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## CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

Summary of the State of Employment in December...	PAGE
1	
<b>Special Articles and Reports—</b>	
TRADE DISPUTES OF 1898—PRELIMINARY FIGURES	3
CHANGES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1898—PRELIMINARY FIGURES...	4
TRADE UNIONS IN 1897...	5
FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1898	7
MINERS' PROVIDENT FUNDS IN AUSTRIA	6
ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS—QUINQUENNIAL VALUATIONS 1889-96	8
AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND—AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1898	7
CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN NEW ZEALAND, 1897-8	7
RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS	8
STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN DENMARK IN 1897	8
NEW INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED IN 1898	5

## Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.

COAL MINING	12
IRON MINING	13
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	13
IRON AND STEEL WORKS	14
TINPLATE WORKS...	13
SHIPBUILDING	14
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	15
SEAMEN	16
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	16
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	17

## DISTRICT REPORTS.

LONDON	17
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	18
Lancashire	19
Yorkshire	20
Midland Counties	20
Eastern Counties	22
South Western Counties	22
WALES	23
SCOTLAND	23
IRELAND	24

## Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—

COLONIES...	12
FRANCE ... 10 BELGIUM ...	12
GERMANY... 11 HOLLAND ...	12

## Miscellaneous Reports for December—

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR	9
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	32
FOREIGN TRADE	31
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES...	29
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	27

## Statistical Tables for December—

TRADE DISPUTES	28
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	26
ADVANCES IN RATES OF WAGES OF SEAMEN IN DECEMBER	27
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	25
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	32
LABOUR BUREAUX...	30
PAUPERISM	30
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	31

## Notes and Reviews—

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES	3
RAILWAY SAVINGS BANKS	8
SUNDAY WORK OF SHOP ASSISTANTS IN BELGIUM...	8
HOME OFFICE ORDERS	8
INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS	32

## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.

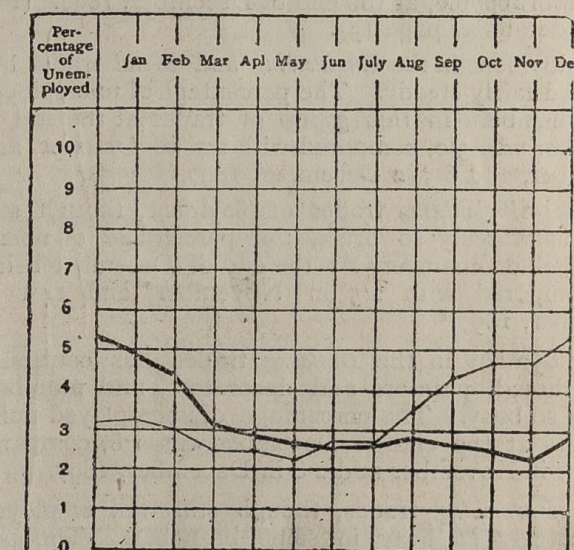
[Based on 2,189 returns, viz.: 1,552 from Employers, 511 from Trade Unions, and 126 from other sources.]

The general state of employment continues good. A comparison of the returns for the end of December, with those of the previous month, is somewhat affected by the Christmas and New Year holidays, while it is difficult to compare them with the corresponding figures for the end of December, 1897, owing to the existence of the engineering dispute at the latter date. Allowance for these disturbing causes must be made in considering the figures given below.

In the 118 trade unions making returns with an aggregate membership of 470,391, 13,612 (or 2·9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2·3 per cent. a month before, and 5·3 per cent. in the 113 unions, with a membership of 460,866, from which returns were received for December, 1897.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1897 and 1898. [The thick line applies to 1898, the thin line to 1897.]



The table below classifies the membership of the 118 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the under-mentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of December, 1898.		Corresponding Percentages for	
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
	Number.	Percentage.		
Under 1 per cent.	32	105,152	22·4	31·2
1 and under 2 per cent.	32	105,340	22·4	18·7
2 " 3 "	9	9,782	2·1	19·2
3 " 5 "	22	223,542	47·5	14·5
5 " 7 "	4	5,811	1·2	0·6
7 " 10 "	7	7,339	1·5	3·0
10 per cent. and upwards	12	13,365	2·8	16·5
Total	118	470,391	100·0	100·0



**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment in December was better in every district than during November. Returns relating to pits employing 448,451 workpeople show that these pits worked on an average 5.54 days per week in the four weeks ended December 24th, as compared with an average of 5.46 days in November. This is the highest figure recorded in the five years during which these statistics have been compiled. (For further details see page 12).

**Iron Mining.**—Employment in this industry continues good. At 135 iron mines or openworks at which 17,479 persons were employed, an average of 5.82 days per week was worked during the four weeks ended December 24th as compared with 5.80 in November. (For further details see page 13).

**Pig-Iron Industry.**—Returns relating to the works of 109 ironmasters show a further improvement in employment during December. At the end of the month they had 364 furnaces in blast, estimated to be employing 23,625 persons, or 5 more furnaces and 134 more persons employed than at the end of November, and 13 more furnaces and 417 more persons employed than at the end of December, 1897. (For further details see page 13).

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Employment continues better than a year ago. The 204 employers making returns employed 81,183 workpeople in the last week of December, as compared with 81,026 workpeople in the last week of November, and 77,285 workpeople in the week ending December 24th, 1897. The average number of shifts worked was 5.59 in the last week of December, compared with 5.60 in the last week of November. (For further details see page 14).

**Tinplate Trade.**—Employment on the whole remained about the same in December as in November, 309 mills, giving employment to 16,100 workpeople, being at work at the end of the month, as compared with 314 mills, giving employment to 16,091 workpeople, at the end of November, and 333 mills, giving employment to 17,212 workpeople, at the end of December, 1897. (For further details see page 13).

Employment in the *Engineering* and *Metal* trades has remained fairly steady. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of December was 3.0, compared with 2.7 in October and November, and 6.5 in December, 1897.\*

In the *Shipbuilding* trades employment, though still good, is scarcely so brisk, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December being 3.7, compared with 2.5 in November, and 14.1 in December, 1897.\*

Employment in the *Building* trades has continued good, though painters and decorators, and plumbers are not so busy. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 1.8, compared with 1.1 in November and 2.8 in December, 1897.

The *Furnishing* trades, though still well employed, are scarcely so busy in some branches. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 3.8, compared with 2.3 in November, and 4.7 per cent. in December, 1897.

Owing to seasonal causes employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has fallen off in most branches. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 3.9, compared with 2.4 in November. The percentage for December, 1897, was 3.1.

In the *Paper* trade the percentage of unemployed union members is 5.9, compared with 3.8 in November and 3.2 per cent. in December, 1897.

In the *Glass* trades the percentage of unemployed was 12.9, compared with 11.1 in December, 1897.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has improved, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of

\* During the Engineering dispute.

December being 4.5, compared with 4.9 in November, and 5.5 per cent. in December, 1897.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Boot* and *Shoe* trade continues quiet; in the ready-made branch it has improved on the whole, but is still slack in many centres.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade continues dull; in the ready-made branch it remains slack.

Employment in both the *Spinning* and *Weaving* branches of the *Cotton* trade continues good generally.

Employment in the *Worsted* trade again shows a decline. In the *Woollen* trade it has fallen off, and is quiet in most centres. In the *Hosiery* trade employment is moderate.

As regards the employment of women in the *Textile* trades, information respecting 543 mills employing 90,700 women and girls, shows that 85 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 83 per cent. in November, and 62 per cent. in December, 1897. (For further details see page 17).

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—In the four weeks ended December 24th an average number of 16,431 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with an average of 15,731 per day in the preceding five weeks and 16,175 in December, 1897. (For further details see page 16).

**Agricultural labourers** were generally well employed during the month of December, though in certain districts a few extra hands, not attached to the staff of a farm, lost a little time owing to wet weather. Owing to the absence of snow and frost the month was generally favourable for outdoor employment. (For further details, see page 14).

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty-nine fresh disputes occurred in December, 1898, involving 6,319 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for November was 44, involving 8,457 workpeople, and for December, 1897, 24 disputes, involving 1,858 workpeople. Three disputes took place in the building trades, 4 in mining and quarrying, 2 in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 7 in other metal trades, 8 in textile trades, 2 in clothing trades, and 3 in other industries. Of the 30 new and old disputes, involving 6,540 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 9, involving 1,061 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 10, involving 2,191 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 11, involving 3,288 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details, see page 28.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in the rates of wages of about 20,900 workpeople were reported during December, of which number 19,500 received advances averaging 1s. 5d. per head, and 1,400 sustained decreases averaging 10d. per head. The net result was an increase estimated at about 1s. 3d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases were principally in the iron and steel trade (8,686). Changes affecting about 1,550 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 8,700 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales. The other changes, affecting about 10,650 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople. (For further details see page 26).

**Pauperism.**—In 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom 335,867 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of December. This number corresponds to a rate of 212 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, or 4 per 10,000 less than a year ago. (For further details see page 30.)

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom during December for places out of Europe was 5,999, as compared with 5,958 in December, 1897. (For further details see page 27).

## TRADE DISPUTES OF 1898.

### PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

The following summary of the statistics of trade disputes in 1898 is based on the particulars published in the twelve monthly tables, the last of which appears on p. 28 of this number of the *LABOUR GAZETTE*. The figures are preliminary only, and are subject to some slight revision in the Annual Report, in which they will also be more fully analysed.

During the past year, 674 new trade disputes were recorded affecting 246,540 workpeople. The aggregate duration of all disputes in 1898 was 14,564,000 working days, compared with 10,345,523 in 1897, the number of workpeople affected in that year being 230,267. The distribution of the disputes of 1898 by groups of industries is shown in the following table:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Disputes in 1898.	Number of Workpeople Affected by Disputes in 1898.	Aggregate Duration of all Disputes in 1898.*
Mining and Quarrying...	129	174,294	12,156,217
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	146	21,715	1,375,691
Building ...	179	16,029	414,508
Textile ...	96	23,916	271,531
Clothing ...	43	3,208	64,327
Transport...	20	3,211	41,893
Miscellaneous ...	61	4,167	239,843
Total ...	674	246,540	14,564,000*

The beginning of 1898 was affected by the engineering dispute, which lasted from July, 1897, to January, 28th, 1898. February and March were comparatively free from trade disputes, but early in April began the great dispute of the year, namely, the strike of 100,000 miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire. This dispute lasted until the beginning of September, the aggregate duration in working days being 10,900,000, or about three times as many as that of all the other 673 disputes put together. Among the remaining disputes, the only two affecting any large number of workpeople were strikes involving 24,000 miners in Scotland and 6,100 cotton operatives in Derbyshire; but as they did not last more than three days in each case their effect on the aggregate duration of the disputes of the year was inconsiderable. Of the other 671 disputes, no fewer than 434 affected less than 100 workpeople each. Thus, it will be seen that the great majority of trade disputes in 1898 were, as usual, very small. The number of individuals involved in disputes in the course of the year was less than 5 per cent. of the total number employed in the trades affected, but in the case of miners the percentage was nearly 21. In the building, metal and textile groups of trades the proportion was about 2 per cent., and in the clothing, woodworking, glass, pottery and chemical trades, only about  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

In the following table, comparing 1898 with the five previous years, the principal disputes are shown separately:—

Year.	Principal Disputes.		Other Disputes.		Total—All Disputes.	
	No. of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate duration in working days.	No. of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate duration in working days.	No. of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate duration in working days.
1893	300,000	23,700,000	246,386	5,165,062	636,386	31,205,062
1894	90,000	2,340,000	254,245	3,722,096	344,245	9,322,096
1895	70,000	5,600,000	217,758	3,978,652	287,758	5,542,652
1896	46,000	1,564,000	198,687	3,748,525	244,687	3,748,525
1897	47,500	5,731,000†	182,767	4,614,523	230,267	10,345,523
1898	100,000	10,900,000	146,540	3,661,000	246,540	14,564,000

From this table it appears that in 1898 there occurred the second most important dispute of the whole period, measured by the aggregate duration in working days, the best test of magnitude. Apart from this great

\* Including that portion of the duration of disputes begun in 1897 which fell into 1898. The number of days thus included is 1,443,976, mainly in connection with the great engineering dispute.

† Aggregate duration in 1897 only.

dispute, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration of disputes, in 1898, were lower than in any of the other years.

In 1898, sixty-four per cent. of the disputes, representing nearly 87 per cent. of all the workpeople affected, were about wages questions. Less than 3 per cent. of the disputes were about hours of labour, and these involved only 1 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected. The remaining disputes concerned working arrangements and other matters, the figures for all the principal causes being as follows:—

Principal causes.	Disputes.		Workpeople affected.	
	Number.	Per cent. of total.	Number.	Per cent. of total.
Wages ...	431	64.0	215,555	86.6
Hours of labour ...	19	2.8	2,649	1.1
Working arrangements ...	82	12.2	12,438	5.0
Other causes ...	142	21.0	17,898	7.3
Total ...	674	100.0	246,540	100.0

The percentage (86.6) of workpeople affected by wages disputes in 1898 compares with 46.2 in 1897, 58.3 in 1896, 54.3 in 1895, 72.4 in 1894, and 89.2 in 1893. In the years 1893-4 the wages of large bodies of coal miners were in dispute.

About equal proportions of disputes were settled in favour of the workpeople, in favour of the employers, and compromised. If, however, the percentages are based on the numbers of workpeople involved, and not of the disputes, the balance of advantage appears to have rested with the employers, mainly owing to the result of the Welsh miners' dispute. The following table gives the results of all disputes since 1894, according to both methods:—

Result of disputes.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
PERCENTAGES BASED ON NUMBER OF DISPUTES.					
In favour of workpeople ...	35.0	34.6	40.9	38.3	30.6
In favour of employers ...	36.7	39.2	34.1	35.5	30.9
Compromised ...	23.0	23.5	24.5	24.9	30.9
Indefinite or unsettled ...	5.3	2.7	0.5	1.3	7.6
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
PERCENTAGES BASED ON NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY INVOLVED.					
In favour of workpeople ...	22.1	24.1	39.5	21.6	24.4
In favour of employers ...	42.1	27.9	3.34	44.5	56.5
Compromised ...	34.2	47.1	26.9	32.7	15.8
Indefinite or unsettled ...	1.6	0.9	0.2	1.2	3.3
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Of the total number affected in 1898 nearly 20 per cent. were thrown out of work owing to the disputes, but were not directly concerned in the causes or results of them. For instance, large numbers of miners were thrown out of work in Yorkshire and elsewhere by strikes of pit boys. In the textile disputes the total numbers indirectly affected actually exceeded the numbers directly concerned.

Of those engaged in disputes, Wales and Monmouthshire account for 115,000; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 41,000; other northern English counties, 16,000; midland and eastern counties, 25,000; while all the southern and western counties, including London, contributed only 2,800 to the total. Scotland had over 40,500 affected by disputes; Ireland, 6,000, and the Isle of Man, 200.

### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES.

DURING the period December 12th to January 12th one additional scheme has been approved by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, the total number of approved schemes being now 56. The title of the new scheme is "The Stoke Prior Salt Works Accident Society," and the scheme affects 363 workpeople engaged in salt-making at works situated at Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove.



## CHANGES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1898.

### PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

THE following summary of changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in 1898 is based on the twelve monthly tables published in the LABOUR GAZETTE, the last of which appears on p. 26 of this issue. It is found in practice that the preliminary figures based on these monthly tables, with such additional information as may have been received up to the end of the year, yield results sufficiently accurate for most purposes, not differing materially as a rule from the general totals of the finally revised figures, which are afterwards published in more detail in the Annual Reports on Changes in Wages and Hours.

### CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

The total number of changes reported to the Department in 1898, in all trades except agriculture, railway service and shipping was 1,150, the increases numbering 1,100, and the decreases 50 only. The workpeople affected by increases in wages numbered 978,000 and by decreases 12,000: the total of 990,000 being the largest number affected by changes in wages in any one year since these statistics were first collected in 1893. The net aggregate rise in the wages of the 990,000 persons affected in 1898, was £78,000 per week or an average of 1s. 6½d per head. This is the largest recorded average increase in weekly rates of wages in a year, but if spread over the total number employed in the trades covered by the returns the weekly average rise would not be much more than 2d. per head. The figures for 1893-8 are brought together in the following table:—

Year.	Total number of individuals affected by changes in rates of wages.	Net result on weekly wages of those affected by changes.	
		Total amount.	Average per head.
1893	549,977	+ 12,426	s. d. + 0 5½
1894	670,886	- 45,091	- 1 4½
1895	436,718	- 28,211	- 1 3½
1896	607,654	+ 26,592	+ 0 10½
1897	597,444	+ 31,507	+ 1 0½
1898	990,000	+ 78,000	+ 1 6½

These figures are exclusive of seamen, agricultural labourers and railway servants, the particulars with regard to whom are not computed in quite the same way, and are not yet complete. So far, however, as the available information goes, the returns indicate an upward movement in wages corresponding in the main with the above results.

On analysing by groups of trades the total for 1898 in the above table, it becomes evident that coal mining is the industry that has been most affected by changes in wages during the year.

Group of Trades.	Individuals affected by changes in rates of wages.	Approximate percentage of whole number employed.	Net results on weekly wages of those affected by changes.	
			Total Amount.	Average per head.*
Coal Mining ...	653,000	96	+ 55,840	+ 1 8½
Other Mining & Quarrying ...	12,000	8	+ 910	+ 1 6
Metal, Engineering & Shipbuilding ...	204,000	18	+ 11,475	+ 1 1½
Building Trades ...	72,000	9	+ 7,100	+ 1 17½
Textile ...	9,000	0·7	- 199	- 0 5½
Clothing ...	2,500	0·4	+ 55	+ 0 5½
Other Trades ...	37,500	—	+ 2,810	+ 1 6
Total ...	990,000	—	+ 78,000	+ 1 6½

The preponderance of the coal mining changes, whether measured by the absolute number affected or the proportion that such number bears to the total workpeople in

\* These averages do not, of course, apply to the total number of workpeople employed in the several groups of trades, but only to those who were affected by increases or decreases in rates of wages.

the industry, is very marked. The aggregate rise in the computed weekly wages in this industry alone is £55,840, or 72 per cent. of the total for all trades. Owing to the fact that the comparison of changes in wages is between the end of 1897 and the end of 1898, this amount is exclusive of the purely temporary increases in wages at the non-associated Welsh collieries, which continued at work during the time that the dispute was in progress, viz., from 1st April to the beginning of September. The miners at these non-associated pits at the close of the dispute lost the advances gained during the dispute, less the advance obtained by all Welsh miners under the terms of settlement. The coal mining changes in 1898 occurred generally in two instalments, one about May and the other about October, as will be seen from the next table showing the percentage that wages were above standard at the beginning and end of 1898, with the dates of the increases during the year.

Principal Coal Districts.	Number of Miners affected.	Percentage of Wages above Standard* at		
		Beginning of 1898.	End of 1898.	Date of Increases.
Northumberland (Underground Workers)	30,000	6½	18½	April and Sept.
Durham (Surface Workers)	100,000	5	15	May and Oct.
Federated Districts (Yorks, Lancs and Midlands)	285,000	14½	22	Nov. and Oct.
South Wales and Monmouth ...	120,000	11½	20	Feb. and Sept.
West Scotland ...	50,000	12½	50	April and Aug.
Fife and Clackmannan ...	10,000	12½	42½	May and Sept.

Scotland, it will be observed, shows a very marked advance, the aggregate rise in the wages of Scottish miners being estimated at over £25,000 per week.

While, however, the rise in miners' wages is the dominating feature of the year, it is also noticeable that wages in the metal and engineering group continued the advance which has been going on in various branches of these trades since the beginning of 1896. The wages of the building trade operatives have also continued to advance as has been the case for some years past. The changes in the other groups of trades were not important.

Apart from the South Wales miners, it is noteworthy that the changes of wages which were preceded by disputes involving stoppage of work only affected 50,000 men out of the 990,000 workpeople whose wages were changed during the year. About 161,000 workpeople had their wages changed by the automatic operation of 14 sliding scales, and changes affecting 45,000 persons were arranged by thirteen Wages and Conciliation Boards.

The following table brings out the rise in the prices of coal and iron in certain districts in 1898. In these industries changes of selling price largely govern changes of wages.

Product and District.	Months over which the prices were ascertained.	Average ascertained selling price in		Increase.
		1898.	1897.	
<b>Coal.</b>		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	Sept., Oct., Nov.	6 6½	5 4½	1 2½
South Wales and Monmouth:— (Average for certain classes of coal, f.o.b.)	Sept., Oct.	10 17½	9 17½	about 1 0
<b>Pig Iron.</b>				
Cumberland ...	Oct., Nov., Dec.	56 7½	48 0 8½	8 6½
Cleveland ...	Oct., Nov., Dec.	42 5½	40 9½	1 7½
<b>Manufactured Iron.</b>				
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	Sept., Oct.	106 5½	102 5½	4 0½
Midlands:— (Bars, hoops, sheets, plates and strips)	Sept., Oct.	121 10½	120 9½	1 1½

\* The year taken as the standard varies in different districts.

### CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

No important changes in the hours of labour of workpeople took place in 1898. What changes did occur were mostly in the building trades, in which the recognised hours per week were reduced in the case of 19,306 operatives by about 1½ hours per head on the average. In the engineering and other metal trades 5,286 workpeople obtained an average reduction of 2½ hours per week. In Scotland 2,544 boot and shoe operatives obtained a reduction of two hours per week—1,144 from 53 to 51 hours, and 1,400 from 56 to 54 hours.

The group of trades engaged in the manufacture of food and drink had two reductions to the 8 hours day, one of which involved a weekly reduction of 6 hours per head for 1,407 brewery workers. The other changes in 1898 do not call for any special remark. The following table enables a comparison to be made between 1898 and the five preceding years, as regards changes in hours of labour:—

Years.	Number of workpeople affected by changes in hours of labour.	Net average reduction per week in hours of those affected by changes.	
		Hours.	Hours.
1893 ...	34,649	1·99	68,937
1894 ...	77,153	4·04	311,545
1895 ...	22,735	1·94	44,105
1896 ...	108,271	0·73	78,533
1897 ...	70,632	4·03	284,675
1898 ...	36,000	2·17	78,000

### NEW INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED IN 1898.

THE following table, based upon monthly returns supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, shows the number of each of the various classes of industrial organisations registered during the year 1898, in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, together with the totals for the United Kingdom, and the corresponding totals for the year 1897.

The total number of organisations registered was 936, as compared with 753 in 1897, an increase of 183. This increase is partly due to the rapid growth of the co-operative movement in Ireland, where 108 societies were registered, as compared with 52 in 1897, and partly to an increase in the number of friendly societies and branches in England and Wales, where 241 new societies were registered, compared with 196 in 1897, and 303 new branches, compared with 254 in 1897.

A decrease of 10 is shown in the number of registrations under the Trade Union Act, and an increase of 14 in registrations under the Building Societies Act.

TABLE showing the number and nature of New Industrial Organisations registered in 1898 in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, together with the totals for the United Kingdom, and the corresponding totals for the year 1897.

Description of organisation.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	Total Number registered in United Kingdom in 1898.	Corresponding Totals for 1897.
<b>Trade Societies:—</b>					
Trade Unions ...	33	5	6	44	51
" Federations ...	—	—	—	—	1
Employers' Associations ...	1	—	—	1	3
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Industrial and Provident Societies:—</b>					
For Distribution ...	29	1	14	44	34
" Production ...	16	1	91	108	64
" Miscellaneous Purposes ...	26	—	3	29	27
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Friendly Societies:—</b>					
Ordinary Friendly ...	75	3	6	84	65
Working Men's Clubs ...	53	—	—	53	56
Dividing ...	51	—	—	51	54
Specially authorised ...	27	—	39	66	23
Juvenile ...	12	—	1	13	7
Female ...	8	—	—	8	4
Medical ...	4	—	—	4	3
Collecting ...	4	1	—	5	2
Benevolent ...	3	1	—	4	1
New Orders ...	4	—	—	4	6
New Branches of existing Societies ...	303	68	14	385	334
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>554</b>
<b>Building Societies ...</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total Industrial Organisations registered</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>753</b>

### TRADE UNIONS IN 1897.\*

A REPORT just issued by the Department brings the information with regard to trade unions, and the various kindred organisations which have grown out of them, up to the end of 1897. The statistical tables extend over 265 pages, and are presented in detailed and summary form.

The first detailed table gives the membership of each Trade Union at the end of each of the years 1892-7, and is supplemented by one in which males are distinguished from females in the years 1896-7. The accounts of 100 of the principal unions are given in detail for 1897, and in a more condensed form for 1892-7. The average amount of the contributions per member, and the cost of the principal benefits per member are shown for each of the 100 principal societies for each of the years 1892-7. All these figures are arranged under groups of trades, and are summarised in short tables, special attention being devoted to the amount of superannuation and the numbers of members superannuated. A summary of the rules of the principal societies with regard to superannuation is also given as an appendix.

The statistics of Trades Councils, Federations of Trade Unions, and Federations of Trades Councils are similarly dealt with.

The statistics are preceded by two reports, one analysing the figures in considerable detail, and the other giving a general review of the totals only. From this general report it appears that during 1897 the number of trade unions decreased by 21, partly owing to amalgamations, and now stands at 1,287. The membership of trade unions, however, increased from 1,491,007 to 1,609,909, or nearly 8 per cent., between the beginning and end of 1897. The total increase in the whole period covered by the report (1892-7) is 109,458, or 7·3 per cent., a net result which is made up of an increase of 17·2 per cent. in the membership of the 100 principal unions, and a decrease of 7·7 per cent. in the membership of the remaining unions. Of the total number of unions, 567 are registered under the Trade Union Act, and 720 unregistered, the former including 1,189,610, or 74 per cent., and the latter 420,299, or 26 per cent. of the total membership.

Of the 1,609,909 members of trade unions at the end of 1897, 1,490,134, or 93 per cent., were males, and 119,775, or 7 per cent., were females. The latter mainly belong to the cotton trade, the textile group of industries including, altogether, 91 per cent. of the whole number of female trade unionists. Comparing the above figures with the estimated numbers of workpeople employed in the trades in which trade unions exist, it is found that, subject to certain qualifications which are dealt with in the detailed report, it may be concluded that about 21 per cent. of male adults, and about 12 per cent. of female adults employed in factories and workshops, are members of trade unions. The mean age of all existing unions is stated to be about 20 years. The larger societies appear to be the oldest, the mean age of the 100 principal unions being 35, and of the remaining 1,187 smaller unions about 19 years only.

About 693,000 members of trade unions, or 43 per cent. of the total membership at the end of 1897, are represented on Trades Councils. These organisations are formed of local unions and branches of unions. They now number 151, and are mainly found in the large towns and the great industrial centres, where a considerable proportion of the total have sprung up during the last 20 years. The members of trade unions, to the number of 781,719, or 48 per cent. of the total, are also represented on Federations of trade unions, of which there are now 124—nearly all formed since 1888. There are also five federations formed of several trades councils.

\* Report on Trade Unions in 1897, with comparative statistics for 1892-6. C.—9013 Price 1s. 4½d.



The following table compares the position of the 100 principal unions in 1897 with the five previous years:—

Year.	Income.	Expenditure.	Funds at end of Year.	Membership at end of Year.
1892	£ 1,455,885	£ 1,418,311	£ 1,618,750	No. 903,981
1893	1,614,379	1,848,159	1,385,010	910,119
1894	1,629,550	1,433,867	1,580,693	924,584
1895	1,557,667	1,360,717	1,747,643	914,766
1896	1,673,571	1,233,494	2,187,720	961,026
1897	1,981,971	1,896,072	2,273,619	1,059,609
Percentage increase of 1897 over 1892	+ 18.4	+ 53.7	+ 3.9	+ 10.3
Percentage increase of 1897 over 1892	+ 36.1	+ 33.7	+ 40.5	+ 17.2

All the figures for 1897 indicate expansion, but the expenditure and balance of funds also show the influence of the engineering dispute. The year 1893 was similarly affected by the great coal dispute. While, however, expenditure on trade disputes is common to all trade unions in one year or another, most of the older unions also make some provision against want of employment, sickness, accident, old age, and the funeral expenses of the members, their wives, and, in some cases, their children; and it appears, from the following summary, that of the nine and a quarter million pounds spent during the last six years by the hundred principal unions, very little more than two million pounds were expended on dispute pay, while nearly five and a half million pounds were paid on unemployed and other friendly benefits:—

Expenditure in 1892-7 on:	Amount.	Per cent. of Total.
Dispute pay ... ..	£ 2,171,271*	23½
Unemployed and other benefits ...	5,466,903	59½
Working expenses ... ..	1,582,446	17
	£9,220,620	100

The income on which this expenditure is based is mainly derived from the contributions of the members, which vary a good deal in the different societies according to the benefits paid. In 44 of the hundred societies with 412,585 members, the average contribution per member during 1897 was less than £1; in 35 societies with 366,902 members it was £1 and under £2; and in the remaining 21 societies with 280,122 members it was £2 and upwards. The mean annual amount contributed per member during the six years 1892-97 was 31s. 6½d.

There was a considerable variation in the amount of funds held by the 100 principal unions at the end of 1897. Thirty-four societies with a membership of 246,178 had balances ranging from 1s. 4d. to £1 per member, and 19 societies with 166,722 members had balances ranging from £3 to over £13. But the great bulk of the members (646,709, or over 60 per cent. of the total) belonged to 47 societies in which the average balance was from £1 to £3. The average balance in hand per member of all the 100 societies at the end of 1897 was £2 2s. 11d.

#### RAILWAY SAVINGS BANKS.

RETURNS for the year 1897 from the 16 registered Railway Savings Banks (12 in England and Wales, and 4 in Scotland) are included in the annual report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1897.†

These show that there were 40,397 depositors (34,943 in England and Wales, and 5,454 in Scotland), compared with 37,087 (31,948 in England and Wales, and 5,139 in Scotland) in 1896. The amount of deposits during the year, including interest credited, was £783,877 (£615,492 in England and Wales, and £168,385 in Scotland), compared with £753,773 (£568,952 in England and Wales, and £184,821 in Scotland) in 1896. The amount of withdrawals in 1897 was £476,859 (£335,827 in England and Wales, and £141,032 in Scotland), as compared with £474,917 (£373,515 in England and Wales, and £101,402 in Scotland) in 1896.

\* Estimated to the extent of £300,000, i.e., the approximate amount paid on account of disputes under the head of "unemployed benefit." A corresponding amount has been deducted from unemployed benefit.

† Report of Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, Part A., P.P. 150 of 1898 rice 10d.

The total amount due to depositors by the sixteen banks was £3,431,087 (£2,694,207 in England and Wales and £736,880 in Scotland) an average of nearly £85. Taking the twelve banks in England and Wales separately the average was £77 2s. (as compared with £135 in the four banks in Scotland). The returns for England and Wales show that 186,659 separate deposits of an average amount of £2 16s. were made during 1897 and 22,532 withdrawals of an average of nearly £15. With regard to Scotland, the returns of three banks which give this information, show a total of 17,738 separate deposits in 1897, of an average amount of £6 3s. and 3,359 withdrawals of an average amount of £33.

#### MINERS' PROVIDENT FUNDS IN AUSTRIA.

THE compulsory insurance of miners in Austria is provided for by means of the special provident funds (Bruderladen), the nature of which is described in the GAZETTE for February, 1898 (pp. 39, 40). These funds are maintained by equal contributions from employers and employed, except that in the case of the workpeople employed in the State mines, the entire cost of insurance against sickness is borne by the State.

The following particulars showing the operations of the societies in 1895 are based upon the official statistics for that year, published on November 1st, 1898.\*

##### Sick Funds.

Of 209 sick funds, with an aggregate mean membership of 144,841, whose returns were utilised for the 1895 statistics, eight, with a mean membership of 7,856 (7,729 males and 127 females) were connected with State mines; while 136,985 persons (129,406 males and 7,579 females) were insured in 201 private sick funds. The total expenditure for sick and funeral benefit in the private sick funds was £116,729 in 1895, their cost of administration was £10,911, and their other expenses £3,200, making a total expenditure of £130,840. The total receipts amounted to £141,177, of which £133,411 consisted of current contributions from employers and workpeople (£72,646 paid by the latter, and £60,765 by the former). On an average, each member received for himself, or his representatives, benefits during the year amounting to 17s. in return for contributions amounting to 10s. 7d.

There were in 1895 (in all sick funds, State, as well as private) 123,364 cases of sickness (excluding confinements), involving, in the aggregate, 1,607,417 days of sickness. There were 171 confinements, entailing 5,162 days of sickness. The average number of days of sickness per member during the year was 11.23 for men, and 8.72 for women (or, if confinements be counted, 9.39). The average cost of a day of sickness was 1s. 5d., and of a case of sickness 18s. 11d.

##### Pension Funds.

Excluding societies with no members now actively employed, the Report shows that 217 societies, providing pensions in case of permanent incapacity, whose returns relating to the year 1895 could be utilised, had a mean membership of 136,182, of whom 125,320 were entitled to full, and 10,862 to partial, benefit, the latter being insured against accident only, and the former against sickness or old age as well as accident. The total contributions paid in 1895 by full benefit members amounted to £147,084, and those paid by partial benefit members to £3,884, corresponding roughly to weekly payments per active member of 5½d. and 1½d. respectively. The employers' contributions to the pension branch for both benefits amounted to £153,414, or about 5½d. per active member (of either class) per week. The mean number of persons drawing pensions from 242 funds in 1895 was 36,716, and the total sum expended on pensions £174,226. Of these 36,716 pensioners, 12,654 were ex-miners, and received pensions of an average yearly value of £8 12s. 9d.; 14,578 were widows, receiving on an average £3 12s.; and 9,484 were orphans, receiving on an average £1 6s. 2d.

\* Supplement to No. 4 of Jahrgang 9 of Amtliche Nachrichten betreffend die Bergwerksbruderladen.

#### FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1898.

PRELIMINARY figures have been received from the Home Office showing that the number of deaths reported from accidents in and about the mines and quarries of the United Kingdom in 1898 was 1,066, of which 900 occurred in or about coal mines, 33 in or about metalliferous mines, and 133 in or about quarries. The deaths at both coal and metalliferous mines, so far as at present recorded, were fewer in number in 1898 than in any of the previous twenty-five years.

The following table groups the accidents by causes, and gives, for mines and quarries separately, the number of deaths in each of the last three years, the average for the five preceding years being also added in the case of mines:—

	1898.	1897.	1896.	Average of 1891-95.
MINES.				
Underground:—				
Explosions of fire damp or coal dust	27	19	173	141
Falls of ground ... ..	447	490	439	458
Accidents in shafts ... ..	65	59	79	111
Other accidents underground	260	307	244	270
Surface ... ..	134	104	130	123
Total Mines ... ..	933	979	1,065	1,103
QUARRIES.				
Inside Quarries ... ..	99	93	90	...
Outside Quarries ... ..	34	30	34	...
Total Quarries ... ..	133	123	124	...
Total Mines and Quarries ... ..	1,066	1,102	1,189	...

The total number employed in 1898 is not yet published. In 1897, 728,713 persons were employed at mines, and 123,370 at quarries under the Quarries Act.

#### AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1898.

THE wages of farm servants in Scotland have been subject to but little variation for several years, and at the hirings which took place between August and December of last year the wages, generally speaking, remained, about the same as those paid at the corresponding period in 1897. It is said that farm work is generally well forward, and that in consequence the demand for labour was slightly lessened in some districts.

Information has been received by the Department as to the rates of wages agreed upon at 43 hiring fairs in the counties of Aberdeen, Ayr, Argyll, Banff, Berwick, Clackmannan, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Kincardine, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, Nairn, Perth, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Stirling, and Wigtown.

Reports state that in certain districts, notably in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine, farm servants changing their places had to accept a slight reduction of from 10s. to 20s. for the half year. On the other hand, small advances for ploughmen are reported in a few cases, mainly in Fifeshire, where the wages occasionally increased by 30s. for the twelve months. In most districts lads and women servants are said to have been scarce, and there was an upward movement in their wages. At Aberdeen advances of from 10s. to 30s. for the half-year in the case of lads' wages, are reported.

The wages of first and second horsemen at the yearly hirings in the counties of Fife and Kinross were from £26 to £33, and of third horsemen from £24 to £29. The wages of first and second horsemen were generally about £12 to £16 in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Dumfries, Elgin, Forfar, Kincardine, Lanark, Nairn, and Stirling.

In Scotland the system of hiring farm servants, both men and women, at fairs is almost universal, though the practice of entering into engagements privately is said to be on the increase every year, especially in the case of married men. The greater number of hirings take place in May and June, and in November and December, though others are held in certain districts a

other periods of the year. Speaking generally, married men are engaged yearly at fairs, though to some extent privately. In addition to their wages they usually get free cottages and allowances of oatmeal, milk, potatoes, and perhaps coals, or coals carted free. Unmarried men are usually hired half yearly, and lodge and board in the farm houses or with married farm servants in cottages, or live in bothies. But in several counties, notably the Border Counties, the Lothians, Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan, they are hired by the year.

In the counties of Berwick, Roxburgh, Haddington, Edinburgh, and Linlithgow, married ploughmen are hired by the year in the spring, and frequently their sons and daughters are included in their engagements. Farmers usually giving preference to a man who can supply women workers for field work. Cottages are provided on the farms for the men and their families, as in Northumberland. In some cases in the Lothians and Border Counties, single men are lodged and boarded in the farm houses, and such men are hired half yearly.

#### CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN NEW ZEALAND, 1897-98.

THE New Zealand Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1894, and the amending Acts of 1895, 1896, and 1898, provide for the creation of District Boards of Conciliation, consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers and employed, and of a Chairman elected by the Board (or in certain cases of Special Boards with similar powers), to which all disputes between workmen's associations and employers or associations of employers may be referred by either party. The recommendation of any of these Boards, if unsatisfactory to either party, is reviewed by the Court of Arbitration for the Colony, which consists of two members representing employers and employed respectively, and a Judge of the Supreme Court. The decision of this Court is enforceable by legal process, a maximum penalty of £500 being recoverable from an association or individual in his personal capacity; if the property of an association is insufficient to pay the penalty, its members are liable, up to £10 each, to make good the deficiency. When a dispute has been referred to a Board or the Court, it is made illegal for any party to the proceedings to strike or lock-out on account of such dispute until a final decision shall have been come to by the Board or Court.

The following figures with respect to the operations of the Act during the year ended March 31st, 1898, are derived from an analysis of the cases published in the Seventh Annual Report of the New Zealand Department of Labour.

During the year Boards in 8 districts had before them 20 cases, of which 6 affected the clothing trades, 4 the building trades, 3 the mining trades, 3 the baking and confectionery trades, 2 the furniture trades, 1 the engineering trades, and 1 affected seamen. In the case of 7 of these disputes (mostly heard in the latter portion of the year) the recommendation of the Conciliation Boards had not up to the end of the year been appealed against. (From information subsequently received it appears that 3 of these cases have been referred to the Court of Arbitration, and awards issued before the end of October, 1898.) Of the remaining 13 cases, 11 were dealt with by the Court of Arbitration during the year, and 2 stood over for hearing, the men having refused to accept the recommendation of the Conciliation Board in 5 cases, and the employers as a whole in 2 cases, whilst in 3 cases individual employers had not, for various reasons, accepted the recommendations of the Boards. In two cases both parties refused to accept the recommendations of the Board, and in the remaining case they agreed between themselves that it would be impossible for the Board to make a recommendation acceptable to both sides, and accordingly at their request the dispute was referred to the Arbitration Court.

The above figures do not include an appeal, heard by the Arbitration Court during the year, from a decision of a Conciliation Board of the previous year.



## ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS.

## QUINQUENNIAL VALUATIONS 1889-96.

THE annual report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1897\* contains a summary of the latest valuation returns made by the Ancient Order of Foresters. The valuations dealt with (3,973, made by courts with an aggregate membership of 649,476) were made for periods ending in 1889-96, 2,111 (53 per cent.) being made for the five years ended December 31st, 1894.

Of the 3,973 courts, 3,038, or nearly 76½ per cent. (as compared with 83 per cent. of the 3,245 courts which made returns for 1882-86), show estimated deficiencies amounting in the aggregate to £2,788,157, or 19 per cent. upon the estimated liabilities (compared with 21 per cent. at the previous valuation for 1882-86). The assets and liabilities of two courts exactly balanced; and the remaining 933, or 23½ per cent. (compared with 17 per cent. for 1882-86) show an estimated surplus amounting to £325,551, or 9½ per cent., upon the estimated liabilities (compared with 6½ per cent. for 1882-86). Of the total estimated surplus of £325,551, £263,306 (89 per cent. on liabilities) was in respect of courts in England £10,616 (7½ per cent. on liabilities) in respect of courts in Wales, £30,034 (11½ per cent. on liabilities) in respect of courts in Scotland, and £21,595 (8 per cent. on liabilities) in respect of courts out of district; while of the total estimated deficiency of £2,788,157, £2,245,959 (87 per cent. on liabilities) was attributable to English, £151,884 (29½ per cent. on liabilities), to Welsh, £132,698 (17½ per cent. on liabilities) to Scottish, and £8,418 (30½ per cent. on liabilities) to Irish courts, and £249,198 (21½ per cent. on liabilities) to courts out of district.

In 2,767 courts the valuation is based upon the assumption that the funds will in future realise 3 per cent. compound interest; in 721 courts the basis is 3½ per cent., and in 469 courts 4 per cent.

## RECENT CONCILIATION PROCEEDINGS AND AGREEMENTS.

## Coal Conciliation Board for the Federated Districts.

A JOINT conference between the representatives of the coalowners and miners in the Federation area was held on December 15th, when the secretaries, president, and vice-president of the new Board were appointed. It was unanimously resolved to invite Lord James of Hereford to accept the position of chairman of the Board. On December 16th Lord James signified his acceptance of the appointment. The Board came into operation on January 1st.

## Rules for Working Linotype Machines on 'Stab'†

On December 13th a conference was held at Manchester between representatives of the Linotype Users' Association of Great Britain and Ireland and the Typographical Association. The following rules for working linotype machines on 'stab' were agreed upon and signed, to apply to the area covered by the Typographical Association, except Ireland:—

1. The rate of wages shall be arranged to give operators on the linotype machine an advance of, as nearly as may be, 12½ per cent. on the existing case rates payable in the various towns.
2. The hours for linotype operators shall be in future 48 hours for day, and 44 hours for night work. Operators may be required to work the hours in force in their respective offices for case hands, at ordinary machine rates, without charges for overtime.
3. All skilled operators shall be members of the T.A., and, on the introduction of composing machines into any office, preference shall, as far as possible, be given to the members of the companionship into which they are introduced.
4. Members of the T.A. learning to become machine operators shall work for a period of not more than three months at the ordinary 'stab (case) wages of the town.
5. That duly recognised apprentices who have served three years of their apprenticeship shall be allowed to work on the machines, but such apprentices to be reckoned in the number allowed by rule to each office.
6. Apprentices shall not permanently occupy machines beyond the proportion of one machine to each three in the office; but where there are less than three machines, or in case of an irregular number of machines, the time in which apprentices may be employed on them shall not be more than one-third of the time the machines are worked.

\* P.P. 150 of 1898. Price 10½d.

† Establishment, or weekly wage.

## STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN DENMARK IN 1897.

OFFICIAL statistics of strikes and lock-outs in Denmark have now appeared for the first time, and are given in the Yearbook of the Government Statistical Bureau for 1898,\* which has just been published.

The figures have reference to the disputes which arose in 1897. The total number of these disputes was 106, of which 60 (for which information was obtainable) affected 6,813 workpeople, of whom 3,562 were actual participants, and 3,251 were involved indirectly. The approximate aggregate number of working days lost in the 60 disputes was 236,000. (This includes the duration of disputes which extended into 1898). Of these 236,000 working days, some 133,400 (more than half) are accounted for by 6 disputes in the metal and engineering trades; 33,840, by 2 disputes in the tailoring trades, and 8,546 by 3 weavers' disputes.

Seven of the 60 disputes were settled by arbitration. Forty-six disputes, as to which accurate information could not be obtained, are stated to have been of slight importance. Five small disputes amongst agricultural workers, the duration of which is not stated, are excluded from the above totals.

## SUNDAY WORK OF SHOP ASSISTANTS IN BELGIUM.†

VOLUME IV. of the series of reports on Sunday labour published by the Belgian Labour Department contains, besides other matter, the results of an inquiry into the employment of assistants and others in large shops in Belgium on Sundays. The inquiry covered 444 establishments employing 4,929 persons. It was found that 230 of these establishments employed the whole, and 150 some part of, their staff every Sunday. Those persons employed every Sunday numbered 2,301, while 536 had a fixed number of Sundays in rotation free (among whom 350 worked every alternate Sunday, and 107 on one Sunday out of three). Of those employed regularly every Sunday, 387 worked 4 hours or less on that day; 409 worked over 4 up to 6 hours; 199 over 6 up to 8 hours; 244 over 8 up to 10 hours; 447 over 10 up to 12 hours; 582 over 12 hours; and 33 an indeterminate number of hours. Nearly two-thirds of all the shops kept open every Sunday were establishments selling articles of clothing or toilet requisites.

## HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

## Explosives in Coal Mines.

A NEW Order was issued from the Home Office on December 23rd, amending the Order of July 11th, 1898 (see GAZETTE for August, page 250), by revoking so much of that Order as relates to the explosive known as Oxalate Blasting Powder, and by adding to the schedule four permitted explosives—Argus Powder, Earthquake Powder, Elephant Brand Gunpowder, No. 2, and Oxalate Blasting Powder (new definition).

The Order came into force on January 1st, 1899. Copies may be obtained of Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, E.C.

## Dangerous Trades.

By an order‡ dated December 17th, 1898, the Home Secretary has declared that the process of glazing bricks with the use of lead is a process dangerous or injurious to health within the meaning of Section 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891. (Factories or workshops, in which such processes are carried on, are liable to be brought under the operation of special rules and measures).

## Maximum Humidity in Factories.

THE Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, enacted that the Cotton Cloth Factories Act, 1889, shall apply to textile factories with such modifications of the Schedule with respect to the maximum limits of humidity as the Secretary of State may direct. The Home Secretary has issued an Order§ dated December 24th, 1898, that this Schedule shall be modified so far as relates to factories in which the spinning of merino, cashmere or wool by the "French" or "dry" process is carried on. The maximum limits to be observed in such factories are set out in the Schedule annexed to the Order, which takes effect from January 1st, 1899.

\* Statistisk Aarbog, 2de Aargang, 1898. Published by the Danish Government Statistical Bureau, Copenhagen.

† Travail du Dimanche, Volume IV., Belgique. Office du Travail, Brussels, 1898. Société Belge de Librairie, Rue Treurenberg, 16. Price 3 francs (about 2½s).

‡ See LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1896, p. 242, and May, 1897, p. 133.

§ Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 1,094, price 3d. Eyre & Spottiswoode.

§ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1898, No. 1,114, price 3d. Eyre & Spottiswoode.

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

## (1) LORD CAMPBELL'S ACT.

**Negligence by a Dock Company.—Absence of Life-Saving Apparatus.**—This was a new trial of an action brought by the widow of a bargeman on her own behalf and also on behalf of her two children, under Lord Campbell's Act, to recover damages in respect of the loss of her husband, who lost his life in defendants' dock. At the first trial, the judge at the close of plaintiff's evidence, held that there was no evidence of negligence causing the death of the deceased, and directed judgment for the defendants. The plaintiff applied to the Court of Appeal for a new trial, and the Court allowed the application, holding that there was ample evidence of knowledge on the part of the defendants of the dangerous condition of the dock, and evidence to go to the jury of negligence causing the death of the deceased (see LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1898). The deceased, on the night of the accident, was navigating two laden barges fastened together in a dock. The deceased did not come home that night, and two days later his body was found in the dock. There was no evidence to show how he got into the water. At the time when the barges were brought into the dock there was a space of fourteen feet between the surface of the water and the top of the wall. The walls were nearly perpendicular, and slimy and greasy. There were four feet of water in the dock, and a considerable amount of mud at the bottom. There were no facilities, such as chains or ladders, at the dock walls for persons who fell into the water to get out again. Evidence was given to show that on previous occasions two other men and three children had been drowned in the dock, and that complaints had been made to the defendants as to the dangerous condition of the dock. There was evidence that the deceased could swim. At the second trial the judge left the following questions to the jury:—(1) Were the defendants guilty of negligence in the condition they kept the dock in; (2) Was the deceased's death caused by such negligence; (3) If the dock was dangerous, was it a reasonable risk for the deceased to run in attempting to get his barges up to the wharf. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, with £700 damages, £500 being for the widow, and £100 to each of the children. Upon this verdict it was argued by the defendants that the Dock Committee was not liable, inasmuch as they were not in a position to owe any duty to the deceased man; that they were not the owners or occupiers of the premises, nor was the deceased man on the premises at their invitation, but merely by permission. The judge entered judgment for the plaintiff, a stay of execution being granted on the damages being paid into Court.—*Queen's Bench Division, December 1st.*

## (2) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

**What is a Scaffolding, and what are Repairs?**—The plaintiff, the widow of a painter employed by a firm of painters, claimed compensation in respect of the death of her husband, who was killed in the course of his employment on account of a fall from a ladder, due to the breaking of a rung. At the time of the accident deceased was filling in cracks in woodwork and plaster to make a new surface, and was also painting. Evidence was called to show that planks were tied to the ladder and run on to a window-sill. This, it was contended for the plaintiff, was a scaffold. For the defence, it was argued that no scaffolding was being used, and that the building was not being "repaired" within the meaning of Section 7 of the Act. The arbitrator held that no scaffolding was being used, and that no repairs were being executed within the meaning of the Act, and found for the defendants, with costs. The arbitrator agreed to state a case.—*Leeds, December 2nd.*

**On or in or about a railway.**—The plaintiff was a drayman employed by a railway company, who claimed compensation for injuries received under the following circumstances:—It was the plaintiff's duty to collect goods within a distance not exceeding two miles from the station, and to take them to the station to be loaded up and carried by the defendants. At the time of the accident the plaintiff was at some business premises about a mile from the goods station, for the purpose of collecting goods. While he was carrying a package over a plank resting on his lorry and on the hoist from which he was receiving the goods, the plank twisted, and, to save himself, the plaintiff clutched at an iron railing which protected the hoist hole, and a spike penetrated his wrist, causing a severe injury. It was argued on behalf of the plaintiff that the accident arose out of and in the course of the plaintiff's employment about the business of the defendants. The judge held that the plaintiff was not employed "about" the railway at the time of the accident.—*Manchester County Court, December 5th.*

**Serious and Wilful Misconduct.**—A sinker claimed compensation from a firm of contractors for injuries received while working at a pit. Plaintiff was engaged at a pit belonging to a coal and salt company, and he and other men were connecting a new shaft with a shaft already in existence. During the few days prior to the accident, plaintiff came out of the tunnel on to a scaffold which was placed right across the shaft, and thence ascended to the surface by means of an iron tub or hopper. Bricklayers were at work bricking in the shaft, and the scaffolding was used by them to stand on. On the day of the accident the man in charge of the workmen engaged in the tunnel came to

the plaintiff about 5 p.m., and said he was going to remove part of the scaffolding. Plaintiff's case was, that this man did not say when he was going to move it, and that plaintiff thought he would move it at 6 o'clock, after the men had left the pit. About 6 o'clock plaintiff went towards the shaft, for the purpose of going up the pit, and stepped towards the scaffolding and fell a distance of 11 yards, to the bottom, and injured his back. For the defence, the man in charge stated that he told the workmen, including the plaintiff, that he was going to take part of the scaffolding away; that for this purpose he took two of the workmen to help him remove it, and that the noise they made in doing so must have been heard by the plaintiff. Several workmen corroborated the evidence of the man in charge. One of them told plaintiff to mind the hole, as it was dangerous, and that he might fall down, and another told him that the man in charge had ordered them not to leave the tunnel, but the plaintiff persisted in doing so. The judge held that the plaintiff had been guilty of serious and wilful misconduct, and found for the defendants, with costs.—*Leigh County Court, reported December 12th.*

**Arising out of and in the course of the Employment.**—This was an appeal from the decision of a County Court judge. (See LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1898.) The appellant was the owner and occupier of certain pottery works, being a factory within Section 7 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897. The respondent was a boy of 14 years of age employed by him as a clay ball worker, his duty being to make the clay into a ball, put the ball into a mould, and hand the mould to a woman at work at a machine. The woman's duty was to put the mould on to the machine, on which there were two cones revolving in opposite directions. The boy had had express orders given to him not to interfere with the machine, and if the machine wanted cleaning, it was the duty of a particular workman to clean it. Upon the day of the accident the woman, being in want of clay, went to get some, and the boy in her absence attempted to clean the cones, and in doing so he lost the little finger of his right hand and injured the third one. The County Court judge found that it was against the rules that the boy should clean the cones, that he attempted to do so knowing that it was not his duty, yet the injury was received by an accident arising out of his employment. The judge also found that the boy "knew it was against orders for him to clean the cones, and that he went about the cleaning in a careless and reckless manner; yet, that the plaintiff was attempting to clean the cones with the view of furthering the work, and that his conduct did not amount to serious and wilful misconduct." He assessed the compensation at 2s. a week from 14 days after the accident. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that the accident was not one arising out of and in the course of the employment.—*Court of Appeal, reported December 19th.*

**Arising out of and in the course of the Employment.—Death while attempting rescue of Fellow-Workman.**—The widow of a workman employed by a brick, tile and timber company sued for £300 as compensation for the loss of her husband, who had met with a fatal accident under the following circumstances:—The deceased was cleaning out an old shaft, belonging to the company, together with two other men, one of whom, while descending the shaft in order to ascertain the state of the air, fell out of the skip. The deceased, with the other man, then went down in the skip in order to save their mate; but when the skip was about 15 feet down, the choke damp was so overpowering that the skip had to be hauled up again. One of the two men in the skip arrived at the top safely though in an unconscious condition; but the deceased fell out to the bottom and was killed. The man, who first fell in, was rescued. For the defendants it was contended that the attempt made by the deceased to rescue his fellow-workmen, was not in the ordinary course of his employment. The judge, however, decided in favour of the plaintiff, holding that the fatal injuries did arise in the course of the employment of the deceased, because he acted in a reasonable belief that his employers would have wished him to do just what he did; for his action was not only for the benefit of the man at the bottom of the pit, but also for that of his employers, who would have sustained a considerable pecuniary loss if that man had lost his life.—*Nuneaton County Court, December 23rd.*

## (3) MISCELLANEOUS.

**Picketing.—Watching or besetting for purposes other than to obtain or communicate information.**—This was an appeal by the defendants against a decision granting a perpetual injunction restraining them from watching or besetting the premises of certain manufacturers for the purpose of persuading or otherwise preventing persons from working for the plaintiffs, or for any purpose except merely to obtain or communicate information, and from watching or besetting the premises of a maker, who made for the plaintiffs, for the purpose of persuading or otherwise preventing him from working for the plaintiffs. The judge also gave £5 damages in respect of a libel, but there was no appeal from that part of the judgment (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1898). The action arose out of a strike of the plaintiffs' workpeople in 1896 in connection with a dispute about wages and the dismissal of one of the defendants pending the settlement of the dispute. The trade union ordered a strike against the plaintiffs, who were leather-bag and portmanteau manufacturers, and had picketed both the plaintiffs' premises, and those of the maker. The defendants were five in number, one being the chairman, another being the secretary, and the others trustees of the society. An interlocutory injunction was granted in 1896, and the order was afterwards affirmed, with some modification in the terms of the injunction, by the Court of Appeal (see LABOUR GAZETTE,



April, 1896). Before the trial of the action, it had been decided by the House of Lords in the case of *Allen v. Flood*, that an act in itself lawful cannot be converted into an unlawful one, so far as the liability to a civil action is concerned, by a malicious motive. By reason of that decision the judge refused to restrain the defendants from maliciously inducing or conspiring to induce persons not to enter into contracts with the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs did not appeal from that part of the decision. It was admitted that there had been no physical violence or obstruction by the defendants. There had been only picketing and peaceful persuasion by the defendants of workpeople not to work for the plaintiffs, though very strong language had been used, to women in particular. By the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875 (38 and 39 Vict., c. 86), Section 7, "Every person who, with a view to compel any other person to abstain from doing or to do any act which such other person has a legal right to do or abstain from doing, wrongfully and without legal authority" (*inter alia*) "(4) watches or besets the house or other place where such other person resides, or works, or carries on business, or happens to be, or the approach to such house or place, shall, on conviction thereof by a Court of summary jurisdiction, or on indictment as hereinafter mentioned, be liable either to pay a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds, or to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labour. Attending at or near the house or place where a person resides, or works, or carries on business, or happens to be, or the approach to such house or place, in order merely to obtain or communicate information, shall not be deemed a watching or besetting within the meaning of this section."

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal with costs holding that such watching or besetting was illegal. The Master of the Rolls said, "The truth is that to watch or beset a man's house with a view to compel him to do or not to do what is lawful for him not to do or to do is wrongful and without lawful authority, unless some reasonable justification for it is consistent with the evidence. Such conduct seriously interferes with the ordinary comfort of human existence and ordinary enjoyment of the house beset, and such conduct would support an action on the case for a nuisance at common law. Proof that the nuisance was 'peaceably to persuade other people,' would afford no defence to such an action. Persons may be peaceably persuaded provided the method employed to persuade is not a nuisance to other people. . . . As regards the facts, the evidence was amply sufficient to prove the plaintiffs' case. The whole object of what was done was to compel the plaintiffs to comply with the defendants' terms, and although there was no violence or overt threat of violence, it is quite plain that the relays of men set to watch and beset the plaintiffs' house (and the house of the maker who worked for him) were sent to do, and that they did, a great deal more than 'attend' where they were 'in order merely to obtain or communicate information. It is all very well to talk about peaceable persuasion and to draw fine lines between persuading and giving information.' In this case there is no difficulty whatever in coming to the conclusion that what was done was watching and besetting as distinguished from attending 'in order merely to obtain or communicate information.' That the provisions of the Act were infringed appears to me to be plain and beyond all reasonable doubt."—*Court of Appeal, November 30th, December 1st, 20th.*

## 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 November and December last.) †

**Canada.**—A report from the mining town of Rossland, British Columbia, states that there is a good demand for miners at 3'50 dols. (14s. 6d.) a day, and a very good demand for female servants at 20 dols. to 30 dols. (about £4 to £6) a month, but that there is little or no demand for mechanics or general labourers.

**New South Wales.**—The dispute in the coal trade is still unsettled; conferences are being held with the hope of making an amicable arrangement. The wheat harvest of 1898-9 is expected to be much better than that of last year, and if this hope is realised, the demand for labour will further improve.

**South Australia.**—The supply of qualified male labour is amply sufficient for all kinds of employment.

**Queensland.**—There is a good opening for a limited number of navvies and bridge carpenters on the Mareeba Chillagoe Railway works in the north. A large number of mechanics are engaged on other public works. Gold miners continue busy, and there has been plenty of work on the sugar estates, but the crushing season is now over.

\* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

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

**Western Australia.**—The supply of mechanics is now equal to the demand; good farm labourers and female servants are wanted.

**New Zealand.**—The building trades at Auckland have been very busy, and the timber mills are fully employed, many of them running overtime. In other parts, with the exception of Wellington, the building trades have been equally busy, as well as the engineering trades. This being the busy season of the year there has been plenty of work for ordinary labourers at shearing, farm-work, bush-felling, and scrub-felling.

**Cape Colony.**—Official returns just received from all parts of the Colony show that there is no demand for farm labourers, as natives are exclusively employed, and very little for mechanics. At Port Elizabeth, however, there has been a good demand for bricklayers, carpenters, and stonecutters, and a small demand for shoemakers. There has also been a good deal of work going on at smaller places like Ceres, Richmond, Beaufort West, Molteno, Uitenhage, Grahamstown, and Middelburg, so that there has been a fair demand there for mechanics, chiefly those in the building trades. From Queenstown it is reported "skilled mechanics can always find employment at a high rate of wages." In many parts of the Colony there is a good demand for female servants. The cost of food has increased throughout the Colony owing to the late drought and rinderpest, and in some parts to the ravages of locusts. Private reports from Cape Town state that trade there is not very brisk, the activity in the building trade having nearly ceased; any demand for labour is easily supplied from numbers of men who have returned from Johannesburg and Bulawayo. Many compositors are under notice to leave, and will shortly be out of work. Rinderpest has now practically disappeared from the Colony.

**British Central Africa.**—The Acting Commissioner has issued a notice warning persons against going to Blantyre or other places in search of employment, and states that there is no employment to be had in the protectorate for Europeans who come on the chance of obtaining work. A great deal of suffering and hardship has been experienced lately by those who have come.

**Transvaal.**—There is no improvement in the demand for labour in the Transvaal.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

### FRANCE.

**Employment in December.\***—Employment continued good in the food-preparing, bookbinding, printing, glove-making, garment-making, hat-making, watch, clock and jewellery making, silk, metal (smelting and manufacture), and engineering trades. Seasonal slackness prevailed in the quarrying industry and in the building trades (for carpenters and joiners, house-smiths, stonecutters, masons and bricklayers, painters, plasterers, and slaters); also in coachbuilding. The situation in the hide and skin working trades remained unchanged. On the whole, employment is regarded as having been scarcer than in December, 1897, chiefly owing to the mildness of the season.

The proportion of members of trade unions reported unemployed on December 15th was 11 per cent. The unions reporting numbered 445, with a membership of 85,000 (exclusive of the trade unions of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments). Fourteen per cent. of the number, containing 8 per cent. of the membership of the reporting unions, regarded employment as having been more plentiful this December than last, 37 per cent. of the unions, containing 57 per cent. of the membership, regarded it as having been less plentiful; while 49 per cent. of the unions, containing 35 per cent. of the membership, considered it the same this December as last.

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

The reduction of working hours referred to in previous numbers of the GAZETTE became more marked, especially in the building trades; from 8 to 9 hours per day were being worked.

A further fall has occurred in the price of bread; the prices of meat, butter and eggs showed an upward tendency.

**Labour Disputes in December.\***—Nineteen disputes, involving 1,365 workpeople (exclusive of the grocers' assistants of Paris), were reported to the French Labour Department in December, compared with 25, involving 2,972 workpeople, in the previous month, and 19, involving 385 workpeople, in December, 1897. All except 4 of the December disputes were confined to single establishments. Five disputes were in the metal-working trades, 4 in the building trades, 3 in the textile trades, 2 in the boot and shoe trades, and the rest in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups. Attempts to obtain increased wages were amongst the causes of 8 disputes and opposition to a reduction of wages amongst the causes of 4.

Of 16 new and old disputes, involving 1,362 workpeople, of which the settlement was reported, 4, involving 474 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 8, involving 285 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 4, involving 603 workpeople, resulted in a compromise.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in December.\***—Five cases of recourse to the conciliation and arbitration law were reported to the French Labour Department in December. These resulted in the settlement of two disputes, one by arbitration, the other by conciliation. One was a strike of 30 lace makers at an establishment in Saint-Quentin, who demanded (1) that none but sons of lacemakers should be received as apprentices; and (2) that apprentices should be paid according to the same scale as trained workmen. The justice of the peace acted as umpire, at the request of both parties, his decision being that the second of the above demands should be conceded. The other dispute occurred at a hosiery factory in Troyes, and affected 40 persons. The differences arose out of a reduction in piece-wages, and were compromised through the intervention of the justice of the peace.

In two of the remaining three cases the parties met at the invitation of the justice of the peace, but failed to arrive at a settlement. In the remaining case the justice of the peace has invited the parties to confer, but the employers have asked for a delay. In this case no cessation of work had taken place.

**Coal Mining in November.†**—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in November was 5'96, compared with 5'97 in the previous month, and 5'96 in November, 1897. In November full time (6 days and over) was worked by 92 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 8 per cent. of the miners, the percentages in the previous month being 94 and 6 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

### GERMANY.

**Labour Disputes in December.**—According to a summary prepared by *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, 19 new disputes were begun in Germany in December, as compared with 40 in November. Six of these disputes (compared with 9 in November) were in the metal and engineering trades; 3 (compared with 4 in November) in the textile trades; 2 (compared with 5 in November) in the wood-working and allied trades; 2 in the food preparing trades (4 in November), and 6 in trades not coming under any of the foregoing groups. The most serious disputes occurred in the textile trades, two important strikes having begun in the silk weaving and velvet making trades in Crefeld.

From particulars of the two last-named disputes, published in *Soziale Praxis*, it appears that, owing to the frequent recurrence of strikes of late in the trades referred to, the employers had agreed that, in the event of a strike at an establishment belonging to any of their number, a committee of employers should examine the

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

† Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, Dec. 1898.

circumstances, and, if it should be found that the strike was unjustifiable, the whole of the employers in the branch affected should issue notices of dismissal. On December 12th this threat was carried out in connection with a strike of silk weavers at one establishment. As a result, a large number of silk weavers (some 8,500, according to the Journal of the largest of the Trade Union Federations) stopped work at once. The Social Questions Committee of the Crefeld Town Council intervened, and an agreement between representatives of the disputants was effected on the following points: (1) The employers to refrain for 3 months from giving effect to their resolution to declare a lock-out under certain circumstances, the operatives not to begin any strikes during the same period; (2) a 10-hours day to be adopted in all power-loom weaving establishments; and (3) a wages list for silk weavers, to be drawn up in three months. In future, all differences will be submitted to a board composed of employers and operatives. By December 20th, work had been resumed at all except one of the factories.

While the above agreement has produced temporary quiet in the silk weaving branch, differences have arisen in the velvet-making branch. The operatives object to a new wages list, which the employers have drawn up, and which it is proposed to introduce on January 15th. On January 5th it was reported that the operatives at 10 factories had given notice to leave.

**Operations of public labour registries in December.**—The total number of situations offered by employers in December at 52 of the municipal and other public labour registries, which have sent returns to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, was 19,763 (14,090 for males and 5,673 for females), compared with 16,015 in December, 1897; the number of situations sought during the month being 27,079 (21,822 by males and 5,257 by females), compared with 24,556 in December, 1897. In December, 1898, there were 137 applicants for every 100 vacant situations, the proportion in the previous December having been 153'3. In the case of males the proportion of applicants to every 100 vacant situations was 154'9 (178'6 in the previous December); and in the case of females, 92'7 (97'2 in the previous December).

**Proposed exclusion of foreign-speaking miners from Rhenish-Westphalia.**—*Soziale Praxis* of December 22nd reports that, owing to representations made to the Government by the Association for the Mining Industry of the Rhineland and Westphalia, it has been decided to delay the enforcement of the mining order—referred to in last month's GAZETTE (p. 361)—for the exclusion of foreign-speaking miners from Rhenish-Westphalia.

**Mineral production in 1897.\***—The total value of the minerals produced in the German Empire in 1897 was £42,405,250, as compared with £38,860,200 in 1896, the average daily number of persons employed in the mining industry being 465,541 in 1897, and 440,020 in 1896. Coal and iron ore entered into the total value of the minerals produced in 1897 to the extent of 90 per cent., and about 88 per cent. of all workpeople employed in the mining industry in that year were engaged in the production of one or other of these minerals. The average daily number engaged in bituminous and anthracite coal mining was 336,174, the corresponding figure for lignite mining being 40,057, and for iron mining, 32,329. The total production of bituminous and anthracite coal in 1897 was 91,055,000 tons† (compared with 85,690,000 tons in 1896); that of lignite, 29,420,000 tons (compared with 26,781,000 tons), and of iron ore, 10,117,000 tons (compared with 9,404,000 tons).

**Work of the Berlin Industrial Court as an agency for averting and settling Strikes and Lock-outs.**—From particulars contained in the latest issue of the Statistical Year Book of Berlin‡ as to the work done in the official year 1896-7, by the Berlin Industrial Court as an institution for averting and settling strikes and lock-outs, it appears that, while from 50 to 60 wage movements occurred during the year in or about Berlin, the number of cases in which the Industrial Court had an opportunity of getting into touch with either or both of the parties with a view to mediation was 18. In four of these cases the action of the Court led to its intervention being formally requested by both parties, and in two cases to its being applied to by one of the parties.

In three of four cases in which both parties applied, the Court succeeded in bringing about a settlement. In the fourth case the Court formulated its opinion as to the terms which both parties might reasonably be expected to accept, but the workpeople refused to submit to those terms.

It may be added that the Court is bound by law to take this course when it is unable to bring about a settlement by conciliation,

\* Vierteljahrshäfte zur Statistik des Deutschen Reichs. Jahrgang, 1898. Viertes Heft. Berlin, 1898. Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht.

† Metric tons (2,204 lbs.).

‡ Statistisches Jahrbuch der Stadt Berlin, Dreihundzwanzigster Jahrgang, Issued by the Municipal Statistical Office of Berlin. Publishers: P. Stankiewicz, Berlin, 1898.



but the parties are free to accept or reject the terms proposed by the Court in its report.

[Particulars as to the constitution of Industrial Courts, and as to their efficiency as agencies for averting and settling strikes and lock-outs, will be found in the GAZETTE for August, 1898 (p. 230).]

*Municipal Labour Information Bureau—Soziale Praxis* of January 5th, reports the opening, on January 1st, at Ulm, of a municipal bureau for giving free advice and information on matters pertaining to social legislation. The new bureau forms an annexe to the municipal employment registry, and its affairs are managed by the board (consisting of an official, two employers and two workpeople), controlling the operations of that registry.

## BELGIUM.

*Employment of Children and Young Women in Industry.*—Exclusive of the mining, quarrying, and metal (smelting and manufacture) trades, the number of establishments visited by the factory inspectors in 1897, with the object of ensuring the observance of the law (of December 13, 1889) regulating the employment of female and child labour, was 8,648, employing 210,767 workpeople. It is stated in the Report,\* on which the present notice is based, that the establishments visited include practically all those amenable to inspection under this law. Of the above 210,767 workpeople, 15,392, were boys under 16, 9,452 girls under 16, 17,229 young women under 21, and 19,365 women over 21 years of age†. The Report states that the general provisions of the law in regard to the length of the working day (12 hours, with intervals amounting to 1½ hours) are well observed, except at times in certain brickfields, while the special rules fixing the hours of work and intervals in certain trades are also well observed in the larger establishments, though many small employers are still unaware of the existence of these regulations.

In the mining, quarrying and metal (smelting and manufacture) trades, 440 establishments, employing 64,414 workpeople, were inspected. The greater part of these workpeople belonged to coal mines, viz., 44,499, including 34,697 working underground. Amongst these underground workers in coal mines were 421 boys under 14 years of age, 1,515 of 14 to 16, 68 young women under 21, and 242 women over 21. It should be mentioned that since January 1st, 1892, the employment underground of girls and young women of less than 21 years of age in mines and quarries has been forbidden, except as regards persons so employed on that date. The report states that in the trades now under consideration the provisions of the law as to the hours of work of protected persons have, as a rule, been duly carried out, though a good deal of irregularity was detected in open work quarries.

*Special Rules for Employment of Women and Children in Fishing Establishments.*—By a Royal Decree, dated November 3rd, 1898, boys under 16 and girls and women under 21 are not to be employed for more than 11 hours per day, broken by intervals for meals, etc., amounting to at least 1½ hours when more than 8 hours are worked, and to at least 1 hour when more than 6, but not more than 8, hours are worked in the day; in any case, an interval of a quarter of an hour must follow every 4 hours of work. The classes of persons named may be employed temporarily between the hours of 9 p.m. and midnight on a number of days not exceeding 30 in the year, but the hours of work, including the night work, must never exceed 12 in 24, and the inspector must have been notified by the employer beforehand of his intention to work at night.

*Additions to List of Trades Classed as Dangerous, etc.*—By Royal Decree, dated November 29th, 1898, the manufacture of paper from materials other than rags and the manufacture of cardboard, irrespective of the materials used, have been added to the list of trades classed as dangerous, unhealthy, or unpleasant, and accordingly subject to inspection.

## HOLLAND.

*New Rules as to Work in Army Bakeries.*—The Minister of War has adopted the following regulations to be observed (unless in any case the practical difficulties entailed by their application would under existing circumstances be insuperable) in all army bakeries. Work must not be commenced earlier than 4 a.m.; the regular duration of the working day to be 10 hours; all overtime worked by the permanent staff employed on day-wages to be paid for at the same rate as ordinary time, but any fraction of an hour exceeding 15 minutes to be paid for as a full hour; soldiers must not be employed in army bakeries.—*Maatschappelijk Werk.*

\* Rapports annuels de l'Inspection du Travail. 3me Année (1897). Office du Travail et Administration des Mines, Société Belge de Librairie, Rue Treurenberg, 16. Brussels, 1898. Price 3fr. 50c. (about 2s. 10d.).

† The main provisions of the law do not apply to women over 21 years of age but it forbids their employment for four weeks after confinement.

## REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

### (a) COAL MINING IN DECEMBER.

[NOTE.—The following tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.]

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was better in every district during December than during November. The average for December, 1897, is not strictly comparable, as the period selected in that year included Christmas day. In Scotland (where Christmas is not generally observed as a holiday) employment was not quite so good in December, 1898, as in December, 1897.

In all districts the 1,307 pits to which the returns relate, and at which 448,451 workpeople were employed, worked on an average 5·54 days per week in the four weeks ended December 24th, as compared with 5·46 days per week in November. The average of 5·54 days worked in December last is the highest recorded during the five years in which these statistics have been compiled.

The following table shows the average number of days worked in these periods and in December, 1897, in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in Dec., 1898, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		24th Dec., 1898.	25th Dec., 1897.	26th Nov., 1898.
England and Wales ... ..	411,737	5·55	5·29	5·47
Scotland ... ..	36,156	5·45	5·53	5·37
Ireland ... ..	558	5·82	4·90	5·47
<b>United Kingdom ... ..</b>	<b>448,451</b>	<b>5·54</b>	<b>5·31</b>	<b>5·46</b>

The next table, in which the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced, shows that the improvement in December was not confined to any special class or classes of coal, although house coal pits showed a greater improvement than other classes.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Dec., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		
		December, 1898.	December, 1897.	November, 1898.
Coking Coal ... ..	27,415	5·77	5·61	5·72
Gas " ... ..	44,262	5·65	5·48	5·56
House " ... ..	106,530	5·47	5·25	5·30
Manufacturing Coal ... ..	30,064	5·69	5·45	5·58
Steam " ... ..	162,221	5·53	5·25	5·46
Mixed " ... ..	77,959	5·46	5·26	5·47
<b>All Classes of Coal ... ..</b>	<b>448,451</b>	<b>5·54</b>	<b>5·31</b>	<b>5·46</b>

In the table below workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 88·2 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in December, as compared with 85·8 per cent. in November.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	December, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	December, 1897.	November, 1898.
24 days (full time) ... ..	139,207	31·0	4·1	22·8
20 and under 24 days ... ..	256,286	57·2	76·6	63·0
16 " " 20 " " ... ..	47,452	10·6	15·9	11·4
12 " " 16 " " ... ..	4,500	1·0	2·7	2·1
8 " " 12 " " ... ..	56	0·0	0·5	0·5
Under 8 days ... ..	956	0·2	0·2	0·2
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>448,451</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>

**Comparison by Districts.**—In all districts the average time worked was greater in December than in November, the increase amounting to over a third of a day in the small Irish district, and to about a fifth of a day in Cumberland, North Wales and the Lothians.

The highest averages during the month were worked in Gloucester and Somerset (5·91 days per week), and the Lothians (5·90 days). In the majority of the districts the average time amounted to over 5½ days per

## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—COAL AND IRON MINING; PIG IRON AND TINPLATE INDUSTRIES.

week, the only exceptions being Derbyshire and West Scotland (5·44 days each), Northumberland (5·34 days), Fife (5·32 days), and Notts and Leicester (4·96 days).

### COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN DECEMBER, 1898 AND 1897, AND IN NOVEMBER, 1898.

District.	No. employed in Dec., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Dec., 1898 as compared with	
		24th Dec., 1898.	25th Dec., 1897.	26th Nov., 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ... ..	34,551	5·34	5·19	5·31	+·15	+·03
Durham ... ..	92,527	5·58	5·46	5·53	+·12	+·05
Cumberland ... ..	6,186	5·82	5·29	5·62	+·53	+·20
Yorkshire ... ..	51,008	5·75	5·27	5·61	+·48	+·14
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,645	5·62	5·33	5·47	+·29	+·15
Derbyshire ... ..	39,393	5·44	5·35	5·35	+·09	+·09
Nottingham and Leicester	24,154	4·96	4·69	4·89	+·27	+·20
Staffordshire ... ..	24,178	5·77	5·36	5·61	+·41	+·16
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	8,500	5·67	5·48	5·54	+·19	+·13
Gloucester and Somerset	8,255	5·91	5·51	5·79	+·40	+·21
North Wales ... ..	11,581	5·83	5·06	5·62	+·77	+·12
South Wales and Monmouthshire	64,759	5·51	5·24	5·48	+·27	+·03
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ... ..	20,897	5·44	5·54	5·40	−·10	+·04
The Lothians ... ..	3,745	5·90	5·96	5·71	−·06	+·19
Fife ... ..	11,514	5·32	5·36	5·21	−·04	+·11
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
... ..	558	5·82	4·90	5·47	+·92	+·35
<b>Grand Total &amp; Averages</b>	<b>448,451</b>	<b>5·54</b>	<b>5·31</b>	<b>5·46</b>	<b>+·23</b>	<b>+·08</b>

**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 December, as compared with 0·4 per cent. in November, and 0·8 per cent. in December, 1897.

**Exports of Coal.**—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel, during December, amounted to 3,537,887 tons, as against 3,453,216 tons in November, and 2,980,092 tons in December, 1897.

### (b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good in December, the average time worked being again slightly higher than in the preceding month. In making a comparison with 1897 it must be remembered that the period selected in that year included Christmas Day. The total number employed was slightly less than in December, 1897.

Returns received relating to 135 iron mines and open-works show that 17,479 workpeople were employed at these mines, or 71 less than in December, 1897. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended December 24th was 5·82, as compared with 5·80 in November. Of the 17,479 persons employed 90·1 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, the same percentage as in November.

The following table summarises the returns received

### (1.) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:—

District.	No. employed in Dec., 1898, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Dec., 1898, as compared with	
		24th Dec., 1898.	25th Dec., 1897.	26th Nov., 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND—</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire ... ..	6,342	5·85	5·70	5·93	+·15	+·08
Cleveland ... ..	6,751	5·79	5·40	5·78	+·39	+·01
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ... ..	635	5·97	5·56	5·79	+·41	+·18
Northamptonshire	654	5·95	5·49	5·80	+·46	+·15
Staffordshire and Shropshire ... ..	1,458	5·70	5·57	5·30	+·13	+·40
Other places in England ... ..	291	5·75	5·30	5·35	+·45	+·40
SCOTLAND ... ..	1,158	5·84	5·99	5·91	−·15	−·07
IRELAND ... ..	190	5·92	5·88	5·82	+·04	+·10
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>17,479</b>	<b>5·82</b>	<b>5·58</b>	<b>5·80</b>	<b>+·24</b>	<b>+·02</b>

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

Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks.	December, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	December, 1897.	November, 1898.
24 days (full time) ... ..	11,215	64·1	7·4	58·3
22 and under 24 days ... ..	4,547	26·0	74·1	37·8
20 " " 22 " " ... ..	1,375	7·9	11·4	8·3
Under 20 days ... ..	342	2·0	7·1	1·6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>17,479</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>

### (c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued to improve in December. At the end of the month the number of furnaces in blast and the number of persons employed was greater than at the end of November and at the end of 1897.

The number of furnaces in blast at the end of December at the works of 109 ironmasters to which the returns relate was 364, or 13 more than at the end of 1897, and 5 more than at the end of November, two furnaces having been re-lit during December in the Midlands, two in Cumberland, and one in Lincolnshire. The estimated number of persons employed at the end of December was 23,625, or 134 more than at the end of the previous month, and 417 more than at the end of 1897.

The following table gives particulars of the number of furnaces in blast in the different districts of the United Kingdom at each of the three periods:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.		Present time compared with a month ago.	
	Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1897.	Dec., 1898.	Nov., 1898.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>				
Cleveland ... ..	95	94	+ 1	95
Cumberland & Lancs.	48	49	− 1	48
S. and S.W. Yorks...	19	16	+ 3	19
Lincolnshire ... ..	16	15	+ 1	16
Midlands ... ..	97	90	+ 7	97
Glamorgan and Mon.	14	14	...	14
Other districts ... ..	9	9	...	9
<b>Total England and Wales...</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>+ 11</b>	<b>298</b>
<b>SCOTLAND ... ..</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns ...</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>+ 13</b>	<b>364</b>

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during December amounted to 63,907 tons, as compared with 88,717 tons in November, and 80,228 tons in December, 1897.

### (d) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the end of December showed little change as compared with the end of the previous month. Forty-three works with 200 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 22 others with 161 mills were giving partial employment, 109 of these mills being at work. Thus 309 mills were running, as compared with 314 at the end of November, the estimated number employed being 16,100 at the end of December and 16,091 at the end of the previous month. At the end of December, 1897, 333 mills were at work giving employment to 17,212 persons in the tinplate trade.

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

\* 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.







## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; SEAMEN.

cottages and gardens are offered at from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a week. In parishes containing woodland, woodcutters are very scarce, and hop growers will have a difficulty in getting poles in time for use. Employment is said to be generally regular in *Hertfordshire* in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hemel Hempstead and Hitchin.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Agricultural employment in *Sussex* is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailley, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. An employer in the Horsham Union states that labour is wanted for woodcutting. Favourable reports come from *Hampshire* from the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Fareham, Havant, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge. Some little irregularity of work owing to wet weather is reported in the Unions of Christchurch, and Hartley Wintney. A report from the Havant Union states that labour is rather scarce, and that extra hands for threshing are difficult to get. In *Dorsetshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Sherborne and Wimborne, and in *Wiltshire* in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Westbury and Whorwellsdown, and Wilton. Reports from the Unions of Bradford-on-Avon, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Mere, Pewsey, and Warminster refer to a scarcity of labour.

In *Gloucestershire* agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Gloucester, Northleach, and Stow-on-the-Wold. Reports from the Unions of Dursley and Thornbury state that some men were in irregular work owing to wet weather. Favourable reports come from *Herefordshire* from the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (Monmouth and Hereford), Ledbury, and Ross. In *Somersetshire* employment is said to be generally regular with few exceptions, in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, and Yeovil. Some irregularity of work is reported from the Unions of Frome and Yeovil owing to wet weather. Favourable reports come from *Devonshire* from the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, Torrington, and Totnes. A report from the Tavistock Union refers to some slight irregularity of work due to wet weather. An employer in the Axminster Union states that employment was less regular in December, 1898, than in the corresponding month of 1897, owing to the partial failure of the root crops in 1898, due to the drought. In *Cornwall* employment is said to have been regular in the Unions of Bodmin, Camel, and Stratton.

## (h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT for dock and wharf labourers was better on the whole in the four weeks ended December 24th than in the corresponding period of 1897, and considerably better than in November. In the week before Christmas there was some falling off in employment.

The daily average number employed at all the docks and the principal wharves during the four weeks ended December 24th was 16,431, as compared with 15,731 in the preceding five weeks, and 16,175 in December, 1897. The estimated number employed on any one day reached 18,157 on December 13th, and fell to 14,669 on December 24th.

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

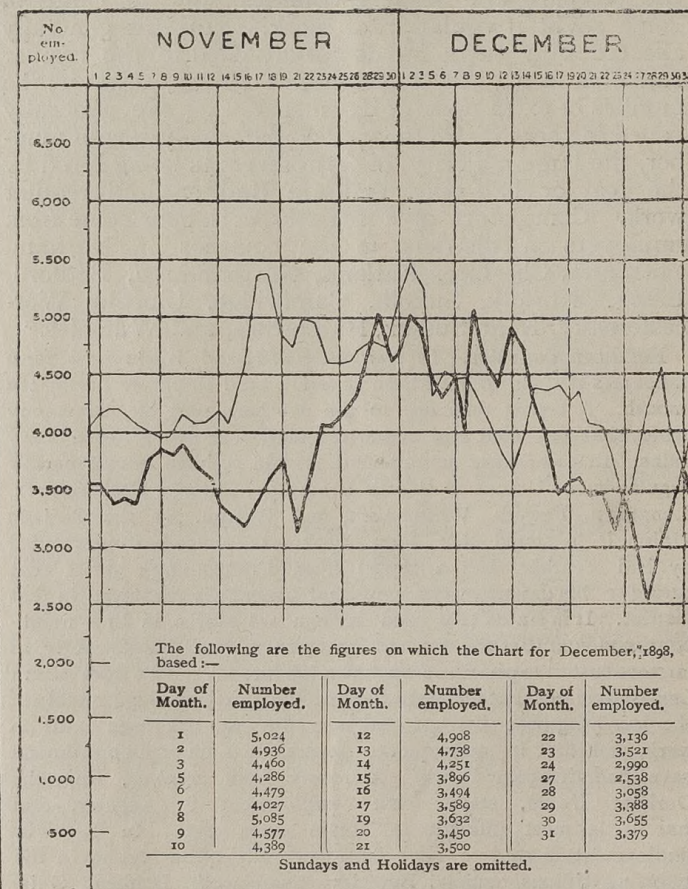
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.	
Week ending Dec. 3	8,087	2,212	10,299	6,157
" " " 10	7,405	3,141	10,546	6,160
" " " 17	7,484	2,942	10,426	6,397
" " " 24	6,690	2,956	9,646	6,094
Average for 4 weeks ending Dec. 24th, 1898	7,416	2,813	10,229	6,202
Average for Dec., 1897	7,426	2,993	9,819	6,356*
Average for Nov., 1898	7,009	2,171	9,180	6,551

\* Amended figures.

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during November and December is shown on the chart below. The numbers in December ranged from 5,035 on the 8th to 2,538 on the 27th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of November and December, 1898. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1897, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1898, and the thin curve to 1897.]



During December, 1897, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 5,446 on the 2nd to 3,391 on the 21st. Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during December, 1898, varied from 2,867 on the 8th to 1,252 on the 22nd. Wool Sales were held from 25th November to 13th December in 1898, and from 25th November to 7th December in 1897.

Employment in mid-stream has been good and steady. With corn porters at the Surrey Docks it was slack in the first two, moderate in the last two weeks; at the India Docks good and steady. Deal porters and lumpers have had fair employment; stevedores, winchmen and coal porters moderately good employment. Lightermen have been fairly busy.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have been busy. The daily average number of men employed was 415, compared with 352 for November, the increase being mainly due to the arrivals of green fruit for Christmas.

## (i) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of men shipped as the 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 31,205 during December last, being 1,090 less than in December, 1897. During the twelve months ended December 31st, 1898, the aggregate number of men shipped\* from the same ports was 398,848 as against 408,789 in 1897, a decrease of 9,941, which is more than accounted for by decreases of 19,285 in the number shipped at Cardiff and of 6,040 at Newport (Mon.) During December the supply of seamen and firemen is reported to have been equal to or greater than the demand at most of the ports.

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

## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SEAMEN; TEXTILE; LONDON.

Particulars of advances in rates of wages affecting seamen and firemen at several ports will be found in the table on page 27.

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 December, 1898 and 1897 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the twelve months ended December in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in December, 1898.*			Total in Dec., 1897.*	Total number shipped in 12 months ended December†	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Dec., 1898.		1898.	1897
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	42	2,453	2,495	3,463	43,398	40,859
Sunderland ...	—	422	422	507	7,136	7,318
Middlesbrough ...	—	146	146	231	3,912	5,385
Hull ...	—	1,178	1,178	1,060	16,789	14,712
Grimsby ...	—	93	93	24	1,655	1,359
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	3	171	174	191	2,662	2,610
Newport, Mon. ...	—	900	900	1,025	8,311	14,381
Cardiff ...	141	4,847	4,988	5,568	45,620	64,905
Swansea ...	34	427	461	650	7,788	8,553
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	239	10,013	10,352	9,329	128,158	117,742
London ...	219	5,744	5,963	5,594	73,682	73,706
Southampton ...	—	1,581	1,681	1,397	18,155	16,617
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	—	522	522	745	10,070	8,239
Glasgow ...	56	1,581	1,637	2,196	28,888	28,415
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	96	96	196	1,173	1,180
Belfast ...	—	297	297	289	3,481	2,908
Total, Dec., 1898	734	30,471	31,205	—	398,848	—
Ditto, Dec., 1897	807	31,488	—	32,295	—	408,769

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month showed an improvement in the cotton trade, and a decline in the woollen and worsted trades. Information has been received with regard to 543 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills, employing about 90,690 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time.	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.	Working Short Time.
<b>Cotton Trade—</b>				
December, 1898	91	9	—	—
November, 1898	87	10	2	1
December, 1897	66	27	6	1
<b>Woollen and Worsted Trades—</b>				
December, 1898	68	26	9	—
November, 1898	69	17	14	—
December, 1897	51	17	30	2
<b>Silk Trade—</b>				
December, 1898	81	2	9	5
November, 1898	71	16	13	—
December, 1897	59	12	29	—
<b>Total of above Trades—</b>				
December, 1898	83	13	2	—
November, 1898	83	12	5	—
December, 1897	62	24	13	1

**Cotton Trade.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 67,040; of these 91 per cent. were employed in mills working full time during the month (to be compared with 87 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in November, and with 66 per cent. in December, 1897); and 9 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,650; of these, 65 per cent. were

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

employed in mills running full time during the month (to be compared with 69 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in November, and 51 per cent. in December, 1897); 26 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 9 per cent. in mills running short time.

## DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

## LONDON.

**Employment in various Industries.**—On the whole the state of employment during December continued fairly good. Returns from 430 branches of 111 unions, having an aggregate membership of 72,960, show that 2,656 (or 3·6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3·7 per cent. in December of 1897.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding* trades has continued to improve. Reports from 133 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 20,949, show that 625 (or 3·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·7 at the end of December, 1897. Employment with sailmakers is still quiet.

The *Building* trades (painters and decorators excepted) still remain briskly employed. Returns from 181 branches of 6 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,465, show that 153 (or 1·3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·9 per cent. at the end of December, 1897. The bricklayers and mill-sawyers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, stonemasons, stonecarvers, and plasterers as fair; the plumbers as moderate; and the painters and decorators as dull.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades, particularly in some branches, has fallen off. Reports from 42 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 6,248 show that 446 (or 7·1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6·1 per cent. in December, 1897.

*Coopers* are still well employed, though scarcely so busy; two societies, with a membership of 990, returning 6 (or 0·6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 0·3 in December, 1897.

*Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights* remain steadily employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,372, show that 37 (or 2·7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·4 in December, 1897.

Owing to seasonal causes the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades are less busy. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 22,662, show that 1,016 (or 4·5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·0 per cent. at the end of December, 1897.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades still remains dull. The West-end bespoke tailors have been dull; the East-end bespoke and ready-made trades quiet; the contract trade fairly busy; the military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been working short time; the ladies' tailors and mantle-makers describe employment as bad. Employment with hatters has slightly improved; with fur skin dressers it has also improved; with silk weavers it is fair.

*Boot and Shoe Trades.*—Employment in the West-end hand-sewn trade has remained quiet; in the East-end sew-round trade it is still bad; with boot and shoe operatives quiet.

Employment in the *Leather* trades remains steady. Returns from six unions, with a membership of 1,655, show that 61 (or 3·7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·2 per cent. at the end of December, 1897.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades, returns from 8 unions with a membership of 1,430 show that 76 (or 5·3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·1 per cent. in December, 1897.

*Hair, Fibre and Caneworkers.*—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 910, show that 29 (or 3·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6·2 per cent. in December, 1897.

*Gold and Silver Workers* are not so well employed. Returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,131, show that 39 (or 3·4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·0 per cent. in December, 1897.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades is steady. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,493, show that 51 (or 2·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·9 in December, 1897.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—In the four weeks ended December 24th an average number of 16,431 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with 15,731 in the preceding five weeks and 16,175 in December, 1897. Employment in mid-stream has been good and steady. With corn porters at the Surrey Docks it was slack in the first two, moderate in the last two weeks; at the India docks good and steady. Deal porters and lumpers have had fair employment; stevedores, winchmen and coal porters moderately good employment. Lightermen have been fairly busy, and fruit porters busy



## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

**Disputes and Trade Movements.**—No fresh disputes were reported to the Department as having arisen during the month, nor were any changes in wages or hours recorded.

**Labour Bureaux.**—Eight labour bureaux furnishing returns registered during December 1,221 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,252 in December, 1897. Of these, 374 in December, 1898, and 363 in December, 1897, were applications by women and girls. Work was found by the 8 bureaux for 885 persons (including 126 women and girls) compared with 916 (including 131 women and girls) in the corresponding month of 1897. At the end of December the number of persons on the registers was 1,639, or 58 less than a year ago. (For further details, see page 30.)

**Pauperism.**—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of December was 104,600, being 2,107 more than on the corresponding day of November. As compared with December, 1897, the number remains practically the same. In the North district there is an increase of 241, while the South district shows a decrease of 277.

On the same day in December 1,060 vagrants were relieved, as compared with 1,102 on the corresponding day of November, and 1,207 a year ago.

In the West Ham district the number of persons relieved on one day in the second week was 9,635 in December, 9,444 in November, and 8,711 a year ago. (For further details, see page 30.)

## ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

## Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—*Northumberland.*—Out of a possible working week of 55 days, steam and house coal collieries have averaged respectively 52.6 and 54.2 days per week. Of the 21,120 union miners 15 (or 0.07 per cent.) are unemployed, the same proportion as at the end of November. The 1,371 colliery mechanics, engine and firemen are all employed. *Durham.*—In all classes of coal, miners have worked much better, gas, house, manufacturing, and coking coal pits having averaged respectively 54.5, 55.0, 55.5 and 56.6 days per week, as compared with 53.4, 54.7, 54.8 and 56.3 in November. Returns received from collieries employing 52,786 men and boys show a weekly average of 55.5 days, as against 55.0 days in November. There are 286 (or 0.47 per cent.) of union miners unemployed through bad trade, in addition to 0.55 per cent. from other causes, as against 328 (or 0.54 per cent.) in November. Colliery deputies and engine-men have the same number out of work as last month. Coke workers continue busy.

**Metal Mining.**—Two lead mines are fairly busy. In one or two others, and in iron ore mines, employment is but moderate.

**Quarrying.**—Employment is good at both lime and whinstone quarries in Wearhead and Stanhope. At Frosterley two or three quarries have worked less than full time. In Gateshead and district employment is unusually slack. Quarries at Blyth have worked fuller time.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—*On the Tyne.*—Riveters, platers, and angle smiths continue busy; several yards, however, have had 9 and 10 days' holiday. Night shifts have ceased in four or five electrical and engine shops; at one or two, men have been discharged. Ordnance works and locomotive builders continue brisk. Employment on repairs is a little slack. Of the 12,681 union members of these trades, 562 or 4.4 per cent. are off work, as against 229 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) in November. *On the Wear.*—Two engine shops have ceased working double shifts. Boiler shops continue well employed. Repair yards and docks are somewhat slack. Forges are still busy. Out of 4,794 union members of these trades, 176 (or 3.7 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 60 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) in November. Shipwrights on both rivers have a few men out of work. Of drillers and hole cutters on the Wear 5 per cent. are unemployed; iron and steel moulders and pattern-makers, with a few exceptions, are all employed. Of the 507 brass finishers 1.5 per cent. are off work. Chain and anchor makers have worked 5 days per week. Steel smelting shops and plate and angle mills, have all been fully employed. Sail-makers on both rivers are fairly busy.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Coal porters have been busy, averaging 5 days per week. Trimmers and teamers report a slight falling off in shipments, although employment has been good. Tugboat men report 13 per cent. of their members unemployed. Quayside labourers and Tyne watermen have been well employed. The demand for sailors and firemen has not been quite so good.

**Building Trades.**—Stonemasons and plasterers are quiet, bricklayers busy, plumbers and painters slack. Of the 1,023 joiners on the Wear 48 (or 4.7 per cent.) are out of work.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Of the 650 letterpress printers on the Tyne and at Sunderland 5 are unemployed. Bookbinders continue fairly active. Three paper mills are brisk; 5 or 6 others are slack.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet makers are not quite so well employed. Upholsterers, mill-sawyers, and lathrenders have none idle. Coopers on the Tyne have 3.9 per cent. off work.

**Other Metal, Chemical and Glass Trades.**—Copper works are busy. White lead and cement factories are steadily employed. Chemical factories, with the exception of one or two departments, have had full employment. Bottle makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour are all employed, although not fully. Pressed glass makers continue dull.

**Fishing.**—This industry has been much interrupted by the weather. Trawl boats, when able to fish, have landed fair catches. Line boats, however, have done but little, fish being scarce. Prices have been above the average.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

## Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

**Ironstone Mining.**—The Cleveland miners report employment as fairly good during the month. The average number of days worked by 22 mines reported on was 57.9 days per week during the 4 weeks ended December 24th, as compared with 54.0 days per week during the 4 weeks ended December 25th, 1897.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The finished iron works have been well employed. Steel works generally are fully employed. Rail mills, however, are less brisk. Employment is good at blast furnaces, bridge works and metal expansion works. Work is brisk at most of the foundries.

**Engineering.**—Employment with the engineers is reported as good at Stockton, Middlesbrough, Bishop Auckland, and generally at Hartlepool; as moderate at Darlington and in one branch at Hartlepool. The moulders and pattern-makers report employment as good. Branches of these trades, with 3,607 members, have 42 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 28 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Shipbuilding.**—All the yards are reported as being full of work. Shipjoiners report employment as good throughout; shipwrights as good at Stockton, Thornaby, and Middlesbrough; as fair at the Hartlepoons.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as quiet at Middlesbrough and the Hartlepoons; dockers at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough and riverside labourers from Stockton all down the river report employment as bad.

**Building Trades.**—All branches, except the painters, report employment as especially good for the time of year.

**Miscellaneous.**—Printers report employment as good; tailors as moderate; cabinet-makers at Middlesbrough as fair; woodworking machinists as fairly good; cement works and paper mills are brisk; saltworkers are 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 shows an improvement in December as compared with November. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended December 24th, at the 19 pits from which returns have been received, was 58.2 per week, as compared with 56.2 days per week in November. The number of workpeople employed in December, 1898, at the pits covered by the returns was 6,186, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,207.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment at the iron mines of Cumberland and North Lancashire in December shows a slight decline as compared with November. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended December 24th, at the 47 mines from which returns have been received, was 58.5 per week, as compared with 59.3 in November. The number of workpeople employed at the 47 mines was 6,342, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,483.

**Pig Iron.**—Returns from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast was 48 at the end of December, two more than at the end of November, but one less than at the end of December, 1897. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces in December was 3,647, an increase of 107 since November, but 19 less than a year ago.

**Shipbuilding.**—According to returns compiled by *Lloyd's Register*, the gross tonnage of vessels (excluding warships) under construction, i.e., gross tonnage of vessels when completed, in the Barrow, Maryport and Workington district on 31st December was 20,895 tons, an increase of 11,015 tons as compared with the corresponding date in 1897, and a decrease of 12,075 tons as compared

## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—LANCASHIRE.

with the end of September, 1898. The tonnage of warships under construction on 31st December was 35,950 tons displacement, as compared with 35,950 tons at end of December, 1897, and 36,950 tons at the end of September, 1898. During the year 1898, 12 vessels (not warships) with a gross tonnage amounting to 15,996 tons were launched, as compared with 13 vessels launched in 1897, with 9,855 tons gross. One warship was launched in 1898 with 11,000 tons displacement, as compared with three in 1897 with 11,660 tons displacement.

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

## Oldham and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—*Spinning.*—Employment continues satisfactory in Oldham and the surrounding districts; all the mills are working full time. In Rochdale and neighbourhood, as well as in Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, and Stockport, employment is reported as good. Cardroom workers report employment as fair, with fewer members out of work. Employment is slack in the twining branch, but is good with ring-frame spinners and throstle-frame tenders. *Weaving.*—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as moderate in calicoes, and as bad in velvets and fustians. Ball warpers report employment as moderate; sectional and beam warpers as fair; reelers as slack; and winders as moderate.

**Woollen and Silk Trades.**—Employment in the woollen trade in Rochdale and Milnrow districts is reported as slightly improving, and in Stockport as moderate. Silk dressers in Rochdale are only partially employed.

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

**Building Trades.**—The plasterers report employment as good; the bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, and plumbers as moderate; the painters as slack.

**Coal Mining.**—The miners continue well employed. Six days per week have been worked in Oldham, Royton, Shaw and Crompton, and Chadderton.—*T. Ashton.*

## Bolton and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—*Spinning.*—In Bolton the improvement reported has been well maintained. Employment continues fairly brisk in Farnworth, Moses Gate, Great Lever and neighbourhood. In Chorley a further improvement is reported and employment is steady. In Bury employment continues busy. At Wigan it is still unsteady. Cardroom operatives are fairly well employed throughout the district except at Wigan, where employment is somewhat irregular. *Weaving.*—In Bolton, Farnworth, Walkden and Moses Gate a further improvement in employment is reported in both the coloured and white goods trades. In Bury also it is better.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—In Bolton most engineering firms continue busy. In Bury, Chorley, Wigan, Ince, Hindley, and district ironworkers in all branches are reported as moderately well employed.

**Building Trades.**—In Bolton operatives are steadily employed. In Wigan and Chorley employment is irregular.

**Coal Mining.**—In Bolton and Darcy Lever with Little Hulton all collieries continue active, and miners are working on an average 53 days per week. In Wigan, Hindley, Westhoughton, Leigh, Tyldesley and Atherton employment is reported as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is fair with bleachers, finishers, and dyers, coachmakers, shoemakers and cloggers.—*R. Tootill.*

## Blackburn, Burnley and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—*Weaving.*—Employment is good in Blackburn, fair in Burnley, moderate in Preston, and improved in Nelson and Darwen, two mills in the last district with 652 looms having been restarted, leaving 354 looms still stopped. In Colne employment is better in both the grey and coloured weaving trades. In the hardware trade employment continues brisk, with continued overtime. Warp-dressers, loomers and drawers, winders and warpers are fully employed. *Spinning.*—Employment continues good in Preston, Darwen, Accrington and Blackburn; it is moderate in Padidham and Burnley. Cardroom-workers and ring-frame spinners are well employed throughout the district. Branches of spinners, twistors and drawers, and warp dressers, with 4,085 members, have 173 (or 4.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 163 (or 4.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Building Trades.**—Joiners are quiet at Accrington, dull at Blackburn and Burnley; painters are slack throughout the district; plumbers are only moderately employed; masons and bricklayers continue fairly well employed.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment continues good, especially in the machine shops.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Employment with coal miners is reported as good in Accrington, fair in Burnley. With stonequarrymen it is moderate, considering the season.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment with calico printers and dyers, tailors and cabinet-makers is reported as fair; with letterpress printers and brickmakers as good; with felt printers in the Rossendale district as moderate; with boot, shoe and slipper makers as slack.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

## Manchester and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies, with 21,285 members, have 728 (or 3.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 647 (or 3.1 per cent.) of their membership) at the end of November.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The boiler-makers and smiths and strikers in Manchester, Northwich and Stockport report employment as moderate; the engineers as moderate in Manchester and Warrington, bad at Northwich. Ironfounders throughout the district are busy. The braziers and sheet metal workers, machine workers, and brassfounders and finishers report employment as good. Wire drawers, wire weavers and filesmiths are fully employed.

**Building Trades.**—In Manchester, Warrington and Stockport painters are slack, other branches fairly well employed. In Northwich carpenters and joiners describe employment as bad. In Macclesfield employment generally is moderately good.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Cabinet-makers and French polishers report employment as moderate; upholsterers as quiet; coachbuilders continue busy; coopers are fully employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers throughout the district have been well employed. Pattern-card makers and bookbinders report employment as fair; stereotypers and lithographic artists as good; lithographic printers as moderate.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment, with cotton-spinners remains moderate. Cotton-workers in general in Stockport are not busy, but in Macclesfield employment is moderate. There has been a slight improvement in the manufacturing departments of the silk trade, but there is still a scarcity of work. Silk dyers are slack; fustian cutters are moderately well employed. The "bleachers, dyers, and finishers" report employment as good; the "dressers, dyers and finishers" as bad in velvets and cords.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the bespoke department of the tailoring trade is moderate. Jewish tailors are slack. Boot and shoe makers and felt hat makers and trimmers report employment as bad. Wholesale tailoring operatives and cap makers are only moderately employed. Ready-made mantle makers and waterproof garment makers are slack. Shirtmakers are fairly busy.—*G. D. Kelley.*

## Liverpool and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Boilermakers and iron ship builders report employment as fairly good; pattern-makers, turners and fitters, brassfounders, ironfounders, drillers, iron and steel dressers, and hammermen as good; shipwrights as fair; shipjoiners as rather unsettled; sailmakers as moderate.

**Transport Trades.**—Sailors and firemen and dock labourers report employment as fair; quay and railway carters as steady; coal-heavers as moderate. Flatmen continue well employed.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—In the furnishing trade employment continues moderate. Coachmakers and painters report employment as fair; millsawyers and woodcutting machinists as quiet; coopers as still dull.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers, lithographers, and bookbinders and rulers report employment as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors report employment as dull in the bespoke branch, fair in the readymade branches; boot and shoe makers as moderate.

**Building Trades.**—Plumbers report employment as fair; painters as dull; joiners as moderate; other branches are fully employed.

**Coalmining and Quarrying.**—Coalminers in St. Helens, Prescot, and Whiston report an average of five days per week. Quarrymen continue busy.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Chemical workers and glass bottle makers report employment as moderate; glassmakers as fair.

*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has further fallen off in the bulk salt branch, but has improved in the bag salt branch. In both Winsford and Middlewich employment has been fair with shipwrights and boiler-smiths, slack with fustian cutters, and dull in the building trades. Moulders at Winsford report employment as fair.



## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## YORKSHIRE.

## Hull and District.

*Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers, steam engine makers, smiths and strikers, shoeing smiths, machine workers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, brassfounders and finishers, and brassworkers report employment as good; pattern-makers, boiler-makers and iron ship-builders, drillers and hole cutters, shipwrights, and sailmakers as moderate; general labourers as good. At Beverley, Goole, and Selby engineers, smiths, iron ship builders and shipwrights report employment as fair. At Grimsby, engineers, smiths, and boiler-makers report employment as moderate; shipwrights as bad. At Doncaster, boiler-makers, smiths and moulders report employment as good. Engineers, pattern-makers, and brassworkers report employment as moderate; general labourers in engineering works, and shipyards as fairly good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment generally is fairly good.

*Transport Trades.*—The dock labourers in Hull, Grimsby, and Goole report employment as good; railway workers at Hull, Goole, Grimsby, Selby and New Holland as good; the seamen and firemen in the short voyage trade as good, in the longer voyage trades as fair.

*Fishing Industry.*—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull and Grimsby report employment as good; the trawl fishermen as moderate; the fish curing house workers and fish market labourers as slack. The continuous strong winds have caused the supplies sent to market to be scarce.

*Seed Crushing, Oil, Paint and Colour Trades.*—Employment in the seed crushing mills is reported as good; most of the mills are in full operation. Employment in the paint and colour works is reported as fairly good.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—The letterpress printers and bookbinders at Hull, Doncaster and Goole report employment as good; the lithographic printers at Hull as moderate.

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

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

*Miscellaneous.*—The gas workers and general labourers report employment as good; the bakers and confectioners and the brushmakers as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

## Leeds and District.

*General.*—Branches of societies with 8,402 members had 254 (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 239 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment with engineers is generally good in Leeds, moderate at Wakefield. Ironfounders are busy in Leeds, rather quieter at Stanningley. Crane-makers at Stanningley and Rcdley are fully employed. Boiler-makers in Leeds are busy; steelworkers fairly employed; brassworkers, machine workers, spindle and flyer makers, and stove-grate workers well employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade and with bespoke tailors is quiet. In the boot and shoe industry it has been satisfactory in Leeds, fairly good at Bramley and Heckmondwike.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in the Leeds mills is only moderate. Blanket raisers report employment as dull; willeys and fettlers as quiet. Linen workers are fairly employed. At Wakefield worsted and cloth mills are slack; at Yeadon and Guiseley quiet.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in Leeds is good for the time of the year; at Harrogate fairly good; at Castleford and Morley quiet.

*Mining.*—The pits in the Leeds district, and at Castleford and Pontefract, continue to work full time.

*Leather Trades.*—Tanners report employment as fairly good during the month; curriers as improved; leather shavers as only moderate. Saddlers and harness makers are slack.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment with letterpress printers, bookbinders and machine rulers is fair; with lithographers good; with paper mill workers slack.

*Glass Trades.*—Glass bottle makers in Leeds and Wakefield report employment as good; flint glass makers in Leeds as moderate.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment with cabinetmakers, mill sawyers and wood-cutting machinists is good; with coachmakers fair; with brushmakers moderate. Terra-cotta workers are busy.—*O. Connellan.*

## Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

*Worsted Trade.*—The worsted trade in Bradford shows no improvement. Employment in the wool combing and weaving branches is described as bad; wool-sorting has not much improved. In the Worth Valley employment shows no improvement, and in Huddersfield another large firm has discontinued overtime. In Halifax employment continues moderate.

*Woollen Trade.*—Employment in and around Huddersfield is not quite so good, and several firms in the Colne Valley have discontinued overtime. There are, however, a number still working overtime. In the heavy woollen district of Dewsbury and Batley employment is again described as dull.

*Other Textile Trades.*—Employment in the cotton trade of Huddersfield and Halifax continues moderate. At Manningham employment in the silk trade is considered fair.

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

*Building Trades.*—Employment is reported as fairly good throughout the district.

*Miscellaneous.*—The dyers at Bradford report employment as depressed, a number only working short time; at Huddersfield as moderate. Rag workers, printers, and tailors report employment as quiet.—*A. Gee.*

## Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

*Iron and Steel Industries.*—Blastfurnacemen, puddlers, shinglers, iron rollers, hydraulic pressmen and armour plate rollers are busy. Engineers and iron founders, boiler and girder makers, Siemens steel smelters, wire drawers, iron and steel dressers, core makers, crucible steel makers, and steel forgemen and rollers report employment as good. In Barnsley employment in engineering is much quieter. At Parkgate and Icicles the makers of railway springs and axles are quiet; other branches are busy. Branches with 5,231 members have 53 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 30 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

*Cutlery and Tools.*—Workmen in the engineers', joiners' and general edge tool trade are fairly well employed; makers of table and butchers' knives and saws moderately so; pen and pocket knife makers continue slack. Forgers of small files report employment as fair; razor makers and haft and scale pressers as improved.

*Other Metal Trades.*—The silversmiths, silver and metal stampers, and spoon and fork makers report employment as moderate. In the Rotherham district the brassworkers are busy.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment continues good. Returns from 60 of the principal collieries give an average of 5.59 days per week worked during December.

*Building Trades.*—Except at Barnsley employment throughout the district is good.

*Glass Trade.*—At Mexborough and Barnsley bottle-makers are slack; flint-glass workers at Barnsley are moderately employed. At Rotherham the medicine bottle makers are busy.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers are not so busy, but employment generally is fair.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding.*—Railway coach and wagon builders are busy in Sheffield and improving in Rotherham. Coachbuilders are quiet; cabinetmakers are well employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment with bespoke tailors is bad; in the ready-made trade it is good in Barnsley, moderate in other parts. In the boot and shoe trade employment is moderate.

*Linen Trade.*—Employment in the linen industry continues moderate in Barnsley.

*Miscellaneous.*—Down quilt makers and paper makers report employment as good; bobbin makers and potters as fair; box makers as bad. The general labourers at Barnsley are slack.—*S. Uttley.*

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## Derbyshire District.

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,327 members have 83 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 134 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

*Engineering and kindred Trades.*—Employment is fair at the locomotive works, and good in the bridge, girder and boiler yards. Ironfounders, brassmoulders and finishers, stove-grate workers, wire drawers, merchant-iron rollers, makers of railway materials, farriers, iron and steel dressers, blastfurnacemen, pipe moulders, malleable iron workers, and lace-machine builders report employment as good; cycle workers as slightly improving.

*Coal Mining.*—At collieries employing 31,000 men, an average of

## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

5½ days per week has been worked, as compared with 5½ days in November.

*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 builders and with carriage builders in private shops. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as improving. Most timber yards are quiet.

*Clothing Trades.*—Boot and shoe operatives in Derby and Chesterfield report employment as fair; corset makers, dress and mantle makers, and wholesale garment makers as also fair; bespoke tailors as declining.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment is good with cotton spinners and weavers in Hadfield, Glossop, Borrowash, Draycott and Belper; dull with hosiery workers in Ilkeston, and fair in Belper; good with calico printers and engravers, and surgical bandage makers; bad with elastic web weavers, and with lace workers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton; moderate with dyers and bleachers.

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

## Nottingham and District.

*Lace Trade.*—Employment generally continues irregular. The plain net branch continues well employed. The levers and curtain branches report employment as bad; the warp laceworkers, curtain readers, auxiliary laceworkers, and designers and draughtsmen as moderate; warpers as slightly improved; card punchers as good; menders as irregularly employed; dyers at Nottingham as slack; bleachers at Basford as slightly better. All branches at Beeston, Stapleford and outside districts are quiet.

*Hosiery Trade.*—The improvement previously reported has, on the whole, been maintained. At Nottingham the power framework knitters report employment as slack, except on special lines; the circular hosiery and hand frame branches as fairly good; the ribbed top branch as having declined. Elastic bandage makers are well employed. Power machine branches are fairly well employed at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Mansfield and Arnold. The wool shawl branch at Hucknall Torkard is slack. Hosiery trimmers at Bulwell and Basford are rather quiet.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Lace machine and hosiery machine builders report employment as fairly good; general machine builders and engineers as rather slack. Cycle makers are slightly better employed; ironfounders and boiler makers well employed. Tool machinists report employment as improving at Beeston; good at Nottingham. Brassworkers and carriage straighteners are well employed; bobbin and carriage makers not so busy. Wheelwrights and smiths report employment as good. Blastfurnacemen at Bulwell are fairly well employed. Branches with 2,971 members have 168 (or 5.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 126 (or 4.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment is fair generally. Returns from 30 pits, employing 15,685 men, show an average of 4½ days per week.

*Building Trades.*—Plumbers report employment as moderate. Otherwise employment generally is fair or good in all parts of the district.

*Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.*—Cabinet-makers, French polishers, and upholsterers report employment as fair; coach-makers as bad at Newark, good at Nottingham; mill sawyers as slack; picture frame makers and box-makers as moderate.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as having somewhat declined; bookbinders, and lithographic artists and printers as moderate; printers' cutters as fairly good.

*Clothing Trades.*—The tailors report employment as quiet; the boot and shoe operatives as good at Mansfield, moderate at Nottingham. The ready-made departments and mantle-makers are fairly well employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Bakers report a decline in employment. Gas stokers and enginemen and cranemen are well employed.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

## Leicester and Northampton District.

*Boot and Shoe Industry.*—Employment is more regular at Leicester, slightly improved at Northampton, slack at Kettering and Daventry, quiet at Wollaston, and fairly good in the boot upper department at Wellingborough.

*Other Clothing Trades.*—Employment is better in the wholesale tailoring trade. In the bespoke branch it is slack at Leicester and Rugby, moderate at Northampton. Corset makers are fully employed. Work is slack with dressmakers and milliners, moderate with hatters.

*Hosiery and Woolspinning Trades.*—All departments of the hosiery trade are rather quiet at Leicester. At Loughborough workpeople engaged on pants, vests and shirts, are fully employed, but work is slack in the hose and half-hose branches. Employment is fairly good with dyers and trimmers, but less regular in the woolspinning mills.

*Elastic Web Trade.*—Employment is slack generally.

*Metal Trades.*—At Leicester and Northampton employment is good with engineers and ironfounders, moderate with boiler-makers. At Loughborough pattern-makers, winders, and electrical engineers are in full work; turners and engine builders are slack. Employment is slack with needle-makers and cycle-makers.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment in the South Leicester coal pits has been better than for some time past. Work is also good at the stone quarries.

*Printing and Bookbinding Trades.*—In all branches employment has continued fairly good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is slack with painters, good in other branches. Branches other than painters, with 3,639 members, have 24 unemployed, as compared with 16 at the end of November.

*Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.*—Work continues good with cabinet-makers but is quieter with upholsterers. It is good with tramcar constructors but slack with road and railway carriage and wagon builders.

*Leather Trades.*—Tanners, curriers, and leather dressers are better employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is good with brick and tile makers, cigar-makers, gasfitters, stokers and railway workers; slack with bakers and confectioners.—*T. Smith.*

## Potteries District.

*Pottery Trades.*—Employment has further improved, and the Christmas holidays have been shorter than usual. Hollow-ware pressers are moderately busy, but with a number still on short time. Sanitary pressers continue busy. Printers and transferers are more regularly employed. Women gilders and decorators, men artists, throwers, turners, and handlers in the general trade maintain the improvement reported last month. Designers, modellers, and mouldmakers, encaustic tilemakers and electrical workers continue busy. Packers and crate makers report a further improvement. Women stilt and spur makers are well employed, full time being general. Ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggarmakers report no change.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Puddlers, steelworkers, and blast-furnacemen are busy. Rollers report a further improvement.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers, boiler-makers, and moulders in North Staffordshire, and at Crewe and Stafford, are busy. Copper workers at Oakamoor and Froggall continue busy. Brass finishers and moulders at Longport and Milton are well employed. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley report a further improvement.

*Coal Mining.*—At Talk-o'-th'-Hill and district colliers are busy and the night turn is still in operation. In the Hanley district both coal and ironstone miners are working well. At Cheadle employment is good.

*Textile Trades.*—At Leek trimming weavers report a further slight improvement; pickers and braiders, twistlers, and dyers report no change. At Congleton silk dressers continue busy; fustian cutters report no improvement. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives are well employed, and full time is general.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors in the Potteries report employment as scarce, but coat hands are fairly busy. At Crewe an improvement is reported. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone report a scarcity of employment. Corset makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne continue well employed.

*Building Trades.*—Bricklayers and carpenters and joiners continue busy. Painters report a further decline.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a falling off. At Stafford employment is good. Lithographic artists and printers, and bookbinders and machine rulers are fairly busy.

*Miscellaneous.*—Stonequarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue busy. Bakers are well employed. Railway workers are busy.—*I. S. Harvey.*

## Wolverhampton and District.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is good with steel smelters, and in the angle, hoop, iron-bar and steel trades. The improvement in the sheet trade has been maintained. The mills and forges in Shropshire are working full time.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Employment with engineers,



## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND, E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

moulders, and boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers is good. There is a further improvement in the cycle trade. At Walsall the malleable ironworkers are quiet. At Coalbrookdale and Madeley employment continues good.

**Hardware Trades.**—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, axles, springs and coach ironwork, iron fences, hurdles, builders' ironmongery, locks and keys, and with stampers and piercers; moderate with makers of edge tools, Brazil hoes, malleable nails and protectors, electrical castings, hinges, light hollow-ware and black castings, and with tinplate-workers; quiet with brassworkers, galvanizers, and makers of spring traps, latches and cut nails; slack with makers of spectacle-frames and steel toys, filesmiths and the Halesowen wrought nail makers. The chainmakers and strikers at Old Hill and district and the ironplate-workers at Bilston and the Lye report employment as good; the anvil and vicemakers in Dudley and district as still irregular; anchorsmiths at Cradley Heath as quiet.

**Coal Mining.**—On Cannock Chase employment is very good. In Old Hill and district the pits are working full time. In the Oldbury and Tipton districts the average time worked is 5½ days per week. The Shropshire collieries are working full time.

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

**Glass Trades.**—The flint-glass makers, cutters, etchers, engravers, bevellers, and intaglio workers at Wordsley and district report employment as good. The glass-bottle makers at Brierley Hill are working full time.

**Leather Trades.**—Employment in the leather trades at Walsall is quiet, especially with the curriers.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster and Bridgnorth is good. At Tamworth employment in tape mills continues good.

**Clothing Trades.**—The ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments are fairly well employed. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is moderate.—C. Anthony.

**Birmingham and District.**

**General.**—Branches with 19,955 members have 374 (or 1·9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 321 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Engineering.**—Eight branches of engineers return employment as moderate, two as good, and one as bad. The tool makers return employment as moderate; the smiths and strikers and pattern makers as good; the iron founders as fairly good. At West Bromwich employment is reported as good; at Coventry and Redditch as moderate. In the cycle industry employment has decidedly improved; in the motor industry generally it is fair.

**Brass and Copper Trades.**—The brassworkers again return employment as good; brass and copper wire drawers as only moderate, and at some large firms bad; fender makers and fire brass makers as brisk. In Dudley employment in the fender trade is improving.

**Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-Platers.**—Jewellers report employment as not so brisk as usual; electro-plate workers as moderate; Britannia-metal workers and plate glass bevellers and silverers as good.

**Other Metal Trades.**—Bedstead workers continue quiet; gun makers show no improvement. Tinplate workers return employment as fair; file-cutters and ironplate workers as moderate; matchette makers and finishers, nail and odd-side casters, steel toy makers and finishers, and makers of machine nuts and bolts, wrought iron and steel hinges, machine-made rivets and steel and iron tubes for steam, gas, and water, as good; wire nail makers as quiet; cut nail makers as fair; cycle tube makers as quiet. At Redditch employment with needle makers is good; with fish-hook makers fair; the fishing tackle makers are working full time. At West Bromwich the spring makers and hollow-ware workers are fairly employed.

**Building Trades.**—At Birmingham, West Bromwich and Coventry employment continues fair; at Redditch it continues quiet.

**Glass Trades.**—The flint glass workers and flint glass cutters report employment as still good.

**Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet makers return employment as not very good; millsawyers and machinists as good; coachmakers as declining. In the railway and wagon shops employment continues good.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors report employment as moderate; the boot and shoe makers as quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—The letterpress printers report employment as moderate; gasworkers and general labourers as good; brickmakers

as fair; leather harness-makers and general leather-workers as quiet, except bridle-cutters, who are rather busy. In Coventry employment in the watch trade continues fair; in the weaving trade quiet.—A. R. Jephcott.

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

**Clothing Trades.**—Ready-made tailoring factories are fairly busy. Bespoke tailors are not quite so busy as in November. Employment in the boot and shoe trade at Norwich is bad. Corset-makers in the district are fairly busy.

**Building Trades.**—Except with painters employment generally is good.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Engineers are still well employed in all parts of the district; boilermakers are fully employed; shipwrights and boatbuilders are fairly busy at Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

**Fishing Industry.**—At Yarmouth and Lowestoft fishing has been dull.

**Textile Trades.**—Silk and crape factories are still on full time; mat and matting-weavers are fairly well employed.

**Printing and Bookbinding.**—Employment throughout the district is not quite so good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Horticultural builders at Norwich are busy. Steam flour mills, oil-cake mills and steam saw mills are on full time. Brushmakers are fairly busy.—G. Cleverley.

**Suffolk, Essex and District.**

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—The engineers report employment as moderate at Ipswich; good at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Chelmsford, Halstead and Earl's Colne. Boiler makers are still busy. Shipwrights are fairly employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the boot and shoe trade at Ipswich is reported as bad; in the wholesale tailoring trade as dull at Ipswich, moderate at Colchester. Corset-makers are well employed at Sudbury, moderately so at Ipswich.

**Textile Trades.**—The mat weavers at Hadleigh, Lavenham and Long Melford report employment as good; at Sudbury and Glemsford as slack. Employment in the silk trade is good.

**Building Trades.**—Bricklayers at Ipswich and painters generally report employment as dull. In other branches it is fairly good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as dull at Ipswich; fair at Colchester, Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, and Southend. Bookbinders and lithographers are fairly busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Shipping and dock labour at the port of Ipswich has been moderate; at Harwich and Parkeston good. General labourers report work as good; brickmakers as fair.—R. W. Mather.

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

**General.**—Branches of societies (not including miners), with 8,450 members, have 238 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 170 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 3,537 members have 109 (or 3·1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 108 (or 3·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The stonemasons, bricklayers and plasterers report employment as good; the joiners and plumbers as moderate; the painters as dull.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—The iron and brass moulders, boiler-makers, smiths and toolmakers report employment as good; the fitters and brass finishers as moderate; the shipwrights as dull. Branches with 2,546 members have 51 (or 2·0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 29 (or 1·1 per cent.) at the end of November.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—The woodcutting machinists, coopers, and cabinet-makers report employment as fair; the coachmakers as good; the upholsterers and polishers as quiet.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the boot and shoe industry at Bristol maintains the slight improvement previously reported, but in the Kingswood district it has declined. Wholesale and bespoke tailors report employment as good; silk hatters as slack.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment has slackened at the Wellington and Westford Mills to three-quarter time for all hands. In the Trowbridge district employment in the heavy woollen and covert coating branches is reported as brisk; in fancy woollens as bad; in worsted fancy goods as fair.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as good; the bookbinders and lithographic printers as fair.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment continues good throughout the district.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and enginemen report em-

## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—S.W. COUNTIES; WALES; SCOTLAND.

ployment as good; dock labourers as brisk in Bristol, but slack at other ports on this side of the Channel.

**Miscellaneous.**—The glass bottlemakers report employment as good; the glass bevellers as fair; the saddlers as slack; the brush makers as bad.—J. Curle.

**Plymouth and South Western District.**

**Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.**—Employment in the mining districts has improved generally. Employment in the granite quarries continues good, but in the polishing sheds there is less work. In limestone and slate quarries work continues moderate. China clay workers are fairly employed.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Engineers report employment as moderate in Plymouth, Devonport, and Exeter, and good in Newton and Cornwall. Boilermakers and iron ship builders are well employed. Shipwrights are still busy. Brass and tin-plate workers are fairly employed in Plymouth and Devonport, and busy in Exeter. Branches with 2,182 members have 13 unemployed, compared with 8 at the end of November.

**Building Trades.**—Stonemasons report work as good in Plymouth, Devonport, and Penzance, and as quieter in Exeter and Tiverton; bricklayers and plasterers as good; plumbers and painters as moderate. Carpenters and joiners continue well employed. Branches with 2,826 members have 37 (or 1·3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 42 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment is quiet in the bespoke tailoring department; in the ready-made it has slightly improved. Boot and shoe makers are quiet.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as fair but declining in Plymouth, and as good in Exeter; lithographic printers as fair; bookbinders as improved; paper rulers as fair. At paper mills work continues steady.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Millsawyers and machinists continue steadily employed. With upholsterers and cabinet-makers work is quiet.

**Dock and Quayside Work.**—General labour on the quays and coal work has been fair; timber and grain work quiet.

**Fishing Industry.**—Between the storms catches by trawlers and drift boats have been only light at Brixham and Plymouth; at the Cornish stations they have not been up to the average.

**Miscellaneous.**—Government labourers are well employed; gasworkers, general labourers, excavators, brickyard and artificial manure workers are moderately employed; work in market and fruit gardens is quiet.—W. Hedge.

**WALES.****North Wales District.**

**Mining.**—Employment continues good at the collieries throughout the district, and is also good at the lead mines of Flintshire.

**Quarrying.**—Employment is good at the slate, granite sett, limestone, roadstone and freestone quarries.

**Building Trades.**—Employment at Wrexham is reported as slack; elsewhere it is fairly good.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment generally is reported as good.

**Clothing and Textile Industries.**—Employment in the flannel and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire has been good during the month. The bespoke tailors at Bangor, Wrexham and Oswestry report employment as slack; at Rhyl as fair.

**Brick and Terra-cotta Industries.**—At Wrexham, Ruabon, Buckley, Mold and Penybont employment continues good.—G. Rowley.

**South Wales District.**

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in all districts has been brisk, any irregularity being due to want of timber, or clearance of the coal cut. There has been exceptional immunity from disputes.

**Iron and Steel Trade.**—Returns from Ebbw Vale, Dowlais, Cyfarthfa, Briton Ferry, Neath, Rogerstone, and Cardiff-Dowlais Works show that mills and furnaces have been working full time. At Blaenavon 3 mills have been idle for 4 days, but furnaces have been going full time and one new furnace has been blown in during December. Mechanics, and general labourers have worked considerable overtime at some works.

**Building Trades.**—Most branches report employment as moderate, except where interfered with by bad weather. Branches of carpenters and joiners, with 1,493 members, have 48 (or 3·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 55 (or 3·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Ship Repairing and Engineering.**—Employment has been better, especially in the engineering department. Branches of the engineers and ironfounders with 2,361 members have 52 (or 2·0 per

cent.) unemployed, as against 76 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. Boiler-makers return 35 per cent. as unemployed, shipwrights 70 per cent. Mechanics' helpers and general labourers have had a good month. Ship cleaners and painters and boiler scruffers and cleaners have been brisk.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The coal shipments have reached a high average. Pitwood workers have been brisk; iron ore and corn workers quiet. The dock hoppers have had a fair month. The shipment of crews has been rather active, and the higher standard of wage generally maintained.

**Miscellaneous.**—The shipment and manufacture of patent fuel have been brisk, though checked slightly at some factories by want of coal. Wagon builders and repairers report employment as good; lithographers and letterpress printers as quiet. In the metallurgical and chemical industries employment continues dull.—T. Davies.

**Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.**—Employment on the whole remains about the same as at the end of November. The number of mills at work at the end of December was 309, giving employment to 16,100 workpeople, as compared with 314 mills giving employment to 16,091 workpeople at the end of November.

**SCOTLAND.****Edinburgh and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies, with 16,688 members, have 269 (or 1·6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 217 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in the coal industry continues good. The miners generally are working full time, although in West Lothian at one or two collieries some stoppage has been caused by the want of wagons.

**Shale Miners and Oil Workers.**—Returns from 37 pits, employing 3,819 workpeople (as compared with 3,827 in December, 1897) show that 3,454 were employed in pits at which full time was worked during the four weeks ending December 24th, and 365 at pits working 22 and under 24 days.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Branches with 2,323 members have 38 (or 1·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 30 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. Branches in Falkirk, with 2,755 members, have only one out of work.

**Shipbuilding.**—Branches with 600 members have 61 (or 10·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 5 (or 0·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the woollen industry in Hawick and Selkirk is good, both spinners and weavers being fairly well employed. In Galashiels it is good with the weavers, but the spinners are not so busy. The hosiery industry is still busy in Hawick, but rather quieter in Selkirk. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 5,930 members have 20 (or 0·3 per cent.) out of work, as against 49 (or 0·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Branches with 1,000 members have 28 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 15 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The seamen and firemen report employment as good. The coal porters and dock labourers are well employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 2,341 members have 62 (or 2·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 52 (or 2·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

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

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment has continued good. Branches with 12,472 members have 144 (or 1·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 120 (or 1·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment in all branches is good. Branches with 27,631 members return 455 (or 1·6 per cent.) as out of work as against 408 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Building Trades.**—Work has been busy during the month, and the painters' position has considerably improved.

**Mining.**—In Stirlingshire the men have been able to secure more regular employment during the month, through a better supply of wagons, nearly six days per week being worked. In Lanarkshire employment continues good. In Dumfriesshire work is reported as steady. In Ayrshire in coal and ironstone mines full time is being worked. In Renfrewshire the coal and ironstone miners have steady work.



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

**Clothing Trades.**—The bespoke tailors report employment as dull; the clothiers' operatives as quiet in the wholesale branch, fair in the bespoke branch; the boot and shoe operatives and slipper makers as dull; the knee boot and shoe makers as good.

**Textile Trades.**—In Glasgow silk weavers are slack; with weavers in most other branches employment is good; rope spinners, beamers, calendermen and pattern weavers are fairly well employed; warpers and dyers are still quiet; carpet weaving is busy throughout the district. In Newmilns and Darvel employment is quiet. In Galston and Kilmarnock blanket and lace workers are busy. In Kilbirnie the linen thread works are running full time in nearly all departments; the rope and net works are busy. In Paisley employment with mill workers is moderate.

**Transport Trades.**—Dock labourers in Glasgow and Greenock are fully employed. Carters and tramway and railway men are well employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as good; the bookbinders as not busy; the electrotypers and stereotypers as still fair.

**Glass Trade.**—Flint glass cutters, flint glass makers and decorative glass workers report employment as good; bottle makers as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Sett makers, spindle and flyer makers, scale beam makers, gilders, corkcutters, curriers, potters and labourers report employment as good; brushmakers as fair; saddlers as improved; calico engravers as still unsatisfactory.—A. J. Hunter.

## Dundee and District.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in all branches of the jute industry remains fairly good. In the linen trade work continues on the whole steady.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment at the Fifeshire collieries has been good on the whole. Reports from pits employing 10,919 workpeople show a weekly average of 52 days worked during the four weeks ending 24th December—the same average as in November.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—The engineering trade continues brisk, and employment in all branches remains steady. The shipbuilding industry is also busy. Returns from branches of societies with 2,360 members give 60 (or 2.5 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 55 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Building and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in the building trades continues generally good. Branches with 1,393 members return 26 (or 1.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 25 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. There is still no change to report in regard to the dispute in the furnishing trade.

**Fishing Industry.**—Fishing boats have been prevented by stormy weather from proceeding to sea with anything like regularity, and poor results were obtained.

**Dock Labour.**—Considerable briskness continues to prevail at the harbour, and employment with shore workers has been plentiful.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the printing and kindred trades has been good; in the tailoring trade quiet; in the boot and shoe trade fairly steady; and in the floorcloth and linoleum industry brisk.—P. Reid.

## Aberdeen and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies, with 6,871 members, have 33 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 74 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

**Quarrying.**—Quarrymen, settmakers, monumental masons and granite polishers report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Carpenters and joiners, slaters, plasterers, and painters report employment as good; masons as fair; plumbers as moderate. Branches with 2,469 members have only 7 out of work.

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

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Branches of societies, with 1,537 members, have 9 (or 0.6 per cent.), unemployed (excluding 30 affected by a dispute), as against 41 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders, engineers, shipwrights, blacksmiths, ironmoulders, brass finishers, pattern-makers and horse shoers report employment as good; the tinplate workers as fair. The ironworkers' labourers' dispute is now practically settled. (See page 29.)

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—Boot and shoe makers (hand-sewn) and mill and factory workers report employment as good; tailors and carpet weavers as fair; boot and shoe operatives (pegged and riveted) as dull.

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

**Fishing.**—In December at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 57,461 cwts., with a value of £48,430, as compared with 63,835 cwts., with a value of £40,282 in the previous month.

**Miscellaneous.**—Sawmillers, combmakers and saddlers report employment as good; upholsterers and bakers as fair.—W. Johnston.

## IRELAND.

## Dublin and District.

**Building Trades.**—Employment, except with painters and plumbers, has been good.

**Metal Trades.**—Employment is returned as good in most branches, but dull with the whitesmiths.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment is returned as fair with the coachmakers and cart and wagon builders, moderate with the saddlers, dull with the upholsterers, and bad with one branch of the cabinet-makers.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment with the tailors has been moderate; with the bootmakers fair.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as good; stereotypers, bookbinders and machine-minders as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is reported as good with the general labourers; fair with the paviors, hairdressers, and stationary engine-drivers; dull with the corkcutters and ropemakers.

J. P. Nannetti.

## Belfast and District.

**Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.**—Branches of societies, with 8,756 members, have 281 (or 3.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 208 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The engineers, carpenters and joiners, and furnishing trades report employment as quiet; the pattern-makers as unsettled. In other branches employment is reported as fair or good.

**Linen Trades.**—Societies with 4,043 members have 91 members (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 129 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The tenters report employment as bad; the women workers as dull; the flax roughers as moderate; the beetling enginemens, flax dressers, yarn dressers, yarn bundlers, and yarn beamers as fair; the linen lappers and hackle and gill makers as good.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 2,806 members have 155 (or 5.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 145 (or 5.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. All sections remain quiet.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Societies with 782 members have 53 (or 6.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 46 (or 5.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. Employment is dull all round.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches of societies, with 924 members, have 44 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 10 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The letterpress printers and bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as dull; the lithographic printers and lithographic artists and designers as good.

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

**Miscellaneous.**—Branches of societies with 1,839 members have 47 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of November. Employment is fair with the butchers, bakers, carters, railway servants, and municipal employees, and good with the locomotive engine drivers.—R. Sheldon.

## Cork and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—All branches of the engineering trade have been dull in Cork, Limerick, and Passage West; well employed in Haulbowline. Shipwrights, ship-joiners, riggers, and sailmakers are dull throughout the district.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported as fair in Cork and Limerick; quiet in Waterford.

**Textile and Clothing Trades.**—Flax and tweed operatives report employment as fair; boot and shoe operatives and tailors as quiet.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Millsawyers and woodcutting machinists, coachmakers, packing-case makers, cabinet-makers, and coopers report employment as moderate in Cork, Limerick, and Waterford.

**Miscellaneous.**—Letterpress printers report employment as good; gasworkers, coal porters, quay labourers, corporation employees, stationary enginemens and firemen, and railway workers as fair.—P. O'Shea.

## INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during December was 480, or 131 more than in November, and 113 more than in December, 1897.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,294,393 persons (according to the latest available figures), 461 persons were killed, and 7,126 reported injured by accidents in December, as compared with 344 killed and 5,237 reported injured in December, 1897. These figures give one death in December, 1898, for every 11,485 persons employed in those industries. During the year 1898, 3,689 persons were reported killed, and 70,691 injured, as against 3,827 reported killed and 58,192 injured in 1897.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 19 persons were reported killed, and 1,030 injured, in December, as compared with 23 reported killed and 556 injured in December, 1897.

## SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1897.	Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1897.	
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	52	64	441	391	465,112
Other Accidents	3	4	790	831	
Total Railway Service	55	68	1,231	1,222	465,112
<b>Mines</b>	77	82	424	369	728,713
<b>Quarries (over 20 feet deep)</b>	8	7	107	102	123,370
<b>Shipping</b>	250	133	213	191	233,780*
<b>Factories</b>	71	54	5,151	3,353	3,743,418
Total of above	461	344	7,126	5,237	5,294,393
<b>Workshops</b>	...	...	19	...	Cannot be stated.
Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23	14	15	874	453	
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	5	8	137	103	

## DETAILED TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	6	73	—	27	100
Engine Drivers	1	51	—	50	81
Firemen	3	53	—	55	108
Guards (Passenger)	—	14	—	10	24
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	7	22	—	65	87
Porters	7	60	—	237	297
Shunters	5	73	—	11	84
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	23	95	3	355	450
Total for December, 1898	52	441	3	790	1,231
Total for December, 1897	64	391	4	831	1,222

	Underground.		Surface.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
<b>Mines—</b>					
Explosions of Firedamp	—	16	—	—	16
Falls of ground	40	170	—	—	40
In shafts	2	14	—	—	2
Miscellaneous	15	165	20	59	35
Total for December, 1898	57	365	20	59	77
Total for December, 1897	74	309	8	60	82

	Inside.		Outside.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
<b>Quarries over 20 feet deep</b>					
Explosives or Blasting	2	4	—	—	2
Falls of ground	2	13	—	—	2
During Ascent or Descent	—	1	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	4	46	—	43	4
Total for December, 1898	8	64	—	43	8
Total for December, 1897	8	21	4	81	7

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	
<b>Shipping*—</b>					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	34	—	23	26	57
Steam	123	1	43	169	166
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	2	—	6	1	8
Steam	11	—	8	16	19
Total for December, 1898	170	1	80	212	250
Total for 3 months Oct., 1898, to December, 1898...	268	6	219	577	487
Total for 3 months Oct., 1897, to December, 1897...	117	15	203	480	320

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
<b>Factories—</b>					
(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—					
Adults	61	1,056	1	145	62
Young Persons	9	427	—	110	9
Children	—	14	—	8	—
Total	70	1,497	1	263	71
(b) Other Accidents—					
Adults	—	2,912	—	50	—
Young Persons	—	381	—	43	—
Children	—	5	—	—	—
Total	—	3,298	—	93	—
Total Factories—					
December, 1898	70	4,795	1	356	71
December, 1897	63	3,072	1	281	64
<b>Workshops—</b>					
Adults	—	14	—	1	—
Young Persons	—	4	—	—	—
Children	—	—	—	—	—
Total Workshops—					
December, 1898	—	18	—	1	—
December, 1897	—	—	—	—	—

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
<b>Factories &amp; Workshops (classified by trades).</b>					
<b>Textiles—</b>					
Cotton	3	233	1	148	4
Wool and Worsted	6	58	—	48	6
Other Textiles	—	36	—	29	—
<b>Non-Textiles</b>					
Extraction of Metals	1	72	—	—	1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	9	595	—	2	9
Machines, Engines and Engineering	8	1,283	—	1	8
Ship and Boat Building	9	793	—	—	9
Wood	—	133	—	4	—
Chemicals, &c.	4	140	—	3	4
Other Non-Textile Industries	30	1,470	—	122	30
Total December, 1898	70	4,813	1	357	71
Total December, 1897	63	3,072	1	281	64

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
<b>Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23</b>					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	11	439	—	—	11
Warehouses	1	343	—	—	1
Buildings to which Act applies	2	68	—	2	2
Laundries	—	3	—	19	—
Total for December, 1898...	14	853	—	21	14
Total for December, 1897...	15	434	—	19	15

	Construction or repair.		Use or Working.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
<b>Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894—</b>					
Bridge	—	5	—	—	—
Canal	2	1	1	10	3
Railway	2	37	—	—	2
Tramroad	—	—	—	—	—
Tunnel	—	1	—	15	—
Other Works	—	6	—	—	—
Traction Engines	—	62	—	—	—
Total for December, 1898	4	112	1	25	5
Total for December, 1897	7	78	1	25	8

\* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1898, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

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

‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.



## CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1898.

(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 December affected about 20,900 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those workpeople was an increase of about 1s. 3d. per head. About 19,500 received advances averaging 1s. 5d. per head, and 1,400 sustained decreases averaging 10½d. per head.

**Increases.**—The principal increase was that to 7,686 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, Cumberland and North Lancashire, arranged under the various sliding scales in operation in those districts.

**Decreases.**—The wages of 900 tinplate makers in South Wales and Gloucestershire were reduced.

**Methods of Arrangement.**—Changes affecting about 1,550 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting 8,700 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales. The other changes, affecting about 10,650 workpeople, were settled by negotiation between the employers and representatives of the workpeople.

**Summary of Changes in 1898.**—See special article, page 4.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1898.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*†		Increase or Decrease in full week.	
					Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.

## 4 Increases—3,290 Workpeople.

## BUILDING TRADES.

## Decreases—Nil.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1898.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
Edinburgh and Leith	Painters	1 April '99	1,600	Advance from 8d. to 8½d. per hour, with increase from 10d. to 10½d. for overtime	32 1½	34 1½	2 0	...
Glasgow and Govan	Painters	2 Jan. '99	1,500	Advance from 8½d. to 9d. per hour	32 1½	34 10½	1 1½	...
Greenock	Painters	1 Jan. '99	90	Advance from 8½d. to 9d. per hour	32 1½	34 10½	1 1½	...
Paisley	Painters	1 Jan. '99	100	Advance from 8½d. to 9d. per hour	32 1½	34 10½	1 1½	...

## 7 Increases—539 Workpeople.

## MINING AND QUARRYING.

## 1 Decrease—18 Workpeople.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1898.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
Near Newcastle-on-Tyne	Coal Hewers	3 Dec.	128	Advance of 3d. per ton to 50 men, of 3d. to 52 men, and of 2½d. to 26 others	—	—	—	...
Egremont, Cumberland	Iron Ore Miners	— Dec.	112	Decrease of 2d. per ton...	—	—	—	...
Croft, Leicestershire	Settlers	1 Jan. '99	40	Advance of 5d. per ton on all sizes of setts	—	—	—	...
Huncoote	Settlers	20 Dec. '98	26	Advance of 5d. per ton on all sizes of setts	—	—	—	...
Enderby	Settlers	20 Dec. '98	77	Advance of 5d. per ton on all sizes of setts	—	—	—	...
Narborough	Settlers	1 Jan. '99	62	Advance of 5d. per ton on all sizes of setts	—	—	—	...
Mountsorrel	Settlers	1 Jan. '99	94	Advance of 5d. per ton on all sizes of setts	—	—	—	...

## 6 Increases—8,686 Workpeople.

## IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

## Decreases—Nil.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1898.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
Consett & Jarrow	Steel Millmen	2 Jan. '99	1,000	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 5 per cent. above standard	—	—	—	...
Cleveland	Blast Furnacemen	7 Jan. '99	5,500	Advance of 5 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 13 per cent. above standard	—	—	—	...
West Cumberland	Blast Furnacemen	1 Jan. '99	1,350	Advance of 5½ per cent. under the various sliding scales, making wages 15½ per cent. above standard	—	—	—	...
Barrow	Blast Furnacemen	1 Jan. '99	520	Advance of 5½ per cent. under the various sliding scales, making wages 15½ per cent. above standard	—	—	—	...
Ulverston	Blast Furnacemen	1 Jan. '99	172	Advance of 5½ per cent. under the various sliding scales, making wages 15½ per cent. above standard	—	—	—	...
Askam and Millom	Blast Furnacemen	1 Jan. '99	144	Advance of 5½ per cent. under the various sliding scales, making wages 15½ per cent. above standard	—	—	—	...

## 11 Increases—2,868 Workpeople.

## ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.

## Decreases—Nil.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1898.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cleckheaton	Ironfounders	— Dec.	38	Advance of 2s. per week	34 0	36 0	2 0	...
Blackburn (with Darwen)	Ironfounders	17 Dec.	373	Advance of 2s. per week	34 0	36 0	2 0	...
Bolton	Ironfounders	1 Feb. '99	632	Advance of 1s. per week	38 0	39 0	1 0	...
Burnley	Ironfounders	17 Dec.	149	Advance of 1s. per week	36 0	37 0	1 0	...
Bury (with Radcliffe and Ramsbottom)	Ironfounders	17 Dec.	253	Advance of 1s. per week	38 0	39 0	1 0	...
Rochdale	Platers' Helpers and Angle Smiths' Strikers	17 Dec.	168	Advance of 2s. per week	36 0	38 0	2 0	...
Liverpool	Platers' Helpers and Angle Smiths' Strikers	31 Dec.	100	Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	—	...
Grimsby	Platers' Helpers	14 Jan. '99	15	Advance of 3s. per week	26 0	27 0	1 0	...
Ipswich	Patternmakers	17 Dec.	9	Advance of 2s. per week	32 0	34 0	2 0	...
Aberdeen	Labourers in Engineering, Iron and Shipbuilding Works	12 Dec.	500	Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	—	...
Dundee	Engineers	3 Feb. '99	570	Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	—	...

## 1 Increase—53 Workpeople.

## OTHER METAL TRADES.

## 3 Decreases—900 Workpeople.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1898.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
Wednesbury	Tube Workers (Screw Department)	10 Dec.	53	Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	—	...
Lydney	Tinplate Makers	14 Dec.	530	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 17½ per cent. below 1874 amended list of prices	—	—	—	...
Neath	Tinplate Makers	24 Dec.	280	Decrease of 2½ per cent., and concession of 3 sheets per box, leaving wages about 20 per cent. below 1874 amended list of prices	—	—	—	...
Whitchurch, near Cardiff	Tinplate Makers (tinhousemen)	Jan. 1, '99	90	Decrease of 10 per cent., leaving wages 25 per cent. below 1874 amended list of prices	—	—	—	...

\* 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.

‡ This includes about 500 ship painters.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1898.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*		Increase or Decrease in full week.	
					Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.

4 Increases—842 Workpeople				EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES.				Decreases—Nil.			
Nottingham...	Gas Workers:—	16 Dec.	361	Advance of 1s. per week, "good time" money—1s. 6d. per week, to be added permanently to wages	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	Stokers and Retortmen		241	Advance of 2s. per week	22 0	24 0	2 0	...	...	...	...
Willesden ...	Scavengers	31 Dec.	40	Advance of 1s. per week	24 0	26 0	2 0	...	...	...	...
	Labourers		114	Advance from 4½d. to 4¾d. per hour	19 10	20 11	1 1	...	...	...	...
Dundee ...	Road Sweepers	22 Dec.	81	Advance of 2s. per week	—	—	—	...	...	...	...
	Blacksmiths		2	Advance of 2s. per week	—	—	—	...	...	...	...
Dundee ...	Cartwrights	22 Dec.	3	Advance of 2s. per week	—	—	—	...	...	...	...
	Cartwrights		3	Advance of 2s. per week	—	—	—	...	...	...	...

3 Increases—1,087 Workpeople.				MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.				1 Decrease—430 Workpeople.			
Heywood ...	Cotton Weavers	16 Dec.	430	Decrease of 5 per cent.	—	—	—	...	...	...	...
Northamptonshire (Districts of)	Boot and Shoe Operatives	1 Feb. '99	1,000	Advance of 3d. per pair on machine-made Army boots	—	—	—	...	...	...	...
Ipswich ...	Letterpress Printers	— Dec.	15	Advance of 2s. per week	26 0	28 0	2 0	...	...	...	...
Bathgate ...	Bakers	12 Dec.	14	Advance to a minimum rate of 28s. per week	—	28 0	—	...	...	...	...

\* Exclusive of overtime.

† Comprises operatives engaged on the boots specified at Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough, Rushden, Raunds, Ringstead, Finedon, Irchester, Irthlingborough, Walgrave and Wollaston.

## ADVANCES IN RATES OF WAGES OF SEAMEN IN DECEMBER.

DURING December the rates of wages paid to A.B.'s, firemen and trimmers at Middlesbrough, Hull, Grimsby, London, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Belfast and Dublin have advanced, as compared with those prevailing in November. Altogether 2,217 men are reported as having shipped on foreign-going vessels during the month at increased rates, viz., 1,227 A.B.'s, and 990 firemen and trimmers. These include 1,268 at Cardiff, Newport and Swansea; 500 at London; and 189 at Hull.

The advances in monthly rates ranged from 2s. 6d. to 15s. per month, and on weekly agreements from 1s. to 2s. 8d. At Cardiff and Newport the maximum monthly rates paid on some voyages have increased by 20s. and 12s. 6d. respectively in the two months (Nov. and Dec.). At the other ports mentioned in the table there was no advance in November. The details for December are given in the table below:—

Port.	A.B.'s.	Firemen and Trimmers	Port.	A.B.'s.	Firemen and Trimmers
MONTHLY RATES.					
Advance of 2s. 6d. per month.					
Hull	6	4	Middlesbrough	12	14
Newport	6	12	London	43	4
Cardiff	—	—	Cardiff	26	17
Advance of 8s. per month.					
Middlesbrough	—	4	Grimsby	41	44
Hull	—	6	London	86	68
Grimsby	—	6	Newport	23	17
London	—	6	Cardiff	377	246
Newport	—	17	Swansea	27	19
Cardiff	—	17	Belfast	58	55
Advance of 7s. 6d. per month.					
London	—	121	130	—	—
Newport	—	2	4	—	—
Cardiff	—	—	—	—	—
Advance of 10s. per month.					
Middlesbrough	—	6	—	—	—
Hull	—	3	—	—	—
Grimsby	—	10	—	—	—
London	—	135	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	78	—	—	—
Swansea	—	14	—	—	—
Dublin	—	35	—	—	—
MONTHLY RATES (continued).					
Advance of 15s. per month.					
Middlesbrough	—	12	—	—	—
London	—	43	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	26	—	—	—
WEEKLY RATES.					
Advance of 1s. per week.					
Hull	—	47	—	—	—
Advance of 1s. 6d. per week.					
Middlesbrough	—	24	—	—	—
London	—	5	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	9	—	—	—
Advance of 2s. per week.					
Newport	—	9	—	—	—
London	—	1	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	3	—	—	—
Advance of 2s. 6d. per week.					
Newport	—	7	—	—	—
London	—	1	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	9	—	—	—
Advance of 2s. 8d. per week.					
London	—	1	—	—	—
Newport	—	17	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	9	—	—	—

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

**Total Emigration.**—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during December, was 9,347, compared with 8,694 in December, 1897. During the year 1898\* the number of passengers was 205,073, being 8,207 (or 3 8 per cent.) less than in 1897.

**British and Irish.**—Of the 9,347 passengers in December 5,999 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 41 as compared with a year ago. For the twelve months the passengers of British or Irish origin show a decrease of 5,830 (or 4 0 per cent.), the figures being 140,630\* for 1898, and 146,460 for 1897. The following table shows that in the year 1898 greater numbers of passengers proceeded to British North America than in 1897, while the numbers to the United States, Australasia and South Africa have fallen off.

Destination.	December, 1898.	December, 1897.	Total for year ended—	
			December, 1898.*	December, 1897.
United States	2,711	2,850	80,402	85,324
British North America	264	172	17,665	15,571
Australasia	63	84	10,706	12,061
South Africa	1,386	1,002	19,795	21,109
Other places	1,005	1,050	12,062	12,395
Total	5,999	5,958	140,630	146,460

**Foreign.**—The remainder of the 9,347 passengers in December, viz., 3,348, were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 612 more than in December, 1897.

**Alien Immigration.**—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during December was 4,525. Of these, 1,094 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 996 so stated in December, 1897. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, numbered 3,431 (including 951 sailors), as against 3,228 (including 813 sailors) in December, 1897. For the year 1898\* the number of aliens en route to America or elsewhere was 32,196, and the number not so stated 53,029, compared with 32,221 and 49,613 respectively in 1897. The figures for the different periods are shown in the following table:—

	Decemb'r 1898.	Decemb'r 1897.	Total for year ending—	
			Decemb'r 1898.*	Decemb'r 1897.
Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	3,431†	3,228†	53,029†	49,613†
Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	1,094	996	32,196	32,221
Total	4,525	4,224	85,225	81,834

\* These figures for the year 1898 are subject to correction in the annual returns. † These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 951 in December, 1898; 813 in December, 1897; and 12,313 and 10,762 respectively in the years 1898 and 1897.



## TRADE DISPUTES.

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

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty-nine fresh disputes were reported as beginning in December, 1898, compared with 44 in November, and 24 in December, 1897. In these 29 disputes, 5,378 workpeople were directly, and 941 indirectly affected, a total of 6,319, which compares with 8,457 in November, and 1,858 in December, 1897.

**Trades Affected.**—In the building trades 3 disputes took place, involving 105 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 4 disputes, involving 991 workpeople; engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 2 disputes, involving 188 workpeople; other metal trades, 7 disputes, involving 3,100 workpeople; textile trades, 8 disputes, involving 1,461 workpeople; clothing trades, 2 disputes, involving 155 workpeople; and in other industries, 3 disputes, involving 319 workpeople.

**Causes.**—Of the 29 new disputes, 21 were chiefly on wages questions, 2 in connection with working arrangements, 2 on questions of trade unionism, and 4 on other matters.

**Results.**—Twenty-one new disputes, involving 4,355 workpeople, and 9 old disputes, involving 2,185 workpeople, were reported as settled. In the 30 new and old disputes terminated, 9, involving 1,061 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 10, involving 2,191 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 11, involving 3,288 persons, resulted in a compromise. At the end of December, 22 old disputes were known to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 4,100 workpeople.

**Duration of Disputes in Working Days.**—No dispute of any great magnitude was in progress in December, and the total duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, was only about 160,000 working days, compared with 176,000 in the preceding month of November, and 1,456,000 in December, 1897, when the dispute in the engineering trade was in progress.

**Summary of Disputes in 1898.**—See special article, page 3.

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople affected		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.				
I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER, 1898.							
		3 Disputes.		BUILDING TRADES.		105 Workpeople affected.	
Barnsley ...	Plasterers and Labourers	7	...	Dec. 6	21	Refusal to work with a non-union man .. .. .	Non-unionist removed.
Rauceby, Lincolnshire	Excavators and Labourers	87	...	5	7	Against proposed reduction in wages of ½d. per hour	Reduced rate accepted.
Norwich ...	Bricklayers ... ..	11	..	20	...	Against employment of slaters to lay Broseley tiles, work claimed by bricklayers	Dispute not settled, but men reported to be in work elsewhere.
		4 Disputes.		MINING AND QUARRYING.		991 Workpeople affected.	
Egremont, Cumberland	Iron miners and Labourers, Mechanics and other Labourers	124	11	21	...	For advance in wages ... .. .	No settlement reported.
Near Newcastle-on-Tyne	Coal Hewers and other colliery workpeople	616	...	2	2	For advance in hewing prices in a particular seam	Advances ranging from ½d. to 2½d. per ton awarded in one part of the mine, and a reduction of 2d. per ton in another.
Bristol ...	Coal Hewers and other underground workers and Surface-men	170	30	12	2	Against withdrawal of conditional advance of 2½ per cent., the same not having been given at neighbouring collieries	Advance continued.
Motherwell ...	Coal Hewers ... ..	40	...	15	...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 6d. per ton to 16 men	No settlement reported.
		2 Disputes.		ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.		188 Workpeople affected.	
Hull ... ..	Platers and Platers' Helpers	50	110	5	2	Through certain platers not receiving full amount of pay alleged to be due to them	Platers received the full amount of pay claimed.
Liverpool ...	Shipjoiners ... ..	28	...	13	...	Against shipwrights being allowed to do certain work, said to be the work of joiners	No settlement reported.
		7 Disputes.		OTHER METAL TRADES.		3,100 Workpeople affected.	
Birmingham ...	Casters, Wire Drawers, Rollers, and Labourers	69	...	14	...	Against refusal of firm to rejoin trade alliance ...	No settlement reported.
Lydney, Glos.	Tinplate Makers ...	557	...	6	8	Against proposed reduction in wages of 5 per cent.	2½ per cent. reduction agreed to.
Llanelli ...	Tinplate Makers ...	1,400	...	31	...	Against proposed further reduction in wages of 7½ per cent., and concession of 4 sheets per box on light plate for a period of six months	No settlement reported.
	Cold Roll Boys and other tinplate operatives	23	600	6	3	Alleged wrongful discharge of a fellow worker	Boys resumed work on tendering an apology for the stoppage. The discharged boy was also reinstated.
Neath ... ..	Tinplate Makers ...	280	...	5	18	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	Reduction of 2½ per cent., with concession of 3 sheets per box accepted, equivalent to decrease of about 5 per cent.
Pontardawe ...	Tinhousemen (tinplate works)	140	...	5	5	Against proposed reduction of rates to men employed at certain patent pots	Work resumed, practically upon the conditions obtaining before dispute.
Aberdeen ...	Tin Case Makers (Tinned Provision Trade)	31	...	3	...	Refusal to sign an agreement to continue in the employ of firm until end of fishing season of 1899	No settlement reported.
		8 Disputes.		TEXTILE TRADES.		1,461 Workpeople affected.	
Halifax ...	Woollen Dyers ...	81	...	9	—	For advance in wages of 1s. per week to men receiving 20s. per week and over, and of 2s. to those receiving less than that amount	Men replaced and finding work elsewhere.
Burnley ...	Cotton Weavers ..	160	...	10	4	Alleged bad material and excessive fining ...	Work resumed unconditionally.
	Cotton Weavers ...	100	...	30	2	Alleged bad material and other grievances	Matters complained of to be put right.
Fallsforth ...	Twins and other Operatives	5	33	16	22	Alleged refusal of employer to pay according to twiners' price list and conditions	Employer agreed to pay according to prices in operation prior to strike, as well as 6d. per 100 lbs. extra when twining bastard counts.
Hyde ... ..	Calico Printers' Labourers	108	...	5	6	For advance in wages of 2s. per week ... ..	Average advance of about 1s. per week granted to 55 of those who came out. Others not being re-employed, notice of a second stoppage has been given.
Padiham ...	Cotton Spinners and Cardroom Operatives	40	39	1	1	For extra pay on account of alleged bad material	Extra pay granted for three weeks.
Preston ...	Cotton Weavers, Winders, Warpers, &c.	255	90	6	7	Alleged excessive fines... .. .	Weavers paid fine of 6d. per loom for stoppage of work without notice.
Macclesfield ...	Cotton Weavers	450	...	22	1	Alleged bad material ... .. .	Work resumed unconditionally.

\* 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.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.				
I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER, 1898—continued.							
2 Disputes. CLOTHING TRADES. 155 Workpeople affected.							
Heckmondwike	Riveters and Finishers	104	28	Dec. 13	5	Men locked out because of withdrawal by union of two men on account of alleged under-payment for certain work	Work resumed upon condition that a basis of prices for work in question should come into force on 1st January, 1899.
Belfast ...	Handkerchief Hemstitchers	23	...	9	17	Against reduction of 1d. per dozen upon a particular class of work	Operatives found work elsewhere.
3 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 319 Workpeople affected.							
Birmingham ...	Letterpress Printers ...	19	...	10	—	To enforce payment of general increase of wages conceded by other employers	One firm ceased to be a "society house," and the men in employ of another found work elsewhere.
Dublin ...	Dock Labourers ...	50	...	21	5	Refusal to work with non-union men brought from the country	Amicable arrangement as to future composition of working gangs, and removal of imported men.
	Glass Bottle Makers ...	250	...	31	...	For advance in wages of 3d. per gross	No settlement reported.

**II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE DECEMBER, 1898, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.**

<b>MINING AND QUARRYING.</b>							
Bristol ...	Coal Hewers and other underground workpeople and Surface-men	130	20	Nov. 28	5	For advance in wages of 2½ per cent.	Work resumed on understanding that advance be granted when colliery shall have reached proper working order.
Risca, Mon. ...	Coal Hewers, Coal Hewers, Surface-men and other colliery workpeople	6	900	Nov. 30	2	For increase in tonnage rate for carting coal in stalls	Work resumed on previous conditions after a conference.
Loughor, Glam.	Coal Hewers	250	...	Sept. 24	52	To advance the standard cutting price by about 25 per cent., with other alterations in working conditions	Allowance of 15 per cent. granted to hewers on account of harder coal.
<b>ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.</b>							
Liverpool ...	Platers' Helpers and Smiths' Strikers	125	...	16 Nov.	39	For advance in wages of 6d. per day	Advance granted by nine firms employing one hundred union men; in three other firms the men were replaced.
Aberdeen ...	Labourers in Engineering, Iron, and Shipbuilding Works, Boilermakers and Ironfounders	521	90	18 Nov.	15 & 17	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour	Advance of 1s. per week granted.
<b>TEXTILE TRADES.</b>							
Bolton ...	Spinners & Cardroom Operatives, Warehousemen, &c.	84	3	10 Nov.	36	Alleged bad material, causing loss of work, and against discharge of an operative off work through sickness	Compensation to be granted in respect of the material, and the discharged spinner to be reinstated.
Wigan ...	Cotton Weavers	36	...	3 Nov.	49	Dissatisfaction with rate of wages on new looms	Promise of alterations to enable weavers to earn better wages; some obtained work elsewhere.
<b>WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.</b>							
Paisley ...	Coachmakers	13	...	24 Nov.	13	Against alteration in hours of commencing and leaving work, and in hours for meals	Two men accepted the proposed alteration; places of the others filled up.
Limerick ...	Cabinet Makers	7	...	22 Nov.	17	Against dismissal of a fellow unionist	Work resumed unconditionally.

**III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE DECEMBER, 1898, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.**

The following 22 disputes which have been previously reported, were still unsettled at the end of December. The number of workpeople then involved was about 4,100. The month in which each dispute commenced is stated in brackets.

**Building Trades:**—Bricklayers, Chelmsford (May); plumbers, Warrington (June); plumbers, Whitehaven (Oct.).

**Mining:**—Coal miners, Castleford (July, 1897); Normanton (Sep., 1897); coal miners, Pontefract (April, 1898); coal miners, Sherburn (July); lead miners and smelters, Leadhills (Aug.); coal miners, Burnley (Sep.)—2 disputes; coal miners, East Kirkby, Notts (Nov.); coal miners, Barnsley (Nov.).

**Other Trades:**—Cabinet-makers, Glasgow, Beith, Dundee, and Dalry (March, 1898) (since settled—Jan.); dyers, Honley (Sept.); bone brush makers, London (Sept.); tube workers, Aston (Oct.); steel tyre makers, Glasgow (Oct.); ironfounders, Barnsley (Oct.); brass-finishers, Dublin (Oct.); brass-casters, Doncaster (Nov.); bakers, Edinburgh (Nov.); woollen weavers, Marsden (Nov.).

\* 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.

## MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

**Cotton Statistics.**—The imports of raw cotton during December show an increase as compared with both December, 1897, and 1896, and the imports for the twelve months ended December 31st are also considerably greater than for 1897 or 1896.

The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

	Imports. Bales.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns. Bales.	Exports. Bales.
December, 1898	833,410	330,581	41,756
" 1897	647,000	309,187	30,661
" 1896	679,375	308,325	43,281
Twelve Months ending			
December, 1898	4,402,265	3,293,940	410,368
" 1897	3,555,353	3,134,426	444,782
" 1896	3,613,680	3,111,481	388,298

**Traffic Receipts.**—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended January 1st, amounted to £6,262,689, an increase of £391,106 (or 6·7 per cent.), as compared with the corresponding period of 1897. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,665,290, an increase of £156,183, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,597,399, an increase of £234,923.

**Fishery Statistics.**—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during December was £599,610, an increase of £18,352 as compared with December, 1897. In England and Wales there was an increase of £14,084, in Scotland a decrease of £176, and in Ireland an increase of £4,444.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during December numbered 337, being 19 more than in December, 1897, 22 less than in December, 1896, and 49 less than in December, 1895. The total number for the year was 4,315 in 1898, 4,113 in 1897, 4,155 in 1896, and 4,440 in 1895.



## LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December 1,703 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux furnishing returns, as compared with 1,783 in December, 1897, a decrease of 80. Work was found by these bureaux for 1,146 persons during the month, as against 1,083 in December, 1897. The number of persons remaining on the registers of the 13 bureaux at the end of December, 1898, was 2,169 (including 1,037 men, lads and boys, and 1,132 women and girls), as compared with 2,261 (viz., 1,164 men, lads and boys, and 1,097 women and girls) a year ago.

## (I.) WORK DONE IN DECEMBER.

Name and Address of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux.			
					Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authorities.	
	Dec. 1898.	Dec. 1897.	Dec. 1898.	Dec. 1897.	Dec. 1898.	Dec. 1897.	Dec. 1898.	Dec. 1897.
<b>London.</b>								
St. Pancras (College St.)	168	115	113	101	28 <sup>1</sup> 47 <sup>1</sup>	64	15 <sup>1</sup>	40 <sup>1</sup>
Battersea (Lavender Hill)	76	133	34	27	30 <sup>1</sup> 4 <sup>1</sup>	27	—	8 <sup>1</sup>
Islington (Barnsbury St.)	243	257	63	62	34 <sup>1</sup> 20 <sup>1</sup>	16 <sup>1</sup> 40 <sup>1</sup>	209 <sup>1</sup>	188 <sup>1</sup>
St. Martin (Town Hall)	95	71	80	75	44 <sup>1</sup> 9 <sup>1</sup>	29	—	—
Hackney (Graham Yard)	134	87	24	27	8 <sup>1</sup> 2 <sup>1</sup>	12	129 <sup>1</sup>	108 <sup>1</sup>
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd.)	200	290	49	35	28 <sup>1</sup> 263 <sup>1</sup>	168 <sup>1</sup>	—	—
Y.W.C.A. (George St. Hanover Sq.)	(1) 235 (2) 70	246 53	420 44	368 43	45 <sup>1</sup> 16 <sup>1</sup>	66 27	—	—
<b>Provincial.</b>								
Salford (Town Hall)	13	32	15	5	3 <sup>1</sup> 12 <sup>1</sup>	5	—	—
Ipswich (Tower Street)	14	16	26	29	7 <sup>1</sup> 68 <sup>1</sup>	15	—	—
Plymouth (East St.)	142	104	178	148	42 <sup>1</sup> 1 <sup>1</sup>	60 1 <sup>1</sup>	1 <sup>1</sup>	—
Liverpool (Municipal Bldg.)	63	141	2	15	45 <sup>1</sup> 73 <sup>1</sup>	4 <sup>1</sup> 32 <sup>1</sup>	—	5 <sup>1</sup>
Glasgow (158 George St.)	250	238	135	77	45 <sup>1</sup> 73 <sup>1</sup>	41 <sup>1</sup> 32 <sup>1</sup>	7 <sup>1</sup>	3 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total of 13 bureaux</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>353</b>

## (II.) OCCUPATIONS OF WORKPEOPLE ON REGISTERS AT END OF DECEMBER.

Name of Labour Bureau.	Men.							Total Men.
	Build- ing, En- gineer- ing and Metal Trades.	Carmen Stable- men, Horse- men, &c.	Clerks and Ware- house- men.	Porters and Messen- gers.	General Labour ers.	Other Occu- pations		
London.								
St. Pancras ... ..	8	14	5	12	32	—	—	71
Battersea ... ..	6	5	1	7	67	—	—	86
Islington ... ..	41	20	7	23	106	12	—	209
St. Martin ... ..	3	—	1	14	2	7	—	27
Hackney ... ..	43	5	1	7	67	25	—	148
Salvation Army ... ..	—	—	5	1	2	1	—	9
Provincial.								
Salford ... ..	16	2	2	6	17	2	—	45
Ipswich ... ..	3	9	3	4	7	7	—	33
Plymouth ... ..	21	25	12	22	14	44	—	138
Liverpool ... ..	3	7	4	3	40	12	—	69
Glasgow ... ..	8	2	13	9	25	27	—	84
Total Number	152	89	54	108	379	137	—	919

Name of Labour Bureau.	Lads and Boys.	Women and Girls.					Grand Total.	
		Char- women, Daily Work, &c.	Ser- vants	Dress- makers and Semp- stresses	Others	Total Women and Girls.	Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1897.
London.								
St. Pancras ... ..	49	28	12	2	—	42	162	177
Battersea ... ..	23	4	—	—	—	4	60	65
Islington ... ..	23	17	5	—	2	24	256	302
St. Martin ... ..	14	10	3	—	1	14	55	42
Hackney ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	2	180	154
Salvation Army ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	27
Y.W.C.A. ... .. (1)	—	50	197	—	350	597	597	685
... .. (2)	—	—	—	84	256	320	320	301
Provincial.								
Salford ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	76
Ipswich ... ..	1	6	3	—	—	11	45	48
Plymouth ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	6	144	170
Liverpool ... ..	8	7	—	—	—	15	84	68
Glasgow ... ..	15	71	26	—	16	113	212	182
Total Number	118	195	246	86	605	1,132	2,169	2,261

\* Permanent employment. † Temporary employment.

‡ These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities.

§ Women and Girls are not registered.

## PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of persons relieved in the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of December was 335,867. This number corresponds to a rate of 212 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1898.

Compared with November, 1898, an increase is shown of 6,485 in the number relieved, and of 4 in the rate per 10,000 of population. Thirty-three out of the 35 districts show increased rates, the largest increases being in the Leicester district (12 per 10,000), Central London and Dublin (10 each), Stockton and Tees district (9), and Paisley and Greenock district (7). In one district a decrease is shown, viz., Newcastle district (3 per 10,000), while in the Galway district the rate remains the same.

Compared with December, 1897, the number relieved and the rate per 10,000 show decreases of 2,141 and 4 respectively. In 21 districts decreased rates are shown, the largest decreases being in the Bristol district (34 per 10,000), Coatbridge and Airdrie (25), Bolton, Oldham, etc., district (18), and Newcastle district (14). In two districts the rate is unchanged, while the remaining 12 show increased rates, the most marked increases being in West Ham (15), Cardiff and Swansea district (14), and Dublin (11).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of December, 1898.			Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	Month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES *</b>					
<b>Metropolis.</b>					
West District...	11,270	2,684	13,954	176	+ 5
North District...	14,825	8,209	23,034	217	+ 3
Central District...	7,464	3,109	10,573	464	+ 10
East District...	13,288	4,043	17,331	240	+ 4
South District...	21,012	18,666	39,678	285	+ 5
<b>Total Metropolis</b>	<b>67,859</b>	<b>36,741</b>	<b>104,600</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>+ 5</b>
<b>West Ham</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>7,342</b>	<b>9,635</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>+ 4</b>
<b>Other Districts.</b>					
Newcastle District...	1,629	4,207	5,836	185	- 3
Stockton & Tees District...	1,239	4,302	5,541	261	+ 9
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	3,588	8,119	11,707	189	+ 3
Wigan District...	1,866	6,999	8,865	226	+ 3
Manchester District...	8,714	7,277	15,991	188	+ 6
Liverpool District...	10,003	7,334	17,337	190	+ 2
Bradford District...	1,216	3,336	4,552	126	+ 2
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,045	3,582	4,627	124	+ 1
Leeds District...	1,963	5,626	7,589	177	+ 5
Barnsley District...	648	3,221	3,869	187	+ 5
Sheffield District...	2,446	3,186	5,632	151	+ 1
Hull District...	1,167	5,430	6,597	164	+ 5
North Staffordshire...	1,852	6,259	8,111	240	+ 6
Nottingham District...	1,717	5,254	6,971	188	+ 2
Leicester District...	1,186	3,478	4,664	217	+ 12
Wolverhampton District...	3,253	13,588	16,841	304	+ 6
Birmingham District...	4,261	2,268	6,529	122	+ 2
Bristol District...	2,661	7,592	10,253	292	+ 2
Cardiff & Swansea	1,760	6,976	8,736	251	+ 5
<b>Total "Other Districts"</b>	<b>52,214</b>	<b>107,464</b>	<b>159,678</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>+ 3</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.*</b>					
Glasgow District...	3,575	14,752	18,327	217	+ 6
Paisley & Greenock District...	673	2,665	3,338	214	+ 7
Edinburgh & Leith District...	1,418	5,245	6,663	186	+ 3
Dundee & Dunfermline	1,048	2,895	3,943	200	+ 3
Aberdeen...	507	2,545	3,052	126	+ 3
Coatbridge & Airdrie	328	1,110	1,438	164	+ 1
<b>Total for the above Scottish Districts</b>	<b>7,549</b>	<b>29,212</b>	<b>36,761</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>+ 5</b>
<b>IRELAND.†</b>					
Dublin District...	6,548	3,659	10,207	289	+ 10
Belfast District...	4,199	326	4,525	139	+ 5
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District...	4,612	5,160	9,772	415	+ 3
Galway District...	356	333	689	183	—
<b>Total for the above Irish Districts</b>	<b>15,715</b>	<b>9,478</b>	<b>25,193</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>+ 6</b>
<b>Total for above 38 districts in December, 1898</b>	<b>145,680</b>	<b>190,237</b>	<b>335,867</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>+ 4</b>

\* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

† Including Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

## DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE following table shows the number of cases of Lead poisoning and Anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during December, classified by industries. It will be seen that of the 141 cases of lead poisoning reported, 49 occurred in lead works and 41 in the china and earthenware trade. Of the 141 cases, 35 were among female operatives.

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>									
China and Earthenware	15	19	3	4	—	—	18	23	41
Glass...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Lead Works ...	48	1	—	—	—	—	48	1	49
Paints and Colours ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Smelting ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Tinning and Enamelling	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Of iron and other metals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	28	3	1	5	—	—	29	8	37
<b>Total Lead Poisoning</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Corresponding Total for December, 1897</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Anthrax ...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Diito December, 1897</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>

## 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 December, 1898, show an increase as compared with the corresponding month of 1897, in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions and in the exports of British and Irish produce and of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for December, 1898, were valued at £45,332,608, an increase of £3,998,072 as compared with December, 1897, or 9.67 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £26,514,361 as against £24,309,334 in 1897, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures alone amounted in value to £20,978,408, an increase of £1,658,252, or 8.58 per cent., and foreign and colonial merchandise to £5,535,953, i.e., an increase of £546,775, or 10.94 per cent. as compared with December, 1897.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for December, 1898, as compared with December, 1897, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month ended Dec. 31st.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1897.	1898.		
<b>Food, Drink and Tobacco</b>	<b>£ 18,179,250</b>	<b>£ 19,566,161</b>	<b>£ 1,386,911</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Metals</b>	<b>1,819,305</b>	<b>2,233,218</b>	<b>413,913</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances</b>	<b>414,664</b>	<b>392,208</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>22,456</b>
<b>Oils</b>	<b>676,092</b>	<b>883,504</b>	<b>207,412</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Raw Materials for Manufactures</b>	<b>12,055,539</b>	<b>13,683,864</b>	<b>1,628,325</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles</b>	<b>8,189,686</b>	<b>8,573,653</b>	<b>383,967</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 45,332,608</b>	<b>£ 49,330,608</b>	<b>£ 3,998,072</b>	<b>—</b>

With regard to the imports of articles of food, etc., wheat shows an increase in quantity of 882,120 cwt., but a decrease in the value of £37,614; wheatmeal and flour also show an increased quantity of 223,950 cwt., and a value decreased by £44,232. Barley has increased in quantity by 877,175 cwt. and in value by £341,589. Indian corn or maize by 1,097,340 cwt. and £339,027, while peas, beans and Indian corn meal all show increased quantities and values. On the other hand, oats and oatmeal have both fallen off. Among other articles of food and drink the imports of bacon, beef, hams, meat preserved otherwise than by salting, pork, butter, eggs, fruit, hops, lard, onions (raw), rice, spices, sugar (refined and candy), molasses and glucose all show increased quantities and values, while the most notable decreases are found in the case of cheese and unrefined sugar, the imports of which were valued respectively at £116,811 and £128,813 less than in December, 1897. Cocoa other than prepared has increased in quantity by 978,742 lbs. and in value by £26,316, but cocoa prepared, coffee, tea, spirits and wine all show a falling off; in the case of coffee the decrease is to the extent of £104,099.

In the imports of metals, copper, unwrought and partly wrought, shows an increased value of £109,645, and lead, pig and sheet, of £108,032. All other metals with the exception of copper regulus and precipitate, pyrites of iron and copper, and silver ore, show

increased values. In the class of raw materials, cotton has increased by £1,209,472, hemp by £139,1



# INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN DECEMBER.

## I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.\*†

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to Limewash ...	4	4	2 5 0	1 15 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	11	10	125 13 0	6 4 2
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	25	25	13 8 0	7 7 8
<b>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</b>				
Before or after the legal hour ...	90	82	36 1 6	27 11 3
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	89	87	60 0 0	48 18 3
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	14	13	9 10 0	5 1 6
At night ...	16	15	7 10 0	5 5 6
Illegal employment by Jew of Jewish employés ...	15	15	8 5 0	3 8 6
Other ...	5	5	1 2 6	0 15 0
<b>Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &amp;c.—</b>				
Not keeping Registers ...	17	17	11 3 6	6 8 5
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	11	11	5 7 6	4 11 0
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	11	11	7 5 6	4 19 10
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars Other Offences ...	8	8	6 0 0	3 8 6
Other Offences ...	2	2	4 0 0	1 6 6
<b>By Workmen:</b>				
Employment during meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	3	3	2 2 6	1 10 6
Employment at night ...	3	3	2 3 0	2 3 0
Other Offences ...	3	1	2 0 0	0 14 0
<b>By Parents:</b>				
Allowing children to be illegally employed ...	6	5	0 7 6	2 11 0
<b>Total for December, 1898</b> ...	<b>333</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>304 4 6</b>	<b>134 0 1</b>
<b>Total for December, 1897</b> ...	<b>316</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>254 1 1</b>	<b>126 4 8</b>

## II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.\*†

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
<b>UNDER THE MINES ACTS.</b>					
<b>By Workmen:</b>					£ s. d.
Safety Lamps ...	5	5	—	—	3 6 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	4	4	—	—	4 0 6
Timbering ...	5	5	—	—	6 19 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c. ...	9	9†	—	—	4 14 7
Riding on Trams ...	13	13	—	—	10 7 6
Miscellaneous ...	23	23	—	—	22 3 0
<b>Total for December, 1898</b> ...	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>51 11 1</b>
<b>Total for December, 1897</b> ...	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>64 2 9</b>
<b>UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.</b>					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>					£ s. d.
Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children ...	6	6	—	—	11 14 0
Fencing ...	6	6	—	—	10 14 6
Other Special Rules ...	12	12	—	—	13 0 10
<b>Total for December, 1898</b> ...	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>35 9 4</b>
<b>Total for December, 1897</b> ...	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16 9 0</b>

## III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
<b>By Owners or Masters of Ships:</b>			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Submerging Disc ...	1	1	10 0 0	0 9 0
Carrying excessive Deck Cargoes ...	4	4	67 0 0	1 15 1
Illegally engaging seamen ...	1	1	1 0 0	0 14 6
Exhibiting improper Lights ...	1	1	1 7 0	0 13 0
<b>By Seamen and others:</b>				
False Representation to obtain money from Seamen's Savings Bank ...	1	1	—	§
<b>Total for December, 1898</b> ...	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>79 7 0</b>	<b>3 11 7</b>
<b>Total for December, 1897</b> ...	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41 19 0</b>	<b>14 12 6</b>

## IV.—Under the Friendly Societies, &c., Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prose- cutions.	Withdrawn on compliance with Act.	Con- victions.	Fines and Costs.
Failure to send Annual Returns or Statements ...	19	9	10	£ s. d. 49 17 0
Failure to send Quinquennial Valuation ...	1	—	1	2 2 0
<b>Total for December, 1898</b> ...	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>51 19 0</b>
<b>Total for December, 1897</b> ...	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9 6 0</b>

\* Supplied by the Home Office.

† The figures relating to Prosecutions under the Mines and Quarries Acts for December, 1898, include prosecutions by H.M. Inspectors of Mines under the Factory and Workshop Acts in factories and workshops connected with Metalliferous Mines and Quarries. In the figures for December, 1897, given in the above tables, such prosecutions are included in the Table of Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts. The difference owing to the change of tabulation is not, however, very material.

‡ In one of these cases the defendant was sentenced to 15 days imprisonment without the option of a fine.

§ Defendant sent to prison for six months hard labour.

## INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

### REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN DECEMBER.

(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 December, it will be seen that 3 Trade Unions, 6 Co-operative Societies for Distribution, 3 Co-operative Associations for Production, 3 Building Societies, 15 new Friendly Societies, and 50 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register for the United Kingdom during December. Four Trade Unions, 2 Industrial and Provident Societies, 16 Building Societies, and 16 Friendly Societies (including 5 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registration cancelled. One Trade Union is reported as having amalgamated with another, and 1 Co-operative Society as having transferred its engagements to another.

### ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Blackburn and East Lancashire Roller Coverers' Association, Angell Inn, King-street, Blackburn; Middlesbrough Builders' Labourers' Union of Great Britain and Ireland, Leviathan Hotel, Middlesbrough. *Scotland.*—Scottish Carters' Association, 37, Hope-street, Glasgow. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Cymmer Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Avon-street, Cymmer, Glam.; South Hams Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Market-place, Kingsbridge, Devon.; Llanbradach Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 1, Glen View-terrace, Llanbradach, Glam.; Tadcaster and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 4, Stutton-grove, Tadcaster, Yorks.; Mardy Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 2, Ceridwen-street, Mardy, Ferndale R.S.O., Glam.; Devizes Co-op. Industrial and Provident Soc., Ltd., 40, Newpark-street, Devizes. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Dividing, 1; Specially authorised, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 6. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—39. *Scotland.*—9. *Ireland.*—2.

**Building Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—3. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

### ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Notice of dissolution received; Printers and Transferrers Amalgamated Trades Protection Soc., Star Inn, Queen-street, Burslem; Foot and Carriageway Masons' and all its Branches Trade Union, 48, Camborne-road, Wandsworth, S.W.; Rotherham Labourers' Trade Soc., Oddfellows Arms Inn, Wellgate, Rotherham; Monmouth Western Valleys Miners' Assoc., Tillery Miners' Institute, Abertillery. Amalgamation: United Shop Assistants' Union, Working Men's Club and Institute Union, Clerkenwell-road, E.C., with National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—Dissolved by instrument: Devonport Coal Assoc., Ltd., Free Library, Duke-street, Devonport. Resolution to wind-up and Liquidator's final return received: Rushden Co-op. Boot and Shoe Soc., Ltd., Higham-road, Rushden. Transfer of engagements by South Eastern Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., 118, Hop Exchange, 24, Southwark-street, S.E., to the South Western Farmers' Assoc., Ltd. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 7; Cattle Insurance, 1; Branches, 1. Registration cancelled: Working Men's Clubs, 2. Dissolved otherwise: Branches, 4. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. Instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 1.

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

### Information for Intending Emigrants.

THE free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on January 1st, and contain information useful to intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, rates of wages, and cost of living in the various British Colonies. Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the Colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest. Copies can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

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