness to enter into a conference so soon as the men sent alternative proposals in writing.

In the course of the correspondence between the parties the plasterers called attention to the fact that in many districts the trade was regulated by local agreements, signed by employers and men, requiring several months' notice of termination. The employers, however, deny that such agreements sanction the practices to which they object, adding that where necessary such agreements could be mutually altered or terminated by due notice.

The lock-out began in several districts on Monday, March 6th. Returns from the National Association of Operative Plasterers state that out of the 143 districts into which the Association is divided, and which include 11,660 members, 56 districts, with a membership of 10,000, are affected more or less by the lock-out. The total number locked out in those districts during the first week is stated by the union as 2,415, including 800 in the London district. A considerable number of those locked out are reported to have found other employment.

The employers have as yet published no figures as to the number of builders and plasterers affected.

GERMAN LABOUR COLONIES IN 1898.

The January, 1899, number of *Der Wanderer* (the official organ of the German Labour Colony Central Board) summarises the work of the colonies in 1898.

The figures show the number of inmates remaining in the 29 colonies existing at the end of 1898 to have been 2,804 (compared with 2,937 remaining in 27 colonies at the end of 1897); the number of persons for whom accommodation existed being 3,390 (compared with 3,253 at the end of 1897). The number of persons admitted in 1898 was 7,333 (7,191 in 1897). In all, 1,181 persons were refused admission into the colonies in the course of the year (351 for want of room, 234 because they did not belong to the district, 30 as too young or too old, 110 as being ill, 79 as unfit for work, 32 for intemperance, 138 as being on the black list, and 207 for other reasons).

The admissions and departures in each month were s follows for the two years, 1807 and 1808:—

Month.			lumber of dmissions.		Number of Departures.		Number remaining at end of month.		
				1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
January				646	722	581	753	2,983	3,023
February March		•••	•••	518	604	776	864	2,725	2,763
A		•••	***	537 530	516	734	1,044	1,958	2,347
May		• • • •		58t	513	531	533	1,804	1,827
Tune				396	519	520	607	1,681	1,739
uly				463	512	538	486	1,606	1,765
August				488	480	488	506	1,606	1,739
September				519	519	471	489	1.654	1,769
October				798	724	468	458	1,984	2,035
November				961	880	391	435	2,554	2,482
December		•••		754	714	371	392	2,937	2,804

Of the 7,333 persons admitted in 1898, 2,829 had (so far as could be ascertained) never been in a labour colony before, 1,670 had been in a colony once, 994 twice, 617 three times, 381 four times, 228 five times, 172 six times, and 441 more than six times before

173 six times, and 441 more than six times before.

The following statement classifies the persons admitted to the colonies in 1897 and 1898 according to age:—

* See Labour Gazette, April, 1898 (p. 102) and March, 1897 (p. 70); also Report on Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed (C. 7,182 of 1893), pp. 269-307.

			Persons	s admitted.			
Ages	Nu		aber.	Per cent.			
		1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.		
Under 15 years		1 47 410 1,361		0·7 5·7 18·9	0·5 5·5 19·0		
31 ,, ,, 51 ,, 51 ,, ,, 61 ,, 61 years and over		3,809 1,252 311	3,996 1,197 304	53.0 17.4 4.3	54·5 16·3 4·2		
		7,191	7,333	100.0	100.0		

March, 1899.

A considerable number (2,210 in 1898 and 2,219 in 1897) of those admitted to the colonies are returned as "workmen" simply. Those admitted in 1898, as to whose trade or occupation more precise information was available, may be grouped as follows:—

Trade or Occupat	ion.			No. of persons admitted in 1898.
Building Trade				 659
Clothing, &c				 587
Agriculture, Gardening, &c				 563
Food, &c., Preparation				 496
Metal Working				 464
Commerce				 395
Woodworking, Carving, Gilding, &c.		•••		 274
Textile Trades/			•••	 203
Glass, Pottery, Brickmaking, &c.				 203
Officials, Surveyors, &c				 170
Paper and Leather Trades				 140
Other Trades and Occupations				 969
Total				 5,123

The number of persons who left the colonies in 1898 was 7,583 (7,172 in 1897), the circumstances under which they left being as follows:—

	No. of Departure		Per cent.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
Sent to situations found by Colonies Went to situations found by them-	911	877	12.7	11.6
selves Discharged at own desire Dismissed for inefficiency or mis-	874 3,972	958 4,146	12·2 55·4	12·6 54·7
conduct Discharged for other causes Left without permission	700 513 189 13	768 570 233 31	9·8 7·1 2·6 0·2	9·6 8·0 3·1 0·4
Total	7,172	7,583	100.0	100.0

Of the 2,804 persons remaining in the colonies at the end of December, 1898, 1,355 (48.32 per cent.) had been there under 2 months; 699 (24.93 per cent.) over 2 up to 4 months; 336 (11.98 per cent.) over 4 up to 6 months; 278 (9.92 per cent.) over 6 up to 12 months; and 126 (4.85 per cent.) over a year

and 136 (4.85 per cent.) over a year.

The number of days of work performed in all the colonies in 1898 was 655,012 (compared with 604,102 in 1897).

EMPLOYMENTS OF CHILDREN ON LEAVING SCHOOL.

A RETURN* of the different classes of employment into which the boys and girls attending elementary schools in England and Wales went on leaving school during the year 1893-4, has been published by the Board of Trade.

The particulars are based upon a voluntary return made by the managers of public elementary schools attended by 2,568,176 children, or 61 per cent. of the whole number in average attendance in England and Wales in the year 1893-4. In London the proportion of children in average attendance included in the return is no less than 94 per cent.; in the group of large urban and manufacturing districts 72 per cent., while in the rest of England and Wales, including the rural districts and small towns, the percentage sinks to 47.

The bulk of the return consists of a detailed analysis of the particulars arranged by localities.

The following summary table shows the occupations of boys and girls on leaving school in (1) London; (2)

large urban and manufacturing districts; and (3) rural and small urban districts of England and Wales, expressed in percentages of the total number leaving school to follow a specified occupation or to be at home:—

Occupation.	London.	turing Districts.	Districts.
		Boys.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Agriculture	3	2 4	5
Building Woodworking	4	T T	ī
Metal, Engineering and Ship- building	4	8	, 4
Mining and Quarrying	-	3	9
Textile		13	2
Clothing	3	3 2	I
Printing and allied Trades Clerical	4 8	12	4
In Shops	14	13	10
Errand, Cart. Boat, etc., Boy	40	22	14
Newsboy and Street Vendor	4	3	2
Teaching		I	1 2
Domestic Service Miscellaneous and Indefinite	9	9	7
Miscerialieous and indennite			
Total Occupied	94	96	96
No reported occupation	6	4	4
Grand Total	100	100	100
Total Number	25,768	48,093	69,939
	- 3/2	GIRLS.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic Service	26	16	30
Farm Service and Fieldwork Dressmaking and Millinery	9	7	6
Other Clothing	6	4	I
Textile	-	17	12
In Shops	2	3	1
Teaching	3 2	4	4
Clerical	2	1	
In Laundries Miscellaneous and indefinite	8	8	2
Total occupied	57	60	58
At Home	43	40	42
Grand Total	100	100	100
Total Number	24,175	43,793	61,638

THE COLOGNE REGISTRY FOR EMPLOY-MENT AND WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS AGENCY.

IN a despatch, dated February 6th, Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, sends information respecting the free public labour registry of Cologne. The distinctive features of this registry are, that with the functions of an agency for procuring employment, it unites those of an insurance fund against want of employment, and agency for workmen's dwellings. The Cologne Unemployed Insurance Fund has already been described. (See Labour Gazette, June, 1896, p. 179, and September, 1897, p. 265). The employment registry was established towards the end of 1894, by a joint federation of employers' and workmen's societies. The Municipality provides the offices, and gives an annual subsidy of £330, which practically suffices to pay the working expenses.

The operations of the employment registry are controlled by a board composed of equal numbers of representatives of employers' and of workmen's societies, and were as follows in each of the years (ended June 30th)

Year ended	No. of Situations.						
June 30th.	Offered.	Sought.	Found.				
1896 1897 1898	11,512 15,560 20,432	13,908 15,743 19,664	10,05 5 12,124 15,096				

The number of situations sought in the men's branch in the latest of these years was 14,423 (compared with 11,038 situations offered in that branch), of which 4,953 were situations sought by agricultural labourers or day-labourers; 2,224 by smiths, fitters, etc.; 1,966 by porters, etc.; and 1,447 by joiners, wheelwrights, coopers, etc. The situations applied for in the same year in the women's branch numbered 5,241 (compared with 9,394 situations

^{*} Part 2 of "Return for England and Wales, giving (1) the Number of Children attending Elementary Schools who are known to be Working for Wages or Employed for Profit, with their Ages, Standards, Occupations, Hours of Work, and Rates of Pay"; and "(2) the different Classes of Employment into which the Boys and Girls attending the Elementary Schools in England and Wales went on leaving school during some complete year." (H.C. 23 of 1899.) Price 6d. Eyre & Spottiswoode.

offered in that branch) of which 3,272 were situations sought by domestic servants (cooks, etc.), and 1,565 by laundresses, charwomen, etc.

The house-agency department, intended for the free use of workmen, shop assistants, minor clerks, etc., was added to the registry on April 1st, 1898, the Municipality defraying the initial cost (£40), and granting an annual subvention of £150 for working expenses. During the first three months 413 dwellings (92 containing one room, 123 two rooms. 90 three, 53 four, and 55 five or more) were offered, and 1,198 (102 to contain one room, 500 two rooms, 380 three, 137 four, and 79 five or more) were applied for through the registry.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN AUSTRIA IN 1897.*

THE report on strikes and lock-outs in Austria containing the figures for 1897, is the first of the volumes on this subject issued by the newly established Labour Department. The figures are exclusive of disputes in agriculture, in mining and cognate industries, and in blastfurnaces, &c., closely connected with mines.

Strikes in Austria were both fewer and shorter in 1897 than in 1896, the number reported being 221 (compared with 294 in 1896); the number of workpeople directly participating, 34,835 (compared with 36,114); and the number of working days lost by these workpeople, 354,922 (compared with 595,768). Besides the actual participants, there were in 1897, 2,621 workpeople (compared with 2,372 in 1896) indirectly concerned in strikes and subjected to the loss of 32,721 working days

(compared with 24,233 in 1896).

The extent to which various groups of trades were affected by strikes in the two years, will be seen from

		18	96.			18	97-	
	Str	ikers.		lost by ikers.	Stri	ikers.	Days lost by Strikers.	
Groups of Trades	Total.	Proportion per cent. of all Strikers	Total.	Proportion per cent. of all days lost by Strikers	Total.	Proportion per cent. of all Strikers	Total.	Proportion per cent. of all days lost by Strikers
Building Trades Metal&Engineer-	5,471	15.2	24,837	4.2	4,995	14:3	38,090	10.7
ing, &c., Trades Textile Trades Clothing Trades TransportTrades Woodworking,	5,031 9,791 -2,563 65	13·9 27·1 7·1 0·2	88,729 234,943 19,031 195	39.4	6,257 11,275 300 2,629	18:0 32:4 0:8 7:5	87,415 97,347 2,670 7,845	27.4
India - rubber, and Furnishing Trades Glass, Pottery,	5,972	16.5	151,398		1,382	4.0	16,451	
&c., Trades Miscellaneous		8.9	47,556		3,053	88	61,048	
Trades	4,004	11.1	29,079	4.9	4,944	14.2	44,056	12.4
	36,114	100.0	595,768	100.0	34,835	100.0	354,922	100.0

In the following statement the strikers are classified according to the results of the strikes in which they

		1896.		1897.		
Results.		Stril	kers.		Strikers.	
	Strikes.	No.	Per cent.	Strikes.	Stri No. 5,245 16,979 12,611	Per cent.
In favour of Workpeople Compromise In favour of Employers	No. 64 107 123	3,046 22,314 10,754	8·4 61·8 29·8	No. 38 81 102	16,979	15·1 48·7 36·2
Total	294	36,114	100.0	221	34,835	100.0

Disputes classed as lock-outs are shown separately from strikes in the Austrian statistics. Both in 1897 and in 1896, the number reported was 10, but while 5,445 workpeople belonging to 211 establishments were locked-out in 1896, only 1,544 belonging to 11 establishments had this experience in 1897. Seven of the 10 lock-outs of 1897 (compared with 4 in 1896) were due to workpeople absenting themselves on May-day, and 2 to their absence on other occasions.

*Die Arbeitseinstellungen und Aussperrungen im Gewerbebetriebe in sterreich während des Jahres 1897. Published by the Bureau of Labour statistics of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce. Vienna, 1899. Alfred Hölder, "Rothenthurmstrasse 15. These statistics relate to Austria as distinct from

The factory inspectors intervened in 59 out of the 221 strikes which occurred in 1897; in 21 of these cases they were assisted by the Authorities for dealing with Industrial Matters, and in one case by the Police Authorities. In 21 further cases, the Industrial Authorities were the sole mediators, and in two cases the Police Authorities, while in one case the Police Authorities intervened in conjunction with the Mayor.

RECENT LEGISLATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

Regulation of Conditions of Employment in Mines.—The Mining Act, 1898, contains provisions regulating (amongst other things) the employment of labour in mines, other than coal mines (to which the Act does not apply). With respect to persons in charge of machinery used in connection with a mine, or with the treatment of the products of a mine, it is enacted that, except in cases of breakage, or other special emergency, no such person shall be employed for a longer period than eight consecutive hours, exclusive of meal-times and of time occupied in raising or exhausting steam or drawing fires; and between each such period and the next there shall be an interval of at least four hours. Every such person shall be entitled to holidays at the rate of not less than one whole or two half holidays for every eight weeks (consecutive or not) during which he is in charge of such machinery on seven consecutive days in each week. It is made an offence for any such person to cause, by his negligence, damage or destruction of property. The employment (other than as clerks) of women and girls of any age, and of boys under 14 in or about mines is declared illegal. No person under 18 may be employed as lander or brace-man over a shaft, nor, except in emergency, shall he be employed in any capacity for more than 48 hours in a week, or more than 8 hours in 24, exclusive of meal-times. The Act came into operation on February 1st.

Accommodation for Sheep Shearers,—By the Shearers' Accommodation Act, 1898, power is conferred upon the Governor of the colony to appoint inspectors charged with the inspection of buildings used for shearing sheep, including places in which the shearers sleep or take their meals, and of seeing that proper and sufficient accommodation shall be provided for the health and comfort of shearers. The space provided in a sleeping-room (which must not be used also for meals) must in no case fall below 240 cubic feet for each person sleeping there. Where persons of the Chinese race are employed, they must be provided with sleeping accommodation distinct from

that provided for other shearers.

Old-Age Pensions.—The Old-Age Pensions Act, 1898, provides that, subject to the provisions therein mentioned, every person of the full age of 65 years or upwards shall, whilst in the colony, be entitled to a pension. But no such person will be able to claim a pension unless he has resided in the colony continuously for at least 25 years, and has not during that time been imprisoned for a term of 5 years for any offence entailing public dishonour, or during the last 12 years been imprisoned for four months or on four occasions for such an offence punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or upwards. Desertion of, or failure to maintain a wife, or failure to maintain children under 14 years, on the part of a man, and desertion of husband or children on the part of a woman, will disqualify for receipt of pension. No one can receive a pension unless he is of good moral character, and leads (and for 5 years before he claims a pension has led) a sober and reputable life. A person, whose yearly income is £52 or more, or whose accumulated property amounts to £270 or more, cannot claim a pension. The amount of the pension provided by the Act is £18 per year, less the pension provided by the Act is £ to per year, less £ i for every £ i of income exceeding £ 34, or for every £ 15 of capital value of accumulated property. The Act does not apply to aliens, to naturalised subjects (except such as have been naturalised for at least 5 years before they claim a pension), or to Chinese or other Asiatics, whether naturalised or not.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

March, 1899.

Returns received from 1,153 Co-operative Retail Distributive Societies in the United Kingdom with a Distributive Societies in the United Kingdom with a total membership of 1,453,835 show total sales for the fourth quarter of 1898 amounting to £10,366,727 as compared with £9,862,653 in the corresponding period of 1897. Of these societies 836 show an increase, and 316 a decrease, the net increase being £504,074, or 5'1 per cent. The societies in Wales and Monmouth show a decrease of 12.2 per cent., as compared with a corresponding decrease of 15.3 per cent. last quarter.

Returns from 3 of the 4 wholesale federations for the same period show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £4,984,040 as compared with £4,569,790 in the corresponding period of 1897, an increase of £414,250 or 9.1 per cent. The return from the remaining federation is for 6 months, and shows an increase of £10,562 on the corresponding period of 1897, of which £10,130 is due to the opening of a new department for the sale of live stock.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish wholesale societies amounted to £807,926, compared with £723,387 in the corresponding period of 1897, an ncrease of 11.7 per cent.

Thirty-nine societies in England and Wales reported the opening of 44 new branches and departments, and societies in Scotland and Ireland reported 11 new pranches and departments during the quarter.

The following table, based upon reports and balancesheets supplied direct to the department shows the progress in trade of the wholesale and retail disributive societies, grouped by districts:-

	Re	turns.	Sales of Societies making Returns.					
Description of Societies and Districts.	No.	Member-	In 4th qu	arter of	Increas	e in 1898 with 1897		
		ship.	1898.	1897.	Amount.	Per cent. on Sales.		
	Re	tail Distr	ibutive So	cieties.				
ENGLAND AND								
WALES:-			£	£	£			
Northern Counties	117	193,115	1,706,606	1,598,589		6.8		
Yorkshire	175	287,298	1,984,468	1,906,823	77,645	4°I		
Lancashire and	176	354,682	2,467,345	2,403,028	64,317	2.7		
Cheshire	0			0.00				
North and West	148	157,373	899,195	846,548	52,647	6.2		
Midland Counties South Midland and	A COLUMN							
Eastern Counties	99	70,390	397,559	372,747	24,812	6.7		
London (12 mile	-6			-6				
radius)	36	37,090	176,766	161,522	15,244	9.4		
South Eastern	46	20 610	200 084	185,166	710-0	0		
Counties	40	39,619	200,084	105,100	14,918	8.1		
Southern and	50	46,291	198,099	188,184				
Western Counties	20	40,291	190,099	100,104	9,915	5'3		
Wales and	42	16,225	105,613	120,312	14,699*	12.2*		
Monmouth	77	10,225	103,013	120,512	12,000	144		
	1000	8 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5						
Total—England and Wales	889	1,202,083	8,135,735	7,782,919	352,816	4'5		
SCOTLAND-North	103	95,326	767,246	716,865	50,381	7'0		
" South	151	154,124	1,452,503	1,353,151	99,352	7'3		
Total C								
Total—Scotland	254	249,450	2,219,749	2,070,016	149,733	7.2		
IRELAND	IO			0 440				
**************************************	10	2,302	11,243	9,718	1,525	15.7		
TOTAL RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES	1,153	1,453,835	10,366,727	9,862,653	504,074	5'1		
						Water brook		
		Wholesa	le Societie	s.				
Puer		1		F				
ENGLAND AND			£	£	£			
WALES :- Distributive		100000000000000000000000000000000000000						
Donoste			(3,629,472	3,315,988	313,484	9'5		
Departments Manufacturing	1,063+	1,118,158†	1	0.1				
Donorth		1	442,347	357,158‡	85,189	23'9		

ENGLAND AND WALES:-			£	£	£	
Distributive Departments			(3,629,472	3,315,988	313,484	9'5
Manufacturing Departments	1,063+	1,118,158†	442,347‡	357,158‡	85,189	23'9
SCOTLAND:— Distributive			(1,323,243	1,227,444	95,799	7.8
Departments Manufacturing Departments	289†	223,669†	365,579‡	366,229‡	650*	0.2*
IRELAND:-	46†)	Not	(31,325	26,358	4,967	18.8
Agricultural	27+	stated.	12,587	2,025	10,562	521.6

per and Membership of federated societies. Hers from productive to distribute department

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS IN

FRANCE IN 1897.
THE Bulletin de l'Office du Travail for February shows that out of a total of 290,305 establishments (exclusive of mines, openworks, quarries, and Admiralty and War Office establishments) liable to inspection under the factory laws in France in 1897, 125,775, or 42'3 per cent., were actually inspected. The total number of the workpeople employed in all the 290,305 establishments was 2,591,288; while that of the workpeople employed in the establishments inspected was 1,755,351, or 67.7 per cent., of all workpeople employed in establishments liable to inspection. These 1,755,351 workpeople were of the age and sex shown below:

Age.	Number En Establishmen	nployed in ts Inspected.		
			Male.	Female.
rı and under 13 years (with certificates) rı and under 16 years rı and under 18 years			1,092 83,070 63,076	776 77,807 63,923
Total Children and Young Perso 8 and under 21 years 21 years and over	ns		147.238	142,506 99,991 329,174
Grand Total			1,183,680	571,671

Children of 12 and under 13 years of age are not admitted to factories and workshops* without certificates attesting physical fitness and the completion of primary studies. Prosecutions were instituted in respect to 359 contraventions of this provision of the law in 1897, compared with 273, 396, and 435 in the years 1894, 1895, and 1896 respectively. The bulk of these contraventions took place in textile establishments, glassworks, and brick yards.

The number of contraventions of the legal provisions limiting the length of the working day (including infractions of the law of September 9th, 1848, restricting the duration of the employment of adult males in certain classes of establishments to 12 hours in the day) was 3,000 in 1897, compared with 3,877 and 5,725 in 1895 and 1896 respectively. The report states that the law of November 2nd, 1892, regulating the employment of women, young persons, and children, has had the effect of shortening the working day in a large number of industries, that from 60 to 66 hours per week are now being worked in certain branches where formerly from 72 to 75 hours were worked, and that, speaking generally, no appreciable effect on production has resulted from the adoption of an 11-hour day. The law limits the working day to 10 hours for children under 16, to 11 hours (but not more than 60 hours per week) for young persons of 16 and under 18, and to and upwards. The Report recommends the adoption of a uniform legal working day of 11 hours for all classes, which, it is stated, would render the exercise of proper surveillance by the inspectors less difficult.

South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Coal Trade Wages Board. On February 13th it was agreed by this Board to

give an advance of 5 per cent. on the first pay in April, and a further advance of 21 per cent. on the first pay in October. These advances, which are similar to those agreed on by the Coal Conciliation Board of the Federated Districts (see GAZETTE for February, page 39) affect about 10,000 workpeople.

affect about 10,000 workpeople.

Civil Employment of Army Reserve Men and Discharged Soldiers.—A handbook entitled "Instructions as to the Civil Employment of Army Reserve Men and Discharged Soldiers" has been issued by the War Office, and provides for the keeping of Registers at the headquarters of each regimental district for the enrolment of men desiring such employment. Details are given as to the conditions of employment and rates of pay obtainable as messengers in Government offices, and for various kinds of work in the Royal Army Clothing Department and the Army Ordnance Department, Barrack Services, the Customs, Office of Works, Ordnance Factories, Post Office, Prisons Service, Royal Engineer Services and Stationery Office. Particulars are also given of employment in the Police, the Corps of Commissionaires and on Railways. Copies of the pamphlet are supplied to all Sergeants' Messes and Soldiers' Reading Rooms.

*Other than workshops in which the only persons employed are parents and

*Other than workshops in which the only persons employed are parents and shildren. It is stated that in some districts workshops of this class are noreasing in number, and are being furnished with mechanical power,

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR,

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

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

What is an accident "arising out of and in the course of the employment?"—The widow of a railway servant, who met with a fatal accident, claimed compensation from the company by which he was employed. The County Court judge found the facts to be, that at the time of the accident the deceased had not finished his day's duty, but that the accident the deceased had not finished his day's duty, but that the accident occurred while he was getting off the footboard of a train in motion, on to which he had got for his own pleasure and not for any object of his employers, and held that, since this was not obviously dangerous and did not amount to serious and wilful misconduct on his part, and the deceased was not neglecting his duty, the plaintiff was entitled to compensation. This his duty, the plaintiff was entitled to compensation. This decision was reversed on appeal. The Court held that in an appeal from the County Court to the Appeal Court there is an appeal only on questions of law and not as to the finding of the judge as to the facts, and that, upon the facts as found by the County Court judge, the accident could not be considered to have arisen "out of the upployment." In another case the driver of a travelling crane, no had met with an accident in endeavouring to take the belting off his crane, claimed compensation from his employers. It was proved that there was a man whose special duty it was to take off the belting; but the applicant stated that this man frequently told the drivers to do it themselves, and on this occasion this man could not be found, and another employee, in a superior position to himself, called to him to take the belt off in a particular manner, which direction he carried out. The respondents resisted the which direction he carried out. The respondents resisted the claim on the ground that the accident did not happen in the ordinary course of the driver's employment, and that he had been guilty of serious and wilful misconduct, and the arbitrator decided in their favour. In a third case the widow of a foreman ganger in the employment of a firm of railway contractors sought compensation. The ganger was killed by a train while walking to his work. He had not reached the place where his gang was working by over 100 yards. The County Court judge held that the accident had arisen out of and in the course of the employment of the deceased, and gave judgment in favour of his widow.—Court of Appeal, November 26th, reported February 4th; Manchester, February 8th; Newport County Court, February 16th.

Serious and Wilful Misconduct.—A miner, in the employment of a colliery company, was at work with other men getting coal. They were trying to get rid of a stone from the roof, when the deputy came up and instructed them to put up a bar across the roof supported by two props, one on each side of the working place, in order to prevent the stone from falling. This was done; but subsequently this miner and another man took down the bar and props, because, as they said, the corves or trucks with the coal could not get by, and the props interfered with the getting of the coal. Instead thereof, they put up a prop directly under the stone, to support it. About two hours afterwards the stone fell and injured the miner, who took proceedings in the County Court to obtain compensation from his employers. The general rules prescribed by the Coal from his employers. The general rules prescribed by the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, provide that "the roof and sides of every . . . working place shall be made secure, and a person shall not . . . working place which is not so made secure"; and by the special rules of this colliery it is provided that "the miners must build good pack walls, and set a sufficient quantity of props and bars for safely securing the roof and sides of their working places, and add to them or renew them when necessary, or when told by the manager, under-manager, or deputy," and also that "all persons employed in the mine shall be under the control of the manager, under-manager, and deputies, and shall at all times obey their lawful commands." The County Court judge decided that the applicant had not been guilty of "serious and wilful misconduct," and awarded him compensation. On appeal, the Court conduct," and awarded him compensation. On appeal, the Court affirmed the judgment of the County Court judge, holding that, assuming that some of the rules had been broken, yet, when all assuming that some of the rules had been broken, yet, when all the circumstances were considered, the evidence was not such that, as a matter of law, the County Court judge was bound to hold that this workman was guilty of serious and wilful misconduct. In another case a miner, employed by a firm of fireclay manufacturers, sued his employers for compensation in respect of personal injuries received under the following circumstances. In the usual course of his employment he drilled a shot-hole in the material of the mine, and charged the hole with blasting powder in the ordinary way. After an interval of about six minutes from the time of setting light to the charge, the pursuer left his place of shelter and went forward to the shot-hole, when the explosion occurred, and in consequence he was injured. The defenders stated that, according to one of the special rules of the mine, if a shot has been lighted, and does not explode, no person shall enter the place where it was lighted until 30 minutes shall have elapsed, and pleaded that the pursuer had been guilty of serious and wilful misconduct within the meaning of the Act. The sheriff-substitute found that the pursuer met with his injuries by an accident found that the pursuer met with his injuries by an accident arising out of the course of his employment, and that they were not attributable to such serious and wilful misconduct as was contemplated by the Act, and awarded him compensation. On appeal, the Court affirmed this decision, holding that, as the miner did not know of the rule and acted

according to the best of his judgment, and as there was no breach of duty on his part other than neglect to inform himself of the rule, he must be held to have been in the course of his employment, and not to have been guilty of serious and wilful mis-conduct. Weight must be given to the finding that the rule was not generally observed in the mine, and that it was the practice of the miners to return to a delayed or missed shot whenever they thought it safe to return.—Court of Appeal, February 4th; Court of Session, First Division, reported February 25th.

Failure of action under Employers' Liability Act.—Subsequent claim under Workmen's Compensation Act.—By sec. 1, subsec. 4, of the Workmen's Compensation Act it is provided that if, within the time limited in that Act for taking proceedings, an action is brought to recover damages independently of that Act for injury caused by any accident, and it is determined in such action that the injury is one for which the employer is not liable in such action, but that he would have been liable to pay compensation under the provisions of that Act, the action shall be dismissed, but the Court in which the action is tried shall, if the plaintiff shall so choose proceed to assess such compensation and shall give a so choose, proceed to assess such compensation, and shall give a certificate having the force of an award under that Act. A workman, employed by a cycle company, who had been injured owing to the defective action of the gearing apparatus of a capstan lathe which he was working, brought an action in the County Court against the company under the Employers' Liability Act, when the judge held that the allegation of negligence failed, and when the judge field that the altegation of negligence lanes, and gave judgment for the defendants. Thereupon the plaintiff made a claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act. On behalf of the defendants it was urged that, if a plaintiff claimed under the Employers' Liability Act, and, on failing to obtain judgment under that Act, did not apply to the judge to award him compensation in the manner provided by the sub-section above cited, then he could not proceed afterwards under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The arbitrator rejected this contention, and awarded the plaintiff compensation.—Manchester, February 28th.

Employment on or in or about a Factory.—In the case, noticed in the November GAZETTE (pp. 327, 328), in which a claim for compensation by the widow of a carter, who, while loading timber on to his cart from the premises of his employers (the cart being in the road outside) fell from his cart and received fatal injuries, was decided in favour of the plaintiff, the County Court judge holding that the accident took place "on or in or about" the factory, within the meaning of the Act, this decision was confirmed on appeal. In another case the widow of a carter, employed by a firm of team owners, claimed compensation in respect of the death of her husband. While returning with his cart to, and when about fifteen yards from, his employer's premises, this man was knocked down and killed by his horses, which had bolted and which he was trying to stop. It was shown that the respondents had a shoeing-forge and wheelwright's shop besides the stables, which were almost exclusively used for their own horses and carts, and had in connection with the stables a chaff-outling machine worked by steam power and used in preparing horses and carts, and had in connection with the stables a chaff-cutting machine worked by steam power and used in preparing provender for their horses. The judge held that the respondents' premises were not a factory within the meaning of the Act because no manufacturing processes were carried on there, and because no manual labour was exercised there by way of gain, or incidental to the making of any arricle. He also said that he did not find that the accident occurred on or in or about the premises. He decided accordingly in favour of the respondents.

—Court of Appeal, November 26th, reported February 4th; Liverpool County Court, February 20th.

Employment to which the Act applies .- An able-bodied seaman in the employment of a steamship company met with injuries which proved fatal while working at the hoisting of a ship's boat by means of a crane on the quay alongside a steamship. His dependents claimed compensation from his employers. The Court of Appeal, affirming the decision of the County Court judge, held that the claim could not be granted, because the employment of the deceased at the time of the accident was that of a seaman on shore, carrying out the normal duties of a seaman, and was not an employment to which the Act applied.—Court of Appeal, Ireland,

Illegal employment a bar to claim for compensation.-A girl, employed by a packing-box clasp manufacturer, who had injured her finger while working a punching-machine, claimed compensation; but the sheriff dismissed the action on the state that the girl being under 13 years of age and not certificated, as required by the Education Act (Scotland), the contract of employpensation; but the sheriff dismissed the action on the ground ment between defender and pursuer was unlawful, and could not be set up in a claim by the pursuer.—Glasgow Sheriff Court, reported

Assessment of Compensation.—" Average Weekly Earnings. —In the case mentioned in the February GAZETTE (p. 40), in which an operative in the employment of a firm of cotton-spinners was admitted to be entitled to receive as compensation for injuries received while at work a sum equivalent to one week's wages, but a question arose as to how such wages should be calculated, the decision of the County Court judge was affirmed on appeal. The plaintiff had been employed as a little piecer, earning 9s. 6d. a week, but three weeks prior to the accident had been promoted to be side-piecer, in which capacity he earned 13s. 8d. per week. On behalf of the plaintiff it was contended that, in calculating his average weekly wages, his employment as a side-piecer had alone to be considered, and he claimed 13s. 8d. The Court, however, held that his average weekly earnings ought to be reckoned by taking 49 weeks at 9s. 6d., and 3 weeks at 13s. 8d., and dividing the total by 52.—Court of Appeal, February 4th.

March, 1899.

(2) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Delaying an Inspector in the exercise of his powers.—A boot laster was summoned by an assistant factory inspector for wilfully delaying him in the exercise of his powers. The inspector stated that he found two young persons at work in the defendant's workshop at 8.40 p.m., and while he was proceeding to obtain a declaration from one of them, the defendant refused to allow him to sign it, knocked the paper out of the inspector's hand, and assumed a threatening attitude. The defendant was fined £3 and 14s. costs, or in default of distress 21 days' imprisonment.—Thames Police in default of distress 21 days' imprisonment.—Thames Police

Employment in Meal-times.—A firm of jute spinners was summoned for employing three female operatives during a time allowed for meals. The factory inspector stated that he found one of these operatives cleaning a spinning-frame, and the other two sweeping the floor during the meal hour. The first operative said that the spinner at the frame asked her to clean it, and the foreman of the flat did not know she was doing so, while one of the others said she was in the habit of sweeping the floor regularly in the meal-hour, and on this occasion, not feeling well, got the third woman to help her. The sole partner of the firm gave evidence that the to help her. The sole partner of the firm gave evidence that the woman, who said she was in the habit of sweeping the floor regularly in the meal-hour, did so with his consent, but he knew nothing about the other two, and, if they were working, it was against the rules. The sheriff decided that the defendant was liable in respect of the woman working with his consent, and sentenced him to pay a fine of 2s. 6d. and 17s. of expenses, but declined to convict in respect of the other two operatives, holding that it had not been proved that these women were employed by the defendant.—Dundee Sheriff's Court, reported February 2nd. (3) MISCELLANEOUS

Insurance of Employer against Accident to Workmen. Stamp Act.—In two cases stated by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue the question was raised, whether a policy of insurance to indemnify an employer against liability to compensate his workmen or their representative for death or personal injuries caused to such workmen while in his employment was "a policy of insurance against accident" within the Stamp Act and accordingly the stamp duty to which it was liable was one penny. In one of the cases, in which the policy was not under seal, it was held liable to a stamp duty of 6d. as an agreement and in the other, in which stamp duty of 6d., as an agreement, and in the other, in which the policy was under seal, it was held liable to a stamp duty of 10s., as a deed .- Queen's Bench Division, December 14th 15th, reported

Building Society.—Responsibility of Trustee of Deed of Dissolution.—In an action for account the two trustees of a deed of dissolution of a building society were ordered to pay into court a sum of money; and this order was obeyed by one of the trustees, the other having absconded. On a summons asking that the trustees should be ordered to pay the costs of the action it was admitted by the trustee who had paid in this money that he had accepted the trusteeship, but had left everything to his co-trustee, signing documents without inquiry as his co-trustee told him and swearing an affidavit which he did not understand. The judge held that he could not be considered to have acted "honestly and reasonably" within the meaning of the Judicial Trustee Act, 1896 so as to be excused for his breach of trust; that, though he was entitled as trustee to his costs, charges, and expenses properly incurred by him as trustee out of the fund in Court, yet he must pay, as between party and party, the costs of the action.—
Chancery Division, Kehewich, J., January 11th and 12th, reported

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.—April is the best month in the year to arrive in Canada, and emigrants should therefore now prepare to start. A report from a settler at Agassiz in British Columbia, states that there is no opening for wage earners there without capital, except for domestic servants; but for those who can afford to buy 20 to 40 acres of land suitable for fruits, hops, &c., at £4 to £7 an acre there is an excellent opening. New Brunswick there is a good demand for farm hands.

New South Wales .- Owing to the severe drought in the Western districts of the Colony, and the great loss of sheep, station hands have been dispensed with, and there is consequently no demand for them. Mining for opals has become a prominent industry; 700 men are working at the White Cliffs Opal Field, 60 miles North of Wilcannia, and some are doing very well. Recent reports from such widely distant parts as Walgett, Wilcannia, Mudgee, Orange, Cooma, Bourke, Jerilderie Lithgow, Queanbeyan, Wagga-Wagga, Hillston, Dubbo and Young, state that there is practically no demand for miners, ordinary farm or station hands, or mechanics but in most cases there is a good demand for female servants. At Uralla and Grafton in the North there is a fair demand for farm labourers or carpenters, and a

good one for female servants. Really skilled dairymen, however, and thoroughly capable farm labourers would probably have little difficulty in obtaining employment in many parts of the Colony. At the Broken Hill Silver Mines there is a demand for thoroughly practical hard ground silver miners only; the supply of mechanics is equal to the demand, but first class men can always be sure of getting permanent employment; there is a good demand for female servants. At Sydney the building trade is better than it has been for a long time, and carpenters and joiners have had their wages raised a shilling a day. Increased shipping accommodation is being provided at Sydney to meet an increase of husines

Victoria.—The demand for labour has improved, and employment is now more readily obtained than has been the case for some time past. Carpenters, joiners and bricklayers have all received an advance of 1s. per day in Melbourne; but the demand for them is not brisk, as owing to the large number of vacant shops and houses few new buildings are being erected. There is a good demand which is likely to continue for a limited number of really skilled plumbers on the Melbourne drainage works, which will take years to complete. And in nearly every trade—though there is no scarcity of ordinary men-yet a few thoroughly competent workmen are wanted. In country districts, also, the demand for labour is improving, owing to the abundance of the late harvest, and the progress of the dairying industry.

South Australia.—There has been a demand for married couples without family for stations, otherwise the labour market is fully supplied.

Western Australia.—The principal public works which are now being carried out, are the Fremantle Harbour Works, and the Coolgardie Water Scheme. A great many of the other public works have been completed, and those working on them have been discharged. As no new public works are being started, emigrants now landing will have to trust to getting work with private employers. Assisted as well as free passages to the colony are now suspended.

Queensland.—There is a good demand for competent farm labourers and ploughmen; free and assisted passages for this class of labour, and for female servants are now being given.

Tasmania.—A report from Zeehan, the chief town of the silver mining district on the West Coast, states that there is a good demand for first class fitters, and a fair one for engine drivers and miners. Skilled artisans are reported to be almost sure of work, but men without a trade have no prospects whatever. Laundresses, whose husbands are also in work, do verv well.

New Zealand.—The last reports show that there was plenty of work in New Zealand. The places which seem to have been especially busy were Napier, Wanganui, Otaki, Masterton, Ashburton, Timaru, Oamaru, Dunedin (except in the boot trade), and Invercargill. At Wellington, however, trades, except the clothing trade, were slack, and at Christchurch a number of stonemasons and carpenters were out of work. In country districts men were generally very busy at shearing, harvesting, &c. but it must be remembered that the season for that kind of work is

Cape Colony.—There are openings from time to time, but not now, for skilled artisans in the building trades at Cape Town; but it must be remembered that a large number of the workmen employed are coloured persons, who are willing to work for lower wages than white men. Several reports from country districts state that almost the only labour used is that of natives. At Fort Beaufort, however, a steady English mechanic would get work.

Transvaal.—There is no improvement in the demand for labour at Johannesburg; at Pretoria there is no opening for miners, but a good mechanic can generally

^{*} And the South African Republic (Transvaal). † Handbooks, with maps on the different Colonies, may be obtained from he Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in February.*—Employment has continued good during February in the mining industry, hide and skin-working trades, boot and shoe-making, silk manufacture, ribbon-making, metal (smelting and manufacture) and engineering trades. In the bookbinding, printing, and tailoring trades, and amongst watch and clock makers and jewellers the slackness which set in in January has become more marked. Employment shows a tendency to improve in the wool and cotton trades, but is less plentiful on the whole in the food preparation trades (especially in the case of cooks, pastry-cooks, and confectioners). In other industries there is no change in the state of employment. On the whole the slackness of trade is more noticeable than in the corresponding period of 1808.

The proportion of members of trade unions reported unemployed on February 15th was slightly over 11 per cent. The unions reporting numbered 521, with a membership of 82,000 (exclusive of the trade unions of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments). Thirteen per cent. of the reporting unions, containing ro per cent. of the membership, regarded employment as having been more plentiful in February than in the corresponding month of last year; 23 per cent. of the unions, with 32 per cent. of the membership, regarded it as having been less plentiful; while 64 per cent. of the unions, containing 58 per cent. of the membership, considered that, compared with February, 1898, there

had been no change.

The length of the working day has been increased by an hour in certain trades (notably the building trades) owing to seasonal causes.

Coal Mining in January. +- The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in January, was 6.00, compared with 5.67, in the previous month, and 5.74 in January, 1898. In January full time (6 days and over) was worked by 96 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 3 per cent. of the miners, the percentages in the previous months being 97 and 3 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

GERMANY.

Employment in February.—According to Der Arbeitsmarkt, employment has improved considerably, compared with January. Most branches of industry report exceptional activity. Both in industry and agriculture the demand for labour is stated to have reached a point not known to have been attained in Germany in recent years. As an indication of the improved condition of the labour market in February as compared with January, it is stated that, while only 11 employment registries show an increase, 45 show a decrease in February; in the proportion of applications for work to offers of work. The registries showing a decrease in that proportion are those of the larger cities, including Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Breslau, Frankfort-on-the-Main, and Stuttgart.

In January the proportion of applications for work to every 100 offers of work at the reporting registries was 131.6; in February it fell to III'I. The corresponding figure for February, 1898, was

Labour Disputes in February.—Der Arbeitsmarkt reports the number of labour disputes begun in February as 33, compared with 35 in January. Seven of these disputes (6 in January) were in the metal and engineering trades; 6 (4 in January) in the textile trades; 4 in the glass, pottery, etc., group (1 in January); 4 in the woodworking and allied trades (6 in January); 3 in the building trades (2 in January); 2 (5 in January) in the food, etc., preparing trades; and 7 in trades not coming under any of the foregoing groups. In the case of 5 of the February disputes the number of workpeople involved exceeded 100. All the other disputes are stated to have been insignificant,

The strike in the velvet-making industry in Crefeld (see February GAZETTE, page 41) continued throughout the whole of February and was still in progress on March II, on which date the Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger reported that two of the factories involved had sold their machinery. The Social Questions Committee of the Crefeld Municipality invited the parties to a conference for March 2nd, but neither responded.

* Information supplied by the courtesy of the French Labour Department.
† Bulletin de l'Office du Fravail February, 1899.

Exclusion of Foreign-speaking miners from Rhenish-Westphalia,—The order for the exclusion of foreign-speaking miners from Rhenish-Westphalia (see GAZETTE, January, 1899, p. 11) has, according to Soziale Praxis, now been issued and is in operation. Those actually employed in the mines on the date on which the order was issued are allowed a delay of six months during which to conform to its

Berlin Employers' Association.—According to Sociale Praxis of March 9th, approval has been given by the Berlin Police Department to the rules of an Association of the Employers of Berlin, which, it is added, numbers at present 1,000 members, employing 40,000 workpeople. The chief object of the Association is stated to be "to unite the employers in all branches of industry against the workers' organisation," namely, the Berlin Trades'

Compulsory Guild for the Berlin Book-Printing Trade.—From May 1st, 1899, all employers in the book-printing trade in Berlin must belong to the Berlin Book-printers' Guild, for the formation of which an order has recently been issued by the Government. This measure has been taken in conformity with the Law (of July 26th, 1897) for the Reorganisation of Handicrafts,* which came into operation on April 1st, 1898, and empowers the Government to order the formation of a guild on the majority of the persons engaged in a particular handicraft in a particular district asking that such a step should be taken.-Correspondent für Deutschlands Buchdrucker und

Special rules for the prevention of anthrax in animal hair and bristleworking establishments.—Under date of January 28th, 1899, the Federal Council has issued special rules, to take effect on July 1st, 1899, in respect to all establishments in Germany, where the hair of horses cattle, or pigs, or the bristles of pigs, are prepared, or spun, or in which they are used for making brushes, brooms, etc. Animal hair, bristles, etc., imported from abroad, must not be worked up until they have undergone one or other of three processes of disinfection specified in the rules. The Imperial Chancellor has power to sanction other processes besides these. Exemptions from the rule as to disinfection may be granted under special conditions by the higher administrative Authorities. Children under the age of 16 must not be employed in disinfecting the hair, bristles, etc. (This provision holds good till April 1st, 1909.) Nor may persons having sore places on the skin (more especially on the neck, face, or hands) be so employed. The stocks of hair, etc., which have not yet been disinfected, must be kept in special receptacles or rooms under lock and key, and the employer must keep a register of such stocks.

In addition to the above rules, which apply to all establishments, there are others which apply only to the larger establishments. Amongst them are the following: In establishments employing, as a rule, at least 10 workpeople, the workrooms must be provided with a hard, closely-fitting floor; walls and ceilings must be lime-washed at least once a year, unless their surface is painted or admits of being washed. In extending existing premises or erecting new ones, the arrangements must be such that each operative shall, on an average, have at least 530 cubic feet of air-space. The rooms must be thoroughly ventilated twice a day. Floors must be cleansed from dust at least once a day, and tables at least twice a week, by washing or wiping with a damp cloth. In addition, special precautions are prescribed for preventing the development of dust. The employer must provide operatives engaged in disinfecting hair, etc., with overalls and caps; he must see that these clothes are disinfected at least once a week, and that each operative wears those allotted to him and no others. He must provide dressing-rooms, lavatories, an eating-room (sofar as necessary), and facilities for taking warm baths twice a week. He must draw up special rules for operatives employed in working up the hair, etc., more especially as to their not taking food into the work-rooms, and as to not going to their meals or leaving the premises without changing their working clothes and carefully washing face, neck, arms, and hands.

BELGIUM.

Use of motors in "fiery" mines.—A Royal Decree dated January 21st, forbids the use, in "fiery" mines, of motors of which the power is supplied by the internal combustion of gaseous mixtures.

HOLLAND.

State Regulation of Hours of Railway Servants.—By Royal Decree of February 9th the following rules (to take effect from October 1st, 1899), are enacted in respect to the hours of railway servants

1. For members of station staffs (including pointsmen, signalmen, level crossing keepers, shunters, telegraphists, etc.), whose

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1897, p. 200.

duties the Minister of Dykes, Commerce and Industry shall, after consultation with the Railway Administrations, consider to be of a nature entailing uninterrupted, arduous work, the duration of the term of service must not exceed 10 consecutive hours, nor may such persons be employed for more than 10 hours (consecutive cr not)

2. For all other railway servants the maximum length of the term of service is fixed at 16 consecutive hours. It is further provided that they shall not be on duty for more than 42 hours in any period of 3 consecutive days (from midnight to midnight), or for more than 168 hours in any period of 14 consecutive days.

3. For all railway servants, a clear off-duty interval of at least 10 hours must be allowed between each turn of service and the next, and while on duty, every railway servant must be allowed the necessary short intervals for meals. Every railway servant must be allowed at least 26 days off duty in the year, of which at least must coincide with a Sunday or other recognised Christian holiday. An isolated off-duty day is reckoned at 30 hours, but if several such days be taken in succession, each is reckoned at 24 hours. Such off-duty days are irrespective of the off-duty periods which must intervene between any two turns of service.- Nederlandsche Staats-Courant

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Labour Disputes in February .- The most noteworthy of the disputes reported* to have begun in Austria-Hungary during the month of February were a strike of cotton weaving operatives of Nachod, in Bohemia, and a strike of agate button-makers in Teplitz (Hungary). The strike of cotton weavers began on February 16th at a single establishment, but 1,700 operatives belonging to four establishments were stated to be on strike on February 21st, their object being to obtain increases in wages ranging from 20 to 30 per cent. These demands were subsequently reduced, but an offer of a ten per cent. rise made by the employers is stated to have been declined. On March 9th, the operatives of three out of the four establishments were still on strike, those at one establishment having returned to work on March 7th on terms stated to involve certain concessions on the part of the employers.

The strike of agate button-makers, which began on February 4th, was confined to a single establishment, and is stated to have been due to the appointment of an unpopular manager. Two hundred operatives are stated to be involved in this dispute. Its termination had not been reported up to March 9th.

Re-organisation of Factory Inspectorate.—A scheme for the reorganisation of the Austrian Factory Inspectorate has been drawn up by the Minister of Commerce, and was put into operation on February 1st. The number of districts of inspection has been increased from 17 to 20. The province most affected by the change is that of Galicia, which, with the Bukowina, has hitherto formed a single district of inspection. Under the new scheme Galicia is divided into two districts, and the Bukowina is made into a separate

DENMARK.

Workmen's Compensation for Accidents.—The Hon. Alan ohnstone, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen, has orwarded, under date of February 11th, translation of a law approved by the Danish Parliament on the preceding day, whereby contracts and policies concerning the insurance of workmen against accidents, including such documents relating to insurance under the law of January 4th, 1898 (see GAZETTE, February, 1898, p. 41), are exempted from stamp duty.

RUSSIA.

Dispute in St. Petersburg Cotton Spinning-mills.— From a memorandum supplied by Sir C. S. Scott, H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg, under date of February 7th, with reference to a recent dispute at two cotton pinning mills in that city, it appears that, owing to a reduction in wages, the operatives at the two mills left work without giving the legal fortnight's notice. As this constituted a breach of the Factory Laws, the operatives were ordered by the Prefect of St. Petersourg to return to work within three days, an order which was complied with. Certain small grievances have since been redressed, but no concessions have been made in respect to wages or working hours.

* In Austrian employers and workmen's papers, including Die Industrie (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), Das Handels-Museum Die Gewerkschaft, Die Arbeiter-Zeitung, and others.

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

EMPLOYMENT in February was exceptionally good, the average time worked at the collieries included in the returns, being higher than any previously recorded in the five years during which these statistics have been compiled.

Returns relating to 1,284 pits, at which 437,440 workpeople were employed show that these pits worked on an average 5.63 days per week in the four weeks ended February 25th, as compared with 5.24 days per week in the corresponding period of 1898. The average for the period ended January 21st which is shown in the tables below was affected by the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The following table shows the average time worked in these periods in each division of the United

District England and Wales Scotland Ireland		No. em- ployed in Feb., 1899, at the	per wee	mber of day k by the pits weeks ended		
		collieries included in the Table.	25th Feb., 1899.	19th Feb., 18g8.	21st Jan., 1899.	
		•••	400,314 36,329 797	5.65 5.40 5.54	5'22 5'43 5'27	5'20 4'66 5'26
United Kingdom		•••	437,440	5-63	5.24	5-16

The next table, in which the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced, shows that, in all classes of pits, employment was better than a year ago, the most noticeable improvement being in house coal pits:—

Description of Coal	No. em- ployed in Feb., 1899, at the	Number of	days worked	l per week
	Collieries included in the Table.	February, 1859.	February 1898.	January, 18 9 9.
Coking Coal	28,635	5.74	5'59	5.45
Gas "	47,119	5.65	5'49	5'15
House ,,	103.372	5'58	5.02	5.03
Manufacturing Cosl	28,456	5.71	5'40	5'17
Steam "	162,199	5'65	5'27	5'24
Mixed ,,	67,659	5'55	5'09	5'07
Ill Classes of Coal	437,440	B:63	5 24	B·16

In the table below the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 92.9 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in February, as compared with 75.5 per cent. a year ago.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCOFDING TO THE NUMBER

Number of days on	Februa	ry, 18 9 9.	Corresponding percentages in—		
which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	February, 1898.	January, 1899.	
24 days (full time) 20 and under 24 days 16 ,, 20 ,, 12 ,, 16 ,, 8 ,, 12 ,, Under 8 days	156,651 249,674 25,996 3,302 556 1,261	35.8 57.1 5.0 0.1 0.3	14·4 61·1 15·9 6·9 1·3 0·4	2:0 71:7 22:9 3:1 0:1 0:2	
Total	437,440	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Comparison by Districts.—Except in West Scotland and the Lothians the average time worked was greater in every district than a year ago, the improvement being chiefly noticeable in the Midland group of Counties— Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, and Staffordshire. In the first named county the average time worked was greater by nearly one day per week than in the corresponding period of 1898. An improvement of over half a day per week also took place in Gloucester and Somerset, Northumberland, and

The highest averages during the month were worked in Gloucester and Somerset (5.86 day per week), South Wales and Monmouth (5.83 days) and Cumberland

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EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-COAL AND IRON MINING; PIG IRON INDUSTRY; IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

In only four districts was the average below $5\frac{1}{2}$ days per week; viz:—Notts and Leicester (4.93 days.) West Scotland (5.35 days.), Fife (5.42 days.) and Northumberland (5.44 days.).

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN FEBRUARY, 1899 AND 1898, AND IN JANUARY, 1899.

District.	No. employed in Feb., 1899, at the Collieries	per Wee	No. of Day ek by the C or weeks	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1899 as com- pared with		
Water to the	included in the Table.	25th Feb. 1899.	19th Feb. 1898.	21st Jan. 1899.	A year ago.	A m'nth ago.
ENGLAND & WALES		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	34,902	5'44	4'85	5'09	+ '59	+ '35
Durham	87,057	5'60	5'46	5'20	+ '14	+ '40
Cumberland	6,228	5.82	5'62	5'09	+ '20	+ '73
Yorkshire	49,936	5'77	5'24	5'21	+ '53	+ '56
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,689	5'66	5.31	5'16	+ '35	+ '50
Derbyshire	37,168	5'74	4.80	5'37	+ '94	+ '37
Nottingham and Leicester	23,239	4'93	4'11	4'69	+ .82	+ '24
Staffordshire	24,081	5'72	5.06	5'04	+ .66	+ '68
Salop, Worcester and						
Warwick	8,798	5.66	5'42	4'91	+ '24	+ '75
Gloucester and Somerset	8,434	5.86	5'26	5'37	+ '60	+ '49
North Wales	11,889	5'79	5'34	5'47	+ '45	+ '32
South Wales and		100				
Monmouthshire	61,893	5.83	5.63	5'45	+ *20	+ .38
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	20,578	5'35	5'44	4'73	- '09	+ .62
The Lothians	3,819	5'60	5'74	4'84	- '14	+ '76
Fife	11,932	5.42	5'29	4'48	+ .13	+ '94
IRELAND	797	5'54	5'27	5.26	+ '27	+ *28
Grand Total & Averages	437,440	5.63	5.24	5•16	+ •39	+ •47

Percentage of Unemployed.—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0.3 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of February, as compared with 0.4 per cent. in January and 0.6 per cent. in February, 1898.

Exports of Coal.—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel, during February, amounted to 3,196,848 tons, as against 3,032,343 tons in January, and 2,518,751 tons in February, 1898.

(b) IRON MINING IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in February was better in the English districts but not so good in Scotland as a year ago.

Returns received relating to 135 iron mines and open works, at which 17,500 workpeople were employed, show that the average number of days worked by these workpeople in the four weeks ended February 25th was 5.86 as compared with 5.79 a year ago. The average for January was affected by the Christmas and New Year holidays. The number of workpeople employed was practically the same as in February, 1898.

Of the 17,500 persons employed, 92.3 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as compared with 84.5 per cent. a year ago.

The following tables summarise the returns received:

I.) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:-

District.	No. em- ployed in Feb., 1899, at the Mines	worked mines i	number per wee n 4 week	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1899, as compared with		
	included in the Table.	25th Feb., 1899.	19th Feb., 1898.	21st Jan., 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND-						
Cumberland and		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Lancashire	6,118	5'96	5'94	5.63	+ '02	+ '33
Cleveland	6,757	5.81	5'74	5'47	+ '07	+ '34
Lincolnshire and	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	-36				
Leicestershire	786	6.00	5'74	5'74	+ *26	+ '26
Northamptonshire Staffordshire and	643	5'95	5'93	5.63	+ '02	+ '32
Shropshire	1,565	5.66	5'29	5'11	+ '37	+ '55
Other places in						
England	339	5'46	5'35	5.26	+ ,11	+ '20
SCOTLAND	1,159	5'78	6.00	5.15	- '22	+ '66
RELAND	133	6.00	6.00	5.88		+ '12
Total	17,500	5'86	5'79	5'49	+ '07	+ '37

(II.) Classification of workpeople according to days worked by the mines:—

Number of days on which		ary, 18 9 9.	Corresponding percentages in—		
Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks.	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	February, 1898.	January 1899.	
24 days (full time) 22 and under 24 days 20 , 22 , Under 20 days	4,840	64.7 27.7 5.5 2.1	62·9 21·6 11·4 4·1	7·3 37·2 50·7 4·8	
Total	17,500	100,0	100.0	100.0	

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN FEBRUARY.

The improvement in employment in this industry still continues. At the works of 113 ironmasters there were 371 furnaces in blast at the end of February employing an estimated number of 23,975 workpeople, or 16 more furnaces and 513 more workpeople than a year ago. During the month three furnaces were re-lit in the Glamorgan and Monmouth district. In other districts the number of furnaces in blast, so far as shown by the returns, remains as in January. The estimated number employed has increased by 72 during the month.

			e compared	Present time compared with a month ago.				
Distriots.	Feb., 1899.	Feb., 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1899.	Feb. 18 9 9.	Jan., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1899.		
ENGLAND & WALES-								
Cleveland	97	95	+ 2	97	97			
Cumberland & Lancs.	48	48		48	48			
S. and S.W. Yorks	19	16	+ 3	19	19			
Lincolnshire	16	15	+ 1	16 .	16			
Midlands	98	92	+ 6	98	98			
Glamorgan and Mon.	18	15	+ 3	18	15	+ 3		
Other districts	9	9		9	9			
Total England and Wales	305	250	+ 15	205	302	+ 3		
SCOTLAND	66	65	+ 1	66	65			
Total furnaces included in returns	371	355	+ 16	371	868	+ 3		

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during February, amounted to 61,553 tons, as compared with 49,871 tons in January and 55,899 tons in February, 1898.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry has further improved in Scotland, but in England and Wales it was not so good at the end of February as at the end of January. In both divisions of Great Britain it was considerably better than a year ago.

Returns received from 211 works show that they were employing 79,098 workpeople in the last week of February, or 495 less than in the last week of January, but 3,061 more than a year ago. The following table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

Numbers Employed.

District.	Number	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1899, as compared with			
	Feb. 25th, 1899.	Feb. 26th, 1898.	Jan. 28th, 1899.	a year ago.	a month
England and Wales Scotland	66,036 13,062	63,957	66,679 12,914	+2 079 + 982	- 643 + 148
Total	79,098	76,037	79,593	+3,061	- 495

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

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-IRON AND STEEL TRADES; TINPLATE INDUSTRY; AGRICULTURE.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to about 93 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked in the last weeks of both February and January was 5.60, the average a year ago being 5.54.

March, 1899.

Average Weekly Number of Shifts worked per Man.

	Number of Shifts worked per man.		Number employed in Feb., 1899, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in Feb., 1898.
Under 5 pe	r week		1,851	015	
5	"		25,501	2.2 34.8	4.4 34.9
51/2	"		1,254	1'7	3.6
Above 6	"	•••	42,965	58.7	55'6
Above 0	"	•••	1,639	2.3	1.2
	Total		73,210	100.0	100.0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this table worked the same average 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 442,981 in the last week of February, 445,640 in the last week of January, and 421,454 in the last week of February, 1898.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry recovered considerably during February, and at the end of the month was better than a year ago.

better than a year ago.

Forty-four works with 221 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 27 others with 202 mills were giving partial

employment, 134 of these mills being at work. Thus in all 355 mills were working and giving employment to an estimated number of 17,826 workpeople, as compared with 323 mills employing 16,259 workpeople at the end of January, and 341 mills employing 17,351 workpeople a year ago.

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

	No. of Works	No. of M	Esti- mated No. of Work-		
	open.	Working.	Not Working.	Total.	people em- ployed.
Works giving full employ-	44	221	_	221	10,932
Works giving partial employment	27	134	68	202	6,894
Total at end of Feb., 1899*	71	355	68	423	17,826
Corresponding Total for January, 1899*	69	323	74	397	16,259
Corresponding Total for February, 1898*	66	341	46	387	17,351

The **exports** of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above table were as follows:—

		Tinplates.		E	Blackplates Tons.
February, 1899	 	17,807			4,915
January, 1899	 •••	13,924	•••		4,635
February, 1898	 	23,223			2 771

Thus the exports of tinplates in February, 1899, were greater than in the preceding month, but less than in February, 1898. The exports of blackplates for tinning show an increase both as compared with a month and a year ago.

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

Information as to the number of shifts worked has (f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN FEBRUARY.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department on the basis of 230 returns from all parts of England reports as follows: Generally speaking, agricultural labourers were regularly employed during the month of February, though, owing to the wet and stormy weather which prevailed in the earlier part of the month, some odd hands lost some time, chiefly in the western counties. During the last part of the month fine weather generally prevailed, and reports from all districts state that farmers were exceptionally busy ploughing, sowing, threshing, etc., and that sufficient labourers were frequently very difficult to obtain. Changes in the weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers amounting to a rise of 1s. a week took place in certain districts in the counties of Berkshire, Cambridge, Essex, Hants, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Somerset, and Wilts. A change, amounting to a rise of 2s. a week, is reported from a district in Cheshire.

A strike of agricultural labourers took place on four farms out of five at Longstanton, in the Chesterton Union of Cambridgeshire, on 14th February. Sixteen men struck on one farm, six on two, and five on one. The fifth farmer kept his men on, it is stated, at the winter hours pending the result of the dispute. The object of the strike was to obtain shorter hours. The usual hours worked in the winter for six weeks before Christmas, and for six weeks after, are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with about 11 hours for meals, and the rest of the year 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 11 hours off for meals. In the middle of February, the usual time for changing to the longer hours, the men claimed that the summer hours of work should be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with 11 hours for meals, and refused to work the longer hours. After the men had been out about a fortnight, a compromise was effected, it being agreed that the hours in the summer should be from 6 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., with 11 hours for meals. By 11th March twenty-two out of the thirty-three men had returned to their situations, five had found work elsewhere, and 6 had neither returned to their former employment nor had secured other work.

Northern Counties.—Reports state that employment was generally regular in February in Northumberland, and in Cumberland in the Unions of Bootle, Brampton, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Penrith, and Whitehaven. A correspondent near Cockermouth writes that extra labour cannot be had, and that wages are slightly on the increase. Reports from North Lancashire and South Westmorland state that everyone is fully employed. It is stated that, owing to the wet weather and floods in previous months, work was backward, but that as a strong staff of hands as can be got is proceeding with sowing and other spring work. A report from the Fylde Union in North Lancashire states that cottages are standing empty in some of the parishes owing to scarcity of hands. The term of engagement in this district for farm servants, both men and women, who are lodged and boarded in the farm houses, is a yearly one, from February 2nd. It is stated that the wages agreed upon this year are frequently £1 to £2 higher than was the case last year.

Employment is said to be regular in Durham in the Unions of Chester-le-Street and Darlington (Durham and Yorks). A large employer of labour in the last-named Union states that, "I cannot get a man if I want one." Favourable reports come from Yorkshire, from the Unions of Beverley, Bridlington, Easingwold, Guisborough, Howden, Malton, Ouseburn, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. Nearly all the reports from Yorkshire refer to an increasing difficulty in procuring men. A report from the Howden Union states that there has been some difficulty in getting hired farm servants, also that higher wages have been paid to extra men for threshing this year. Another report from the same Union attributes the difficulty of getting sufficient men for threshing partly to the large crop of corn last harvest, and partly to the open winter which has kept all hands busy at out-door work, such as ploughing, getting in roots, and draining. A correspondent writes from the Ripon Union that work is very plentiful, and labourers need not be a day out of work. He states that farmers in the district complain that "the men are scarce, and bad to do with," and that one employer offered to advance his men is. a week if they would work until 5.30 p.m., instead of 5, but they declined. A

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY - AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

report from the Bridlington Union states that the supply of labour is less plentiful this winter than in previous years, and that payments for piecework and wages of casual labourers were higher. It is also added that "at the present moment the demand for ploughmen and horsemen is far in excess of the supply, and there are farms where it has been found impossible to obtain the regular staff of men.'

Midland Counties.—Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in Cheshire in the Unions of Macclesfield, Nantwich, and Tarvin, and in Derbyshire in the Ashbourne Union (Derby and Staffs); in the Derbyshire portion of the Worksop Union (Derby and Notts); in Shropshire in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (Salop and Staffs), Oswestry, Wellington and Wem, and in Staffordshire in the Union of Leek, and in the Staffordshire portion of the Tamworth Union (Staffs and Warwick). An employer in the last-named Union writes that labour is very scarce and says: "I have had to send over for Irishmen two months earlier than usual." Reports of a favourable character come from Warwickshire from the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon, and from the Warwickshire portion of the Tamworth Union (Staffs and Warwick). Reports from the Foleshill, and Stratford-on-Avon Unions refer to a difficulty in getting men. In Leicestershire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Blaby, Loughborough, Market Harborough, and Melton Mowbray. In the Barrow-on-Soar, and Blaby Unions men are said to be difficult

In Nottinghamshire employment is reported as generally regular in the Unions of Bingham, Retford, and Southwell; and in Worcestershire in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Pershore, Tenbury, Shipstonon-Stour (Worcester, Warwick, and Gloucester), and Upton-on-Severn. Reports from the Evesham, Martley, Tenbury and Upton-on-Severn Unions refer to a scarcity of labour. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in Oxfordshire in the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and in the Oxfordshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants and Warwick). A correspondent from the Thame Union writes that "The difficulty in obtaining able-bodied men as milkers continues, and is likely to increase. The men dislike the seven days' employment, and working late and early gives them no opportunity of working on their allotments." Favourable reports come from Northamptonshire from the Unions of Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, Wellingborough, and Towcester, and from the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick). A correspondent from the Kettering Union writes that "Good labourers are scarce, and woodmen almost unobtainable."

In Huntingdonshire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neots (Hunts and Beds.) In the Huntingdon Union a correspondent writes that labour is gradually getting scarcer, and that in several parishes a rise has taken place of 1s. a week, the weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers being now 13s. as compared with 12s. last year. In the St. Neot's Union wages are also is. a week higher than last year. Reports from Bedfordshive, from the Bedford, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton Unions, state that labourers are generally well employed. But a correspondent from the first-named union says that a few labourers were out of work as they had been discharged by the railway company. They had previously been employed on farms and the farmers were unwilling to re-engage them, in case they should again leave for railway work.

Eastern Counties.—In Essex reports state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett, and Tendring, Labour is said to be rather scarce in the Unions of Billericay, Maldon, and Orsett. A correspondent in the Maldon Union writes that "good labourers are very scarce. We should employ more if we could get them. Some farmers have risen the wages 1s. a week." Agricultural labourers in Norfolk are said to have regular work in the Unions of Aylsham, Biofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham, Reports refer to a scarcity of labourers in the Unions of Docking, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faith's, and Thetford.

Reports from Suffolk state that there was no lack of employment in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Loddon and Clavering, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. There is said to be some scarcity of labour in the Unions

employer of labour in the Bosmere and Claydon Union writes that the whole of the men in the district are fully employed. Hoeing winter beans has commenced since the fine weather began, and spring seeding is said to be favourably progressing in the district. In Cambridgeshire agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Chesterton, Linton, Newmarket, North Witchford, Whittlesea, and Wisbech; in the Cambridgeshire portion of the Royston Union (Cambs and Herts), and in the Cambridgeshire portion of the Peterborough Union (Northants, Cambs, Hunts, and Lincoln). It is said to be difficult to obtain extra labour in the Union of North Witchford and in the Cambridgeshire portion of the Peterborough Union. Favourable reports come from Lincolnshire, from the Unions of Brigg, Boston, Caistor, Gainsborough, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford, and from the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Lincoln and Notts). Some difficulty in getting men is stated to exist in the Unions of Boston, Lincoln, Spilsby, and Grantham.

Home Counties.—Favourable reports come from Buckinghamshire from the unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, and Newport Pagnell. A report from the Aylesbury Union states that labourers are scarce, especially cattlemen. An employer of labour in the Buckingham Union writes that "extra labour cannot be obtained for steam threshing and am obliged to borrow men of neighbouring farmers.' In Berkshire agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the unions of Bradfield, Faringdon (Berks and Gloucester) and Wantage. Reports from both these unions refer to a scarcity of men. An employer in the Bradfield Union says that "a stray labourer cannot be got." In Surrey there is said to be regular work in the unions of Godstone, and Hambledon, and in the Surrey portion of the Farnham Union (Surrey and Hants). In the Godstone Union men are said to be scarce. Reports from Kent state that employment is generally regular in the unions of Blean, Bridge, Cranbrook, Faversham, Hoo, and Hollingbourne. Men are said to be scarce in the Unions of Cranbrook, Hoo, and Faversham. In the Cranbrook Union this is said to be partly due to the construction of a light railway and also of waterworks, and in the Hoo Union to cement and brickmaking. An employer in the Faversham Union says that men are fairly plentiful near large towns, "but they are very independent, because if a man gives up a job he can find employment the next day, or even the same In Hertfordshire employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Hatfield, and Hertford, and in a district in the Hemel Hempstead Union.

Southern and South-Western Counties .- Employment in Sussex is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. A report from the Horsham Union states that there was some slight interruption of work in the earlier part of the month, owing to wet weather, but that since then labourers have been very fully employed A number of reports from this county state that labour is difficult to obtain. In the Cuckfield Union this is said to be due to building and other works in the neighbourhood, and in the Battle Union to the demand for labour on railways in the course of construction. An employer in the Newhaven Union writes that he has had to borrow men from a neighbour for threshing as no extra hands are to be had. Agricultural labourers in Hampshire are reported to be well employed in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Fareham, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). In the Basingstoke, and Petersfield Unions labour is said to be scarce owing to the construction of railways in these districts. A report from the Farnham Union also refers to a scarcity of labour. Reports state that agricultural labourers are generally well employed in Dorsetshire, in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wimborne and Cranborne, Sherborne, and Wareham and Purbeck. An employer reports that "at the annual hiring fair held at Dorchester on February 14th, there were very few men seeking places, and they were very quickly engaged." Reports of a favourable character come from Wiltshire, from the Unions of Bradford-on-Avon, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. A scarcity of labour is frequently referred to in several reports from this county. An employer in the Chippenham Union states that in the earlier part of the month the men lost some time owing to the wet weather, but in the latter part all hands were so fully employed that he himself could not get sufficient labour for threshing, and that he had to stop the men with horses to help with the threshing machine The same correspondent reports a favourable lambing season. A correspondent in the Bradford-on-Avon union of Blything, Loddon and Clavering, and Risbridge. A large writes that men are kept on at their regular wages, even when the

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; TEXTILE; SEAMEN; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

weather was most unfavourable or they would probably have gone to the Bath stone quarries for work. He adds that labourers are very scarce, and that they are the masters of the situation.

March. 1800.

Reports from Gloucestershire state that employment was generally regular in the unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Thornbury. In the Barton Regis Union a few odd men were in irregular work for about a week in the middle of the month owing to heavy rain. For the same reason odd hands in the Stow-on-the-Wold Union lost time during the first three weeks of the month, as outdoor work and also threshing was much interfered with, but since the fine weather extra labour for threshing has been difficult to get. An employer in the Thornbury Union writes that "farmers are very busy on arable land, as there is a lot of ploughing to be done. Beans and spring wheat are going in fairly well. Farmers are also very busy with the lambing, calving and weaning young calves." In Herefordshire agricultural labourers are said to have been generally well employed in the Unions of Bromyard, and Ross. A report from the Monmouthshire portion of the Dore Union (Monmouth and Hereford) states that there was some irregularity of work in the earlier part of the month owing to almost continuous wet weather and gales, but that since then work has been brisk. Reports of a favourable character come from Somersetshire from the Unions of Bridgwater. Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wells, Wellington, and Yeovil. Some irregularity of work in the earlier part of the month owing to wet weather is reported in the Unions of Frome, Langport, and Yeovil, but in the latter part reports states that all men were fully employed. In Devonshire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, and Torrington. Reports state that work was somewhat delayed in the earlier part of the month, owing to stormy weather, in the Unions of Holsworthy, Tavistock, and Torrington. Agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in Cornwall in the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton. A few are reported to have been in irregular work in the Bodmin Union, owing to wet weather.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN FEBRUARY.

According to returns from women correspondents employment for women during the month showed a decline in the cotton trade and an improvement in the woollen and worsted trades. Information has been received with regard to 474 cotton, woollen, and worsted mills, employing about 81,290 women and girls and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous

			Percei	ntage ordi	narily emp hich were	ployed in Mills	
			Working	full Time.	100 May 100 Ma	Closed for	
Trade and Month.			With Full Employ- ment.	With Partial Employ- ment.	Working Short Time.	repairs, bad trade, disputes or other causes	
Cotton Trade—Spinning	g—						
February, 1899	•••	***	90	8	2		
January, 1899 February, 1898		***	93 87	10	1 2		
Cotton Trade—Weaving February, 1899 January, 1899 February, 1898		::	81 85 62	17 15 36	2 - 2	Ξ	
Woollen and Worsted	Trad	les-					
February, 1899		***	74	13	10	3	
January, 1899		•••	69	18	12	I	
February, 1898	•••	***	65	18	15	2	
Total of above Trades February, 1899			90	-			
January, 1899	***	•••	82	14	3	1	
February, 1898	***	***	84	13	3 5	<u></u>	

Cotton Trade-Spinning.-The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 20,440; of these 90 per cent. were employed in mills working full time during the month (to be compared with 93 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in January, and with 87 per cent. in February, 1898); 8 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; and 2 per cent. in mills running short time.

Cotton Trade-Weaving .- The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 42,630; of these, 81 per cent. were employed in mills working full time during the month (to be compared with 85 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in January, and with 62 per cent. in February, 1898); 17 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; and 2 per cent in mills running short time.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,220; of these 74 per cent. were employed in mills running full time during the month to be compared with 69 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in January, and 65 per cent. in February, 1898); 13 per cent. in mills running full time out giving only partial employment; 10 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 3 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN FEBRUARY.

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

THE number of men shipped as crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 28,916 in February, 1899, being 60 less than in February, 1898. The supply of seamen and firemen during the month at the ports included in the table below is reported to have been equal to or in excess of the demand, except at Liverpool, where difficulty was again experienced in obtaining eligible men for sailing vessels. Particulars of changes in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen at certain ports will be found in the table on page 89.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in February, 1899 and 1898 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the two months ended February in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number in I	of Men, & February, 1	c., shipped 1899.*	Total in	Total number shipped in a months ended February*	
rimcipal Forts.	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Feb., 1899.	Feb., 1898.*	1899.	1898.
ENGLAND.						1
Rast Coast. Tyne Ports Sunderland Middlesbrough Hull Grimsby	59 - 27	2,651 322 158 755 69	2,710 322 158 782 69	2,225 578 161 972 31	5,421 898 511 2,253 138	5,739 1,260 646 2,320 151
Bristol Channel. Bristol Newport, Mon Cardiff† Swansea	52 144 28	127 943 4,893 297	127 995 5,037 325	128 932 5,044 357	339 2,420 11,511 1,206	380 2,619 11,382 1,230
Other Ports. Liverpool London Southampton	193 193	9,209 4,710 1,388	9,402 4,903 1,388	8,782 5,621 1,687	19,910 10,809 2,946	18,192 11,491 2,886
SCOTLAND. Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	13	444	457	471	1,378	1,438
Glasgow	65	1,863	1,928	1,749	3,628	4,093
IRELAND. Dublin Belfast	=	58 255	58 255	109	221 565	234 483
Total, Feb., 1899	774	28,142	28,916		64,154	_
Ditto, Feb., 1898	1,147	27,829		28,976		64,544

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves was on the whole not so good in February as in January, or a

The average number employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves during the four weeks ended February 25th, was 13,836, as compared with 15,283 in

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate ingagements, not of separate individuals.

† Including Barry and Penarth.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; LONDON.

the five preceding weeks, and 14,057 in the correspond-

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

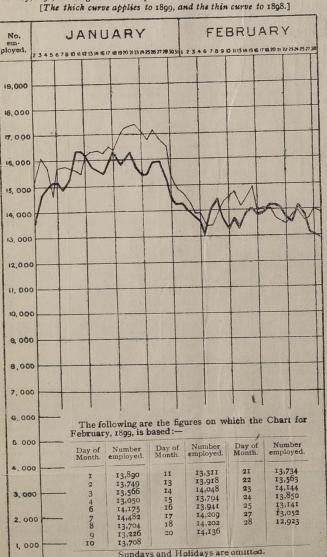
	Labourers	employed in	Docks.	Labourers	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.	
Period.	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship- owners, &c.	Total.	employed at 115Wharves making Returns,		
Week ending Feb. 4 " " " " 11 " " 18 " " 25	5,684 5,098 5,589 5,358	2,385 2,726 2,462 2,486	8,069 7,824 8,051 7,844	5,729 5,944 5,967 5,917	13,798 13,768 14,018 13,761	
Average for 4 weeks ending Feb. 25th, 1899	} 5,432	2,515	7,947	5,889	13,836	
Average for Feb., 1898	5,659	2,182	7,841	6,216	14,057	
Average for Jan., 1899	6,854	2,528	9,382	5,901	15,283	

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and the principal wharves during January and February is shown on the chart The numbers in February ranged from 14,482 on the 7th to 12,923 on the 28th.

During February, 1898, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 13,400 on the 5th to 14,886 on the 15th.

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

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



In mid-stream employment has been moderately good and steady during the month. With lightermen, coal | February 25th an average number of 13,836 labourers were porters, and winchmen it has been moderately good; | employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as com-

with deal and corn porters, stevedores, and lumpers rather slack.

The fruit porters in Thames-street had fairly good employment during the first three weeks of the month, but in the fourth week the society fruit porters were not at work, owing to a dispute with the Orange Porters' Society, the members of the latter to the number of about 50 continuing at work.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL COR-RESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.
Employment in various Industries.—In most branches of industry the condition of employment improved during February. Returns from 438 branches of 108 unions, having an aggregate membership of 73,221, show that 2,011 (or 2.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 3.8 in January,

and 4.2 per cent. in February, 1898.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding trades remained steady and improved slightly. Reports from 144 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,087, show that 531 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.9 in January and 6.2 per cent, in February of last year. Sailmakers were fairly well employed.

The Building trades continued brisk. Returns from 180 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,476, show that 71 (or 0.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.0 per cent. in January, and 1.4 per cent. in February, 1898. The bricklayers described employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, stonemasons, and plasterers as fair; the plumbers, and painters and decorators as moderate; the stonecarvers as dull.

Employment in the Furnishing trades continued to improve. Reports from 43 branches of 11 unions, with a membership of 6,279, show that 290 (or 4.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6 o in January and 4.4 per cent. in February, 1898.

Coopers are steadily employed, two societies with a membership of 1,000 returning 15 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 1.7 in January and less than I per cent. in February of last year. Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights are well employed. Returns from

12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,366, show that 27 (or 2.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 2.3 in January and 2.5 per cent. in February, 1898. The Printing and Bookbinding trades are now busier. Returns

from 22 unions, with a membership of 22,895, show that 772 (or 3.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.0 per cent. in January. The percentage for February, 1898, was also 3'4.

Employment in the Clothing trades continued to improve. The West End bespoke tailors were fairly well employed during the month and improved towards the end; the East End bespoke trade improved; the contract trade was good; the stock trade fair; the ladies' tailors and mantle makers were busy; the military and uniform tailors and tailoresses rather slack. Employment with hatters and fur skin dressers still further improved; with silk weavers it was fair.

Boot and Shoe Trades.-Employment in the West End handsewn trade was fairly good; in the East End sewround trade bad; with boot and shoe operatives quiet.

Employment in the Leather trades improved. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,660, show that 31 (or 1.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.8 in January and 2.8 per cent. in February, 1898.

In the Glass and Pottery trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,497, show that 114 (or 7.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 8.2 in January, and 7.2 per cent. in February of last year.

Hair, Fibre and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 887, show that 18 (or 20 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.1 last month. The percentage for February 1898 was 3 o.

Gold and Silver Workers were better employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,112, show that 20 (or 1 8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.6 in January, and 2.3 per cent. in February, 1898.

Employment in the Tobacco trades improved. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,503, show that 96 (or 3 8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.6 in January, and 6.0 per cent. n February of last year.

Dock and Riverside Labour .- During the four weeks ended

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-DISTRICT REPORTS-northern counties; Lancashire.

pared with averages of 15,283 in the five preceding weeks, and 14,057 in the corresponding period of 1898. Employment in midstream has been moderately good and steady during the month. With lightermen, coal porters and winchmen employment has been moderately good, but with deal and corn porters, stevedores and umpers it has been rather slack. Fruit porters have had fairly good employment during the first three weeks of the month. (For urther details see page 80.)

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Four fresh disputes, involving all about 530 persons, were reported to the Department as having arisen during the month, viz. one each in the building, clothing, tobacco and transport trades (see p. 92). 212 vestry employees received advances of wages ranging from 1s. to 5s. per week (see p. 89).

Labour Bureaux.—Returns received from six labour bureaux at which those registered are mostly men, show that 1,136 fresh applications for work were received by these bureaux during February, as compared with 1,268 in February, 1898. Work was found by the six bureaux for 646 persons during the month, as against 685 in the corresponding month of 1898. At the end of February the number of persons on the registers was 897 in 1899, and 1,190 in 1898. Returns received from five women's employment bureaux show that 802 fresh situations were offered by employers, and 600 fresh applications were made for employment during February. Work was found by the bureaux for 211 women. (For further particulars see pages 90 and 94.)

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of February was 107,370, or 2,487 more than on the corresponding day of January. As compared with February, 1898, there was an increase of 1,150 in the total, though in one district (the Central) there was a decrease of 251. On the same day in February 1,133 vagrants were relieved, as against 1,067 in January and 1,182 a year ago.

In the West Ham district the number of persons relieved was 9,976 (exclusive of vagrants), compared with 9,576 in January and 9,132 in February, 1898. (For further details see page 94.)

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining .- Northumberland .- Colliers have worked better during the four weeks ended February 25th, steam and house coal pits each averaging 5.36 and 5.29 days per week, as compared with 5 and 5 o7 days in January. The colliery mechanics, deputies, enginemen and firemen, are in full employment. Durham.—Coking coal pits are busy, having averaged 5.68 days as against 5.37 days per week in January. Collieries, producing gas, house, and manufacturing coal, show similar increased averages of 5.40, 5.50 and 5.62 days per week respectively. Returns relating to 122 collieries employing 64,908 men and boys show an average working week of 5.54 days, as against 5'19 days in January. The number of union miners idle owing to depression is 248 (or 0.4 per cent.), and from other causes there are 550 (or 0.8 per cent.) off work as compared with 275 (or 0.5 per cent.), and 334 (or 0.6 per cent.) in January. Colliery joiners, smiths, and fitters are reported as in good demand. Coke workers are fairly brisk.

Metal Mining.—Iron ore mines have worked full time. Lead miners are well employed.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarries, with one exception at Stanhope, have been fully employed. Work in the quarries around Gateshead continues fairly good. At Blyth, Frosterley, and Upper Weardale employment has been steady.

Engineering and Shipbuilding .- On the Tyne .- The demand for platers and rivetters remains good; angle and boiler smiths are busy; electrical and locomotive shops continue brisk. Branches with 12,610 members have 354 (or 2.8 per cent.) idle, as against 310 (or 2.5 per cent.) of their membership at the end of January On the Wear.—Employment in engine shops continues good, with one exception; forges and shipsmiths are still busy; platers and rivetters are in good demand. Of the 4,801 members of these trades, 122 (or 2.5 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 125 (or 2.6 per cent.) of their membership in January. Drillers and hole cutters on the Wear are all employed; on the Tyne and at Blyth a few are off work. The iron moulders and pattern makers on both rivers are nearly all employed; shipwrights and joiners are scarcely so busy; smelting shops continue full time; one or two furnaces are idle owing to repairs; steel plate and angle mills remain busy. Chain-makers have averaged 5 days per week. Sailmakers on the Wear are busy; on the Tyne somewhat slack.

Shipping and Dock Labour .- Coal porters and shippers report employment as full; trimmers and teemers as fairly good; Tyne watermen as above the average. The demand for sailors and fire- Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton, Dukinfield, Droylsden, and Stockport,

men continues good. Employment with quayside labourers was much better in the latter part of the month. Tug-boat men on the

Wear are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—Plumbers have 3.2 per cent. idle. Painters are improving. Masons and bricklayers continue quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Three paper mills have worked 76 shifts out of a possible 132. Three others have worked full time. Of the 787 letterpress printers and bookbinders on the Tyne and at Sunderland, 8 are unemployed.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment with coopers is much better. Cabinet-makers and upholsterers report employment as good. Lath renders and mill sawyers are working full time.

Other Metal, Chemical, and Glass Trades.—Pressed glass-makers continue quiet. Bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour are all employed. White lead and cement factories are brisk. Copper works maintain activity. Chemical factories have worked fairly regularly.

Fishing.—Line fishing has much improved. Trawl boats have also landed good supplies; prices, however, have been unsteady. 7. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining .- Employment with the Cleveland miners has continued fairly good during the month. The average number of days per week worked by 22 mines reported on was 5.81 during the four weeks ending February 25th, as compared with 5.74 days per week during the four weeks ending February 19th, 1898.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment continues good at finished iron works, steel works, blast furnaces, bridge works, and metal expansion works. At pipe foundries the workpeople are reported as busy; at chair foundries as moderately employed.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is good at Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool, and Bishop Auckland, moderate at Darlington. With the ironfounders and patternmakers it is good throughout the district. Branches of these trades with 3,658 members have 36 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed. as against 40 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of Tanuary.

Shipbuilding .- All the yards are reported as full of work. Shipjoiners and shipwrights report employment as good throughout

Shipping and Dock Labour .- Sailors and firemen report employment during the month as fair at Middlesbrough, quiet at Hartlepool; dockers as fairly good at Hartlepool, quiet at Middlesbrough; riverside labour as fairly good all down the river.

Building Trades.—Painters report employment as improved and fair; plumbers as good at Hartlepool, moderate at Middlesbrough and Stockton; other branches as good generally for the time of year.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as good at Darlington, Middlesbrough, and Stockton, fair at Hartlepool; cabinet-makers. sawyers, and wood-working machinists as good; cement workers, and pulp workers as busy; tailors as moderate, but improving; saltworkers as still 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 .- Employment in this industry has been good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended February 25th, at the 20 pits from which returns have been received, was 5.82 per week, as compared with 5.62 days per week a year ago. The number of workpeople employed in February, 1800, at the pits covered by the returns was 6,228, the corres ponding number a year ago being 6.271.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended February 25th, at the 44 mines from which returns have been received was 5.96 per week as compared with 5.94 days per week in February, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,118, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,202.

Pig Ivon Manufacture.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast at the end of February was 48, the same number as in January, 1899, and a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces in February was 3,629, this number showing little change as compared with either a month or a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment continues fairly good in Oldham and the surrounding districts, and is reported as good in

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—LANCASHIRE; YORKSHIRE.

and as fair in Rochdale and Milnrow districts. In the twining trade employment continues slack. Ring frame spinners, and throstle frame tenters are well employed. Cardroom workers report employment as good. Weaving .- Powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment in calicoes as good; in fustians and velvets as still slack. Ball and sectional warpers report employment as fair: reelers and winders as moderate.

Woollen and Silk Trades.—Employment is reported as better in the Rochdale district; as moderate in Milnrow district; and improving in Stockport. Silkdressers in Rochdale report employment as

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, tinplate workers, gasmeter makers, irongrinders and boiler-makers report employment as moderate; pattern-makers, plate and machine moulders and brassfounders as good; ironfounders as fair; toolmakers as good in machine shops, moderate in cycle departments.

Building Trades.—Painters report employment as slack; bricklayers, plumbers and carpenters and joiners as moderate; plasterers

Coal Mining.—The miners are working full time in Shaw and Crompton, Royton, Chadderton and Oldham.—T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade. - Spinning. - In Bolton and immediate district employment is exceptionally good, all mills working full time; in Bury it continues normal; in Chorley it is reported as good; in Wigan, Hindley, Walkden and Farnworth as fairly active. Cardroom operatives report employment as moderate in Bolton and district; as good in Leigh, Farnworth and Moses Gate; in Chorley, Bury, Wigan and Hindley operatives are reported as fully employed. Weaving.-In Bolton weavers are moderately well employed. The improvement at Chorley, Wigan and Bury has been maintained.

Engineering and Metal Trades.- Employment in Bolton with engineers and steam engine makers is reported as good; iron machine making firms are busy; pattern makers, tool finishers, stovegrate workers and machinemen are fully engaged; steel and metal workers are fairly well employed. In Wigan and district steel rolling mills and iron firms are reported as fairly well employed. At Bury and Chorley employment continues good

Building Trades.-In Bolton and Bury employment generally is moderate. In Wigan most branches are fairly active. In Chorley bricklayers and painters are slack, other branches are moderately

Coal Mining.— In Bolton, Little Lever and Darcy Lever most collieries are working full time. In Wigan, Leigh, Hindley and Ince employment continues brisk. Chorley collieries are reported

Miscellaneous.-Leather workers, printers, bookbinders, saddle and harness makers, electricians, carters and lurrymen, cloggers and shoemakers are reported as fairly well employed.-R. Tootill.

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment continues fairly good in Blackburn, Burnley and Preston; in Darwen full time is universal except at two mills where some of the looms are stopped for want of warps; in Nelson there is an improvement; in Colne employment is good both in grey and coloured goods. Loomers and drawers, and winders and warpers are fully employed; warp dressers in Colne and Nelson districts moderately well employed. Spinning.—Employment is reported as fair in Preston; good in Blackburn, Accrington, Darwen, and Padiham; moderate in Burnley. Ring frame spinners and cardroom-workers continue fully employed throughout the district. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers and warpdressers, with 3,987 members, have 173 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 140 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Building Trades.—Employment with joiners is reported as bad at Blackburn; dull at Burnley; quiet at Accrington; with painters as slack; with plumbers, masons and bricklayers as moderate.

Engineering and Iron Trades .- Ironfounders report employment as moderate. Engineers are fairly well employed. Fitters in machine shops continue busy.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment is good with miners in the Townley and Accrington districts. Stone quarrymen are moderately

Miscellaneous.-Cabinet-makers are quiet, shuttle-makers busy, letterpress printers fairly employed, felt printers slack, calico printers and dyers only moderately employed. Employment with boot, shoe, and slipper makers is moderate, with tailors fair .- W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,267 members have 581 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 841 (or 4.0 per cent. of their membership), at the end of January.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Manchester employment is reported as good with ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers, braziers and sheet-metal workers, and machine workers; as moderate with engineers, boiler-makers, and smiths and strikers. In Stockport and Macclesfield engineers and others employed in the iron trades are fairly well employed. In Northwich employment is bad, except with the boiler-makers, with whom it is good. Wiredrawers and wire-weavers in Warrington are fully employed; file smiths moderately so.

Building Trades .- In Manchester carpenters and joiners report employment as fair; bricklayers, plasterers, and plumbers as moderate; painters as slightly better; concreters and asphalters as quiet; labourers as plentiful. In Stockport, Warrington, Macclesfield, and Northwich employment is moderate.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners in Manchester are fairly well employed. In Macclesfield the looms are running full time, and both spinners and card-room workers are fairly busy. In the silk trade a number of looms are standing, but there is a slight improvement in the throwing department. Fustian cutters are slack; the bleachers, dyers, and finishers, and the dressers, dyers, and finishers report employment as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as improved; wholesale tailors as fairly busy; ready-made mantle makers, cap makers, and shirt makers as good; waterproof makers as quiet; boot and shoe operatives as moderate: felt hat makers and trimmers as considerably improved.

Woodworking and Coach-building Trades.-Coachmakers in Manchester, Stockport, and Warrington are busy. Cabinet-makers are fairly wellemployed. Upholsterers and French polishers are quiet. Coopers are fairly busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in Manchester and Stockport report employment as good, in Macclesfield as moderate. Lithographic artists and printers report employment as moderate; bookbinders and stereotypers as fair; pattern-card makers as bad. - G. D. Keller

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering. - Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders report employment as fairly good; patternmakers, fitters and turners, brass and iron founders, drillers, whitesmiths, iron and steel dressers, hammermen, and shipwrights as good; ship joiners as fair; painters as improving.

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

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers report employment as good; French polishers as rather quiet; ccopers and coachmakers as moderate; mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists as fair; upholsterers as improving.

Clothing Trades. - Bespoke tailors and boot and shoe makers report employment as moderate; ready-made tailoring operatives as good. Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as unchanged; lithographic printers as good.

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as moderate; painters as improving; carpenters and joiners as fair. Other branches are fully employed.

Coalmining and Quarrying.-Miners report an average of five days work per week. Quarrymen continue well employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades .- Glass bottlemakers report employment as good; glassmakers as fair; chemical workers as moderate.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade continues bad. It is reported as slack in the building trades; as fair with the shipwrights and boilersmiths in Middlewich and Winsford, and with the moulders at Winsford; as improved with the fustian cutters in both towns.

YORKSHIRE. Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.—The slight falling off in employment in some departments of these trades continues. In some shipbuilding yards construction has been delayed by want of rivetters. The engineers, machine workers, brass workers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, and sailmakers at Hull report employment as good; the steam engine makers, smiths and strikers, patternmakers, boilermakers, drillers and hole cutters, shipwrights, and general labourers as moderate. At Beverley, Goole, Grimsby, and Selby engineers, moulders, and smiths report employment as good;

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)-YORKSHIRE: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

engineers at Doncaster as moderate; boilermakers at Beverley, Doncaster, and Selby as good, at Goole and Grimsby as moderate. Building Trades.—Employment generally is good at Hull, Beverley, and Driffield; moderate at Goole.

Transport Trades.—Railway-workers report employment as good; seamen and firemen and dock labourers at Hull, Goole, and Grimsby as moderate; seed-workers as fairly good, grain-workers

Fishing Industry.—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen report employment as fair at Hull, bad at Grimsby; trawl fishermen as moderate at Hull, fair at Grimsby; fish market labour as fair: curing-house workers as moderate. Supplies of fish were scarce until the end of the month, prices good.

Seedcrushing, Oil, Paint, and Colour Trades.—Employment continues

Printing and allied Trades.—At Hull the letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as quiet. The letterpress printers at Doncaster report employment as good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The millsawyers and woodcutting machinists, coopers and cabinet-makers at Hull report employment as moderate; the coachbuilders at Hull as good, at Doncaster as moderate.

Leather Trades.-The tanners, leather belt and lace makers at Hull, report employment as fair; the curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment for general labour is good at Beverley, Doncaster, Driffield and Selby; fair at Goole and Grimsby. The gas workers and general labourers, and bakers and confectioners at Hull report employment as moderate. The tailors at Doncaster as bad.-W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

General. - Branches of societies with 8,334 members have 208 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 290 (or 3.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Engineering and Metal Trades .- In Leeds the engineers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, pattern-makers, steelworkers, spindle and flyer-makers brassworkers, smiths and strikers, stove grate-workers, and machine workers are well employed. At Stanningley and Rodley employment in the iron trade is fairly good. At Wakefield employment in the iron and engineering trades is moderate.

Clothing Trades. - In the ready-made tailoring factories employ ment has been brisk throughout the month. Jewish operatives are better employed. With bespoke tailors employment has improved, but is still quiet. In the boot factories it has been fairly satisfactory in Leeds, and continues steady at Heckmondwike.

Textile Trades.—In Leeds blanket raisers are badly employed linen-workers are now on short time; willeyers and fettlers report employment as quiet; woollen spinners as slightly better, but still bad, with many on short time. At Yeadon employment continues bad. At Wakefield worsted mills are on short time; some cloth mills are fully employed; others slack.

Building Trades.—Employment has been rather quiet in Leeds with bricklayers and joiners, mainly owing to weather; with plumbers it is moderate; with painters improving. At Harrogate all branches are well employed.

Mining.—Employment continues good, and full time is being generally worked in the Leeds, Pontefract, and Castleford pits.

Leather Trades. - Employment with tanners and belt-makers is reported as fairly good: with curriers as only moderate: with leather shavers as quiet. Saddlers and harness makers are fully

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers and lithographers are well employed, bookbinders and machine rulers and paper mill workers fairly so.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle-makers report employment as good in Leeds and Wakefield; moderate at Castleford; flint glass makers as fair; decorative glass workers as moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades .- Cabinet-makers report employment as good; French polishers as quiet; coachmakers and mill sawyers as moderate.—O. Connellan

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in Bradford is still described as bad in the piece trade; with the woolsorters as good; woolcombing is said to be moderate. In the Worth Valley employment continues moderate, mills still working full time; in Halifax and Huddersfield there is not much change.

Woollen Trade. - Employment in and around Huddersfield does

working overtime, and one or two night and day. In the heavy woollen trade employment continues dull, although one firm has gone on full time

Other Textile Trades.—The silk trade at Manningham is described as moderate; at Brighouse as exceptionally busy; at Halifax as unchanged. In the cotton trade at Brighouse employment is slack; at Huddersfield and Halifax fair.

Metal Trades.—The engineers describe employment as moderate at Bradford and Huddersfield; as good at Halifax and Dewsbury; as good in the tool trade at Keighley, quiet in the machinery trade. The ironmoulders at Dewsbury, Bradford, Keighley and Huddersfield report employment as good.

Building Trades.-Employment continues good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.- Employment is reported as fair with printers; slightly better with tailors; as quiet in the rag trade; good in the glass trade .- A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

Iron and Steel Industries .- All classes of workmen engaged in the heavy sections are well employed. Engineers and ironfounders are exceptionally busy. Boilermakers report employment as good; wiredrawers as fairly good. Those engaged in the manufacture of railway material (other than engines) are quiet. At Barnsley engineers continue affected by the ironfounders' dispute. At Rotherham and Parkgate steel-workers are busy, ironworkers fairly so; bath makers and stove-grate workers are well employed. Branches with 4,511 members have 32 (or 0.7 per cent.) memployed as compared with 54 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Cutlery and Tools.-Engineers' and joiners' tool makers are well employed. Edge tool forgers and grinders are moderately busy. In the table and butcher knife and spring knife trades employment is slack: in the saw and razor trades fairly good; in the file trade moderate. In the agricultural and horticultural tool trades workmen are busy.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 59 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.3 days per week worked during the month. One dispute has been brought to a conclusion, but another, affecting about 700 men and boys, still continues.

Other Metal Trades. - Employment generally in the silver, Britannia metal and brass trades is moderate. At Rotherham brassworkers are well employed.

Building Trades -In Sheffield all branches are well employed. At Barnsley employment is moderate and improving; at Rotherham and surrounding district it is good.

Glass Trades.-Employment has improved.

Printing and kindred Trades.-Letterpress printers report employment as fair; lithographers as moderate; bookbinders as good. Paper-makers are well employed.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding .- Cabinet-makers throughout the district are moderately employed; coachbuilders are quiet; railway carriage and wagon builders are busy; boxmakers are slack; bobbin-makers are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring trade is slack on the whole; in the ready made trade fair; in the boot and shoe trade moderate.

Linen Trades. - Employment continues slack.

Miscellaneous .- All classes of railway servants report employment as good. Quarrymen, brickmakers and chemical workers are busy. Down quilt makers are slack.—S. Uttley.

ENGLAND : MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,888 members have 57 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 4 (or 1'2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Engineering and kindred Trades.-Employment continues fair at the locomotive works: and good in the bridge, girder and boiler vards. Ironfounders, brass moulders and finishers, stove-grate workers, wire-drawers, merchant-iron rollers, makers of railway material, farriers, iron and steel dressers, blast-furnacemen, pipe-moulders, malleable iron workers, and lace machine builders, report employment as good; cycle workers as slightly improved.

Quarrying .- Limestone and chert quarrymen continue busy.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good throughout the district, except with painters, who report a decline.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.-Employment in Derby and Long Eaton continues good with railway-carriage and wagon not show much change. A few firms in the Colne Valley are | builders, and moderate with carriage builders in private shops.

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

Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as improving. Most timber yards are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.- Employment is good with cotton spinners and weavers in Hayfield, Glossop, Draycott and Belper, and with hosiery workers in Ilkeston and Belper. Calico printers and engravers report employment as fair in Dinting and Hadfield, but dull in Hayfield and Glossop; elastic web weavers and lace workers as bad; merino and silk workers at Lea as fully employed; dyers and bleachers, silk throwsters and winders, and boot lace workers as fair

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives in Derby report employment as dull; in Chesterfield as moderate; corset-makers and dress and mantle makers as moderate; wholesale garment makers are fully employed; bespoke tailors have slightly improved.

Printing Trades.-Letterpress printers, lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good.-C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment has somewhat declined; in the levers branch it is slack; in the curtain branch moderate; in the plain net branch good, ar p lace workers are slack; warpers report employment as fairly good; designers and draughtsmen as moderate; curtain readers and correctors as slack; card punchers as good; auxiliary lace workers as moderate; female lace workers as rather quiet generally. Dyers at Nottingham are slack; bleachers at Basford improving.

Hosiery Trade.—In the hand frame branch employment is rather slack; in the other branches it is fairly good.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Fitters and mechanics in general engineering, report employment as bad or moderate; lace machine and hosiery machine builders, ironfounders, boiler-makers, iron and steel fettlers, farriers, brassworkers, brassfounders, carriage straighteners, bobbin and carriage makers as good; tool machinists and steam-engine makers as moderate; wheelwrights and blacksmiths as quiet. In Grantham all branches are weil employed. At Newark engineers report employment as moderate; boiler-makers as slack. Ironfounders are busy at Mansfield and Retford. At Mansfield engineers report employment as moderate; at Beeston, as quiet. Branches with 2,788 members have 100 (or 3.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 119 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 28 pits employing some 15,000 men, show an average of slightly under five days per week during the month. Pits in South Notts show a marked improvement.

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as moderate; painters as improved; other branches as fairly good.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Upholsterers, coopers and coachmakers report employment as good; cabinet-makers as busy; polishers as fair; millsawyers and box-makers as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair, lithographic artists as slack; bookbinders and lithographic printers as moderate; printers' cutters as good.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair at Nottingham, good at Huckmall Torkard and Mansfield; bespoke tailors as quiet, ready-made tailoring operatives and mantle-makers as good.

Miscellaneous.—Silk dressers, female cigar-makers, blastfurnacemenat Bulwell, maltsters at Newark, engine and cranemen, stationary engine-drivers, cab and hackney-drivers report employment as good; bakers and confectioners as moderate; gasworkers as not so good. W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.- Employment has rapidly improved at Leicester, Northampton, Kettering and Desborough, and many workpeople are now on overtime. At Rushden, Hinckley, Sileby and Melton employment is also more regular.

Other Clothing Trades. - In the wholesale tailoring trade at Leicester and Kettering work is good. It is bad in the bespoke branch at Northampton. Corset-makers are fully employed, and work is improving with milliners and dressmakers. All branches of the hatting trade report a further improvement.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—Employment in all branches of the Leicester hosiery industry has much improved. Work is better with dyers and trimmers, and fuller in the woolspinning mills.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment is less satisfactory in the cord and braid branches, and slacker with garter and gusset weavers.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.-Most branches report work as

makers and ironfounders. At Loughborough turners and winders are working overtime. Cycle makers are busier

Mining and Quarrying.—The South Leicestershire coal miners continue better employed than they have been for a long time. Work continues good with stone quarrymen and iron and limestone workers.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Letterpress and lithographic printers continue fully employed, except at Rugby; work is brisk with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as good.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Tram and road car builders are fully employed; coach and carriage builders moderately so. Cabinet makers in the furnishing trade are in regular work.

Leather Trades.—Tanners and curriers are now more fully engaged.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with all grades of railway workers and with brick and tile makers.-T. Smith

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.-A decided improvement has taken place in employment. Hollow-ware pressers report employment as fairly good; sanitary pressers continue busy; flat pressers report a decline. Printers and transferrers maintain the improvement mentioned last month. Women gilders and decorators, men artists. and throwers and turners in the general trade are working more regularly. Electrical and furniture turners are well employed. Designers, modellers, mould-makers, and encaustic tilemakers, Packers, cratemakers, women stilt and spurmakers, ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggarmakers report an improvement.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Throughout the district all classes of iron and steelworkers are busy.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, boilermakers, and moulders throughout North Staffordshire continue busy. At Crewe, engineers are moderately busy, but boilermakers report a further improvement. At Stafford, engineers are better employed. At Oakamoor and Froghall, copperworkers are well employed, but brass tubing workers report a slight decline. Brass finishers and moulders at Longport and Milton, and agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley, continue well employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Colliers and ironstone workers are well employed throughout North Staffordshire, and in some instances double shifts are working. Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are busy.

Textile Trades.—At Leek trimming weavers report employment as fairly good; dyers continue busy; braidworkers and silk pickers are working overtime; twisters report a decline; winders and throwsters are fully employed; doublers are fairly busy. At Congleton silk dressers are working well; towel weavers continue busy; fustian cutters report no improvement. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives are working well.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as slack in the Potteries; quiet at Crewe and Stafford; boot and shoemakers as improved at Stafford, scarce at Stone. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne are well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good, but bricklayers have a small percentage unemployed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries have fully 10 per cent. unemployed, but at Stafford employment continues good. Lithographic artists and printers are fairly busy. Bookbinders and machine-rulers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers and gas workers are moderately employed; brick and tile makers are busy.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades .- In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues good with steel smelters, and is good in the iron bar, angle, hoop and steel trades. Employment in the sheet trade is not so good. In Shropshire the mills and forges are running full time.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment with engineers, moulders and boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers is good; electrical shops continue to work overtime; employment in the cycle trade is moderate; at Walsall an improvement is reported in the malleable iron trade; at Coalbrookdale and Madeley employment is fairly good.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, satisfactory at Leicester and Northampton; it is good with boiler- nuts and bolts, axles, springs and coach-iron work, iron-fences,

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)-MIDLAND, E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

hurdles, builders'-ironmongery, tips, cut nails, malleable nails, and protectors, and electrical castings, and with stampers, piercers, galvanisers and hinge makers. Employment is moderate with makers of locks and keys, spectacle-frames, light hollow-ware, black-castings, and with brass and tin-plate workers; quiet with makers of spring traps, latches, files, edge-tools, and plantation hoes. Padlock and steel toy-makers are slack. Employment in the iron plate trade at the Lye, and Bilston has declined. At Halesowen the wrought-nail makers are slack; at Blackheath, spike and rivet makers are fairly well employed. The chain makers and strikers at Old Hill, and the block-chain makers at Cradley Heath report employment as good. Short time is being worked in the anvil and vice trades at Dudley. The anchor-smiths at Cradley report a

Coal Mining.—The pits on Cannock Chase, at Old Hill, Oldbury, Dudley, Tipton, Netherton, and in Shropshire are working full time. The Tamworth collieries are not so brisk.

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

Glass Trades.—At Wordsley and district the flint glass makers are fully employed. The glass bottle makers at Brierley Hill report employment as good.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the leather trades at Walsall

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster and Bridgnorth is brisk, overtime being worked at both places. At Tamworth employment in the tape mills continues good.

Clothing Trades. - Employment in the tailoring and boot and shoe trades has been quiet .- C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,090 members have 436 (or 2'1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 422 (or 2'0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Engineering.—Six branches of engineers report employment as moderate, one as bad and four as good. Toolmakers are moderately employed, but specialist toolmakers are fully occupied. Patternmakers, smiths and strikers, and ironfounders, report employment as good. At West Bromwich and Coventry employment is fairly good; at Redditch moderate. Employment in the cycle industry of the district is only moderate, but the motor-car makers are fairly employed at Coventry and Redditch.

Brass and Copper Trades .- With the brassworkers and fender and fire brass makers employment is fair; with metal rollers, casters, and annealers moderate. In Dudley the fender makers are rather

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—Jewellers have been well employed; electro-platers return employment as quiet; Britannia metal workers as moderate; plate glass bevellers and

Other Metal Trades.—Bedstead workers return employment as bad, with most of the men on short time; heavy and light steel toymakers and finishers, nail and odd-side casters, matchette makers and finishers, and scale makers as good; tinplate workers and cut nail makers as fair; wire nail makers and file cutters (by hand) as quiet; file grinders as improving; iron plate workers as moderate; edge tool makers, grinders and finishers as slack; wrought iron and steel hinge makers, tubemakers for water, gas, and steam are fully employed. At West Bromwich the nut and bolt makers and spring makers are well employed. At Redditch needle makers are busy; fish hook and fishing tackle makers are fully

Building Trades.—Employment is quiet at Redditch; fair else-

Glass Trades.—The flint glass-makers and flint glass-cutters again return employment as fairly good. In West Bromwich, employment in the glass trade is good.

Woodworking Trades.-Mill sawyers and machinists report employment as good, coachmakers as fair, cabinet-makers and coopers as quiet. In the railway and wagon shops employment is good.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors return employment as improving, the boot and shoemakers as bad.

Miscellaneous .- Letterpress printers, brickmakers and general labourers return employment as moderate; gasworkers as good. At Coventry employment with the watchmakers and weavers is fair .- A. R. Tebhcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Clothing Trades.—Ready made tailoring factories are on full time; bespoke tailors are not busy. At Norwich employment has improved with boot and shoemakers; at Cambridge they are fairly well employed. Corset makers are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—Employment is good in all branches throughout

Engineering and Shipbuilding.-Engineers and boilermakers are fully employed. Shipwrights and boatbuilders are well employed. Fishing Industry.—At Yarmouth and Lowestoft trawl fishing is not good. Shell fishing at Wells and Lynn has not been brisk.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Letterpress printers are not busy. Lithographic printers are fairly well employed. Bookbinding generally is fair.

Textile Trades .- Mat and matting weavers are well employed. Silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth are on full

Miscellaneous.-Horticultural builders at Norwich are busy. Steam flour mills, oil cake mills, saw mills, and chemical workers, are fully employed. Electrical workers generally are on full time. River-side, dock and wharf labourers are well employed.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding .- Employment with the engineers at Beccles, Bury St. Edmund's, Colchester, Chelmsford, and Earl's Colne is busy; at Halstead, moderate; at Ipswich, moderate in some shops, busy in others. Boilermakers continue well employed; shipwrights moderately so.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with wholesale tailoring operatives and boot and shoe operatives at Ipswich shows an improvement; with wholesale tailoring operatives at Colchester it is moderate. Work is fair with corset makers at Ipswich and Sudbury.

Textile Trades.—Mat weavers report employment as good at Long Melford, Hadleigh, and Lavenham; moderate at Sudbury and Glemsford, where short time prevails. Employment in the silk trade is good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fairly satisfactory.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress 'printers are wellemployed at Ipswich, Beccles, Bury and Southend; moderately at Colchester. Lithographers and bookbinders are also well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour has been dull at Ipswich; good at Parkeston. Employment is good with brick-makers in the Sudbury and Chelmsford districts; fair with general abourers; good with gasworkers at Ipswich; and brisk with maltsters - R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Branches of unions with 8,816 members have 241 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 305 (or 3'5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Building Trades.—Employment in most branches is improving.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good except with tinplate workers and boilermakers in Bristol, who report some slackness.

Mining and Quarrying.-Employment continues good in both of

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe industry is now good at most factories in the district. The bespoke tailors report a continued slackness; the wholesale clothing operatives and hatters are fairly busy.

Leather Trades.—The curriers report employment as quiet; the fancy leather workers and rug makers as good; the saddle and harness makers as fair.

Transport Trades.—Sailors and firemen report employment as brisk; dock labourers as fair on the whole during the month.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.-Shop-fitters and Frenchpolishers report an improvement. Upholsterers are slack. Millsawyers are fairly well employed. Coopers are slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.-Letterpress printers are busy at Bristol, Gloucester and Hereford; slack at Bath. Lithographic printers are well employed. Bookbinders and machine rulers

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Trowbridge district is

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)-s.w. counties; wales; scotland.

reported as good on covert coating and worsted goods, but slack on heavy and fancy woollens.

Miscellaneous.-The cocoa and chocolate workers, glass bottle makers, glass bevellers and cutters, and brickmakers report employment as good; the chemical workers, cotton operatives, basket makers, and general labourers as fair; the bakers and confectioners as dull; the brushmakers as improving .- J. Curle.

Plymouth and South Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries. - In tin-mining employment continues to improve. In the granite quarries employ ment continues good, but in the dressing and polishing sheds labourers are quiet. Work in limestone quarries and slate quarries is fairly good. China clay work has improved.

Engineering and Shipbuilding .- The engineers report employment as moderate in Plymouth and Devonport, good at Redruth and Newton, and quiet in Exeter; the boilermakers and iron shipbuilders and the shipwrights as good. Employment is steady with brass and tinplate workers. Branches with 2,171 members have 16 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 20 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Building Trades.—Stonemasons report employment as good, except at Penzance: bricklavers and plumbers as moderate; plasterers and painters as quiet; carpenters and joiners as good at Plymouth, fair at Exeter. Branches with 3.256 members have 27 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 69 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Clothing Trades.-Employment in the tailoring trade is dull in the bespoke branch, and below the average in the ready-made. With oot and shoe makers employment is now fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment has improved with letterpress printers in Plymouth and Devonport; in Exeter, Torquay, and Cornwall generally, it is quiet; bookbinders are busy in the letterpress work, but quiet on stationery work.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades .- In Plymouth and Devonport work is steady with millsawyers and machinists; quiet with cabinetmakers and upholsterers; good in cabinet factories.

Dock and Quayside Work .- Employment has been fair with lumpers, slack with corn-carriers and timberworkers.

Fishing Industry. - Since the weather moderated, trawlers have had some fair catches. Mackerel, herring, and hook and line boats have

Miscellaneous .- Government labourers are well employed; gasworkers, brickyard workers, general labourers, and excavators moderately so; bakers are dull. Work in the market and fruit gardens is improving -W. Hedge.

WALES.

North Wales District.

Mining.-Employment continues brisk throughout the North Wales coalfield. The lead and blende miners are fully employed. Quarrying .- Employment continues good at the slate quarries of North Wales and brisk at the granite sett quarries. Limestone and roadstone quarrymen continue fully employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is good at Oswestry, Colwyn Bay, and Llandudno; quiet at Wrexham.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers is quiet at Ruabon; moderate at Oswestry. With iron and steel workers it continues good.

Clothing and Textile Industries .- Employment in the flannel and tweed industries is quiet throughout Montgomeryshire. With bespoke tailors it is slack at Wrexham, Oswestry, and Rhyl; improving at Bangor.

Brick and Terra cotta Industries .- Employment with brick and terra-cotta workers is reported as good in the Buckley district, steady in the Wrexham and Ruabon districts.-G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.-With few exceptions collieries have been working full time, any stoppages being due to want of wagons.

Iron and Steel Trades .- Reports from nine large steel works show that furnaces and mills are going full time, and a new furnace has been blown in at Tredegar. Mechanics and general labourers are well employed.

Ship Repairing and Engineering .- In the ship-repairing yards employment has continued good. Branches of engineers, with 2,487 members, return 14 unemployed, as against 8 at the end of January. The boilermakers return 10 per cent. as unemployed, and the ship wrights 20 per cent. Ship cleaners and painters, and boiler scruffers and cleaners have been well employed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been large. Pitwood and iron ore imports have been good. The timber-carriers and corn porters have been rather slack. The shipment of crews

Building Trades.-Nearly all branches report employment as moderate throughout the district. Returns from branches of the carpenters and joiners and plumbers with 1,557 members, give 35 (or 2.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 31 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Miscellaneous.-Fuel workers, both in shipping and factories, have had a brisk month, especially at Swansea. The chemical and metallurgical works continue quiet. The wagon-builders and lifters report employment as good; the letterpress printers and lithographers as quiet.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire .-Employment recovered considerably during February. At the end of the month 340 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), giving employment to an estimated number of 17,235 workpeople, as compared with 306 mills employing 15,632 workpeople at the end of January, and 324 mills employing 16,709 workpeople at the end of February, 1898.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 14,247 members have 266 (or 1.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 209 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the coal industry continues good. The miners generally are working full time.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers .- Returns from 38 pits, employing 2 864 workpeople (as compared with 3.835 in February, 1898), show that 3,764 were employed in pits at which full time was worked during the four weeks ended February 25th, and 88 at pits working

Engineering and Metal Trades. - Branches with 2,275 members have 25 (or 1.1 per cent.) idle, as against 29 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Branches in Falkirk, with 3,261 members, have 15 (or 0.5 per cent.) idle, as compared with 12 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Shipbuilding.—Branches of shipwrights and boilermakers with 600 members, have 46 (or 7.7 per cent.) idle, as against 16 (or 2'7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Textile Trades.—Employment with woollen spinners and weavers has improved in Hawick and Galashiels. In Selkirk spinners are busy; weavers are fairly well employed. Employment in the hosiery industry is good in both Selkirk and Hawick. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 3,495 members have 41 (or 1'2 per cent) idle, as against 35 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades. - Branches with 1,182 members have 47 (or 4.0 per cent.) idle, as against 29 (or 2.5 per cent. cf their membership) at the end of January.

Shipping and Dock Labour.-The seamen and firemen, dock labourers and coal porters, report employment as bad, mainly owing to the detention of ships by bad weather.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,307 members have 48 (or 2'1 per cent.) idle, as against 47 (or 2'0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

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

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues good. Branches with 13,409 members, return 267 (or 2.0 per cent) as idle, as against 283 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Engineering and Metal Trades.- Employment continues good. Branches with 27,522 members, return 493 (or 1.8 per cent.) as idle, as against 465 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of

Building Trades.- Employment on the whole has been good during the month. Painters are dull, but report improvement

Mining.—Employment in Stirlingshire, Dumbartonshire, Ayrshire, and Renfrewshire is still good. In Lanarkshire work is exceptionally good, but the men have adopted a short-time policy.

Clothing Trades.-Employment in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade is reported as still quiet but improved; in the readymade branch as busy. Boot and shoe operatives report employ-

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

ment as better; knee boot and shoe makers as quiet; curriers as fairly good.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally in Glasgow with weavers is reported as fairly good; with beamers and dyers as dull. In New Milns, Kilmarnock, Darvel, Galston, Kilbirnie, Port Glasgow, and Greenock employment is satisfactory. In Paisley some of the thread workers are still working short time; carpet weavers are

Transport Trades.—Sailors, and firemen, and dock labourers report improvement; carters, hackney carriage drivers, railway men and tramway men are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as still dull; lithographic printers as good; stereotypers and electrotypers as improved.

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

Miscellaneous.—Settmakers, paviors, saddlers, calico engravers, spindle and flyer makers, scale beam makers, labourers, gilders, tobacco pipe makers and finishers, potters, marquee and sheetmakers and brushmakers report employment as good.

A. 7. Hunter.

Dundee and District. Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry remains fairly satisfactory. Linen workers continue well employed.

Coal Mining.—Throughout Fifeshire work generally is steady. Reports from pits employing 11,197 workpeople, show an average of 5.4 days per week worked during the four weeks ending February 25th.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the engineering and shipbuilding industries continues active. Returns from branches of societies with 2,373 members show 45 (or 19 per cent.) as compared with 55 (or 2.3 per cent of their membership) at the

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is steady in most branches of the building trades. Branches with 1,467 members have 12 (0.8 per cent.) unemployed as against 17 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. In the furniture trades there are still a considerable number unemployed.

Fishing Industry.—Owing to stormy weather, fishing has not been regular; the takes of haddocks have been only moderate; the net salmon fishing has been disappointing, and prices have fallen.

Dock Labour.-Labour at the docks and jetties has been only fairly employed.

Miscellaneous.- Employment in the printing and allied trades remains fairly brisk; tailors report employment as improving; boot and shoe makers continue moderately employed; bleachfield workers and floorcloth and linoleum makers are busy.-P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,573 members have 46 (or 0.7 per cent.) idle, as against 79 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

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

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners, painters, and plasterers report employment as good; masons and slaters as fair; plumbers

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

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,429 members have 19 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 21 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The boilermakers, and iron and steel shipbuilders, shipwrights, ironmoulders, blacksmiths, brass finishers, pattern makers, tinplate workers, horseshoers, and drillers report employment as good; the engineers as fair.

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

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

Fishing.—In February at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 68,228 cwts. with a value of £42,158, an increase in quantity and a decrease in value as compared with January.

Miscellaneous.—The combmakers, saddless and employment as good; upholsterers and bakers as quiet.

W. Johnston. Miscellaneous.—The combmakers, saddlers and sawmillers report

IRELAND. Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment has been fairly maintained in all branches. Work is returned as good with the plasterers; fair with the slaters and tilers, carpenters, bricklayers, sawmill machinists, glaziers and glasscutters, and plumbers; dull with the painters, whiteners, and lathsplitters.

Metal Trades.-Work is returned as fair in all branches except with gasfitters, who report slackness.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is returned as fair with the coachmakers, cart, and wagon builders, and cabinetmakers; improved with the upholsterers.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as dull in all branches.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment generally has been fair. Branches with 1,359 members return 85 (or 6.3 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 58 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Miscellaneous.—The labourers report employment as fairly good; the bottle-makers and brushmakers as good; ropemakers and stationary engine-drivers as fair; saddlers and basket-makers as dull; bakers and provision assistants as fair. - I. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Societies with 8,399 members have 236 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 219 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The carpenters and joiners report employment as dull; the engineers and furnishing trades, and the spindle and fiver makers as moderate smiths' helpers and strikers, brassfounders, enginemen, cranemen, and firemen as fair; patternmakers as steady; boiler-makers, blacksmiths, ironfounders, drillers, and hole-cutters, machine workers, shipwrights, sheet-metal workers, general labourers, and platers' helpers

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,068 members have 122 (or 30 per cent.) unemployed, as against 102 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The flax roughers and power-loom tenters report employment as dull; beetlers, flax dressers, yarn beamers, yarn dressers, yarn bundlers, and women workers as fair; hackle and gill makers and linen lappers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches of societies with 2,194 members have 152 (or 69 per cent.) unemployed, as against 202 (or 9.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The bricklayers report employment as bad; carpenters and joiners and plumbers as dull: hodsmen as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 792 members have 67 (or 8.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 63 (or 8.3 per cent. cf their membership) at the end of January. Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and French polishers report employment as bad; millsawyers and coopers as dull; packing case makers as middling; coachbuilders as improving.

Printing Trades.—Branches with 965 members have 79 (or 8.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 63 (or 6.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Letterpress printers report employment as dull; lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders and lithographic artists as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment continues quiet with the tailors and boot and shoe operatives.

Miscellaneous.—Branches of societies, with 1,812 members, have 43 (or 2'4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 55 (or 3'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The bakers, butchers, railway servants, and municipal employees report employment as fair; the carters, locomotive engine drivers and paviors as good .-R Sheldon

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders report employment as slack in Cork, Haulbowline, and Passage West; shipwrights, sailmakers, and riggers as dull; engineers as fair in Limerick, dull in Cork and Waterford.

Textile and Clothing Trades. - Flax and tweed operatives in Mill field, Blarney, and Douglas report employment as good; tailors and boot and shoe operatives as steady in Waterford, slack in Cork and Limerick.

Building Trades.—Plasterers, masons, bricklayers, stone cutters, carpenters, and painters report employment as fair in Waterford and Limerick, dull in Cork.

Miscellaneous.-The printing and allied trades report employment as fair in Waterford, dull in Cork; railway men and coal porters as good; quay labourers and corporation employees as fair.

March, 1899.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 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 wages reported during February affected about 272,400 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected was an increase of about 1s. $5\frac{3}{4}$ d. per head. About 270,600 received advances averaging 1s. 6d. per head, and 1,800 sustained decreases averaging 1s. $5\frac{1}{4}$ d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (in two instalments) to 240,000 coal miners in certain districts of the Miners' Federation of the United Kingdom, similiar advances to 10,000 miners in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, 5 per cent. to 2,225 steel smelters, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 307 gas producermen in England and Scotland, 5 per cent. to 2,500 steel millmen in the same district, and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour to 2,500 bricklayers in Birmingham, all arranged under Conciliation Boards, and of 10 and 5 per cent. to 3,000 blast-furnace employees in the West of Scotland.

Decreases.—The principal decrease was that of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., to 1,700 tinplate makers at Llanelly.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 2,800 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting 251,900 workpeople were arranged under Conciliation Boards. The other changes, affecting about 17,700 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or conceded voluntarily by the employers.

Summary for First Two Months of 1899.—For the two months, January and February, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 441,000. The net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected is estimated at an increase of about 11½d. per head.

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.

Locality	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes	Approx Numb workp affects	per of eople	Particulars of Change.	Estimate of Wage full w	es in a	Increa Decrea full w	se in
		effect in 1899.	Inc.	Dec.	(Decreases in Italics.)	Before change.	After change.	In- crease.	De- creaes.
			IIIO.	Dec.					
10 T	ncreases-3,898 Workpeop	ole affected	7.	BUIL	DING TRADES, Decreases-Nil.				
		\ \	1	20.2	DING THADEC,	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Alderley Edge	Stonemasons	1 June	15		Advance of ½d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.)	34 11	36 II	2 04	***
Leigh, Lancs	Stonemasons	ı Mar.	30		Advance of \(\frac{1}{2} \)d. per hour (9d. to 9\(\frac{1}{2} \)d.)	35 0½	36 113	1 114	
Birmingham	Bricklayers	I April	2500		Advance of ad. per hour (9d. to 9ad.)	38 103	41 03	2 2	***
Buxton	Plumbers	6 Feb.	24		Advance of \(\frac{1}{2} \)d. per hour (8d. to 8\(\frac{1}{2} \)d.)	31 10	33 102	2 0	
Vindsor	Plumbers	6 Feb.	30		Advance of Ad. per hour (7 d. to 8d.)	33 91	36 ol	2 3	***
handan	C	I April	10-1		Advance of \d. per hour (8d. to 8\frac{1}{4}d.)	33 04	34 14	1 02	***
berdeen	Carpenters and Joiners ‡ {	I Oct.	650		Further advance of \(\frac{1}{2} \)d. per hour (8\(\frac{1}{2} \)d. to 8\(\frac{1}{2} \)d.)	34 14	35 13	I 03	•••
Dundee	Carpenters and Joiners	10 April	550		Advance of \d. per hour (8\d. to 9d.)	34 83	36 91	2 02	
Hawick	Carpenters and Joiners	15 April	55		Advance of \(\frac{1}{2} \d \text{d. per hour (7\frac{1}{2} d. to 8d.)} \)	30 92	32 104	2 03	
Cirkcaldy	Plasterers	ı Mar.	24		Advance of 1d. per hour (8d. to 81d.)	32 101	34 11	2 03	
Rothesay	Carpenters and Joiners	21 Feb.	20		Advance of 1d. per hour (81d. to 9d.)	34 11	36 112	2 01	
Maria de la companya									
5 Incr	eases-250,123 Workpeopl	e affected.	N	MINING	G AND QUARRYING. Decreases-Nil.				
Cumberland, York-\		1			AND GOARRITHIG.	1		1	
shire, Lancs and			100000	W. 18 19 18			ALC: NOTE OF		
Cheshire, Der-		ist pay in	1	1	Advance of 5 per cent., making rates 373 per cent.		_	-	
byshire, Staffs,	Coal Hewers and	April	199 6		above standard of 1888				
Warwick and	other Underground	ist pay in	240,000		Further advance of 2½ per cent., making rates 40 per			_	***
Worcs, Notts,	Workers	October			per cent. above standard of 1888				
Leicestershire.		Outober	1	-	per cent. above standard or 1000				
Bristol & North		St. Land							
Wales		ıst pay	1	,	Advance of a new continuous to ad now dow on thick	_	_	_	***
South Staffs and	Coal Miners and other	in April	1		Advance of 5 per cent., equal to 2d. per day on thick				
East Worcestershire		ist pay	10,000		coal, and rad, per day on thin		_	_	
sast Wordestersmire	Onderground Workers	in Oct.			Further advance of 2½ per cent., equal to 1d. per day				
Near Eckington	Coke Drawers and	14 Feb.	1	1	on thick coal, and \(\frac{3}{4}\)d. per day on thin		_	_	
real Eckington		14 1 60.	20	•••	Advance of ½d. per oven to drawers, and z½ per cent.				
Swansea (near)	Labourers Washess	ı Feb.		1 202	to labourers			_	
Swansea (near)	Underground Workers	Treb.	91		Standard rate of wages advanced by 5d. per day to 45				
Inverkeithing	Catter lane 9				men, 3d. to 11 men and 35 boys			_	
Inverkeithing	Settmakers, &c	I Feb.	12		Advance of 3d. per ton to settmakers, 4d. per foot to				
					stone cutters, and 4 per foot to kerb dressers.	"			
						27'1			
	6 Increases—8,452 Wcr	kpeople	IR	ON A	ND STEEL MANUFACTURE. Decrease	es—Nii.			
North-East Dist.		, 1	797	1)		11		1 - 1	
Cumberland			161			1			
and Lancs.	Steel Smelters	19 Feb.	1989	1	Advance of 5 per cent	-	-	-	
Staffordshire		A PARTY	506				1000		
West of Scotland	The state of the s		761)					
West of Scotland									
Other Districts	Gas Producermen	19 Feb. {	164	}	Advance of 21 per cent				•••
of Eng, & Scot,			143	,					
Leeds	Basic Labourers (Steel Works)	2 Mar.	100		Advance of is. 6d. per week	20 0	21 6	1 6	
	Blast Furnacemen	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	1		Advance of 10 per cent, to blastfurnacemen and 5 per	11_			100
West of Scotland	Furnace Labourers	6 Feb.	3,000		cent, to labourers	5			***
	Steel Millmen	10000	2,500		Advance of 5 per cent	-	- /61	-	
West of Scotland .	C . W		2,500						
rest of Soutialid .		19 Feb.	200		Advance of 2½ per cent	-	- T	-	•••
Glengarnock	n . n	19 Feb.	120		Advance of 5 per cent		_		•••
Glengarnock	&c.	, 19 reb.	120		in in in in in	U			

^{*} Exclusive of overtime.

† Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

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

Locality	Occupation.	Date from which change takes	Num work	ximate ber of people ed by		articulars of Change. Decreases in Italics.)	of Was	ted Rate ges in a Week.*	Incre Decre full v	ase i
		effect.	Inc.	Dec.		The state of the s	Before change.	After change.	In- crease.	D
16 Increases – 6,	355 Workpeople affected	. Е	NGINE	ERING	AND SHIPE	UILDING TRADES. D	ecreases –	Nil.		
Goole	Shipwrights	ı Mar.	1 50	1	Advance of so no	- week	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	S.
A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	Brassfounders		50		Advance of 3s. pe		34 6		3 0	
Hull	Braziers and Sheet	28 Jan. 6 Mar.	30		Advance of is. pe	r mool.		40 0	1 0	
	Metal Workers	o mai.	12		Advance of is. pe		32 0	33 0	1 0	
	Engineers	25 Feb.	12		Advance of 2s. pe	r week	-		2 0	
	Ironfounders	ı Jan.	70		Advance of 2s. pe	r week		_	2 0	
	Ironfounders	6 Feb.	65		Advance of 1s. per		-	-	I O	
	TC1	6 Feb.	390		Advance of is. pe			-	I O	1
	Fitters, Turners, Brass	i April	106		Advance of 1s, pe	r week to men earning 31s. per week	38 0	40 0	2 0	1
	Finishers & Moulders		120	1 }	or less	week to men earning 31s. per week			1 0	105
		I July		(Further advance	of is. per week			I O	
	Engineers	25 Feb.	50		Advance of 2s. pe				2 0	
	Hammermen	3 Mar.	220		Advance of 1s. pe	r week	26 0	27 0	1 0	19.
Juniermine	Ironfounders	10 Mar.	140		Advance of 1d. pe	r hour on time and 21 per cent. on	-	-		196
Glasgow District	Foundry Labourers	- to a0	6		piece rates					la n
92.1.21.100	roundry Labourers	I to 28 Feb.	670	•••	Advance of 1s. pe	r week	-	100 m	I O	
Kilbirnie	Engineers	18 Feb.	20		Advance of 2s. pe	r week				
	Shipwrights,				mavance of 2s, pe				2 0	
	Boiler-makers,	16 Mar.	2,000		Advance of 21 pe	er cent. on piece, and is. per week on		-	_	
	Platers' Helpers,				time rates					
	Labourers Boilermakers	16 Mar.	2,300		Advance of 6d. pe		-	_	0 6	
	Boilermakers	Feb.	100		Advance of 2s, per	week	-	-	2 0	1
1 Tn	crease-600 Workpeople	affected	0	THE	METAL TOA	DE0 15				100
	Rivet makers	STATE OF STA	600	THER	METAL TRA		kpeople a	ffected.		
North Worcester-		o mar.	000	•••	Advance of 10 per	cent	-	-	-	
shire										
lanelly	Finplate makers {	28 Jan.		300 7	Decrease of 6% ter	cent., leaving wages 21 per cent. below				
	}	4 Feb.		1,400	amended 1874 list	, and and a superior			•••	
White the second	0 Turney 000 W 1									
	2 Increases-200 Works		cted.	TE)	TILE TRADE		ple affecte	d.		
	Slubbing and yarn dyers Bleachfield Workers		100		Advance of 5 per	cent	1 -	- 1	_	
Galashiels	Woollen Weavers	17 Feb.	100		Advance of 5 per	cent	-		-	
	vvoorien vveavers	24 Feb.	1	1 17	Decrease in prices	stated to be equal to about 10 per cent.	-	_		
5 Increases—	176 Workpeople affected.	_	MPLO	VEEC	OF DUDI IO	AUTHORITIES			Mary Inch	
	Gas Stokers†	17 Feb	16		Advance of 3s. per	AUTHORITIES. Decrease				
	Cleansing Department	1,100	10		Advance of 3s. per	week	34 6	37 6	3 0	
	Employees:—									
Manchester	Sweepers	1	(116)			(2I 0	22 0	I O	
	Cart fillers	9 Feb.	8r	[Advance of 1s. per	mode	22 0	23 0	1 0	
	Tipmen Street-grid Men	9 2 00.	7		Advance of is. per	week	22 0	23 0	I O	
Birmingham	Tramways Construction:	4 Feb.	26	•••	Advance of the man		23 0	24 0	I O	
	Labourers & Platelayers'	4 reb.	13		Advance of is. per	week to 7 men, and 3s. to 6 others	-	-	~-	
	Labourers (leading men)									
Stapleton, Bristol	Building operatives	4 Mar.	5		Advance of is. per	week	20 0			
	(permanent staff)						32 0	33 0	1 0	
ondon	Vestry employees	Feb.	212		Advance of is. pe	r week to 47 persons, 2s. to 161, 3s.	_			
(Paddington)					to 2, 4s. 8d. to 1, a	nd 5s. to 1 other				
3 Increases	-202 Workpeople affect	ed.	PRINT	TING A	ND BOOKBIN	NDING TRADES. Decree	uses—Nil.		The same	
	Letterpress Printers		1 100		Advance of 2s. per		uses—Ivii.			
pswich	Compositors (jobbing)	4 Mar.	69		Advance of 2s. per	week to 45 men and 1s. to 24 others	-		2 0	
ilmarnock	Letterpress Printers	30 Jan.	33		Advance of 1s. 6d.	per week	28 6	30 0	I 6	
								33 0 11	1 0	
	Increases—285 Workpeo		ed.	MISCE	ELLANEOUS					
	Carters and Rolleymen		150		Advance of is. per	week	21 0	22 0	1 0	
77. 1	Lath Splitters	6 Feb.	37		Advance of 1d. per	hour (8½d. to 8½d.)	35 0 ³ / ₄	36 14	I 03	
	Coach Body Maker's Bakers	18 Feb. 4 Mar.	25		Advance of ad. and	½d. per hour	-	- 1	-	
1.0 9.	Bakers	20 Feb.	40		Advance of is. per		- 1	-	IO	
		7	35		.idvance to a mini	mum rate of 28s. per week	-		-	
					SEAMEN.					
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1									
	Voyage.	0	ccupation	The second second	o. shipped at new Rate during Feb.	P. C. T.		Monthly	Rates.	
Port.	Jugor		Jour ation	1.		Particulars of Change.	T	F 1	In-	D
Port.				In	crease. Decrease.		Jan.	Feb.		cre
Port.			100000	18 18		Land Control of the C	0000			EN
- 2000 (Calledon) - 2000 (Calledon) - 2000 (Calledon)	Steam Vessels.				7	Decrease of 10s. per month	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	S
491765			Samen		7	Decrease of 5s. per month	100 0	90 0		5
South Shields	Steam Vessels. East Indies and China	Fire	n/							5
-42-17-25-79-6		Fire	ne		29	Decrease of 5s. per month	80 0	75 0		
South Shields	East Indies and China Australia & New Zealan	Able Fire	Somen		29 9 32	Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 5s. per month	95 0	90 0		
South Shields	East Indies and China	Able Able Fire Fire Able Able	Somen no Somen		9 32 7	Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 7s. 6d per month	95 0 90 0 92 6	90 0 85 0 85 0		5
South Shields London Newport (Mon.)	East Indies and China Australia & New Zealar North America (E. Coas West Indies & East Coa	Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire	Somen Somen Somen Somen me		9	Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 7s. 6d per month Decrease of 7s. 6d. per month Advance of 5s. per month	95 0 90 0 92 6 92 6	90 0 85 0 85 0 85 0		5 5 7 7
South Shields	Australia & New Zealar North America (E. Coas West Indies & East Coa of South America	Able Able Fire Fire Able Fire Able Fire St Able Fire	Somen Somen Somen me Somen me		9 7 9 9 9	Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 7s. 6d per month Decrease of 7s. 6d. per month Advance of 5s. per month Advance of sp. per month	95 0 90 0 92 6 92 6 75 0 80 0	90 0 85 0 85 0 85 0 80 0	 5 0	577
South Shields London Newport (Mon.)	East Indies and China Australia & New Zealar North America (E. Coas West Indies & East Coa	Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire Fire Able Fire Fire Fire Fire Fire Fire	Somen Somen Somen Somen Somen Somen		9 7 9 23 7 10	Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 5s. ber month Decrease of 7s. 6d per month Decrease of 7s. 6d. per month Advance of 5s. per month Advance of 5s. per month Advance of 5s. per month	95 0 90 0 92 6 92 6 75 0 80 0	90 0 85 0 85 0 85 0 80 0 85 0	 5 0 5 0 5 0	5 7 7
South Shields London Newport (Mon.) Glasgow	Australia & New Zealar North America (E. Coas West Indies & East Coa of South America North America (East Co Running Agreements	Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire Able Fire Fire Able Fire Fire Fire Fire Fire Fire	Somen Somen Somen me Somen me		9 7 9 9 9	Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 7s. 6d per month Decrease of 7s. 6d. per month Advance of 5s. per month Advance of sp. per month	95 0 90 0 92 6 92 6 75 0 80 0	90 0 85 0 85 0 85 0 80 0	 5 0 5 0	577
South Shields Ondon Newport (Mon.) Glasgow	Australia & New Zealar North America (E. Coas West Indies & East Coa of South America North America (East Co	Firer Able Firer Able Firer Able Firer Able Firer Firer Firer Firer	Somen Comen Co		9 7 9 23 7 10	Decrease of 5s. per month Decrease of 5s. ber month Decrease of 7s. 6d per month Decrease of 7s. 6d. per month Advance of 5s. per month Advance of 5s. per month Advance of 5s. per month	95 0 90 0 92 6 92 6 75 0 80 0	90 0 85 0 85 0 85 0 80 0 85 0	 5 0 5 0 5 0	577

Rise in Agricultural Wages. In some of the districts of Berkshire, Cambridge, Essex, Hants, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Somerset, and Wilts, wages of agricultural labourers were increased by 1s. per week, and in one district of Cheshire by 2s. per week.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1899.

The changes in hours of labour in February affected 109 workpeople, their working hours being reduced on the average by 10.3 hours per week. The changes were all decreases.

		Date from	Approxi-	full w	of laboureek (exc f overtim	lusive
Locality.	Occupation.	which change takes effect in 1899.	number of work- people directly affected.	Before change.	After change.	Extent of de- crease per week.
Bingley* Stirling Dublin	Gas Stokers Bakers Soap Workers	17 Feb. 20 Feb. 4 Mar.	16 33 60	84 70 60	56 55 57	28.00 15.00 3.00

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February 668 fresh applications for work were registered by the eight bureaux (see Labour Gazette February 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns, and 851 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 224 persons, of whom 115 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mother's helps).

(including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mother's helps).

The returns for the London G.F.S. business agency, (by correspondence only) and the Liverpool, Manchester and Edinburgh bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following table which shows the work done by the eight bureaux during February:—

WORK DONE IN FEBRUARY

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Work- people seek- ing Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.		
	Sum	mary by Bur	eaux.		
Central Bureau— 60, Chancery-lane Soc. Promoting Training and Em-	44	58	9		
ployment— 22, Berners-street	27	39	25		
Y. W. C. A.— 26, George street (1)	601	375	IIO		
Hanover-square (2)	137	124	66		
Other Bureaux	42	72	14		
Total of 8 Bureaux	851	668	224		
	Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc	29	50	6		
Shop Assistants and Waitresses	11	14	7		
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc	99	88	60		
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	24	55	22		
Apprentices and Learners	25	5	3		
Domestic Servants	632	362	115		
Miscellaneous	31	94	11		
Total Number	851	668	224		
Total Number in January	847	753	214		

Of the situations offered at the Central Bureau, 13 were for superintendents, and 18 for lady servants; at the Berners Street bureau, 10 were for secretaries and typists; at the Y.W.C.A. business agency, 97 were for dressmakers, milliners, etc., 24 for apprentices and learners; at the other Y.W.C.A. bureau, 588 were for domestic servants; at Manchester, 19 were for lady servants. With these exceptions, the vacancies in any group were under 10 in number.

Colonial and Foreign Mines and Quarries.

The Home Office has issued a report on the statistics relating to persons employed, output and accidents at mines and quarries in the British colonies and in foreign countries, forming Part IV. of the General Report and Statistics of Mines and Quarries for 1897 [C.—9,187. Price, 1s. 7d]. The report contains summary and detailed tables of accidents and death rates per 1,000 persons employed at mines and quarries and a diagram showing ratios of deaths from accidents per 1,000 persons employed in and about all mines in the principal mining countries for the years 1893-1897. Diagrams are also included showing the output of coal and the output of iron ore in the principal coal and iron producing countries during the years 1878-1897.

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during February was 10,236, as compared with 10,364 in February, 1898.

British and Irish.—Of the 10,236 passengers 6,638 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 448 as compared with a year ago. There were marked decreases in the numbers bound to the United States and South Africa, and an increase in the number bound to Australasia. The table below gives the figures in detail:—

Water Bally	February.	February,	Total for two months ending—		
Destination.	1899.	1898.	February, 1899.	February, 1898.	
United States British North America Australasia South Africa Other places	2,928 667 783 1,317 943	3,377 656 668 1,502 883	5,317 1,026 1,500 2,776 1,988	6,075 1,026 1,514 3,202 1,908	
Total	6,638	7,086	12,607	13,725	

Foreign.—The remainder of the 10,236 passengers, viz., 3,598, were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 320 more than in February, 1898.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during February was 5,409. Of these, 1,710 were stated to be *en route* to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 1,699 so stated in February, 1898. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,699 (including 1,005 sailors), the corresponding figure for February, 1898, being 3,129 (including 748 sailors). The figures for February, 1899 and 1898, and also for the two months ended February in each year are as follows:—

		February,		Total for two months ending		
	1899.	1898.	February, 1899.	February, 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	3,699*	3,12 9 * 1,699	7,360* 2,779	6 ,103* 2 ,670		
Total	5,409*	4,828*	10,139*	8.773*		

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during February show a considerable decrease as compared with February, 1898, and a decrease, though less considerable, as compared with February, 1897, the decrease in both cases being chiefly due to a decline in the imports of American cotton. For the first two months of the year, however, the imports in 1899 exceed those in the corresponding period of 1898 and 1897 respectively. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns during February also shows a decrease as compared with February, 1898, and February, 1897.

February, 1897.

The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

			Imports. Bales.		nland Town Bales.		Exports. Bales.
February, 1890		•••	415,228	***	268,302	•••	55,513
1898	< 0.000 Tolker (100 to 100		520,444	•••	281,889	•••	29,527
,, 1897	7		455,585		283,834	•••	39,475
Two months	s ended						
February, 1890	9		1,217,273		577,415		102,684
,, 1898	3		1,053,265		592,678		69,838
,, 189	7		1,033,561		576,548		70,503

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ending March 4th, amounted to £6,006,099, an increase of £281,642 (or 4'9 per cent.), as compared with the corresponding period of 1898. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,271,457, an increase of £84,255, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,734,642, an increase of £107,387.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coast of the United Kingdom during February was £602,263, an increase of £57,512 as compared with February, 1898. In England and Wales there was an increase of £32,435, in Scotland of £24,547, and in Ireland of £530.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during February numbered 340, being 8 less than in February, 1898, 8 less than in February, 1897, and 3 more than in February, 1896.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,005 in February, 1899; 748 in February, 1898; and 2,190 and 1,655, respectively, for the two months ending February in each year.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

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

The total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during February was 404, or 12 less than in January, and 80 more than in February, 1898.

In the first group of industries shown in the following table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,291,998 persons (according to the latest available figures), 379 persons were killed, and 6,949 reported injured by accidents in February, as compared with 313 killed and 5,037 reported injured in February, 1898. These figures give one death in February, 1899, for every 13,963 persons employed in those industries.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 25 persons were reported killed, and 924 injured, in February, as compared with 11 reported killed and 559 injured in February, 1898.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Kil	lled.	Inj	ured.	Number
_	Feb. 1899.	Feb. 1898.	Feb. 1899.	Feb. 1898.	Employed according to latest Returns.
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with move- ment of vehicles	39	41	382	326	1
Other Accidents	2	I	903	770	465,112
Total Railway Service	41	42	1,285	1,096	465,112
Mines	88	77	384	315	728,713
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	12	11	113	89	123,370
Shipping	173	141	206	234	231,385*
Factories	65	42	4,961	3,303	3,743,418
Total of above	379	313	6,949	5,037	5,291,998
Workshops		_	10	9	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22,	20	57	740	458	Cannot be stated.
Under Motice of Accidents Act, 1894	5	4	174	92	stated.

DETAILED TABLE.

Killed In- | In- | In-

	Killed	jured	Killed	jured	Killed	In-
The same of the sa	Moven	cidents ed with nent of icles.	dents Comp	er accion the anies' nises,	Total.	
Railway Service— Brakesmen and Goods Guards Engine Drivers Firemen Guards (Passenger) Permanent Way Men (not Including Labourers) Porters Shunters Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	5 1 2 — 9 5 3 14	79 41 44 13 13 49 47 96		24 49 50 6 90 261 10 413	5 1 2 9 5 3 16	103 90 94 19 103 310 57
Total for February, 1899	39	382	2	903	41	1,285
Total for February, 1898	41	326	1	770	42	1,096
fines—	Underground.		Surface.		Total.	
Explosions of Firedamp Falls of ground In shafts Miscellaneous	 46 11 22	14 163 7 143	_ _ _ 9		- 46 11 31	14 163 7 200
Total for February, 1899	79	327	9	57	88	384
Total for February, 1898	64	280	13	35	77	315
Explosives and	Ins	ide.	Outs	ide.	Tot	al.
Explosives or Blasting Falls of ground Miscellaneous	7 2	18 31 34	-	<u>-</u>	7	18 31 64
Total for February, 1899	9	83	3	30	12	113
Total for February, 1898	8	45	3	44	11	89

	Killed	In-	Killed.	In-	Killed.	In-
		Vreck or	Ву	other dents.	То	tal.
Shipping*—	Ca	sualty.	Acci	dents.	10	tal,
On Trading Vessels—	76					
Steam On Fishing Vessels—	31	ī	15	165	91 72	27 166
Sailing Steam		-	3 6	I	3	I
Total for February, 1899	108	ı	65	12	7	12
Total for 3 months Dec			0,	205	173	206
1898, to February, 1899	390	5	235	920	625	925
Total for 3 months Dce., 1897, to February, 1898	267	13	189	741	456	754
Factories—	M	lales.	Fer	nales.	T	otal.
(a) Accidents reportable by		T				
Certifying Surgeons— Adults	58	1,006	-	133	58	1,139
Young Persons Children	6	418	_ I	100	7	518
Total	64	1,433	I	237	65	1,670
(b) Other Accidents— Adults		2,798	1000000			
Young Persons Children	Ξ	413	=	49	=	2,847 437
Total		3,216		75		2 201
Total Factories—	-	3,220		75		3,291
February, 1899	64	4,649	I	312	65	4,961
February, 1898	41	3,052	1	251	42	3,303
Workshops— Adults	_	9	-	_	_	9
Young Persons Children		_ I	=	=	=	1
Total Workshops— February, 1899		10				
February, 1898	_	6	-	3		9
Besteries & W. J. L.		House				
ractories & Workshops (classified by trades). Textiles—	M	ales.	Fem	ales.	To	tal.
Cotton Wool and Worsted	_ I	180 71	=	129 46	1	309
Other Textiles Non-Textiles—	-	43	-	27	-	70
Extraction of Metals Founding and Conver-	7	76 536	=	_ 2	2 7	76 538
sion of Metals Machines, Engines and	9	1,329	-	I	9	1,330
Ship and Boat Building Wood	21	767	-	I.	21	768
Chemicals, &c Other Non-Textile In-	3 4 17	140	=	I	3 4	141
dustries	/	1,362	I	104	18	7,466
Total February, 1899	64	4,659	I	312	65	4,971
Total February, 1898	41	3,058	1	254	42	3,312
Under Factory Act, 1895,						
Ss. 22, 28 Docks, Wharves and	10	375	I	_	II	375
Quays Warehouses Buildings to which Act	4	293	_	_	4	293
applies Laundries	5	61	-	-	5	61
Total for February, 1899	19	4		7	-	II
Total for February, 1898	7	733 451	I	7	20	740
		101			7	458
		ruction epair.	Use Worl	or	Total	al.
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894—			1			
Bridge Canal	=	3	=	- 5	-	3
Railwayt	-	45	=	=	1	5 45
Tramway Tunnel Other Works!	3	12	=	31	- 3	33
Taradia D	Act does	not apply.	=	=	1	76
Total for February, 1899	5	138	-	36	5	174
Total for February, 1898	4	68	-	24	4	92
* The figures relate to sean have been killed or injured by	nen who	have be	en repor	ted durin	g the m	onth to
have been killed or injured by they were members of the cre	ws of se	ts at sea, a-going v	or in rivessels (e	vers and	harbours	whilst

have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whils they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, 1894) and of the fishing vessels of 18 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1897, and remaining on the Asiaticant the end of that year.

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

1 Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

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TRADE DISPUTES.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

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

Trade Disputes.—Thirty-six fresh disputes were reported as beginning in February, 1899, compared with 26 in January, and 25 in February, 1898. In these 36 disputes, 4,734 workpeople were directly, and 614 indirectly affected, a total of 5,348, which compares with 2,194 in January, and 3,568 in February, 1898.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 3 disputes took place, involving 777 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 7 disputes, involving 2,019 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 11 disputes, involving 938 workpeople; textile trades, 8 disputes, involving 524 workpeople; and in other industries, 7 disputes, involving 1,090 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 36 new disputes, 21 were chiefly on wages questions, 5 in connection with working arrangements, 5 on matters of trade unionism, 2 on hours of labour, and 3 arose on other questions.

Results.—Twenty-three new disputes, involving 4,528 workpeople, and 15 old disputes, involving 3,267 workpeople, were reported as settled. In the 38 new and old disputes terminated, 10, involving 1,719 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 13, involving 1,721 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 15, involving 4,355 persons, resulted in a compromise. At the end of February, 12 old disputes were known to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 2,100 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—No dispute of any great magnitude was in progress in February, and the total duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, was only about 118,000 working days, compared with 157,000 in the preceding month of January, and 139,000 in February, 1898.

		Numb		Date	Dura- tion of		
Locality.	Occupation.*	Affec		when Dispute	Dispute in Work-	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Di- rectly.	Indi- rectly.	began.	ing Days.		
		I	.—DIS	PUTES	WHIC	H BEGAN IN FEBRUARY, 1899.	
		3	Dispute	8.	BUILD	DING TRADES. 777 Workpeople affect	ed.
ondon, E.C	Bricklayers, Labourers, &c., and other	95	16	Feb.	4	Bricklayers struck against a non-union foreman; iron fixers' labourers for an advance in wages	Men replaced.
perdeen	Building employees Carpenters and Joiners	650		1	6	of \(\frac{1}{2} \)d per hour For advance in wages from 8d. to 8\(\frac{1}{2} \)d. per hour, with other alterations in working rules	Advance granted in two instalment from 1st April and 1st October, an arrangement made as to future alter tions in bye-laws. Settlement effects
Vaterford	Carpenters and Joiners	16		2		Alleged violation of local rule as to boy labour	by mediation of the Lord Provost. No settlement reported.
	7 Dis	sputes.	М	INING	AND	QUARRYING. 2,019 Workpeople affecte	
ear Wakefield	CoalHewers, &c	460		8	2	Dispute as to enforcement of certain new rules	
ear Mansfield	Pit Bovs	90		21 28	2	For advance in wages of \(\frac{1}{4} \)d. per day Refusal to work under a piecework system	Work resumed unconditionally. No settlement reported.
lanture	Store Quarrymen Coal Hewers	250		15	2	Against proposed reduction in prices of 2½d. per ton For general reduction in hours of labour	No settlement reported. Work resumed on old conditions.
lolytown,	Coal Hewers, &c., and other colliery workers Coal Hewers, &c., and	200	56	14	3	Refusal of manager to allow union secretary to be present with a deputation from miners to	Proprietor received deputation wi
Lanarkshire ew Cumnock, Ayrshire	1000	351	160	2	131	discuss grievances Against new conditions as to fines for dirt in coal	dispute were settled satisfactorily. Mixed coal scale abandoned, and scale for dirt in coal referred to ar tration.
	11 Disputes.	META	I. FN	IGINE	ERING	AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.	938 Workpeople affected.
heffield	Smiths' Strikers and Smiths	5	10	24	6	For advance in wages of 2s. per week For advance in wages of 6d. per day	Advance of is. 1½d. per week concede and union rate to be paid for overtim No settlement reported.
irkenhead Ianchester	Platers' Helpers Bedstead Makers, Fitters & Brassworkers	30 88		23 13		Men struck because of employer having with- drawn from membership of the Bedstead Manu- facturers' Association	No settlement reported.
St. Helens	Ironfounders	106		10 & 25	8	For advance in wages of 2s. per week Against proposed reduction in prices on certain	Advance conceded. No settlement reported.
Birmingham	other Cycle Workers	52 16	25	20		polishing operations Refusal to work certain iron on new vices	No settlement reported.
The Lye	Vicemakers and other workpeople Tinplate Makers	150		14	10	Misunderstanding as to amount of reduction agreed to on resumption of work after a pro-	Work resumed on same terms as other Llanelly works.
River Clyde	Sailmakers	90 76		10 25	4	longed stoppage For advance in wages of d. per hour Against employment of shipjoiners on certain	No settlement reported. Shipwrights to do the particular wo
Oundee	Shipwrights Foundry Labourers	92		24		work alleged to be that of shipwrights For advance in wages of is. per week	in future. No settlement reported.
Paisley Port Glasgow	Platers' Helpers and Iron Stowers and Boilermakers	120	50	18	II	Dispute as to price for stowing iron	Question to be referred to arbitrationand work resumed.
No. of the last			8 Dispu	tes.	TEX	TILE TRADES. 524 Workpeople affec	
Bradford	Slubbing & Yarn Dyers and other workpeople	130	20	20	3	Against discharge of fellow workpeople, alleged to be for joining trade union	wages and overtime rate also given.
Haslingden	. Cotton Weavers	200		6	I	Alleged bad material	Promise of improved material, and allowance of \(\frac{1}{2} \)d. per piece on cert warps.
Ramsbottom	Harris and the second	38		14	5	Alleged insufficient earnings by reason of difficulties in working Against alteration of working conditions, estimated	Special advances granted for months to 32 of the operatives.
Macclesfield	Silk Weavers and other Operative.	20	4	3	•	to be equal to a reduction of 10 per cent. In	
Nottingham	Lacemakers	. 18		27		Men refused to leave union on transfer of plant	
Kidderminster	Carpet Weavers	. 28		4	14	Dissatisfaction with price offered for weaving a new fabric on hand-looms	women on power-tooms.
Stirling	Carpet Printers and Boxer	s 49		22	3	Dissatisfaction about a new foreman, and transfer of some women to other machines	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
Galashiels	Weellen Weavers	N. C.		II	12	Against stoppage of certain extras said to be equal to reduction of 10 per cent.	Reduction accepted.

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

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople Affected. Directly. Indirectly.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.]
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I.-DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY, 1899.

		71	Disputes.		MISCE	LLANEOUS TRADES. 1,090 Workpe	ople affected.
				Feb.			
Durham	Cement Works Labourers	30		3	2	Against proposed reduction of is. per ton to 7 men on introduction of machinery to lessen hand labour	Reduction of 3d. per ton accepted.
Sunderland	Carters	350		15		For payment of an advance in wages alleged to have been previously agreed upon	Advance of is. per week to be given as
Long tanton, Cambs	Agricultural Labourers	33		14	12		5.30 p.m. with usual 11 hours for meals.
London	Boot and Shoe Operatives	35	20	20		For advance in wages on several classes of work	and a promise of is per week extra. No settlement reported.
London	Cigarette Makers and Packers	14		20		Dispute as to wages, and the proportion of cutters to cigarette makers.	No settlement reported.
London	Fruit Porters	3 5 0	•••	17	14	Against control of extra labour by the Orange Porters Society	Fruit brokers awarded control to Orange Porters' Society. Work proceeding, but
Glasgow	Furnacemen Labourers and Coopers (in Chemical Works)	83	175	2	12	For advance in wages of 3s. per week to a section of the furnacemen	Fruit Porters refuse to accept award. Work resumed on old conditions.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE FEBRUARY, 1899, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

					BU	ILDING TRADES.	
Norwich .	Bricklayers	10	1	1898 20 Dec.	37	Against employment under a sub-contractor of slaters to lay Broseley tiles, work claimed by bricklayers	the actual work of laving to be ner
Stockport .	Bricklayers and other workpeople	12		1899 30 Jan.	5	Against employment of a labourer upon brick- layers' work	
London .	Plasterers, Carpenters and Labourers	106	62	10 Jan.	_	To compel managing foremen to join the National Association of Operative Plasterers	Demand as to foremen withdrawn b
Rothesay	Carpenters and Joiners	30		21 Jan.	27	For advance in wages of ½d. per hour, with new code of working rules	Byelaws withdrawn, but advance granted.
				МІ	NING	AND QUARRYING.	PAGE AND PROPERTY OF THE PAGE AND PAGE
Sherburn,	Coal Hewers &	402	1	II July	170	Because of dismissal of two men, arising out of	West 1
Durha	Davideo Workers			'98	-,3	dispute as to nature of material sent up	certain questions to arbitration but
Castleford	Other Colliery Workpeople	750	200	15 July '97	419	For increase in tonnage rate of id. per ton on account of having to use lamps, and dispute as	the two men not reinstated. Work resumed on a compromise by all men for whom the state of the mine
	1 Workpeople	1		11		to prices for "slack" and thin coal	would permit of employment.
		ME	ETAL,	ENGIN	EERIN	NG AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.	Control of the Contro
Liverpool	. Ship Joiners	28		1898 13 Dec.	58	Against shipwrights being allowed to do certain work said to be that of joiners	Work resumed during reference of question to arbitration, the jobs in
Willenhall	. Lock Makers and			1899			dispute to be in abeyance in the meanwhile.
	Keysmith	9	1	30 Jan.	12	For advance to prices said to be paid by other employers.	Men replaced and finding work else-
Llanelly	. Tinplate Makers	1400		31 Dec.	37	Against proposed further reduction in wages of	Agreement effected giving a further
Classic				1899		7½ per cent., and concession of 4 sheets per box on light plate for a period of slx months	maximum reduction of 6½ per cent.
	. Smiths and range fitters	60		20 Jan.	26	Against introduction of piecework in range fitting department	Agreement signed as to conditional
	. Ironfounders	15		7 Jan. 1898	26	Against excessive amount of boy labour	Men obtained work elsewhere and
Dublin	Brassfinishers	20		4 Oct.	66	Against reduction in piece prices	replaced by non-unionists. Piece prices to be settled with the men.
	1 (H)-			N	IISCEI	LLANEOUS TRADES.	
Marsden	1	1		1898			
DJ:-1 ,		147		24 Nov.	76		Huddersfield scale for women, with is. per cut added for men.
Edinburgh	. Stereotypers	5		19 Nov ,	82	Refusal to work with two men who had left the trade union	Work resumed with the men against whom dispute arose.
Leicester	Boot and Shoe	10		1899 18 Jan.	22	Dispute as to prices to be paid for grindery	Arranged that employers are to charge
CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	Rivetters		No. of the last	The state of the state of	AND STREET	and a second of the	that employers are to charge

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE FEBRUARY, 1899, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 12 disputes, which have been previously reported in the monthly statement of disputes, were still unsettled at the end of February. The number of workpeople then involved was about 2,100. The month in which each dispute commenced is stated in

Building Trades:—Plasterers, Stockport (Oct.); joiners, Halifax; and plasterers, Kilmarnock (Jan.).

Mining: -Coal miners, Normanton (Sep., 1897); Pontefract (April, 1898); East Kirkby, Notts (Nov.); Barnsley (Nov.).

Metal Trades: - Ironfounders, Barnsley (Oct.); brass-casters, Doncaster (Nov.); wire-drawers, etc., Birmingham (Dec.).

Textile Trades: - Dyers, Honley (Sept.).

Other Trades :- Brushmakers, London (Sept.).

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFI-CATES.

South Wales District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th May. Intending candidates should communicate on or before 1st May with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Robert T. Rees, Glandare, Aberdare.

Liverpool District.—An examination for Certificates of Com-

petency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. T. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King Street, Wigan.

North Staffordshire District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Joseph Knight, Newcastle, Staffs.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

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DURING February 1,813 fresh applications for work were registered by the 10 bureaux furnishing returns, as compared with 2,120 in February, 1898. Work was found by the bureaux for 874 persons, a decrease of 5 as compared with a year ago. Of these 874 persons, 509 (387 males and 122 females) were engaged by private employers, 189 (186 males and 3 females) by local authorities and 176 men by Salvation Army authorities.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of February 1899, was 1,500 as compared with 1,857 a

(I) Work done in February.

Name of Labour Bureau.		No. of Fresh Applica- tions by Workpeople during		tions	No. of Situa- tions offered by Employers		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux.				
				during		Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authorities			
		Feb. 1899.	Feb. 1898.	Feb. 1899.	Feb. 1898.	Feb. 1899.	Feb. 1898.	Feb. 1899.	Feb. 1898.		
London.		PAR					-				
St. Pancras	***	213	163	222	117	77	73	8	74		
Battersea	***	137	159	50	37	42	37 67	40	III		
Islington	***	360	509	77	93	73	31	40			
St. Martin	***	III	107	124	91	45 13	7	133	76		
Hackney	***	125	100	30	34	5 39	24)	-33	1		
Salvation Army		190	230	47	29	176*	241*		Series .		
Provincial.			99.19	0 19 19 19	1997 E 1979			TOWN SOLD			
Ipswich		28	50	29	38 186	19	18	-	1		
Plymouth		143	126	146		93	70	2	2		
Liverpool		113	312	5	15	I	4	I	9 7		
Glasgow		393	364	164	104	107	84	5	7		
Total of 10 bures	UX	1,813	2,120	894	744	685	656	189	223		

(II.)	Employments	found for	Workpeop	ole d	urin	g Fe	ebruary	, 1899
							-	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

	No. Per- manently engaged.	No. Temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers. Men, Lads and Boys:—			
Building Trades	10	13	23
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c	40	9	49
Porters and Messengers	36	10	46
Labourers	41	46	87
Board carrying and bill distributing	-	34	34
Other Occupations-Men	35	26	6r
" Lads and Boys	74	13	87
Total Males	236	151	387
Women and Girls:-	图 医多别属		
Dressmakers and Sempstresses	5	I	6
Domestic Servants	41	-	41
Charwomen, daily work, &c	19	52	71
Other Occupations	4		4
Total Females	69	53	122
Total engaged by Private Employers	305	204	509
Engaged by Local Authorities Men, Lads and Boys:—			
Roadmen	_	98	98
Dustmen	-	-	_
Stone Breaking	_	50	50
Other Occupations	14	24	38
Women and Girls	3	Ba Tanga	3
Total engaged by Local Authorities	17	172	189
Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities Men	_	176	176
Grand Total	322	552	874

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

			No. on Reg	ister at end of
Occupation.			February, 1899.	February, 1898.
Men.				
Building, Engineering and Me	tal Tra	des	142	213
Carmen, Stablemen, Horseme	n, &c.		155	188
Clerks and Warehousemen	,		58	60
Porters and Messengers			126	163
General Labourers	***		452	640
Other Occupations			170	225
Total Men			1,103	1,489
Lads and Boys			148	171
Women and Girls.			A SHARE NEEDS	STATE OF STATE OF
Charwomen, Daily Work, &c.			159	116
Servants			49	52
Others			41	29
Total Women and Girls			249	197
Grand Total			1,500	1,857

^{*} Engaged by Salvation Army authorities.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.) THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of February was 341,973. This corresponds to a rate of 214 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1899.

Compared with January, 1899, there is an increase of 4,708 in the number of persons relieved, and of 3 in the rate per 10,000. Twenty-six of the 35 districts show increased rates, the most marked increases being in the Metropolis and West Ham (which together account for 2,887 of the total increase in the number relieved) and in Dublin. In 7 districts decreases are shown, while in the remaining 2 districts the rate is unaltered.

Compared with February, 1898, the number relieved shows a net decrease of 955 and the rate per 10,000 a decrease of 3. The rate has decreased in 21 districts, increased in 13 districts, and remained stationary in 1 district. The largest decreases were in the Bristol district (1,251 in the number relieved and 38 in the rate per 10,000), and in the Galway, Bolton, Newcastle, Hull, Manchester, Coatbridge, and Liverpool districts. The principal increases were at West Ham and Dublin (13 per 10,000 in each case), Cardiff and Birmingham.

AL MARKET AND			e day in s		Increase (+ or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as		
Selected Urban Districts.	In-	Out-	TOTAL.	Rate per 10,000 of esti-	of popul compar	ation as ed with	
	door.	door.	TOTAL.	mated Popula- tion.	Amonth ago.	A year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES *							
Metropolis.			0-	170			
West District		2,668	14,280	178	+ 3 + 4	+ 1 + 3	
North District		3,068	10,792	479	+ 10	- 5	
East District	690	4,188	17,868	247	+ 4	+ 4	
South District	21,493	19.406	40,899	239	+ 7	- I	
Total Metropolis	69,516	37,854	107,370	237	+ 6	+ 1	
West Ham	2,255	7,721	9,976	217	+ 8	+ 13	
Other Districts.				150	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF		
Newcastle District		4,162	5,79 7 5,666	152 262	+ 6	- 15 - 6	
Stockton & Tees District Bolton, Oldham, &c.	0 505	4,396 8,052	11,647	156	+ 1	- 14	
Wigan District	- 969	7,042	8,910	224	+ 1	- 3	
Manchester District	8,787	7,284	16,071	184	+ 1	- 9	
Liverpool District	10,343	7,327	17,670	192	+ 4	- 7	
Bradford District	1,229	3,310	4,539	125	- 3 + 1	- 4	
Halifax & Huddersfield Leeds District	+ 08.	3,586	7,731	178	+ 3	- 6	
Barnsley District	6mr	3,160	3,835	182	- 1	- 5	
Sheffield District	0 -01	3,178	5,702	151		- 3	
Hull District		5,085	6,357	263	+ 7	- 16	
North Staffordshire		6,194	8,016	235 190	- 3	- 7	
Nottingham District	1,746	5,388	7,134	214	+ 1	- 1	
Leicester District Wolverhampton District	3,362	13,740	17,102	306	+ 3	- 5	
Birmingham District	No. March	2,352	6,765	125	+ 3	+ 7	
Bristol District	2,758	7,654	10,412	294	+ 4	- 38	
Cardiff & Swansea	1,752	6,927	8,679	243	+ 3	+ 9	
Total "Other Districts"	53,272	107,779	161,051	195	+ 2	- 7	
SCOTLAND.*					1000		
Glasgow District	3,836	14,936	18,772	219	+ 2	+ 3	
Paisley & Greenock District	696	2,714	3,410	217	- 2	+ 3	
Edinburgh & Leith District	1.519	5,245	6,764	187	- I	- I + 6	
Dundee & Dunfermline Aberdeen	1,037	2,986	4,023	202	+ 1 + 3	+ 6 + 2	
Coatbridge & Airdrie	331	1,149	1,480	166	+ 6	- 29	
Total for the above Scottish Districts	7,934	29,616	37,550	209	+ 2	+ 1	
IRELAND.†			topo de				
Dublin District	6,846	3,846	10,692	303	+ 8	+ 13	
Belfast District	4,221	339	4,560	138	- 2	+ 2	
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District	4,681	5,358	10,039	430	+ 7	+ 8	
Galway District	367	368	735	209	+ 7	-165	
Total for the above Irish Districts	16,115	9,911	26,026	273	+ 4		
Total for above 35 dis- tricts in February, 1899 }	149,092	192,881	341,973	214	+ 3	- 3	
* Exclusive of Vagrants; of	Patient	s in the l	Fever and	Small	Pox Hos	pitals of	

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

THE following table shows the number of cases of Lead and Phosphorus poisoning and Anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during February, classified by industries. It will be seen that of the 130 cases of lead poisoning 34 were at lead works and 28 (including 15 females) in the china and earthenware industry. The 137 cases of poisoning and

anthrax reported included 4 deaths, 3 resulting from lead poisoning and 1 from anthrax. It should be understood that the fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

March, 1899.

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.	
Disease and Industry.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	
Lead Poisoning— China and Earthenware Glass Lead Works Paints and Colours Smelting Tinning and Enamelling of Iron and other metals Other Industries	10 1 33 12 7 1	14 	3 2 2		1111111	1 111111	13 1 33 12 7 3	15 1 — 1	28 1 34 12 7 4	
Total Lead Poisoning	104	18	7	1	-	-	111	19	130	
Corresponding Total for February, 1898	46	30	2		_		48	30	78	
Phosphorus Poisoning *	1			-			1		1	
Anthrax*	5	1	-	-			5	1	6	

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to THE LABOUR GAZETTE by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade:-The trade returns for the month of February last show a ecrease, as compared with the corresponding month of 1898, in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, out an increase in the exports of British and Irish produce and anufactures, and also of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for February, 1899, were valued at £35,586,694, a decrease of £184,180 as compared with February, 1898, or 0.5 per cent.; and the exports amounted in value to £25,260,516, as against £22,969,386 in 1898, of which British and Irish produce and manuctures alone amounted to £19,382,406, an increase of £1,740,557, or 9.8 per cent. The latter increase, however, it should be observed. udes the value of new ships, viz., £205,032, this being the first year for which these exports are shown. Foreign and Colonial handise exported amounted in value to £5,878,110, an increase 550,573, or 10.3 per cent., as compared with February, 1898.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for ebruary, 1899, as compared with February, 1898, according to the lifferent categories of merchandise:-

	Month ende	ed Feb. 28th.		100	
	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease	
Food, Drink and Tobacco	£ 14,732,888	£ 14,701,013	£	£ 31,875	
Chemicals, Dyestuffs and Tanning	1,645,382	1,982,379	336,997	31,875	
Oils	550,715	744,967	194,252	_	
Raw Materials for Manufactures Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles	655,755 9,904,518 8,281,616	739,383 9,202,173 8,216,779	83,628	702,345 64,837	
Total £	35,770,874	35,586,694	_	184,180	

With regard to the imports of articles of food, &c., wheat shows n increase of 611,500 cwts., but a decrease in the value of £85,352 neatmeal and flour an increase of 87,030 cwts., and a decrease of {154,297; oats have fallen off to the extent of 460,730 cwts., and {122,121; and peas and beans both show diminished quantities and values. On the other hand barley has increased in quantity y 387,170 cwts., and in value by £154,062; Indian corn or maize 352,130 cwts., and £188,593; and Indian corn meal by 69,720 wts., and £16,273. Oatmeal has decreased in quantity but eased in value. Among other articles of food and drink, bacon, resh beef, fresh mutton, pork, butter, margarine, eggs, onions spices (unenumerated), and sugar refined, unrefined and ses, all show increased quantities and values; while the most

No cases of phosphorus poisoning or of anthrax were reported in February, 1808.

notable decreases are found in the case of cheese, fish (cured or salted), fruit and potatoes, the imports of which are valued respectively at £105,815, £109,920, £93,513 and £99,579 less than in February, 1898. Among dutiable articles cocoa has decreased in quantity by 595,276 lbs., and in value by £17,180; and cocoa prepared), currants and tea all show smaller quantities and values. the falling off in the latter article being to the extent of 1,030,143 lbs., and £74,976. Spirits and wine have also fallen off. Tobacco has increased in quantity and value.

In the imports of metals, all descriptions with the exception of copper regulus and precipitate, have increased in value. In the class of raw materials, cotton has decreased by £914,882, jute by £103,214, and sheep or lambs' wool by £30,346; but hemp, alpaca, and goats' wool have 'all increased. Peruvian bark, caoutchouc, and raw hides have all fallen off, but bristles, gum arabic, ivory, manures, paper-making materials, tallow and stearine, and wood and timber have increased in value. Among manufactured articles cotton, iron and steel, jute, and leather, have all increased in value, but glass, boots and shoes, gloves, silk and woollen manufactures have all fallen off, in the case of the latter to the extent of £77,872.

Exports.—As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the values for February, 1899, and the increase or decrease of each principal category:-

	Month ende	ed Feb. 28th.			
	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.	
	£	£	f	1	
nimals living rticles of Food and Drink	£ 81,329	69,291	£	12,038	
am Matariala	785,138	769,514	_	15,624	
rticles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, viz.—	1,337,303	1,890,836	553,533	-	
Yarns and Textile Fabrics Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except	7,960,608	8,066,213	105,605	-	
Machinery and ships)	2,366,351	2,587,965	221,614		
Machinery and Millwork Ships, new (not registered as	1,011,776 (not	1,373,601	361,825	-	
British)	recorded)	205,032	205,032	_	
Miscellaneous	4,099,344	4,419,954	320,610	-	
Total £	17,641,849	19,382,406	1,740,557		

Amongst articles of food and drink (with the exception of beer and ale), fish (other than herrings), hops, pickles and refined sugar, all classes show a falling off. In the class of raw materials, coal, coke and fuel have increased by £463,487 and sheep and lambs' wool by £47,056. The increase of coal shipped for steamers' use amounts to 100,932 tons. Amongst yarns and textile fabrics, cotton yarn has fallen off to the extent of 3,239,900 lbs. in quantity and £157,601 in value; while silk, worsted, alpaca and mohair yarns, though showing increased quantities, have diminished in value; other descriptions of yarn have increased both in quantity and value. In the case of piece goods, cottons show an increase in quantity of nearly 23½ million yards, and in value of £168,192; and jute piece goods show an increase of nearly 21 million yards in quantity and £24,802 in value. Silk and worsted tissues have decreased in value, but linen piece goods and woollen tissues have

Machinery has increased by £361,825 due principally to the larger shipments of locomotives and textile machinery (especially of the latter) to Russia and India. All descriptions of metals with the exception of brass-plated wares, and telegraphic wires and apparatus have increased, in the case of copper the increase amounting to £152,952 in value. As regards telegraphic wires and apparatus, these have fallen off to the extent of £15,852.

For the two months ended February 28th the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions were valued at £76,803,300, as compared with £75,700,165 for a similar period of 1898, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £39,729,640 (including £750,222, the value of new ships, not registered as British, not recorded prior to 1899), as compared with £36,873,253 for the two months ended 28th February, 1898. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise for the two months amounted in value to £10,998,370, as compared with £10,010,198 in 1898.

Tonnage of Yessels entered and cleared with Cargoes .- The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions during February, 1899. amounted to 2,401,135 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,134,289 tons, as compared with 2,444,174 tons entered and 2,821,641 tons cleared in February, 1898, As regards the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during February last was 2,404,819 tons, and the tonnage cleared 2,357,617 tons, as against 2,371,487 tons and 2,324,984 tons respectively in February, 1898.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN FEBRUARY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.		Amount of Penalties.			Amount of Costs.		
By Owners, Managers, &c.:—		S S	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	5	5	3	5	6	I	3	7
Neelecting to Limewash	2	2	38	0	0	I	10	8
Making talse entry in Register, etc	9	7	30	IO	0	2	15	9
Employing Young Persons without necessary	28	28	10	16	6	10	0	3
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment— Before or after the legal hour	39	39	28	3	0	12	13	6
During meal times, or without proper	55	53	16	18	0	18	11	0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day	6	6	I	6	6	I	3	6
substituted	13	13	16	IO	0	4	0	6
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	6	6	6	7	6	2	8	9
In Workshop and in Shop beyond total legal period Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts,	2	I	2	0	0	0	11	4
Notices, &c.—	19	19	14	7	6	7	12	2
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices	12	12	4	9	6	4	13	6
	2	2	0	9	0	I	3	0
Not sending Notices required by Act Other Offences	4	2	3	5	0	I	0	0
By Workmen: Making false entry in Register, &c	I	I	0	5	0	0	7	6
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of	2	2	5	0	0		14	
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules	I	I	0		0	0	8	0
Total for February, 1899	206	199	151	18	0	70	17	4
Total for February, 1898	148	146	131	1	6	66	1	6

II .- Under Mines and Quarries Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu-	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.	
	Under the Mines Acts.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:— Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c Ventilation Miscellaneous By Workmen for offences re-	2 1 1	2 I I	Ξ	=	£ s. d. 6 10 6 2 0 0 2 0 0	
lating to:— Safety Lamps Shot-firing and Explosives Timbering Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c Riding on Trams Miscellaneous	4 3 5 2 15 19	4† 3 5 2 15 18			3 4 0 4 19 6 5 14 6 1 12 6 10 8 0 20 13 6	
Total for February, 1899	52	51	92 <u>- S</u>	1	57 2 6	
Total for February, 1898	52	51	-	1	61 3 0	
A TOTAL OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	10000000	Under	THE QUA	RRIES A	CT.	
By Owners, Managers, &c.:— Registers, Notices, Returns, &c	I	ı	-	-	£ s. d.	
By Workmen:— Explosives and Blasting	2	2	-	-	2 12 6	
Total for February, 1899	3	3	5-0	-	3 16 6	
Total for February, 1898	14	10	4	-	47 4 6	

III .- Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu-	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.		
By Owners or Masters of Ships:-			£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Corruing excessive Deck Cargots	2	2	3 0 0	180		
Not providing Lights	I	I	5 0 0	2 19 0		
By Seamen and others: Misdealing with Wreck	3	3	3 0 0 1	-		
Total for February, 1899	6	6	11 0 0	4 7 0		
Total for February, 1898	12	12	57 0 0	10 9 6		

Attachment of Wages in Victoria.

An Act of the Colony of Victoria, passed on December 5th, 1898, exempts from attachment under judicial order the wages of clerks, servants, labourers, and workmen, except in so far as the wages of any such person may exceed £2 a week, when the surplus over that rate, but no more, can be attached. No costs or expenses of any such attachment, other than for court fees or stamps, shall be chargeable against such person, unless his wages exceed £4 a week. The Act is to remain in force until January 1st, 1902, and thence until the end of the next ensuing session of Parliament.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN FEBRUARY.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.) FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in February, it will be seen that 5 Trade Unions, 2 Co-operative Societies for Distribution, 20 Co-operative Societies for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Societies, 46 new Friendly Societies, 68 branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 2 Building Societies were added to the Register for the United Kingdom during February. Two Trade Unions, 36 Building Societies, and 49 Friendly Societies (including 30 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

up," or to have had registration cancelled.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—General Tram and 'Busworkers Union, 48, Crowndale-road, N.W.; Salford and District Hairdressers' Trade Union and Sick and Burial Union, Duke of York Hotel, Regent-road, Salford; Bishop Auckland Branch Builders' Labourers' Trade Society, Station Hotel, South-road, Bishop Auckland; Birmingham Jewish Tailors', Machinists', and Pressers' Benefit Trade Union, Red Lion Hotel, Smallbrook-street, Birmingham; National Union of Drivers, Horsemen, Tram-men and Carters, 101, John Bright-street, Birmingham. Scotland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—East Harptree Co-op. Soc., Ltd.; Co-op. Stores, East Harptree, Bristol; Coxlodge and Fawdon Ind. and Provident Soc., Ltd., 43, Riddell terrace, Coxlodge, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. (B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—Birmingham Mutual Bakery Ltd., 12, Cappon-street, Birmingham, Scotland.—Societies.— Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—Birmingham Mutual Bakery, Ltd., 12, Cannon-street, Birmingham. Scotland.— None. Ireland.— Co.-op. Agricultural and Dairy Societies at Kenneigh, Macroom, Kilnamartyra, Hornhill, (co. Cork), Ardagh (co. Mayo), Tisara, Cam, Dysart (co. Roscommon), Ferns (co. Wexford), Garrison, Brookeborough (co. Fermanagh), Ahoghill (co. Antrim), Blackwatertown (co. Armagh), Dromore (co. Tyrone), Clonmany Co-op. Poultry Soc., Clonmany (co. Donegal), Bunlin, Cratlagh, and Milford Co-op. Poultry Soc., Milford (co. Donegal); Carrigart Co-op. Agric. and Poultry Soc., Carrigart (co. Donegal); Glenvar and Killygarvon Co-op. Poultry Soc., Kilkeel (co. Donegal); Newmarket Co-op. Poultry Soc., Newmarket (co. Cork. (c) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Hoddesdon and District Liberal and Radical Club, Ltd., Brockett-road, Hoddesdon; Kelmscott and Radical Club, Ltd., Brockett-road, Hoddesdon; Kelmscott Club Society, Ltd., 29, The Grove, Hammersmith, W. Scolland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.
—Ordinary Friendly, 10; Dividing, 10; Collecting, 2;
Specially Authorised, 5; Working Men's Clubs, 14. Scotland.
—None. Ireland.—Specially Authorised, 5.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—55. Scotland.—13. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—2. Scotland.—None. Ireland .- None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Onward Society of Drillers and Hole-Cutters, White Swan Hotel, Silver-street, Stockton; Good Intent Society of Galvanizers' Enamellers, Earl Grey Inn, Walsall-street, Wolverhampton. Scotland.—None. Inland .- None

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 6; Dividing, 1; Female, 1; Orders, 1; Specially Authorised, 1. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. Registration cancelled, Ordinary Friendly, 1; Dividing, 1; Juvenile, 2. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. Dissolved otherwise: Ordinary Friendly, 1; Juvenile, 3; Specially Authorised, 1; Branches, 30. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 6; notice of commencement of dissolution, 6; notice of termination of dissolution, 7; registrations cancelled in December, 1898 (advertised in February, 1899), 14. Scotland.—By instrument of dissolution, 3. Ireland.—None.

H.M. Inspectors of Factories. - New Appointments. - Mr. William Dennett Kirkwood, of 25, Bow Road, E., and Mr. Ernest Shepperson Wilson, of Bristol House, Sutton Court Road, Sutton, Surrey, have been appointed Inspectors of Factories and Work

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⁺ Sentenced in one case to three months hard labour without the option of a fine.

And costs or 14 days imprisonment in each case.