

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. V.—No. 12.

DECEMBER, 1897.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| Summary of the State of Employment in November... | 353 |
| Special Articles and Reports— | |
| THE DISPUTE IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE... | 355 |
| THE RECENT CRISIS IN THE COTTON TRADE | 356 |
| STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS OF 1896 | 356 |
| CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN 1896 | 357 |
| REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES | 358 |
| AUTUMN AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS | 358 |
| SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN NOVEMBER | 360 |
| RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS | 360 |
| PRICES OF COAL AND IRON | 379 |
| CO-OPERATION IN GERMANY IN 1896 | 363 |
| THE RAILWAY SERVANTS' CRISIS | 359 |
| Employment in Certain Industries and Districts— | |
| REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES. | |
| COAL MINING | 365 |
| IRON MINING | 365 |
| PIG IRON MANUFACTURE | 366 |
| STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS | 366 |
| AGRICULTURAL LABOUR | 367 |
| SEAMEN | 369 |
| LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR | 368 |
| WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES | 368 |
| DISTRICT REPORTS. | |
| LONDON | 369 |
| ENGLAND: Northern Counties | 370 |
| Lancashire | 370 |
| Yorkshire | 371 |
| Midland Counties | 372 |
| Eastern Counties | 374 |
| South-Western Counties | 374 |
| WALES | 375 |
| SCOTLAND | 375 |
| IRELAND | 376 |
| Labour in the Colonies and Abroad— | |
| COLONIES | 363 |
| FRANCE | 364 |
| GERMANY | 364 |
| BELGIUM | 364 |
| Miscellaneous Reports for November— | |
| LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR | 361 |
| RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION... | 359 |
| INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS | 384 |
| FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM | 383 |
| MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... | 383 |
| EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION | 383 |
| Statistical Tables for November— | |
| TRADE DISPUTES | 380 |
| CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES | 378 |
| CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR... | 379 |
| INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS | 377 |
| INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS | 384 |
| LABOUR BUREAUX... | 382 |
| PAUPERISM... | 382 |
| DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS | 364 |
| Notes and Reviews— | |
| NEW ZEALAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR | 363 |
| FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, NEW ORDER UNDER PARTICULARS CLAUSE | 360 |
| EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES | 379 |
| HALF TIMERS | 383 |

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER.

[Based on 2,379 returns, viz.: 1,633 from Employers, 589 from Trade Unions, and 157 from other sources.]

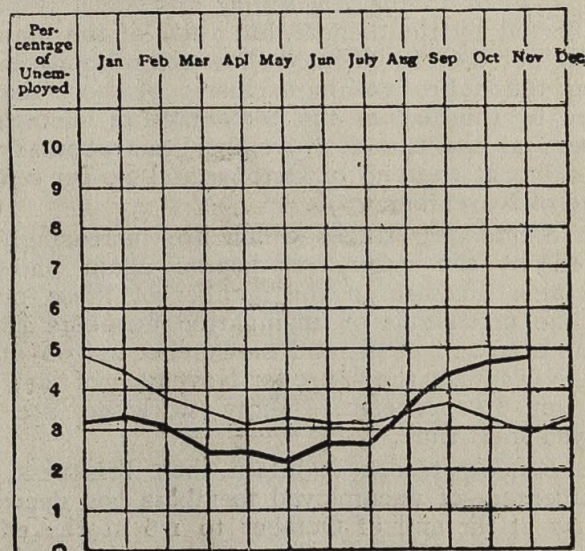
ON the whole the state of employment has been well maintained during the month, the trifling increase in the percentage of unemployed reported below being more than accounted for by the indirect effect of the engineers' dispute on employment in the shipbuilding trades. The changes in wages and fresh labour disputes reported during the month were unimportant.

In the following figures persons directly on strike or locked out have been omitted.

In the 113 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 465,630, 22,281 (or 4.79 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of November, compared with 4.70 per cent. at the end of October, and with 3.0 per cent. in the 111 unions, with a membership of 441,259, from which returns were received for November, 1896.

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 1896 and of each completed month of 1897.



The table below classifies the membership of the 113 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

| Percentage of members unemployed. | At end of November, 1897. | | Corresponding Percentages for | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | Number of Unions making Returns. | Total Membership of such Unions. | A Month ago. | A Year ago. |
| | | | | |
| Under 1 per cent. | 34 | 36,918 | 7.9 | 21.2 |
| 1 and under 2 per cent. | 23 | 158,221 | 34.0 | 23.5 |
| 2 " 3 " | 12 | 22,126 | 4.8 | 18.7 |
| 3 " 5 " | 21 | 139,136 | 29.9 | 38.9 |
| 5 " 7 " | 6 | 14,917 | 3.2 | 6.2 |
| 7 " 10 " | 6 | 20,085 | 4.3 | 5.7 |
| 10 per cent. and upwards | 11 | 74,227 | 15.9 | 9.2 |
| Total | 113 | 465,630 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment continued good in November. It was about the same as a year ago, and very nearly as good as in October. At pits at which 437,277 persons were employed coal was hewn and wound on the average for 5.32 days per week, as against 5.37 days in October and 5.31 days in November, 1896. (For further details see page 365.)

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues to be good, and is practically unchanged, both as compared with October, 1897, and November, 1896. The 17,241 workpeople employed at mines covered by the returns received worked on an average 5.84 days per week in November, as compared with 5.88 days in October and 5.84 days a year ago. The number of workpeople shows an increase of 2.8 per cent. over the number employed in November, 1896. (For further details see page 365.)

Pig Iron Industry.—The number of furnaces in blast, so far as included in the returns, was 349 at the end of November, as compared with 351 at the end of October. The number of persons employed, however, remains practically unchanged. There are 5 more furnaces in blast and about 300 more persons employed than a year ago. (For further details see page 366.)

Employment at **Steelworks** has improved slightly, and is better than a year ago. At 139 works 39,640 workpeople were employed at the end of November as compared with 39,063 at the end of October, and 38,496 at the end of November, 1896. (For further details see page 366.)

At **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** employment continues better than a year ago. At 93 works 19,763 persons were employed at the end of November, as compared with 19,735 at the end of the preceding month, and 19,398 at the end of November 1896. (For further details see page 366.)

At **Tinplate** works the resumption of work continued steadily during November, and at the end of the month 325 out of 484 mills were at work, as against 306 out of 485 a month ago, and 261 out of 490 a year ago. (For further details see page 366.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades is still affected by the dispute, but a few of the branches of trade not directly affected show some improvement. Taking the entire group, exclusive of those directly affected by the dispute, the percentage of unemployed members at the end of November was about 6.0 as against 6.2 at the end of October and 2.0 per cent. at the end of November, 1896.

The **Shipbuilding** trades which are increasingly influenced by the engineers' dispute again show an appreciable increase in the number of those out of work, the percentage of unemployed members having gone up from 12.2 at the end of October to 13.2 at the end of November, the figure for November of last year being but 8.4 per cent. Many workmen are also employed short time.

The **Building** trades maintain their briskness, and the percentage of unemployed members has decreased from 1.7 at the end of October to 1.6 at the end of November, the figure at the corresponding period of last year being 0.9 per cent.

The **Furnishing** trades, though still showing a slight falling off, are yet well employed, the percentage of members out of work being 2.4, compared with 2.2 at the end of October. The figure for November, 1896, was 2.0 per cent.

The improvement indicated last month in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has been well maintained, the present being the busy season. At the end of November the percentage of unemployed members was 2.5, compared with 3.5 at the end of October and 2.6 in November, 1896.

The returns for the **Paper** trades show a rise in the percentage of unemployed members from 2.9 to 8.0, the increase being attributed to a stoppage caused by a fire. The figure for November, 1896, was 3.0 per cent.

In the **Glass** trades the position remains unchanged, the percentage of unemployed union members being

10.5, as last month, compared with 12.7 for November of last year.

In the **Leather** trade there is a slight decline, the percentage of unemployed having gone up from 3.9 at the end of October to 4.7 at the end of November. The percentage in November, 1896, was 2.8.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade is bad; in the bespoke branch it is slack.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade shows a further decline, and is very slack; in the bespoke trade it is quiet.

Employment in the **Cotton** trade has improved in the **Spinning** branch, and is fair; in the **Weaving** branch it is still slack.

Employment in the **Woollen** trade has declined, and in the **Worsted** trade is still slack. Employment in the **Hosiery** trade shows a further decline.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 548 mills employing 85,000 women and girls, shows that 61 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 65 per cent. in October, and 76 per cent. in November, 1896. For further details see page 368.)

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment at the docks was not so good in November as in the previous month, or as a year ago. At the wharves it was better than in the previous month and about the same as a year ago. At the docks and principal wharves an average number of 15,823 were employed, as compared with 16,007 in the previous month and 16,806 in November, 1896. (For further details see page 368.)

The state of employment of **Agricultural** labour during the month of November was generally of a very satisfactory character. The fine weather which prevailed during October continued almost throughout November; outdoor work, consequently, suffered no interruption, and labourers generally had constant employment. In a number of districts extra hands were difficult to obtain. (For further details see page 367.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 4,200 workpeople were reported during November, of which number about 2,200 received increases and 2,000 sustained decreases. The net result was a decrease, estimated at about 1s. 3d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. This result was mainly due to reductions in the tinplate trade. Changes, affecting 950 workpeople, were preceded by strikes. The remaining changes, affecting 3,250 workpeople, were agreed to after direct negotiation between the employers and their workpeople, or their representatives, without any cessation of work. (For further details see page 378.)

Trade Disputes.—Forty-one fresh disputes began in November, 1897, involving 6,644 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for October was 49, involving 8,769 workpeople, and for November, 1896, 65, disputes involving about 16,000 workpeople. Four disputes took place in the building trades, 6 each in mining and quarrying, engineering and shipbuilding and textile trades, 7 in other metal trades, 3 in the clothing trades, 5 in the transport group, and 4 in other industries. Of the 49 new and old disputes, involving 10,047 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 9, involving 1,825 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 26, involving 3,954 persons, in favour of the employers, while 14, involving 4,268 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see p. 380.)

Pauperism.—In the 35 selected urban districts 330,099 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of November. This number corresponds to a rate of 211 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, being 2 per 10,000 less than a year ago. (For further details see page 382.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during November was 8,685, as compared with 8,823 in November, 1896. (For further details see page 383.)

THE DISPUTE IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE.

IN the GAZETTE for each month from June to November last (pages 163, 195, 227, 259, 291, and 323) accounts were given of the various stages of the dispute in the engineering trade up to the middle of November. In accordance with the draft basis submitted by the Board of Trade and accepted by both sides, a preliminary interview between representatives of the parties took place on Wednesday, November 17th, when it was arranged that the conference should be held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on November 24th, and that each side should have fourteen representatives, and should appoint their own chairman. It was also agreed that, until the termination of the conference—

First, the employers will suspend any notices not already carried into effect, and will not post further notices; and secondly, the affiliated societies will not interfere in any way with men who may be in employment at any time during the conference.

The conference met on November 24th and following days. The employers' representatives were drawn from Manchester, Newcastle, Bolton, Belfast, Sunderland, London, Sheffield, Glasgow, Leicester, Leeds, Birkenhead, Oldham, and Greenock. The workmen were represented by the chairman and general secretary of the A.S.E., three members of the executive council of that society, and five of its district delegates from the centres chiefly affected, and also by one representative from each of the following societies:—Steam Engine Makers' Society, United Machine Workers' Association, London United Brassfinishers' Society, and the United Society of Smiths and Hammermen. Colonel Dyer acted as chairman of the employers' representatives, and Mr. Sellicks as chairman of the trade union representatives.

The first three sittings were taken up with the discussion of the question of workshop management. The first proposal of the employers in its original shape was as follows:—

Any condition of labour which prevails in any of the workshops of the Federated Employers shall be adopted in any other federated workshop at the option of the employer.

After discussion the proposal was modified so as to read as follows:—

The Federated Employers, while disavowing any intention of interfering with the proper functions of trade unions, will admit no interference with the management of their business, and reserve to themselves the right to introduce into any federated workshop, at the option of the employer concerned, any condition of labour under which any members of trade unions here represented were working at the commencement of the dispute in any of the workshops of the Federated Employers. It is further agreed that the discussion and mutual settlement of matters of detail which illustrate the above general principle shall be at once proceeded with at this conference. Nothing in the foregoing shall be construed as applying to the normal hours of work, or to general rises and falls of wages. Clause 4, Sub-section B, of the basis of conference provides for the discussion and settlement of the best means of avoiding as far as possible future disputes.

In this form the representatives of the men accepted the proposal

"without prejudice to the right of discussion of details, and subject to the votes of our members being taken upon the whole question hereafter."

The conference then adjourned until Tuesday, November 30th, and sat on that and three following days. The points discussed included:—freedom of employment; piecework; overtime; rating of workmen according to ability; apprentices; selection, training and employment of operatives; avoidance of future disputes; and hours of labour.

An adjournment took place until December 14th to enable the men's delegates to submit the employers' proposals in their final form to a ballot of their members. The following are the proposals in the form finally adopted by the employers:—

I. FREEDOM OF EMPLOYMENT.

(a) Every workman shall be free to belong to a trade union or not as he may think fit. (b) Every employer shall be free to employ

any man whether he belong or not to a trade union. (c) Every workman shall undertake to work peaceably and harmoniously with all fellow employees whether he or they belong to a trade union or not.

2. PIECEWORK.

The right to work piecework at present exercised by many of the federated employers, shall be extended to all members of the Federation and to all their workmen. The prices to be paid for piecework shall be fixed by mutual arrangement between the employer and the workman who is to perform the work. The Federation will not countenance any piecework conditions which will not allow an efficient workman to earn at least the wage at which he is rated. The Federation recommend that all wages and balances shall be paid through the office.

3. OVERTIME.

Terms of Recommendation agreed to be made to Employers.

When overtime is necessary the Federated Employers recommend the following as a basis and guide:—That no man shall be required to work more than forty hours overtime in any four weeks after full shop hours have been worked. In the following cases overtime is not to be restricted—namely, breakdowns in plant, general repairs, including ships, repair or replace work, whether for the employer or his customers; trial trips. No alteration, restriction, or extension of this basis shall be made except by mutual agreement between the employer and the individual workmen concerned. This basis is to apply only to members of the trade unions who are represented at this conference. All existing restrictions as regards overtime are to be removed.

4. RATING OF WORKMEN ACCORDING TO ABILITY.

Every workman shall be paid according to his ability, and no employer shall be restricted in employing any workmen at any rate of wages mutually satisfactory to them. Note.—It must be distinctly understood that by the foregoing there is no intention whatever to reduce the rate of wages paid to efficient workmen. The following are some illustrations for the necessity of employers having the freedom above referred to:—In most works there are old servants, men up in years or men whose efficiency is impaired by partial disablement or indifferent health, who are not able to earn the same wages as younger and stronger men. There are also men who, although they may have had a mechanical training, are not, from various circumstances, worth as high a rate of wages as other more able men, but still, all these classes of workmen may be worth a lesser rate of wages. Employers must have the option of engaging or retaining these or other men at such rates of wages as are mutually satisfactory rather than refuse them employment on work upon which they can be advantageously employed.

5. APPRENTICES.

That there shall be no limitation in the number of apprentices.

6. SELECTION, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT OF OPERATIVES.

Machine tools are the property of the employers, and they are responsible for the work turned out by them. They therefore will continue to exercise their discretion to appoint the men they consider suitable to work them, and determine the conditions under which such machine tools shall be worked. The employers consider it their duty to encourage ability wherever they find it, and especially the right to select, train, and employ those whom they consider best adapted to the various operations carried on in their workshops, and will pay them according to their ability as workmen.

7. PROPOSALS FOR AVOIDING FUTURE DISPUTES.

With the view to avoiding disputes in future, deputations of workmen will be received by employers or their representatives by appointment for mutual discussion of questions in the settlement of which both parties are directly concerned, but only local associations of employers will negotiate with trade union officials. Failing settlement by the local association and the trade union of any question brought before them, the matter shall be forthwith referred to the executive board of the Federation and the central authority of the trade union, and, pending a question being dealt with, there shall be no stoppage of work either of a partial or of a general character, but work shall proceed under the current conditions.

On the question of hours of labour the men claimed a forty-eight hour week, but the employers declined to consent to any reduction.

The result of the ballot of the men was declared on December 14th as follows: for the employers' terms, 752; against, 68,966. The adjourned conference was still sitting at the Westminster Palace Hotel at the time of going to press.

Owing to the truce arranged as a preliminary to the conference, there has been no extension of the area of

dispute during the month, and the number of men affected remains practically the same. The indirect effect of the stoppage on allied trades has become more marked, and in some centres (*e.g.*, Newcastle, Hartlepool and Hull) short time is being resorted to in important shipbuilding yards in consequence.

The members of the Boilermakers' Society who were out on strike from ship repairing shops at the date of issue of last GAZETTE, returned to work after a strike of 27 days, on the terms of the 1892 agreement.

THE RECENT CRISIS IN THE COTTON TRADE.

For some time past there has been a movement among the employers in the cotton trade for a reduction of wages of cotton spinners. As a result, on September 22nd the joint committee of cotton employers addressed a circular to their members to obtain their votes on the question of demanding a five per cent. reduction in spinners' wages. Having obtained the adherence of employers owning a considerable majority of the spindles in the chief districts, the joint committee held a conference on October 18th with the representatives of the operatives, at which the demand for a reduction was discussed. The conference adjourned for a fortnight to enable the operatives to consider their reply. At the adjourned conference held on November 1st the representatives of the workmen declined to accept the reduction, whereupon the following resolution of the employers was submitted in writing:—

The acceptance of the proposal of the Joint Committee of Employers for a reduction of 5 per cent. in the wages of the operatives having been refused, a formal notice of one month, in accordance with the terms of the Brooklands agreement, is now given. But the Joint Committee of the Employers' Associations, having regard to the terms of the first clause of the said agreement, which declares that "it is expedient and desirable that some means should be adopted whereby disputes and differences may be expeditiously and amicably settled, and strikes and lock-outs avoided," do hereby offer to submit the question to arbitration, the said arbitration to cover the state of trade during the last six months, or any longer period.

The representatives of the operatives not being able to accept the proposal for arbitration in this form, submitted to their members the following alternative proposition:—

That inasmuch as the practice of the employers and operatives in the cotton-spinning trade in asking for reductions and advances of wages has always been based on the state of the spinning trade at the time notice has been given of such reductions or advances, and now that the employers have given one month's notice for a reduction of wages and have offered to submit the same to arbitration, this committee hereby resolves to recommend the members of the Amalgamation in special meetings assembled to accept arbitration for settling the present wages question; that such arbitration be based on the state of the spinning trade on November 1st, 1897, or any time after that date before such notice expires.

At a third conference held on November 16th, it was reported that a majority both of the cotton spinners, and card and blowing room operatives, and of winders, warpers, and reelers, had voted in favour of the last proposition.

The employers, however, declined to entertain it, and made a counter proposition that the period to be reviewed in the arbitration should be left entirely to the discretion of the arbitrator. The representatives of the operatives having intimated that their members would not accept this suggestion, the employers proposed a second alternative, "that the period of time to be covered by the arbitration shall be from September 22nd to the end of the present year."

With regard to the dates mentioned in the above propositions, it is to be noted that November 1st was the date of the first proposal for arbitration, and September 22nd the date on which the first circular was issued by the employers.

At the request of the operatives, the employers' notices were post-dated for a fortnight to give time for

them to consult their members. At the fourth conference, held on November 29th, it was reported that the whole body of operatives had voted practically unanimously against the employers' amended proposal.

Thereupon a ballot of the men was taken on the question of accepting the reduction of 5 per cent. proposed by the employers, the result of the voting, so far as concerns the spinners, being: for the reduction, 387; against, 13,196.

Meanwhile the joint committee of the employers again tested the feeling of their members by a circular asking for a final decision as to enforcing the 5 per cent. reduction. On December 7th the joint committee resolved that the replies received did not justify them in proceeding further in the matter. No stoppage will therefore take place.

THE STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS OF 1896.

REPORT BY THE CHIEF LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.

The ninth annual report on strikes and lock-outs by the Chief Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade, dealing with the trade disputes of 1896, has been published (C.—8643, 1897, price 1s. 2d.).

The report shows a marked falling off in the extent and importance of trade disputes in 1896 compared with 1895, which itself showed a considerable decline compared with any of the three previous years. The estimated aggregate number of days lost through disputes in 1896 was under four millions, compared with five and a half millions in 1895, over nine millions in 1894, and more than thirty-one millions in 1893, the year of the great coal dispute.

The satisfactory decline shown by the above figures has not continued in 1897, the statistics for which when completed will show a very considerable rise, mainly owing to the great engineering dispute. The aggregate working days lost through trade disputes during the ten months, January to October, 1897, has been nearly seven and a half millions, so that the total for the present year is likely to be nearly, if not quite, as high as that of 1894, though still very far below the figures for 1893.

Number of Disputes and Number of Working Days Lost.

The number of trade disputes in the United Kingdom, reported as commencing in 1896, was 1,021, affecting directly or indirectly 198,687 workpeople. Of this number about 150,000 were actually on strike or locked out, while the remainder were persons employed in the establishments at which the disputes took place, who were thrown out of work in consequence of the stoppage. The aggregate number of working days lost during 1896 through disputes is estimated as 3,748,525. The following summary table shows for each group of trades the number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate number of days lost, the numbers affected being classified according to results:—

| Group of Trades. | Number of Disputes which began in 1896. | Number of Workpeople affected by Disputes, the Results of which were— | | | | Total Number of Workpeople affected by Disputes commencing in 1896. | Aggregate Number of Working Days lost during 1896 through Disputes. |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | In favour of the Workpeople. | In favour of the Employers. | Compromised. | Indefinite or Unsettled. | | |
| Building ... | 205 | 19,621 | 10,566 | 3,283 | — | 33,470 | 1,061,207 |
| Mining and quarrying ... | 172 | 16,993 | 22,488 | 27,722 | — | 67,203 | 1,011,126 |
| Metal engineering and shipbuilding ... | 281 | 24,306 | 13,637 | 10,937 | 230 | 48,210 | 863,205 |
| Textile ... | 163 | 11,287 | 14,704 | 7,673 | 53 | 33,717 | 520,371 |
| Clothing ... | 54 | 2,232 | 543 | 1,241 | — | 4,016 | 98,894 |
| Transport ... | 26 | 638 | 513 | 2,169 | — | 3,320 | 23,046 |
| Miscellaneous ... | 114 | 3,101 | 3,816 | 1,294 | — | 8,211 | 169,069 |
| Employees of public authorities ... | 6 | 308 | 53 | 179 | — | 540 | 1,607 |
| Totals ... | 1,021 | 78,486 | 66,320 | 83,598 | 283 | 198,687 | 3,748,525 |

Causes and Objects of Trade Disputes.

The following table classifies the disputes which began in 1896, according to their principal causes or objects:—

| Principal Causes or Objects. | Number of Disputes which began in 1896. | Number of Workpeople affected by Disputes, the results of which were— | | | | Total Number of Workpeople affected by Disputes commencing in 1896. | Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in 1896 through Disputes. |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | In favour of the Workpeople. | In favour of the Employers. | Compromised. | Indefinite or Unsettled. | | |
| Wages ... | 570 | 45,499 | 43,312 | 26,932 | 74 | 115,817 | 2,688,957 |
| Hours of labour ... | 26 | 1,541 | 1,662 | 455 | — | 3,658 | 51,200 |
| Working arrangements ... | 164 | 12,905 | 7,353 | 12,863 | — | 33,121 | 385,552 |
| Disputes as to employment of other classes of workpeople ... | 53 | 2,295 | 2,713 | 2,326 | 144 | 7,478 | 70,545 |
| Disputes on questions of unionism ... | 103 | 8,762 | 1,840 | 1,429 | — | 12,031 | 327,183 |
| Other causes or objects:— | | | | | | | |
| Against employment of particular employees* ... | 11 | 221 | 126 | 3,347 | — | 3,694 | 74,950 |
| For reinstatement of discharged employees* ... | 43 | 3,112 | 2,838 | 3,164 | — | 9,104 | 61,806 |
| Objection to action of officials ... | 20 | 1,499 | 2,082 | 703 | 53 | 3,737 | 22,691 |
| Sympathetic disputes ... | 24 | 1,495 | 4,343 | 2,705 | — | 8,543 | 101,684 |
| Miscellaneous ... | 7 | 1,156 | 61 | 274 | 12 | 1,503 | 23,957 |
| Totals ... | 1,021 | 78,486 | 66,320 | 83,598 | 283 | 198,687 | 3,748,525 |

It will be seen that of the trade disputes of 1896, 55.8 per cent. (accounting for 58.3 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected, and for 71.7 per cent. of the aggregate number of days lost), were about questions of wages. In many of these cases other matters were also in dispute, but in all those classified under this heading the question of remuneration was the most important.

Results of Trade Disputes.

As regards the results of disputes to the parties concerned, 39.5 per cent. of the workmen obtained their demands, while disputes affecting 27 per cent. were compromised, and disputes affecting 33.4 per cent. resulted in favour of the employers. The workpeople were most successful in obtaining their demands in the building trades, which during the year were very busily employed.

Methods of Settlement of Trade Disputes.

The methods by which the trade disputes of 1896 were settled are shown in the following table. Disputes affecting 71.1 per cent. or nearly three-fourths of the total number of workpeople affected by disputes in 1896 were settled by negotiation or other conciliatory methods.

| Group of Trades. | Number of Workpeople affected by Disputes settled by | | | | | | Totals. | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| | Arbitration. | Conciliation and Mediation. | Direct Negotiation or Arrangement between the Parties. | Submission of Workpeople. | Replacement of Workpeople. | Closing of Works or Establishments. | | |
| Building ... | 463 | 4,867 | 17,445 | 9,485 | 1,191 | 19 | 33,470 | |
| Mining & quarrying ... | 5,018 | 800 | 38,597 | 20,011 | 1,375 | — | 1,402,672 | |
| Metal, engineering and shipbuilding ... | 4,706 | 1,597 | 34,521 | 4,368 | 1,239 | 1,693 | 48,124 | |
| Textile ... | 51 | 1,668 | 19,812 | 9,795 | 2,338 | — | 33,664 | |
| Clothing ... | — | 12 | 190 | 3,271 | 116 | 382 | 45 | 4,016 |
| Transport ... | — | — | 800 | 2,207 | 200 | 113 | — | 3,320 |
| Miscellaneous ... | — | — | 19 | 4,556 | 2,755 | 809 | — | 8,211 |
| Employees of public authorities ... | — | — | — | 487 | 50 | 3 | — | 540 |
| Totals ... | 10,280 | 9,941 | 120,986 | 46,780 | 7,450 | 3,161 | 198,687 | |
| Percentages ... | 5.2 | 5.0 | 60.9 | 23.6 | 3.7 | 1.6 | 100.0 | |

The disputes included in the above table, under the heads of Arbitration and Conciliation, are not the whole number settled in this manner during the year, since a certain number of disputes which began in 1895 were arranged by arbitration or conciliation in 1896. The whole number so settled in 1896 is shown in the following table:—

* Apart from unionism.

Disputes Settled by Arbitration or Conciliation.

| Agency of Settlement. | Conciliation. | | Arbitration. | | Total. | |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| | No. of Disputes. | No. of Workpeople affected. | No. of Disputes. | No. of Workpeople affected. | No. of Disputes. | No. of Workpeople affected. |
| By Trade Boards ... | 12 | 1,734 | — | — | 12 | 1,734 |
| By individuals* ... | 13 | 18,705 | 20 | 10,280 | 33 | 28,985 |
| Totals in 1896 ... | 25 | 20,439 | 20 | 10,280 | 45 | 30,719 |
| Totals in 1895 ... | 17 | 60,963 | 28 | 7,945 | 45 | 68,908 |

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN 1896.

RETURNS relating to co-operative production during 1896 by workmen's co-operative societies in the United Kingdom have been made to the Department by 698 societies, as compared with 677 in 1895.

The 698 societies employed 26,873 persons in production at the end of 1896, and paid in productive wages during the year £1,291,462. Of the 26,873 persons employed, 18,875, or 70.2 per cent., were employed in England and Wales; 7,697, or 28.7 per cent., in Scotland; and 301, or 1.1 per cent., in Ireland.

The following table (I.) shows the character of the industries carried on, and the number of men, women, and young persons respectively engaged in them.

Table I.—Co-operative Production classified by Industries.

| Industries carried on by Co-operative Societies of all Classes. | No. of Societies to which the Particulars relate. | Number of Persons employed in Production in 1896. | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| | | Men. | Women. | Young Persons under 18 Years. | Total. |
| Building ... | 36 | 1,637 | — | 56 | 1,693 |
| Metal and engineering ... | 19 | 533 | 97 | 135 | 765 |
| Textile ... | 27 | 1,521 | 1,630 | 702 | 3,853 |
| Clothing— | | | | | |
| Boots and shoes ... | 293 | 4,634 | 1,063 | 1,160 | 6,857 |
| Tailoring, mantle and shirt making ... | 157 | 1,767 | 1,441 | 674 | 3,882 |
| Dress making and millinery ... | 174 | 2 | 1,299 | 658 | 1,959 |
| Farming and dairying ... | 96 | 401 | 129 | 44 | 574 |
| Printing and allied trades ... | 15 | 556 | 161 | 204 | 921 |
| Woodworking and furnishing ... | 9 | 451 | 40 | 100 | 591 |
| Food preparation— | | | | | |
| Bread making and confectionery ... | 379 | 2,682 | 329 | 502 | 3,513 |
| Corn milling ... | 25 | 784 | 28 | 25 | 837 |
| Other foods ... | 10 | 190 | 365 | 69 | 624 |
| Other industries ... | 14 | 570 | 110 | 124 | 804 |
| Totals ... | 698† | 13,728 | 6,692 | 4,453 | 20,873 |
| Percentage of total ... | — | 58.6 | 24.9 | 16.6 | 100.0 |

The total value of the productions sold or transferred to distributive departments of societies was £7,668,266, an increase of 14.8 per cent. over the amount returned by 677 societies in 1895.

The following table classifies the production according to the classes of societies by which it is carried on:—

Table II.—Co-operative Production by various classes of Societies*

| Classes of Societies. | No. of Societies to which the returns relate. | | No. of Persons employed in Production in | | Value of Goods sold by Productive Societies or transferred from Productive to Distributive Departments in | |
|--|---|------------|--|---------------|---|-------------------|
| | 1895. | 1896. | 1895. | 1896. | 1895. | 1896. |
| Societies for retail distribution ... | 494 | 495 | 8,854 | 9,398 | 2,356,405‡ | 2,650,831‡ |
| Societies for wholesale distribution ... | 2 | 2 | 6,684 | 8,588 | 1,570,598‡ | 2,119,228‡ |
| Total: Societies established primarily for distribution ... | 496 | 497 | 15,538 | 17,986 | 3,927,003‡ | 4,770,059‡ |
| Societies for corn milling ... | 9 | 9 | 404 | 394 | 957,606 | 1,070,545 |
| Societies for other forms of production ... | 172 | 192 | 7,797 | 8,493 | 1,618,148 | 1,828,512 |
| Total: Societies established primarily for production ... | 181 | 201 | 8,201 | 8,887 | 2,575,754 | 2,899,057 |
| TOTAL: ALL SOCIETIES ... | 677 | 698 | 23,739 | 26,873 | 6,502,757 | 7,668,266 |

* Including three disputes settled under the Conciliation Act during the latter part of the year.

† Some societies carry on two or more industries, and are entered under several heads; consequently this column does not add up to the total given.

‡ In the case of the wholesale and retail distributive societies the goods usually sold by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments of the societies.

Of the 698 societies 102 (including the Scottish Wholesale Society) reported that they had assigned to their employees £18,455 out of the profits of the year, including £1,009 allotted to provident funds for their benefit. This amounts to about £2 4s. per head of the 8,356 workpeople employed in production by these societies at the end of the year, and 5 per cent. on the wages paid.

Of this sum £12,376 was allotted by 48 productive societies (including one corn mill), £4,262 by the Scottish Wholesale Society, and £1,817 by 53 retail distributive societies.

The number of retail distributive societies, which are engaged also in production, is about 550, of which 495 made sufficiently complete returns for 1896 to be tabulated in Table III. In a certain number of cases it has been necessary to estimate the value of productions.

Table III.—Production by Retail Distributive Societies.

| Trades. | No. of Societies making Returns. | | No. of persons employed in production at end of year. | | Total estimated value of own productions sold or transferred to distributive departments during the year.* | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---|--------------|--|------------------|
| | 1895 | 1896 | 1895 | 1896 | 1895 | 1896 |
| Building... | 28 | 26 | 458 | 517 | 48,947 | 70,411 |
| Textile ... | 2 | 6 | 284 | 297 | 62,852 | 64,024 |
| Clothing— | | | | | | |
| Boots and Shoes ... | 241 | 267 | 1,826 | 1,962 | 218,780 | 235,537 |
| Tailoring ... | 161 | 150 | 2,695 | 2,037 | 244,076 | 256,346 |
| Dressmaking and Millinery ... | 171 | 174 | 1,782 | 1,959 | 100,441 | 117,047 |
| Farming... .. | 20 | 30 | 114 | 172 | 24,833 | 40,221 |
| Food Preparation— | | | | | | |
| Corn Milling ... | 14 | 14 | 149 | 167 | 394,921 | 466,200 |
| Bread making and Confectionery ... | 354 | 353 | 2,071 | 2,192 | 1,207,693 | 1,353,461 |
| Other Foods... .. | 8 | 9 | 67 | 74 | 51,151 | 43,063 |
| Other Trades ... | 1 | 6 | 8 | 21 | 2,801 | 3,873 |
| Total, all trades ... | 494† | 498† | 8,884 | 9,308 | 2,356,408 | 2,650,183 |

AUTUMN AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS.

At the November half-yearly hirings in the counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire for men boarded and lodged in the farmhouses, the rates of wages obtained are said to have been very similar to those in November last year. Best men, youths, and boys were in the greatest demand. It is reported that a number of the best men did not come to the hiring fairs, but were privately engaged, either by their late employers or by others, before the end of the term. The wages of second-class men at several fairs showed a downward tendency of about 10s. to £1 for the half-year compared with 1896. This is partly attributed to the forward state of farm work owing to the fine weather which has prevailed this Autumn. In some cases men of this class were left unhired. The rates of wages agreed upon in the case of best men for the half-year, exclusive of board and lodging, at Lancaster, Kendal and Ulverston were £12 or £13 to £15, wages of £16 and £17 being paid in exceptional cases. Second class men and youths generally obtained from £9 to £12 and boys £4 to £8 10s. At Carlisle and Penrith best men were usually paid £12, to £14 10s. and £15 or £16 in exceptional cases; second class men and youths obtained from £7 10s. to £11 or £12, and boys £5 to £6.

At most of the hiring fairs named there was a large number of girls seeking employment, but in many cases they were looking for situations in private houses and not with farmers. As a rule efficient women for farm house work were scarce and in request. The wages generally obtained for best women for service in farm houses were from £10 to £11 10s., but in some cases £12 to £13 was paid. At Ulverston, where a large number of women are always hired, the rates obtained were from £11 to £12 10s. up to £13.

The wages of second class women at the fairs named were generally from £7 to £10, and for girls £4 to £6 10s. or £7.

At the November hirings in Durham the rates of wages obtained were generally about the same as those in November, 1896.

* In the case of the wholesale and retail distributive societies the goods are not usually sold by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments of the societies.
† Some societies carry on two or more industries, and are entered under several heads; consequently this column does not add up to the total given.

REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES (1896).

THE Report of H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1896 (C.—8561, price 5s. 1d.) differs in some respects from those of previous years, mainly in the addition of tables summarising the annual returns which the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895 now requires from occupiers of factories and workshops. Some of the practical applications of the information thus rendered available are exemplified in the course of the Report in connection with accidents, overtime, employment of children and young persons, and prosecutions. Among others to be developed in future reports are mentioned facilities for measuring with some precision the numbers of persons and of works engaged in processes which are under special legislative treatment whether of restriction or relaxation.

The main fact recorded in the work of the Factory Department in 1896 is the increased pressure of work due partly, though not entirely, to the operation of the Factory Act of 1895. New duties have arisen in connection with dangerous trades, the reporting of certain forms of poisoning in factories and workshops, the means of escape in case of fire, the annual returns from 144,000 occupiers under section 34, inspection of 10,000 laundries, docks and warehouses, and in many other ways. More accidents have been reported and investigated, more prosecutions instituted, and the number of matters referred to the sanitary authorities has doubled.

Accidents.—The total number of accidents reported to the certifying surgeons in 1896 was 14,433, as compared with 10,466 in 1895. But for purposes of comparison it is necessary to take into account the greatly altered meaning of "reportable accident" in 1896. The alterations made under the 1895 Act, however, mainly affected the reports to be sent to the inspector, and not to the certifying surgeon. There were 19,124* other accidents reportable under this Act to the inspector, but not to the surgeon. The increase in the number of accidents reported is shared, although unequally, by nearly all the industries enumerated. It is suggested that the increase is partly due to the increased volume of trade, partly to the new "abstracts" and greater attention to the duty of reporting. The proportionate increase in accidents was greater among adults than among young persons, greater among females than among males. So far as children were concerned there was an actual decrease. Charts are given in the report showing the seasonal distribution of accidents month by month, distinguishing between fatal and non-fatal accidents.

The returns from occupiers of factories and workshops of the number of persons employed in 1895 have made it possible to calculate certain accident rates for that year. The following table shows the accident rate in the textile industries.

United Kingdom, 1895. Accident rates among persons employed in the textile industries:—

| | Males. | | | | Females. | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--|--|
| | Number Employed | Accident Rate per 1,000 Employed. | | Number Employed | Accident Rate per 1,000 Employed. | | | |
| | | Fatal. | Non-Fatal. | | Fatal. | Non-Fatal. | | |
| Children ... | 25,525 | 0.1 | 6.3 | 30,100 | 0.0 | 2.3 | | |
| Young Persons ... | 83,086 | 0.2 | 8.0 | 154,992 | 0.0 | 3.9 | | |
| Adults... .. | 303,270 | 0.1 | 3.6 | 478,778 | 0.0 | 1.5 | | |
| All Ages ... | 411,881 | 0.1 | 4.6 | 663,870 | 0.0† | 2.1 | | |

Notification of Lead, Phosphorus and Arsenic Poisoning, and of Anthrax.—During the year, 1,050 cases were reported by medical practitioners. Of these 1,030 were cases of lead poisoning, of which 432 were in china and earthenware industries, and 239 in the white lead industry. Seventeen cases of anthrax were notified, of which 12 were in the leather trades. There were two cases of phosphorus poisoning, and one of arsenic poisoning.

* The numbers given are in all cases those of persons injured.
† There were altogether 14 fatal accidents to females reported.

Prosecutions.—The total number of prosecutions in 1896 was 3,341, an increase upon the number 3,188 in the previous year, prior to which the highest record was 3,007 in 1890. About three-fifths of the year's legal proceedings were concerned with factories and the rest with workshops.

The clothing industries take the lead with 214 prosecutions for every 10,000 persons employed, followed by the food, drink, and tobacco trades with 13.4, the potteries and glass trades with 8.4, the cotton, and the paper and printing trades with 8.2, and the lace and hosiery trades with 8.0 prosecutions per 10,000 employed. In the group of non-textile industries too small to be classified, but employing in all 89,143 persons, the rate was 13.8 per 10,000. The rate in all industries collectively, employing 4,103,485 persons, was 7.6 per 10,000.

Statistics of Employment in Factories and Workshops.—The materials for the return of persons employed in 1895 in factories and workshops in the United Kingdom (the first of a new series of annual returns) were collected in 1896. The total number of works included in the return is 144,008. Workshops (other than bakehouses) in which men only were stated to have been employed during 1895, factories and workshops under the charge of H.M. inspectors of Mines acting as inspectors of factories, and places brought under the Factory Acts for certain purposes by sections 22 and 23 of the Factory Act 1895 are not included in the return, but some particulars of the last-mentioned class appear in a separate table.

The number of persons employed in the factories and workshops included in the return for 1895 was 4,103,485, of whom 1.6 per cent. were children under 14 employed as half-timers, 19 per cent. were young persons under 18 years employed as full-timers, and 79.4 per cent. were persons of 18 years and upwards.

Of the 1,075,751 persons employed in the textile factories, 44.5 per cent. were women over 18 years of age, and 28.2 were men over 18. Of the 2,480,119 persons employed in non-textile factories, only 12.9 per cent. were women and 70.8 per cent. were men. Of the 547,615 persons employed in the workshops included in the return, 37.4 per cent. were women and 35.7 per cent. men over 18 years of age.

Of the 66,006 children working as half-timers, 55,625, or 84.3 per cent., were employed in textile factories, 11.3 per cent. in non-textile factories, and 4.4 per cent. in workshops under the Act of 1878.

The return for 1895 includes 7,875 textile factories, 64,709 non-textile factories, and 71,424 workshops.

The number of persons employed in the different classes of factories and workshops is given as follows:—

| Industry. | England and Wales. | Scotland. | Ireland. | United Kingdom. |
|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Number of persons employed in Textile Factories. | | | | |
| Cotton ... | 508,004 | 30,262 | 617 | 538,883 |
| Wool, Worsted, and Shoddy ... | 246,563 | 31,737 | 4,101 | 282,401 |
| Flax, Hemp, and Jute ... | 15,226 | 77,445 | 63,448 | 161,019 |
| Lace ... | 12,888 | 1,580 | — | 14,561 |
| Hosiery ... | 29,844 | 3,682 | 652 | 34,178 |
| Silk ... | 34,101 | 1,727 | 50 | 35,878 |
| Elastic ... | 4,399 | — | — | 4,399 |
| Cocoanut Fibre ... | 2,379 | — | — | 2,379 |
| Horseshair ... | 1,536 | 486 | — | 2,022 |
| Total ... | 884,661 | 116,816 | 71,868 | 1,073,345 |
| In Non-Textile Factories | | | | |
| Machines, Tools, Appliances, &c. ... | 434,730 | 76,505 | 11,212 | 522,447 |
| Extraction, Founding, and Conversion of Metals ... | 232,023 | 47,113 | 2,127 | 281,263 |
| Food, Drink, and Tobacco ... | 172,872 | 33,893 | 22,222 | 228,987 |
| Clothing ... | 179,686 | 15,843 | 21,664 | 217,193 |
| Paper, Printing, &c. ... | 179,896 | 33,922 | 9,795 | 223,613 |
| All other Non-Textile Factories ... | 822,125 | 141,974 | 42,517 | 1,006,616 |
| Total ... | 2,021,332 | 349,250 | 100,227 | 2,470,809 |
| In Workshops included in Return. | | | | |
| Machines, Tools, Appliances, &c. ... | 24,122 | 1,004 | 468 | 25,594 |
| Food and Drink ... | 21,553 | 10,816 | 792 | 33,161 |
| Clothing ... | 242,916 | 37,716 | 22,405 | 303,037 |
| All other Workshops ... | 164,872 | 15,228 | 5,723 | 185,823 |
| Total ... | 453,463 | 64,764 | 20,888 | 539,115 |

The report includes an abstract of Factory and Workshop legislation in France and Belgium.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

Returns received from 927 co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,238,981, show total sales for the third quarter of 1897 amounting to £8,383,398, as compared with £7,683,602 in the corresponding period of 1896. Of the societies, 725 show an increase, and 201 a decrease, while one society showed the same amount of sales for each period. The net increase amounted to £699,796, or 9.1 per cent.

Returns from the four wholesale societies for the same period show total sales in the distributive departments amounting to £4,160,983, as compared with £3,768,614 in 1896, an increase of 10.4 per cent. The transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments amounted to £578,549, as compared with £459,268 in 1896, an increase of 26 per cent.

During November four co-operative distributive societies and two productive societies were registered in England, and a lace-making society and a dairying society in Ireland.

A cycle manufacturing society at Manchester, a boot manufacturing society at Great Grimsby, a distributive society at Milnrow, and a farmers' supply association at Blackburn are reported to be in process of dissolution.

Fourteen retail distributive societies in England and Wales, and three in Scotland, reported the opening of 21 new branches or departments during the quarter.

Detailed figures showing the recent progress of co-operative societies are given in the following table, based upon returns and reports specially supplied to the Department by the societies.

| Societies making Returns. | No. | Membership. | Sales of Societies making Returns. | | Increase in 1897 compared with 1896. |
|--|------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | In 3rd quarter of 1897. | In 3rd quarter of 1896. | |
| I.—Retail Distributive Societies. England and Wales Scotland and Ireland | 732 | 1,032,708 | £ 6,655,398 | £ 6,126,276 | £ 527,122 8.6 |
| | 195 | 206,273 | 1,728,000 | 1,555,326 | 172,674 11.1 |
| Totals ... | 927 | 1,238,981 | 8,383,398 | 7,683,602 | 699,796 9.1 |
| II.—Wholesale Societies. ENGLAND, & WALES (— Distributive Departments Manufacturing Departments) | 1,045* | 1,044,267* | 3,004,657 | 2,782,482 | 222,175 7.9 |
| | | | 359,735† | 277,118† | 82,617 29.8 |
| SCOTLAND:— Distributive Departments Manufacturing Departments | 289* | 209,340* | 1,107,178 | 951,078 | 156,100 16.4 |
| | | | 218,814† | 182,150† | 36,664 20.1 |
| IRELAND:— Irish Co-operative Agency Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society | 30* | Not stated. | 45,266 | 35,054 | 10,212 29.2 |
| | | | 3,882† | Nil | 3,882 — |

* Number and membership of federated societies.
† Transfers to distributive departments.
‡ From May 1st to July 15th only.

THE RAILWAY SERVANTS' CRISIS.

On December 4th an application was received by the Board of Trade from the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants to intervene to bring about a meeting between the railway companies and the representatives of the men, to discuss certain proposals for reduction of hours, increase of wages, and other improved conditions, which the society had submitted to the companies, accompanied by an offer to refer them to arbitration. The Board declined to intervene in the manner suggested, being of opinion that the policy of dealing with the companies as a body had no prospect of success, and also that railway men stood in an exceptional position with regard to their hours of labour, owing to the passage of the Railway Regulation Act, 1893.

On December 6th an application was received from the Irish secretary of the same society, asking for intervention to bring about a conference between representatives of two Irish railway companies and of their employees, who had tendered notices to cease work owing to the refusal of the companies to negotiate with the officials of the union. In reply, the Board of Trade forwarded a copy of their answer to the English application.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Laceworkers at Newmilns.

ON June 28th a dispute commenced at Newmilns, between eight firms of lace makers and their employees. The dispute, which had reference to a demand for an increase of wages and for the reinstatement of certain persons who had been discharged, affected about 1,200 operatives, directly and indirectly.

ON November 4th, an application was received by the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act on behalf of the men, and in consequence of this application the Board appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, as conciliator.

ON November 13th and 15th, Mr. Askwith met the representatives of the men, and on the latter day was present at a meeting of employers. After some discussion a proposal for settlement was signed by the employers, and this proposal was, with one amendment, accepted on the same day by the men. On November 16th the employers agreed to the amendment.

The following are the terms of settlement:—

(1) The following firms (here follow names) will accept again as employees such men as have been dismissed from, or have left their works subsequent to June 25th, 1897, and receive back at once, i.e., within seven days, on their individual application, as many men as they have vacancies for, at the same wages as heretofore without deduction. If any men cannot be received back at once the employers, as soon as vacancies occur, will do their best to draft them into their works.

(2) Each of the above firms, with a view to settling grievances or future disputes, will give a hearing, and, on request, afford facilities for discussion between themselves and any deputation or body of three persons employed in their own works.

(3) It is agreed that no men presently working shall be interfered with or molested in any form by those that are received back.

(4) The question of revision of wages will be considered by the masters in the course of the next six months.

(Here follow signatures.)

We suggest on behalf of the men that this statement should be published separately by each of the above firms, the last part of clause 1 reading, for instance, as follows:—

"If any men cannot be received back at once, Messrs. ———, as soon as vacancies occur, will do their best to draft their former employees into these works.

(Here follow initials of signatories.)

Lathsplitters near Edinburgh.

ON December 7th a firm of lathsplitters near Edinburgh applied to the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act with respect to a dispute between themselves and the Edinburgh and District Lathsplitters' Union, as to an alleged excessive number of apprentices. The dispute arose on May 24th, the places of the strikers having in the meantime been more or less filled by other men. ON December 11th an officer of the Department visited Edinburgh and arranged a conference between representatives of the firm and of the union, at which he was present. An arrangement was arrived at, the firm agreeing to recognize in future the rules and customs of the trade, and the Union agreeing to admit membership the men now working for the firm, and to offer no objection to a third apprentice continuing to be employed until out of his time.

Carpenters and Joiners at St. Helens.

ON November 29th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act, by the St. Helens Building Trades Employers' Association, and the United Committee of Carpenters and Joiners, to appoint an arbitrator to decide certain questions arising from an application for advance of wages, and alteration of rules. At the request of the Board of Trade, Sir Thomas Wright, of Leicester, has consented to act as arbitrator.

Cleveland Blast Furnaces. Three Shift System and Sliding Scale.

It has been agreed to put the men on three shifts in the 24 hours, in lieu of two shifts of 12 hours. The

change will begin on December 18th or 19th, 1897. The work at the blast furnaces goes on continuously, Sundays and weekdays alike. The arrangement proposed in the Cleveland district is practically the same as has existed for seven years or longer in the blast furnace districts of Lancashire and Cumberland, and for some years at certain of the works in the North-east of England. The blast furnace shifts in their altered form will mean 56 hours per man per week, in lieu of what hitherto the men have regarded as 84 hours. There was no midway step between two shifts per 24 hours and the three shifts. The system of men staying at the works 24 hours at a stretch at the week ends, to bring about the weekly change from day shift to night shift and vice versa, will be abolished, and 16 hours will be the maximum time that a man will be required on the long shift at the week end. A sliding scale has been signed by the Cleveland ironmasters and blast furnacemen to regulate wages for the three years ending December 31st, 1900.

(b) OTHER AGREEMENTS.

Plumbers at Plymouth.

New working rules for plumbers in Plymouth and district have been agreed to by the representatives of the employers and the operatives, and came into operation on November 1st. The operatives obtain an increase of wages and a decrease in the hours of labour. The rules provide for the settlement of disputes, for the constitution of a court of arbitration, and for an annual conference between the masters' and operatives' associations, to be held in the first week of November in each year.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN NOVEMBER.

(For Detailed Tables, see p. 377.)

THE following table contains a summary of the number of workpeople killed or injured by industrial accidents in November, 1897, and 1896, respectively, so far as reported. It will be seen that the number of persons killed was 72 less, and the number injured 324 more in November last, than in November, 1896.

| Occupations. | Killed. | | Injured. | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Nov. 1897. | Nov. 1896. | Nov. 1897. | Nov. 1896. |
| Railway Servants:— | | | | |
| Accidents connected with movement of vehicles | 34 | 38 | 346 | 344 |
| Other accidents | 2 | 4 | 735 | 952 |
| Miners | 64 | 75 | 452 | 413 |
| Quarrymen | 7 | 11 | 53 | 74 |
| Seamen | 73 | 128 | 155 | 171 |
| Factory and Workshop Operatives:— | | | | |
| (1) Accidents reported to Certifying Surgeons | | | | |
| In Factories | 67 | — | 1,458 | — |
| In Workshops | — | 59 | — | 1,304 |
| (2) Other Accidents (non-fatal and only reported to Inspectors)— | | | | |
| In Factories | — | — | 2,228 | — |
| In Workshops | — | — | 5 | 1,846 |
| Others (so far as reported) | 1 | 5 | 107 | 111 |
| Totals | 248 | 320 | 5,539 | 5,215 |

NEW ORDER UNDER "PARTICULARS CLAUSE" OF FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1895.

The Home Secretary has issued an order, dated November 30th, applying the provisions of Section 40 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, to factories and workshops in which felt hats are made. Particulars of the rates of wages applicable to the work done by the worker are to be furnished to him either (1) by handing him a written or printed statement of such particulars when the work is given out to him; or (2) by exhibiting such particulars in the factory or workshop on a placard containing no other matter than the rates of wages applicable to the work done in the factory or workshop, and posted in a position where it is easily legible. Such particulars of the work to be done by each worker as affect the amount of wages payable to him shall be furnished to him in writing at the time when the work is given out to him.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.*

Liability of Railway Company for defect in Wagon under the control of another Railway Company.—This was an appeal by a railway company against a decision of the Second Division of the Court of Session in an action for damages against the appellants and another railway company by the widow of a carter in the employment of the second company for the loss of her husband. He met his death owing to an accident alleged to have been caused by a defective brake on a wagon belonging to appellants. But at the time of the accident the wagon was not on the appellants' property, or doing their work, or under their charge or control, but was hauling coal along a tramway belonging to the company in whose service the deceased was. The case for respondent was that it was the duty of the appellants to take reasonable care that their wagons, when received by the other company for haulage, were in a proper condition for use. The respondent appealed to the Court of Session for trial by jury. The present appellants maintained that there was no liability against them, but the Second Division approved issues for the trial of the case against both defenders, and the appellants then appealed. The House of Lords allowed the appeal with costs, and dismissed the action as against the appellants. Their Lordships held that the appellants had performed all their obligations when they handed the wagons over. It was unreasonable to say that, when the appellants had fulfilled the contract of carriage, they must examine the wagons to see if the brakes were in a suitable condition for the subsequent journey under the control of the other company. It was impossible to maintain that because the appellants handed over the wagons they became liable to any workman of the moving company who might be injured while that company were other it.—*House of Lords, November 15th-16th.*

Notice of Injury.—A widow sued a builder for £343 as damages for loss of her husband, who was employed by him. An objection was raised on behalf of defendant that no formal notice of the injuries had been given within six weeks of the accident. On behalf of the plaintiff, it was urged that the defendant had, since the accident, given her small sums of money, and that she was under the impression that she was going to be provided for. The Judge held that, as the proper notice had not been given, the plaintiff was not entitled to proceed with the action. The action was adjourned pending an appeal to the High Court.—*City of London Court, November 2nd.*

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Sailors' Engagements.—Signing on.—Detention of papers.—Five marine firemen each claimed 15s. from the master of a steamship. The men were spoken to by the second engineer of the steamship for the purpose of "signing on," and left their discharges in his custody for three days. Subsequently, when the men went to the office, they found that other men had been engaged. The men's case was that as they considered the detention of their papers amounted to an engagement they were prevented from getting work elsewhere. A witness stated that it was in accordance with custom for the second engineer to make engagements, and that it frequently happened that, in cases where too many men had signed on, compensation was given for their detention. The Bench held that the men were entitled to two days' pay, 10s. each, with costs, and expressed the opinion that if they had applied on the third day they might have procured their discharges.—*Newport Police Court, reported November 16th.*

Farm Servant's Breach of Agreement after taking Earnest Money.—A farmer summoned a farm servant for breach of contract. Defendant was engaged by plaintiff at a statute fair for a year, and was paid 1s. as earnest money, but did not keep his engagement. The Bench imposed a fine of £1, and 7s. costs.—*Burton-on-Trent Police Court, November 16th 1897.*

(3) CONSPIRACY AND PROTECTION TO PROPERTY ACT.

"Besetting" and "Following."—Two engineers and a joiner were charged under section 7, sub-sections 4 and 5 of the Conspiracy and Protection to Property Act (38 & 39 Vict., c. 86) with having wrongfully and without legal authority beset the premises occupied by a firm of engineers where certain men were working, and with following in the streets three iron turners employed there, in a disorderly manner with a large number of persons with a view to compel them to abstain from working for the firm in question. The iron turners gave evidence of being molested on three days in October by the crowd when leaving the works. The police who arrested the defendants stated that they were taking a part in the disturbance. For the defence evidence was given to the effect that the defendants were not taking a part in the disturbance. The Sheriff said that the defendants could not be convicted of besetting the premises in question as they did not join the crowd until it had moved away from the entrance to the premises. But with regard to the charge of following, he found that the object of the crowd was an illegal one. If the accused formed part of such a crowd it would be lawful, on that ground only, to convict, unless it was shown that the defendants were there accidentally, or for the purpose of stopping a riot, but in this case there was the evidence of the police as to the conduct of the

* Under this heading are also included actions at Common Law to recover from employers compensation for injuries to workpeople

defendants. The Sheriff sentenced the two engineers to 14 days' imprisonment, and the joiner was ordered to find security in the sum of £2 or to have 10 days' imprisonment.—*Sheriff's Summary Court, Edinburgh, November 1st.*

"Following."—An engineer was charged with having followed in the streets, with a crowd of other persons, in a disorderly manner, a machinist employed by a firm of ironfounders and boiler-makers with a view to compel him to abstain from doing work for them and with using violence towards him. There was a lock-out at the premises of the firm, and the machinist, who was at the time of the lock-out a member of a trade union, went out with the other men who were locked out. He subsequently returned to work under police protection. On the night when the offence took place a large crowd followed him in the street, and the witness stated that he was shouted at, was called names, and kicked. Evidence was given by the police that defendant behaved in a disorderly manner and struck complainant with a stone. For the defence witnesses were called to prove that defendant was not behaving in a disorderly manner. The Sheriff said that if the defendant formed part of the crowd on the day in question, whether he himself shouted, or yelled, or jostled, he was as guilty as the man who did so unless he could show that he was innocently there. The defendant was found guilty, except on the charge of personal violence, and sentenced to a month's imprisonment.—*Sheriff's Summary Court, Paisley, November 1st.*

Position of Seamen under the Act.—This was a case which came before the Court for Crown Cases Reserved. The question raised was whether a seafaring man, who was not actually engaged or employed at the time, was a "seaman" within the 16th section of the Conspiracy and Protection to Property Act, 1875, that section being one which excluded "seamen" from the operation of the Act. The prisoners were indicted at the Assizes under section 7 of the Act for having, with the view to compel a seaman to abstain from performing a contract which he had entered into to serve as seaman on board a ship, intimidated him, and watched and beset the place where he then was, and followed him with others in a disorderly manner. The prisoners followed the sea as a calling, each of them having been engaged as a fireman on board steamships, but on the day in question they were not so engaged, and it was not shown when either of them had been last so employed. It was contended for the prisoners that there was no evidence to go before the jury in support of the indictment, on the ground that by section 16 of the Conspiracy and Protection to Property Act it was provided that: "This Act shall not apply to seamen or apprentices to the sea service," and that therefore the prisoners could not be convicted. For the prosecution it was contended that the term "seamen" in the Act applied only to seamen actually engaged or employed on board ship, within the definition in the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1854 and 1894, namely, 17 and 18 Vic. c. 104, Section 2, and 57 and 58 Vic. c. 60, Section 742. The judge directed the jury that the prisoners were not within the exception, and they were accordingly convicted and sentenced. The Court for Crown Cases Reserved affirmed the conviction. The prisoners following the sea "as a calling," it was not shown when they were last employed on board. It was consistent with this that they had been out of employment for months, and had no immediate prospect of a future engagement. It would be strange if such persons were excluded from the legislation of 1875 as well as the Merchant Shipping Acts. At the time of the passing of the Act of 1875 the Legislature had already defined in a statute what is meant by seamen, and the Court was of opinion that the explanation of their exclusion from the later Act must be sought in the fact that they were already the subject of special enactments giving another remedy for some of the matters included in the later statute, and that no ground of reason or common sense could be found for excluding from the operation of the Act in question the whole class of seafaring men not actually engaged in sea service.—*Queen's Bench Division. Court for Crown Cases Reserved. Reported November 29th.*

"Following."—Certain employees at a firm of naval constructors and engineers, who had gone out on strike, appealed against a sentence of 21 days' hard labour for following, with more than two other persons, in a disorderly manner, certain non-unionists employed by the same firm, who had not gone out on strike. The first case heard was that of an employee who had followed with a crowd of other people a storekeeper who had not gone out on strike. On July 27th, after a day's work, the storekeeper left the premises of the firm with other non-unionists to go home. They were then followed by a crowd of men on strike, which included the appellant, who followed, hooting them, calling them blacklegs, and on one occasion made a rush and broke their ranks. The cases of 5 other appellants were also heard who were charged with following non-unionists employed by the firm, and the evidence given was of a similar character. The appeals were all dismissed with costs, and the convictions and sentences affirmed. In another case arising out of the same proceedings the conviction was quashed on the ground that there was not sufficient evidence of "following." But a second conviction on which this man had been sentenced to a month's hard labour for assaulting a non-unionist was affirmed with costs, the sentence being reduced to 21 days' hard labour.—*Middlesex Sessions, October 30th.*

(4) COAL MINES REGULATION ACT.

Fencing Off Disused Workings.—A fireman in the employment of a coal company was summoned for breach of a special rule that "a fireman, or other competent person appointed for the purpose, shall see that every entrance to every place which is not in actual use or course of working is properly fenced across the whole width of the entrance, so as to prevent persons inadvertently entering the same." It had been decided not to

work at a particular shaft, and it was defendant's duty to examine the place on certain days. This he had done on three or four days before September 17th. Notice boards had been put up with the words "No road," but the fireman had not fenced the place off. On September 17th a collier went down the abandoned shaft and was subsequently found dead at the far end. The defendant was given a good character by his employers for attendance to his duties. The maximum penalty of 40s. was imposed, with costs.—County Police Court, Manchester, November 12th.

Insufficient Spragging.—Two colliers were summoned by a colliery company for breach of a special rule which required that every miner should set sprags or holding-props as soon as there was seen to be room, and that such sprags should not be more than six feet apart. The defendants were working at a section which was 15 feet in length, and for that distance had only one sprag up, which was supporting, it was calculated, about 10 or 12 tons of coal. The defendants, who pleaded guilty, were fined 5s. each and costs.—County Police Court, Manchester, November 30th.

(5) FACTORY ACTS.

Fish Curing.—A fish merchant was summoned for employing three women in his fish office on a certain day beyond the legal hours. Any place where fish is dealt with under certain processes, such as gutting, salting, and packing, immediately on its arrival from the boats is exempted from the Act. But when fish is being preserved or cured, the hours of work allowed are from 6 to 6, 7 to 7, or 8 to 8, which can be extended under a provision allowing overtime. On the day in question the three women were employed from 6 in the morning until 6 the next morning, with time off for meals. During a portion of the time they were engaged with fresh fish, which did not come under the Act, but during the night they were engaged in packing cured fish, an operation which did come under the Act. The defendant said that the women, who came from Scotland, split the herrings on the premises, salted, smoked, and packed them, and this had to be done with all possible despatch. It was necessary to work all night, as the smoke houses must be cleared to be ready for further consignments. Defendant stated that he never understood that he came under the Factory Act. The Bench thought that the defendant found it difficult to understand the Act, and had been misled by it. A nominal fine of 5s. in each of the three cases was imposed.—Yarmouth Police Court, November 24th.

(6) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' ACT.

Following an Occupation when on Funds of a Benefit Society.—A dairyman sued the secretary of a branch of a benefit society for 30s. in respect of three weeks' sick pay. In July last the plaintiff lost the forefinger of his left hand, which incapacitated him from following his ordinary occupation as a dairyman, and he declared on the funds of the society from that time to October. During that period, according to his statement, he had not been engaged in any work which could be described as his ordinary occupation. The defendant refused to pay plaintiff sick pay of 10s. for three weeks in October, on the ground that he had been engaged in some of the branches of his usual occupation during the time he was in receipt of sick pay. It was admitted that the plaintiff during the period named paid for the shoeing of a horse, exchanged a cow, bargained for the purchase of some after-math, and asked the price of a barrel of tar obtained from some gas works when accompanying his son there. The Bench awarded the plaintiff the amount claimed by him with costs.—Sedgley Police Court, November 1st.

Alteration of Rules.—This was an appeal in the matter of an arbitration which came before the Court in the form of a special case, stated: In 1869 the appellant became a member of a friendly society, which was established in 1842. No provision was made in the original rules of the society for their alteration, but under powers conferred by Section 27 of the Friendly Societies Act, 1855, the rules were altered in 1866, and the alterations were certified by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. Amongst the alterations made was the introduction of the following new rule: "No new rule shall be made, nor any of the rules herein contained or hereafter to be made shall be amended, altered, or rescinded, unless with the consent of the majority of members present at a general meeting of the society specially called for the purpose." No further alteration was made in the rules until after 1875, when the Act of 1855 was repealed, but after that year various alterations were made. In May, 1890, the appellant declared on the sick fund of the society, and received sick pay until September in the following year, when he was placed on the superannuated list and received a reduced allowance. In February, 1896, the rules of the society were amended with the consent of three-fourths of the delegates present at a meeting specially called for the purpose. The alteration was to make members on the superannuated list under 60 years of age subject to the conditions which were applicable to members on the sick fund. In January, 1897, the appellant, who was under 60 years of age, was excluded from the society for breach of one of these conditions, namely, for being from home on three or more occasions after seven o'clock in the evening. The appellant contended that the society had no power to alter their rules after the repeal of the Friendly Societies Act, 1855, and that, if they had, he was not bound by the alterations made in February, 1896, and that therefore he was not liable to be excluded from the society. The questions for the consideration of the Court were whether the society had power, after the repeal of the Friendly Societies Act, 1855, to alter their rules; and, if so, whether the appellant was bound by the alterations registered in February, 1896. The Court dismissed the appeal, deciding that there was no ground for holding that the alteration of the rules in February, 1896, was ultra vires. The appellant joined the Society on the basis that the rules might be altered. The alteration was one which might become necessary in

the every day administration of such societies.—High Court of Justice, Divisional Court, reported November 8th.

(7) MISCELLANEOUS.

Procuring the Dismissal of a Fellow Workman.—A labourer sued the secretary, and also a member of a local branch of a Trade Union, for damages for wilfully and maliciously procuring his discharge from employment. The plaintiff was a member of another branch of the Trade Union, and on going into the district where defendant acted as secretary to that local branch he refused, to lodge his card with that branch, according to the rule. Thereupon the second defendant told the foreman where plaintiff was working that he and another labourer would not work if the plaintiff was kept on, and the foreman discharged plaintiff. The Judge held that, had the second defendant's action been devoid of self-interest, it would have been legal, but that he had been prompted with a desire to benefit his union and therefore his action became malicious and illegal. The action against the secretary was dismissed, and judgment was given against the second defendant for £8.—Blackburn County Court, November 8th.

Procuring Dismissal of a Fellow Workman.—This was an action brought by a cabdriver against three defendants for damages for illegal interference with the business or work of the plaintiff by intimidation, and for maliciously causing, or conspiring to cause, persons not to enter into contracts with, or deal with persons employing the plaintiff, and thereby throwing him out of employment. An injunction was also claimed. The case arose in connection with the strike in the cab trade with regard to privileged cabs at railway stations. The plaintiff was in the employment of an owner of privileged cabs, and had been so for 14 or 15 years. For the purposes of the strike London was divided into four districts, and one of the defendants presided over a district. When the strike broke out, 60 of the men who worked with plaintiff's employer left, leaving only four, among whom was the plaintiff. The defendant in question communicated with the employer, and told him that he must discharge these four men, or the other men on strike would never go back again. The employer stated that he was prepared to give up the privilege system, and that he would discharge the four men in question, which he accordingly did. Plaintiff's case was that subsequently his employer tried to get him work with his brother, but that defendants and their agents again went to his employer and caused him to cease assisting him in this direction, and that in consequence he lost the chance of obtaining that employment. Plaintiff also alleged that he was a marked man and was insulted wherever he went. The Judge directed the jury that there was no evidence against the defendants except in the case of the one who had communicated with the employer as to the discharge of the plaintiff, and gave them judgment, with costs. As regards the other defendant, he directed the jury that there was no evidence of any contract between the plaintiff and the employer or any other person that he would employ the plaintiff. Further, that there was no evidence that the defendant did anything to prevent any person, other than the employer from employing the plaintiff. The following questions were left to the jury:—(1) Did the defendant induce the employer not to engage the plaintiff to drive a cab for him, or induce the employer not to let the plaintiff hire a cab to take out of the yard to drive? If yes, (2) Did defendant do that maliciously—that is, for either of the following reasons (a) in order to injure the plaintiff, (b) to procure some indirect advantage for himself, or (c) to procure such advantage for others for whom he (the defendant) was acting? (3) Did defendant conspire with others, or did he agree with other people to induce the employer not to employ the plaintiff or permit him to hire a cab? (4) What damages was the plaintiff entitled to? The Judge pointed out that the importance of the case did not depend on the amount of damages; it raised issues of great importance as to the rights of the parties. The jury gave the following answers: To question 1, yes. To question 2, (a) yes; (b) no; (c) yes. To question 3, yes. To question 4, £5. Upon these findings the Judge deferred entering judgment until after the decision in the House of Lords of Allen v. Flood was known.—Queen's Bench Division, reported November 13th.

Publication of a Poster warning persons not to take employment.—In this case an action for interdict and damages was brought against a branch of a trade union under the following circumstances. In April, 1897, the pursuer had a contract to whitewash the walls and ceilings of certain mills, and the defenders objected to the employment of a labourer at whitewashing a ceiling, and insisted upon his dismissal from the job. They also induced journeymen tradesmen in the pursuer's employment to leave it. They instructed certain persons to carry about in the public streets and post up in the neighbourhood of the pursuer's premises bills to the following effect:—"Warning to the public. J.—S.—, slater (address given). Tradesmen are now on strike against the introduction of cheap labour! Slaters please note." The Sheriff issued an interlocutor, and ordering the case to be put on the procedure roll, expressed the opinion in a note that the poster contained imputations which tended to injure the pursuer in his business, and that they did not amount to permissible criticisms; that the poster held up pursuer to the ridicule of the public as a man who underpaid his tradesmen, and who would therefore produce inferior work; that it simply intended to stop his business by frightening away both the public and his employees. An interim interdict had already been granted in the case, and the poster had ceased to be exhibited. Under these circumstances, the sheriff suggested for the consideration of the parties concerned that the defendant should entirely withdraw the poster, and that the pursuers should withdraw the action.—Sheriff's Court, Glasgow, reported November 6th.

CO-OPERATION IN GERMANY IN 1896.

The report for 1896* of Dr. Crüger of the Federation of German Co-operative Societies on the Schulze-Delitzsch system, which has recently been issued, gives the total number of co-operative societies (on all systems) in Germany as 14,842 at the end of May, 1897, compared with 13,005 at the corresponding date in 1896. The increase is said to be chiefly due to the encouragement given to certain kinds of co-operation by the State in providing money for the starting of societies, and for enabling them to obtain credit.

The following table shows the number and character of the various kinds of Co-operative Societies in Germany at the end of May in each of the years 1894-7.

Table with 4 columns: Description of Society, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897. Rows include Credit Associations, Supply (Materials) Associations, Agricultural, Supply (Instruments of Production), Associations—Industrial, Agricultural, Productive Sale Depôt Associations, Industrial, Agricultural, Associations for Production—Industrial, Agricultural, Insurance, &c., Associations, Associations for Distribution, Building Associations, and Total.

It will be seen that the bulk of the increase in the number of co-operative societies is due to the formation of credit societies, most of which are rural banks. Some of these newly-established banks are said to exist in name only.

The aggregate membership returned by 1,055 credit societies on the Schulze-Delitzsch system at the end of May, 1897, was 527,765. The same societies had, in 1896, a total share capital of £6,488,739, a loan capital of £25,788,560 and reserve funds amounting to £1,986,625. The sums advanced in 1896 amounted to £83,684,397. The trade expenses were £1,207,580, (viz.—£851,319, interest paid to creditors and £356,261, expenses of administration). The losses and bad debts for the year amounted to £45,992, and the profits to £491,393, from which sum £122,980 was credited to reserve funds, £346,269 to dividend on shares (5.3 per cent.), and £3,523 was devoted to educational and similar purposes.

Returns supplied by 468 distributive societies of the Schulze-Delitzsch Federation show an aggregate membership of 321,186, a share capital of £401,490, a loan capital of £366,037, and reserve funds amounting to £180,400. The sales in 1896 amounted to £4,579,834 (including sales to the value of £688,464 effected through outside tradesmen). The trade expenses amounted to £270,447 and the net profit—after allowing for depreciation, but not for interest on shares—to £467,108, or 10.20 per cent. on sales. Sums amounting altogether to £781 were devoted to education and similar purposes.

NEW ZEALAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

The sixth annual report of the New Zealand Department of Labour (April, 1896, to March, 1897, inclusive) states that there was a steady improvement in employment during the year. The number of persons assisted by the department was 1,718 (a decrease from the preceding year of 1,153), of whom 1,369 were labourers, and 124 were carpenters. Of the 1,718 persons assisted in 1896-7, 652 were sent to private employment, and 1,066 to government works. At the women's branch of the department 459 applications were received from women and girls wanting work, 485 from employers; 279 women and girls were suited with employment. Accounts are given of six of the most important disputes settled under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1894. All these cases were dealt with by the Conciliation Boards in the first instance, but in four cases their decision was appealed against, and the matter decided by the Arbitration Court with compulsory powers.

* Jahresbericht für 1896 über die auf Selbsthilfe gegründeten deutschen Erwerbs- und Wirtschaftsgenossenschaften. (Leipzig, Verlag von Julius, Klinkhardt, 1897).

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

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

New South Wales.—The strike of gold miners at Lucknow is practically over; it originated mainly in the reduction of the men's wages by 6d. a day; new hands have been brought in, and the mines are now being worked almost at their full strength. The coal miners at Newcastle have been busy, and the number of unemployed in Sydney and the colony generally is much less than it has been in previous years.

South Australia.—There has been a remarkable revival in gold-mining during the last year or two; the total yield of gold is still small, but it was nearly four times as large in 1896 as it was in 1895.

Queensland.—A report from Townsville states that there is no demand for miners or mechanics, but that female servants are in great request. Many miners who have returned to Queensland from New Guinea report very unfavourably of the goldfields there, the general impression being that the fields are a failure.

Western Australia.—Miners have been busy, but at Coolgardie the supply has exceeded the demand. Mechanics and other labourers have been well employed on the numerous public works which are now in progress in different parts of the country; these works include harbour improvements at Fremantle and Bunbury, railway extensions from Kalgoorlie and other places, hospitals, post offices, and court houses, and jetties at Carnarvon, Ashburton, &c. Some navvies have struck work on the construction of the York-Greenhill railway, and demand a wage of 9s. a day and good water. Work has been brisk at the saw mills in the Colony, and 2,500 men are being employed. The demand for capable farm hands exceeds the supply, but the demand for skilled gardeners is limited, the area of the orchards and vineyards being small, and the owners doing most of the work themselves. A register of vacancies for farm hands and gardeners is kept at the office of the Bureau of Agriculture in Perth.

New Zealand.—The returns from the Department of Labour show that there was a steady advance made by the industrial classes during the year 1896-7. The applications for assistance by the unemployed were less by 1,100 than during the previous year, while compared with 1893 the number of applications shows a falling off of at least one-half. While this fact shows that there is more general employment throughout the colony for unskilled labour, the departmental returns dealing with the skilled trades are of a very encouraging nature. There is an increase of more than 4,500 persons working in factories this year as compared with last year, and an increase of 7,000 on the number registered in 1895. Recent reports show that in many of the large towns and smaller country places, the building and engineering trades have been busy, and that scrub-cutting, bush-felling, road-making, shearing, &c., were providing plenty of employment for general labourers in most parts. Many compositors however have been out of work.

Cape Colony.—Many parts of Cape Colony have been suffering from drought and rinderpest, and farmers have experienced considerable losses.

Natal.—For some little time past there have been many able-bodied men in Durban who have been unable to find employment; the best of these, however, have now been selected for the Rhodesia Police, recruiting for which has been going on in that town. Owing to rinderpest the price of meat has been considerably raised.

Rhodesia.—The Bishop of Mashonaland has again drawn attention to the fact that, in his opinion, it is very unwise for young men without capital to proceed to Rhodesia at present, as the rate of living is very high

* 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.

and employment exceedingly difficult to obtain. He states that, in his judgment, there is no prospect of regular work for at least six months.

Transvaal.—There is no demand for more labour, and a good deal of distress prevails at Johannesburg and elsewhere. An official notice has been issued warning young women to use the utmost caution in regard to advertisements offering them situations at high wages as domestic servants, barmaids, &c., at Johannesburg.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in November.—Employment was good during the month in the mining, smelting and engineering trades, and continued to improve in the printing, book-binding, silk, clothing, and jewellery trades. Leather-working, which has been slack of late, underwent a change for the better in November. The building and cognate trades are in the middle of their slack season.

Four hundred and twenty trade unions, having 120,000 members, reported a little over 7 per cent. unemployed on November 15th, the same proportion as that reported by 415 unions, with a membership of 116,000, on the corresponding date in October.

Coal Mining in October.—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in October was 5.97, as compared with 5.93 in the previous month. In October full time (6 days and over) was worked by 91 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 7 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 82 and 18 respectively. The pits making these returns employ three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

Labour Disputes in November.—At the beginning of November 8 disputes, begun in previous months, were still in progress. In the course of November 16 new disputes were reported, compared with 22 in the previous month and 23 in November, 1896. The total number of workpeople directly participating in 14 of the new disputes was 1,317. The disputes involving the largest numbers were a strike of 296 miners at Carvin (Pas-de-Calais), which lasted one day, and a strike of 281 bakers at 76 establishments at Nice, which lasted from November 17 to November 25. Both strikes were for increased wages, and resulted in a compromise. Six of the 16 disputes begun in November were in the building trades, and 4 in metal-working trades. The workpeople were successful in 4 and unsuccessful in 7 out of a total of 17 disputes (old and new) terminated in November. The remaining 6 were compromised. Among the unsuccessful disputes was a strike of 480 manganese miners in the department of Ariège for increased wages, which lasted from September 20 till November 29.

Conciliation and Arbitration in November.—The Conciliation and Arbitration Law was put in operation in connection with three disputes in November. The initiative was taken by the *juge de paix* in two cases, and by the workpeople in one. In one case the parties came to a settlement before the committee of conciliation met. In the other two the employers refused to treat. One of these cases was a strike of chairmakers of Saint-Loup (Haute-Saône), which had been in progress since September 14th, and in connection with which the Conciliation and Arbitration Law had already been put into operation twice without success. (See GAZETTE, October, 1897, page 297.)

GERMANY.

Labour Disputes in November.—The most serious of the disputes reported in November by the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* occurred in the building trade in Stettin, where the employers refused to accede to the demands of the masons and carpenters for increased wages. Upon this the unions withdrew their men in certain cases, and the employers then locked out some 360 men engaged upon certain

operations. The men then passed a resolution to the effect that all masons working for employers concerned in the lock-out should come out on strike. As a result, the number of workpeople involved in the dispute rose to 659, of whom 212 left the town, and 63 found work elsewhere. No settlement has yet been reported.

The following disputes are also reported: A strike at three cigar factories in Schwarmbeck (Hanover) for increased wages; a general strike of glovemakers in Osterwick (Prussian Saxony) for a uniform piece-wage list, and a strike in the watch-chain making trade of Oberstein (Oldenburg) for 10 per cent. increase in wages. The demands of the glove-makers are said to have been conceded. The results of the other disputes have not been reported.

The strike of operatives belonging to a firm of cycle and sewing machine manufacturers in Stettin (see last month's GAZETTE, page 329) has terminated, the men having decided on November 25th to resume work on the employers' terms.

The diamond cutters of Hanau, who have been on strike since December, 1896, to oppose a reduction in piece wages, have returned to work unconditionally. (See GAZETTE, January, 1897, page 9.)

BELGIUM.

Observance of Law Regulating Employment of Women and Children.—The Second Annual Report on Factory Inspection in Belgium* shows that 7,599 factories, &c., were visited on 8,407 occasions during 1896, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Factory Act of December 13th, 1889, was being observed. The total number of persons employed in these establishments was 217,872. Of these, 25,721 were children from 12 to 16 years of age (16,245 boys and 9,476 girls); 17,716 were girls or young women over 16 to 21 years of age; 21,337 were women over 21; and the rest (153,098) were males of 16 years of age and upwards. Women over 21 and males over 16 are not affected by the legal provisions fixing the length of the working day, and for this reason are not included among "protected persons" in the report.

The clause prohibiting the employment of children under 12 in factories, &c., is stated to have been more rigidly observed in 1896 than in the preceding year, the number of children employed in contravention of the law being 47, compared with 81 in 1895.

There has been a falling off from 328 in 1895 to 268 in 1896 in the number of children of 12 to 13 years of age employed as "half-timers" in the flax, hemp, jute, and cotton spinning, and weaving establishments inspected. This is regarded as indicating a tendency on the part of employers in these trades to dispense with "half-timers." It was found that 61 out of the 268 "half-timers" were really being employed for more than the legal limit of 6 hours per day. The clauses limiting the working day of "protected persons" over 13 to 11½ hours in the trades just referred to, and to 11¼ in the woollen trade were well observed. The improvement in this respect since 1895 has been very marked in the flax, hemp, jute, and cotton weaving industries. Less than 1 per cent. of the protected persons over 13 employed in these industries in the establishments inspected worked more than 11¼ hours, whereas in 1895 the percentage was 24.

The 10 hours' limit fixed for children of 12 to 14 in engineering and metal working establishments is stated to be frequently transgressed.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead poisoning and anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during November, classified by industries [M.—Males, F.—Females]:—

| Disease and Industry. | Adults. | | Young Persons. | | Children. | | Total. | | Grand Total. |
|--|------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | |
| | Lead Poisoning— | | | | | | | | |
| China, Earthenware, and Glass | 25 | 23 | 3 | 2 | — | — | 28 | 25 | 53 |
| White Lead and Colour Works | 21 | 31 | — | — | — | — | 21 | 31 | 52 |
| Smelting and Enamelling of Iron and other metals | 13 | — | — | — | — | — | 13 | — | 13 |
| Other Industries ... | 1 | 5 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Total Lead Poisoning | 78 | 61 | 3 | 3 | — | — | 78 | 64 | 142 |
| Corresponding Total for November, 1896 | 55 | 47 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 58 | 42 | 100 |
| Anthrax† | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | 3 |

* Rapports Annuels de l'Inspection du Travail, 2^e Année (1896). Ministère de l'Industrie et du Travail, Office du Travail et Administration des Mines, Brussels, 1897. Société Belge de Librairie, Rue Treurenberg, 16.

† No cases of Anthrax were reported in November, 1896.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department. † Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, November, 1897.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—COAL AND IRON MINING.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN NOVEMBER.

[Note.—The following tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was shewn 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 continued good in November and was about the same as in October and in the corresponding period of 1896. The average number of days worked is still over 5½ days per week.

Returns received respecting 1,359 pits at which 437,277 persons were employed, show that an average of 5.32 days per week was worked at the pits, as compared with 5.37 days per week in October, and 5.31 days per week in November, 1896. The following table gives the average number of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom:—

| District. | No. employed in Nov., 1897, at the Collieries included in the Table. | Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | 27th Nov. 1897. | 28th Nov. 1896. | 23rd Oct. 1897. |
| England and Wales ... | 401,100 | 5.31 | 5.30 | 5.37 |
| Scotland ... | 35,557 | 5.44 | 5.40 | 5.39 |
| Ireland ... | 620 | 5.21 | 5.36 | 5.14 |
| United Kingdom ... | 437,277 | 5.32 | 5.31 | 5.37 |

In the next table the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced. Pits producing coking coal continue to show the highest average number of days per week, while the lowest number was worked by pits producing house coal:—

| Description of Coal. | No. employed in Nov., 1897, at the Collieries included in the Table. | Number of days worked per week. | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov. 1897. |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| | | November, 1897. | October, 1897. | |
| Coking Coal ... | 25,384 | 5.62 | 5.59 | + .03 |
| Gas ... | 31,487 | 5.10 | 5.21 | + .11 |
| House " ... | 81,195 | 5.13 | 5.29 | -.16 |
| Manufacturing Coal ... | 18,812 | 5.42 | 5.31 | + .11 |
| Steam " ... | 139,061 | 5.34 | 5.41 | -.07 |
| Mixed " ... | 141,338 | 5.33 | 5.37 | -.04 |
| All Classes of Coal ... | 437,277 | 5.32 | 5.37 | -.05 |

The following table classifies the workpeople according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. About 78.9 per cent., were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week as compared with 81.7 per cent. in October, and 75.9 per cent. a year ago:—

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

| Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks. | November, 1897. | | Corresponding percentages in— | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | No. of Workpeople employed. | Percentage proportion to total. | November, 1896. | October, 1897. |
| 24 days (full time) ... | 67,920 | 15.5 | 16.3 | 16.3 |
| 16 and under 24 days ... | 277,088 | 63.4 | 66.6 | 66.4 |
| 12 " " 16 " ... | 68,309 | 15.6 | 14.5 | 14.5 |
| 8 " " 12 " ... | 17,940 | 4.1 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| Under 8 days ... | 4,459 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Under 8 days ... | 1,561 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Total ... | 437,277 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The number employed at the pits covered by the returns is greater by 7,422 in England and Wales, and by 1,212 in Scotland than a year ago.

Comparison by Districts.—In Northumberland nearly half a day more per week was worked than in November, 1896. In six other districts there was an improvement, and in nine a falling off, but the change

in no case amounted to more than about one-sixth of a day per week. The principal changes as compared with October were an improvement of a quarter of a day in North Wales, and a falling off of about the same amount in Northumberland, Derbyshire, and Nottingham and Leicester.

The highest average worked during the month was again that of 5.73 days per week in the Lothians. Over 5½ days per week were also worked in Salop, Worcester and Warwick, and North Wales (5.57 days each), Gloucester and Somerset (5.55 days), and Durham (5.52 days). In Notts and Leicester less than 5 days per week (4.38 days) continues to be worked. In all other districts the average time worked was between 5 and 5½ days.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN NOV., 1897 AND 1896, AND IN OCT., 1897.

| District. | No. employed in Nov., 1897, 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 Nov. 1897 as compared with | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|------------------|------------------|--|-------------|
| | | 27th Nov., 1897. | 28th Nov., 1896. | 23rd Oct., 1897. | A year ago. | A m'th ago. |
| ENGLAND & WALES. | | | | | | |
| Northumberland ... | 32,099 | 5.24 | 4.81 | 5.48 | + .43 | -.24 |
| Durham ... | 87,254 | 5.52 | 5.57 | 5.46 | -.05 | + .06 |
| Cumberland ... | 6,291 | 5.46 | 5.63 | 5.55 | -.17 | -.09 |
| Yorkshire ... | 49,239 | 5.41 | 5.31 | 5.54 | + .10 | -.13 |
| Lancashire and Cheshire | 48,054 | 5.25 | 5.31 | 5.20 | -.06 | + .05 |
| Nottingham and Leicester | 24,230 | 4.38 | 4.48 | 4.60 | -.10 | -.22 |
| Derbyshire ... | 39,185 | 5.10 | 5.26 | 5.33 | -.16 | -.23 |
| Staffordshire ... | 22,438 | 5.35 | 5.51 | 5.40 | -.16 | -.05 |
| Salop, Worcester and Warwick | 8,133 | 5.57 | 5.71 | 5.55 | -.14 | + .02 |
| Gloucester and Somerset | 8,056 | 5.55 | 5.42 | 5.59 | + .13 | -.04 |
| North Wales ... | 10,812 | 5.57 | 5.42 | 5.34 | + .15 | + .23 |
| South Wales & Monmouth | 65,329 | 5.39 | 5.31 | 5.45 | + .08 | -.06 |
| SCOTLAND. | | | | | | |
| West Scotland ... | 20,901 | 5.44 | 5.51 | 5.27 | -.07 | + .17 |
| The Lothians ... | 3,481 | 5.73 | 5.58 | 5.73 | + .15 | ... |
| Fife ... | 11,175 | 5.35 | 5.18 | 5.51 | + .17 | -.11 |
| IRELAND. | 620 | 5.21 | 5.36 | 5.14 | -.15 | + .07 |
| Grand Total & Averages | 437,277 | 5.32 | 5.31 | 5.37 | + .01 | -.08 |

Percentage of Unemployed.—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0.9 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of November, as compared with 0.5 per cent. in October, and 1.4 per cent. in November, 1896.

Exports of Coal.—During November 3,192,581 tons of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel were exported, as compared with 3,223,926 tons in October, and 2,715,375 tons in November, 1896.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN NOVEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in this industry during November, and remained practically unchanged as compared both with October and with November, 1896. A comparison of the figures for the different mining districts shows that there was a decline as compared with a year ago in Cleveland, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Shropshire, balanced, however, by an improvement in Northamptonshire, and Scotland. The total number of persons employed at the 136 mines included in the returns was 2.8 per cent. greater than in the corresponding month of 1896.

The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 27th November by the 17,241 workpeople covered by the returns was 5.84 days per week, as against 5.88 days in October, and 5.84 days in November, 1896. Of the total number employed 91.3 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks as compared with 93.1 in October, and with 90.9 a year ago.

The following tables summarize the returns received:—

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—TEXTILE; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

Bridport, Dorchester, and Wimborne; in *Wiltshire* in the Unions of Devizes, Pewsey, Warminster, and Wilton. A report from the Pewsey Union states that extra hands are difficult to obtain. Employment is said to be generally regular in *Gloucestershire* in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, and Gloucester. In the Cirencester Union extra labour has been scarce. Reports from *Herefordshire* state that there was no lack of employment in the Unions of Bromyard, and Ledbury; in *Somersetshire* in the Unions of Langport, Taunton, Wellington, and Wells; in *Devonshire*, with but few exceptions, in the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton, Tavistock, and Torrington; and in *Cornwall* in the Bodmin Union.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women showed a slight decline in the cotton trade, the improvement in the spinning branch being more than counterbalanced by the slackness in the weaving branch, in which the majority of the women are engaged. In the woollen and worsted trade employment declined, a much larger percentage working short time. Information has been received with regard to 548 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, 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. | Approximate No. of Women and Girls in Mills reported on. | Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | Working full time | | Working Short Time. | Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes. |
| | | With Full Employment. | With Partial Employment. | | |
| Cotton Trade— | | | | | |
| November, 1897 ... | 60,720 | 62 | 29 | 7 | 2 |
| October, 1897 ... | 62,100 | 64 | 26 | 8 | 2 |
| November, 1896 ... | 65,920 | 77 | 13 | 9 | 1 |
| Woollen and Worsted Trade— | | | | | |
| November, 1897 ... | 18,740 | 58 | 18 | 24 | — |
| October, 1897 ... | 18,370 | 70 | 17 | 13 | — |
| November, 1896 ... | 15,450 | 80 | 15 | 5 | — |
| Silk Trade— | | | | | |
| November, 1897 ... | 8,270 | 58 | 11 | 31 | — |
| October, 1897 ... | 5,250 | 54 | 15 | 31 | — |
| November, 1896 ... | 1,670 | 35 | 28 | 37 | — |
| Total of above Trades | | | | | |
| November, 1897 ... | 84,730 | 61 | 26 | 12 | 1 |
| October, 1897 ... | 85,720 | 65 | 23 | 10 | 2 |
| November, 1896 ... | 83,040 | 76 | 14 | 9 | 1 |

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 60,720; of these 62 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 64 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in October, and with 77 per cent. in November, 1896); 29 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 7 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,740; of these 58 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 70 per cent. in October and 80 per cent. in November, 1896); 18 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 24 per cent. in mills running short time.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN NOVEMBER.

Employment at the docks was better in the latter portion of November than at the commencement, but was not on the whole so good as in the previous month, or as a year ago. At the wharves it was better than in the previous month, and about the same as a year ago.

The average daily number employed at all the docks, and at 115 of the principal wharves in the five weeks ending November 27th, was 15,823 as compared with an average of 16,007 in the four preceding weeks, and 16,806 for the month of November, 1896. The estimated number employed on any one day ranged from 14,797 on October 29th to 17,111 on November 10th.

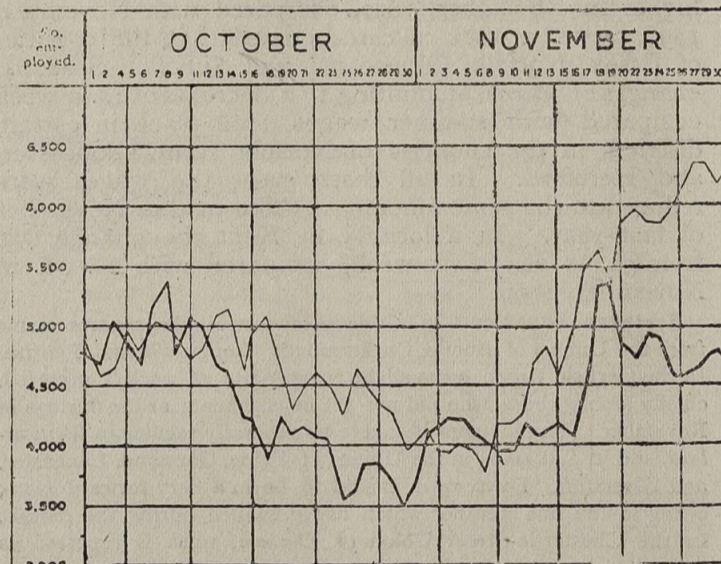
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

| Period. | Labourers employed in Docks. | | | Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns. | Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns. |
|--|--|---------------------|---------|---|---|
| | By Dock Companies or through Contractors | By Ship-owners, &c. | Total. | | |
| 1st week of November | 6,878 | 2,093 | 8,971 | 6,325 | 15,296 |
| 2nd " " " | 7,170 | 2,397 | 9,567 | 6,504 | 16,071 |
| 3rd " " " | 7,007 | 2,058 | 9,065 | 6,427 | 15,492 |
| 4th " " " | 7,077 | 2,033 | 9,110 | 6,320 | 15,430 |
| 5th " " " | 7,829 | 1,937 | 9,766 | 6,166 | 15,932 |
| Average for 5 weeks ending Nov. 27th, 1897 | 7,371 | 2,104 | 9,475 | 6,348 | 15,823 |
| Average for Nov., 1896 | 8,461* | 1,948 | 10,409* | 6,367 | 16,806* |
| Average for Oct., 1897 | 7,752 | 2,001 | 9,753 | 6,254 | 16,007 |

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during October and November is shown on the chart below. The numbers in November ranged from 3,946 on the 8th to 5,348 on the 18th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of October and November, 1897. The corresponding curve for October and November, 1896, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1897, and the thin curve to 1896.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for November, 1897 is based:—

| Day of Month. | Number employed. | Day of Month. | Number employed. | Day of Month. | Number employed. |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1 | 4,092 | 11 | 4,073 | 22 | 4,993 |
| 2 | 4,149 | 12 | 4,104 | 23 | 4,929 |
| 3 | 4,205 | 13 | 4,163 | 24 | 4,986 |
| 4 | 4,199 | 14 | 4,050 | 25 | 4,885 |
| 5 | 4,077 | 15 | 4,541 | 26 | 4,601 |
| 6 | 4,001 | 16 | 5,339 | 27 | 4,719 |
| 7 | 3,946 | 17 | 5,245 | 28 | 4,782 |
| 8 | 3,958 | 18 | 4,830 | 29 | 4,700 |
| 9 | 4,173 | 19 | 4,701 | 30 | 4,700 |
| 10 | 4,173 | 20 | 4,701 | | |

Sundays and Holidays are omitted. During November, 1896, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 3,712 on the 7th to 6,358 on the 28th. Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during November, 1897, varied from 1,429 on the 9th to 2,704 on the 17th. Wool sales commenced on 25th November, 1897, and on the 24th November in 1896. At the end of the month they were still proceeding.

Employment in mid-stream has been fair and steady. With corn porters it has been slack in the Surrey Docks; moderately good and steady on the north side. Deal porters have been busy; stevedores, lightermen, lumpers, coal porters and winchmen fairly well employed.

* Amended figures.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have been fairly well, although somewhat irregularly, employed. The daily average number employed in the five weeks ending November 27th was 354, compared with an average of 318 for the four preceding weeks.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN NOVEMBER.

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

THE number of men shipped in November last 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 31,913, or 688 more than in November, 1896.

The supply of seamen and firemen was stated to be equal to the demand, or to exceed it, at almost all of the ports included in the table below.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in November 1897 and 1896 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the eleven months ended November in each of these years:—

| Principal Ports. | Number of Men, &c., shipped in November, 1897. | | | Total in Nov. 1896. | Total number Shipped* in eleven months ended November. | |
|---|--|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|----------------|
| | In Sailing Vessels. | In Steam Vessels. | Total in N. V. 1897. | | 1897 | 1896. |
| ENGLAND. | | | | | | |
| East Coast. | | | | | | |
| Tyne Ports ... | 39 | 2,871 | 2,910 | 2,570 | 37,396 | 33,889 |
| Sunderland ... | — | 610 | 610 | 471 | 6,811 | 6,624 |
| Middlesbrough ... | 10 | 299 | 309 | 292 | 4,976 | 5,515 |
| Hull ... | 17 | 1,216 | 1,233 | 1,098 | 13,652 | 13,409 |
| Grimsby ... | — | 39 | 39 | 40 | 1,335 | 1,148 |
| Bristol Channel. | | | | | | |
| Bristol ... | — | 172 | 172 | 260 | 2,419 | 2,637 |
| Newport, Mon. ... | 24 | 997 | 931 | 1,069 | 13,356 | 12,297 |
| Cardiff ... | 268 | 4,243 | 4,511 | 5,049 | 59,327 | 58,181 |
| Swansea ... | 9 | 454 | 463 | 446 | 8,003 | 6,907 |
| Other Ports. | | | | | | |
| Liverpool ... | 220 | 10,397 | 10,617 | 9,836 | 108,413 | 108,447 |
| London ... | 239 | 5,531 | 5,770 | 5,827 | 68,112 | 66,485 |
| Southampton ... | — | 1,574 | 1,574 | 1,394 | 18,220 | 14,579 |
| SCOTLAND. | | | | | | |
| Lith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth | 23 | 443 | 466 | 574 | 7,494 | 7,914 |
| Glasgow ... | 93 | 1,938 | 2,031 | 2,172 | 26,219 | 24,924 |
| IRELAND. | | | | | | |
| Dublin ... | — | 56 | 56 | 45 | 1,054 | 748 |
| Belfast ... | — | 221 | 221 | 221 | 2,619 | 2,072 |
| Total, Nov., 1897 ... | 942 | 30,971 | 31,913 | — | 376,406 | — |
| Ditto, Nov., 1896 ... | 923 | 30,302 | — | 31,225 | — | 365,756 |

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

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—The general state of employment in London still continues good, in spite of the influence on the engineering and shipbuilding industry of the continuance of the engineers' dispute. Returns from 399 branches of 105 trade unions, having an aggregate membership of 71,996, show that 2,248, or 3·1 per cent., were unemployed, as compared with 3·5 in October and 2·7 per cent. in the November of 1896—an improvement chiefly traceable to an increased demand for labour in the printing and kindred trades.

The Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding Trades.—Apart from those directly involved in the disputes, these trades appear to be fairly steady. Reports from 119 branches of 24 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,426, show that, exclusive of those involved in the dispute, 963, or 4·5 per cent., were unemployed, compared with 4·6 in the previous month and 3·3 per cent. in November of last year.

The **Building** trades are still busy in most departments; 169 branches of 5 unions, having a total of 10,491 members, report 127 or 1·2 per cent. as unemployed at the end of November, as against 1·0 per cent. in October and 1·2 per cent. in November of last year. Bricklayers, stonemasons, carpenters and joiners, and

millsawyers described employment as good, plasterers and stone-carvers as fair, plumbers as moderate, painters and decorators as dull.

In the **Furnishing** trades there was again a slight decline, reports from 39 branches of 10 unions with a total membership of 6,794 showing 231 (or 3·4 per cent.) as out of work, against 3·2 in October, and 2·0 per cent. in November of last year.

Coopers are still well employed, 2 societies with a membership of 980 showing only 0·3 unemployed, as against 0·5 in October, and about 1 per cent. in November of 1896.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights also show a fractional falling off, but are yet well employed, 12 branches of 8 unions having a total of 1,059 members report 22 (or 2·1 per cent.) as out of work, compared with 1·7 per cent. in October, and 2·6 per cent. in November of last year.

The **Printing and Bookbinding** trades show a continued improvement; 22 unions with a membership of 21,870, report 431, or 2·0 per cent., as unemployed compared with 3·1 in October, and 1·5 per cent. in November of last year.

The **Clothing** trades may be generally described as depressed. The bespoke branch of the tailoring trade is worse and is dull, and the same may be said of the ready-made branch. Cap makers describe trade as moderate, but helmet-makers are in full work. Employment in the fur trade and in silk weaving was also dull.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—In the hand-sewn branch men have in some cases been fairly employed, but the general condition of the trade is described as slack. The machine branch is very dull.

In the **Leather** trades 6 unions with 1,806 members reported 60 or 3·3 per cent. as out of work compared with 2·7 per cent. in October, and 1·2 per cent. in November of last year.

The **Glass and Pottery** trades showed an improved demand for labour. Eight branches of 7 unions reported that of a total membership of 1,432, only 38, or 2·7 per cent., were out of work, as against 4·5 in October, and 4·8 in November of last year.

Hair, Fibre and Cane Workers.—These trades continued to improve. Five unions with 894 members reported 17 out of work, or 1·9 per cent. as against 2·5 in October, and 1·8 per cent. in November of last year.

Gold and Silver Workers were still well employed, 6 unions, with 1,045 members, reporting only 10 as unemployed, a percentage of 1·0, as against 0·9 in October and 1·4 in November, 1896.

In the **Tobacco** trades work again slightly improved; 4 unions, with 2,347 members, had 33 (or 1·4 per cent.) out of work, as compared with 2·0 per cent. in October and 2·9 in November of last year.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number employed at the docks and principal wharves was 15,823 in November, as compared with 16,007 in October, and 16,806 in November, 1896. Employment in mid-stream has been fair and steady; corn porters have been slack in the Surrey Docks, moderately well employed on the north side; deal porters have been busy; stevedores, lumpers, lightermen, coal porters and winchmen fairly well employed. The fruit porters in Thames-street have been fairly well, although somewhat irregularly, employed. (For further details see page 368.)

Disputes and Trade Movements.—No fresh disputes have been reported to the Department as taking place during the month, but disputes affecting boiler-makers and bricklayers, which arose in October and July respectively, were settled. (See page 381.) No changes in rates of wages or hours of labour were reported.

Labour Bureaux.—Returns received from eight labour bureaux show that 1,749 fresh applications for work were registered during November, 1897, as compared with 1,778 in November, 1896, a decrease of 29. Work was found for 845 persons by these bureaux during November, compared with 800 in the corresponding period of 1896. The number of persons on the registers at the end of November was 2,256, or 44 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 382.)

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of November was 102,544, or 2,957 more than on the corresponding day in October. As compared with November, 1896, there was a decrease of 333, the Western district alone showing an increase.

On the same day in November, 1,164 vagrants were relieved, as against 1,190 on the corresponding day in October, and 1,121 in November, 1896.

In the West Ham district the number of persons relieved on one day in the second week was 8,337 in November, 8,083 in October, and 8,581 in November, 1896.

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

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—Pits producing house coal are busy; steam coal collieries are less brisk, averaging respectively 5.5 and 5.11 days per week, as against 5.36 and 5.43 days in October. Of the 20,724 union members only 4 are in receipt of stoppage pay. Durham.—Employment in pits producing gas, manufacturing and coking coal continues good, the average number of days worked per week being 5.5, 5.52 and 5.51 respectively, as against 5.45, 5.44 and 5.48 days in October. Returns from pits employing over 87,000 men and boys show an average of 5.52 days worked per week, as compared with 5.46 in October. Out of 60,738 union members, 752 (or 1.23 per cent.) are idle owing to bad trade, exclusive of 64 from other causes. At a few cokeyards making foundry coke, employment has been irregular owing to the engineers' dispute; at other yards it is fairly good.

Metal Mining.—Lead mines are working full time; ironstone mines continue slack.

Quarrying.—Limestone and whinstone quarries are fairly moderately employed. In Gateshead and district and at the freestone quarries in the Blyth district full time is being worked.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Short time prevails in several of the shipyards owing to the engineers' dispute. Employment on repair work is, on the whole, good. Boiler shops are slack. Of the 12,923 union members of these trades, 1,655, or 12.8 per cent. are out of work, in addition to 51.8 per cent. directly affected by the dispute. On the Wear.—Non-associated engine shops continue busy. Employment in one or two shipyards is fair; in others, however, bad. Of the 4,641 members of the engineering and iron shipbuilding trades 780, or 16.8 per cent. are idle, in addition to 32.4 per cent. directly affected by the dispute. The joiners report 5.6 per cent. out of work.

Shipwrights are slack on both rivers. Out of 1,370 drillers and hole cutters 183, or 13.4 per cent. are out of work. Brass finishers have 17.7 per cent. out of work, and 8.4 per cent. on half time. Iron and steel moulders have 2.4 per cent. unemployed. Of the 657 ship painters, 35 per cent. are unemployed.

Sailmakers continue badly employed. Steel smelters are well employed. Plate and angle mills at Consett, Newburn and Spennymoor are working full time.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The coal porters are averaging 4 days per week. On the Tyne and at Blyth, steam coal trimmers are slack; gas coal trimmers, however, are better employed. The demand for seagoing engineers, firemen and sailors has been fairly good. Employment of quayside labourers remains fair.

Building Trades.—Masons, slaters and tilers, and bricklayers are well employed on both rivers. House painters are slack, plumbers moderately employed.

Woodworking Trades.—Lathrenders on the Tyne are slack, coopers have less than one per cent. unemployed. Cabinet-makers are well employed. The upholsterers have 6.8 per cent. idle; the mill-awyers and woodcutters 3.6 per cent.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment of letterpress printers on the Tyne is improving. On the Wear work is dull. Bookbinders on both rivers are fully employed. Two paper mills are busy, five have worked 122 shifts out of a possible 225.

Other Metal, Glass and Chemical Trades.—Cement and chemical works continue quiet. Employment in copper and lead factories is fairly steady. Pressed glass makers have worked five shifts per week with 6.7 per cent. of members idle. Bottle makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour have been fully employed.

Fishing.—Lime fishing has been poor; trawlers, however, have had good catches of white fish fair average prices being obtained.

J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners have been steadily employed.

Iron and Steel Trades.—At most of the mills the men have been fairly employed. Blast furnacemen have been well employed. At bridge works and foundries, with one or two exceptions, employment is reported as fair.

Engineering.—Employment continues good at works unaffected by the dispute, but the number of unemployed has been increased by stoppages. The number of moulders and pattern-makers unemployed at Middlesbrough has increased, but at Hartlepool a considerable number of moulders have re-started work. Branches of engineers,

ironfounders and pattern-makers with 3,513 members have 363 unemployed, in addition to 934 directly affected by the dispute.

Shipbuilding.—There is practically no change in employment to report. Notice has been given of further short time at Hartlepool. A number of the joiners reported as out of work in October have obtained employment. A large number of shipwrights have been stopped owing to the engineering dispute.

Building Trades.—Employment continues fairly good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Hartlepool sailors and firemen have been fairly well employed during the month. Dock labour has been slack. At Middlesbrough sailors and firemen and riverside labourers have been quiet. Dock labour has been good.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors report employment as slack; printers as good at Middlesbrough; moderate elsewhere.—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 continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 27th November, at pits from which returns have been received, was 5.46 per week, as compared with 5.55 in October last and 5.63 in November, 1896. The number of men employed was 6,291, as compared with 6,007 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 284.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 27th November, at the 49 mines from which returns have been received, was 5.92 per week, as compared with 5.95 in October last, and 5.92 in November, 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 6,490, as compared with 6,209 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 281.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast at the end of November was 48, as compared with 45 in October last, and 42 in November, 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 3,653, an increase of 92 when compared with October last, and of 376 compared with November, 1896.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment is reported as moderate in Oldham and surrounding districts, as well as in Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton and Dukinfield. In Stalybridge two mills are reported as closed through bad trade. Card room operatives report employment as bad in Mossley, and moderate in Oldham and district. Ring frame spinners are fully employed, and twiners report employment as fair. Weaving.—The power-loom overlookers and weavers report employment as improving in velvets, but slack in calicoes. Employment is fair amongst reeler and winders, moderate with sectional warpers, and slack amongst ball-warpers.

Woolen Trade.—Employment is reported as moderate in Rochdale and Milnrow districts.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—About 2,400 union members are out of employment on account of the dispute in the engineering trades, but those who are working are fully employed, with the exception of pattern makers. Brassfounders report employment as good, tinplate workers, gas-meter makers and boiler makers as moderate, and ironfounders as slack.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate by plumbers, bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and joiners, and as slack amongst painters.

Coal Mining.—Returns from four of the principal collieries show that 6 days per week were worked at two pits, 5 days at another, and four days at the fourth pit. Employment at the two latter pits is affected by the stoppage in the engineering trade.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is moderate with tailors, printers and brushmakers.—T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—There is no change in employment in Bolton and surrounding districts. The slight improvement reported in October has been maintained. In Chorley and Bury employment is reported as moderate; in Wigan as fair. Cardroom operatives are fairly well employed in Bolton and district, moderately in Chorley, Bury and Wigan. Weaving.—Employment in Bolton and neighbourhood continues irregular. In Bury and Chorley some waiting for warps still prevails.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers and members of the allied trades continue idle through the dispute. Steel smelters and metal workers report a decline. Men employed at machine shops

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

are busy. In Wigan iron rolling mills continue inactive; steel smelting is exceptionally slack. Employment in Chorley and Bury remains slack owing to the dispute.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, masons and carpenters report employment as fair, other branches as moderate.

Mining.—In Bolton and district the best collieries are reported to be working, on an average, 5 days per week. In Wigan, Walkden and Ratcliffe some pits are working 6 days per week, others average 4 days.

Miscellaneous.—Carters, tailors, shoemakers, tanners, lace cutters and carriers are reported as moderately busy.—R. Tootill.

Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The returns from several districts show an improvement. In Burnley only some 2,000 looms are now reported as on short time. In Darwen 360 looms have been stopped for warps, whilst during the month 440 new looms have been started. In Nelson the number of looms stopped for warps is slightly less. In Blackburn and Preston there is no material change. Employment is reported as worse at Colne, and as slack at Todmorden. The hardwaste weavers keep well employed. Employment in the coloured goods trade is rather worse, warp dressers being only moderately employed. Loomers and drawers in the Blackburn district find employment very irregular, but a great improvement is shown at Burnley. Spinning.—Employment is reported as good in Preston and Darwen, very fair in Blackburn and Padiham, and brisk in Accrington. Cardroom operatives throughout the district are well employed. Branches of spinners, twisters, and drawers and warp dressers, with 3,568 members, return 113 (or 3.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 134 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building Trades.—Plumbers and painters report employment as moderate, other branches as fair.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment remains good in the machine shops, but is slack in the engineering works.

Coal Mining.—Employment is reported as moderate in Burnley, the men working five days per week; as slack at Townley with four days work per week; as fair in Accrington.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet makers report employment as improved; letterpress printers and tailors as fair. Boot, shoe, and slipper makers in Rossendale are still slack.—W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies (excluding the engineering and metal trades) with 12,708 members have 301 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 337 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Textile Trades.—Spinners in Manchester report employment as moderate with a small number on short time. Doublers in Stockport are busy. In Macclesfield, cotton operatives have been fully employed. Employment with hand-loom silk weavers is good; with power-loom weavers and silk dyers moderate; with silk finishers fair; fustian cutters are moderately well employed. With bleachers, dressers, dyers and finishers employment is bad.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers in Manchester and Northwich continues unsatisfactory; smiths and strikers and boiler-makers report employment as moderate; braziers and sheet metal workers, and brassfounders and finishers as bad. Moulders as good at some works, slack at others. In Stockport, moulders are busy. Iron-workers at Warrington and Macclesfield are fairly well employed. Wire drawers are not very busy, but wireweavers are well employed. Filesmiths are fairly busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring trade continues moderate in Manchester; in Stockport and Macclesfield it is reported as good. In the wholesale branch it is quiet. Ready-made mantle and waterproof garment makers are slack; cap makers are moderately well employed; umbrella-makers are busy; shirtmakers are fairly well employed. Employment in the felt hat trade is bad, nearly all are working short time.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers report employment as good in Manchester, moderate in Stockport and district; stonemasons, plumbers, and plasterers as moderate; carpenters and joiners as good in Manchester; rather slack in Northwich; house painters as slack; glass painters and fret lead glaziers as busy. The building trades in Warrington and Macclesfield are fairly busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in Manchester, Stockport, Macclesfield, and Warrington report employment as good; lithographic artists and printers and bookbinders as fair, pattern card makers as good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers in Manchester and Stockport report employment as good; in Warrington they are not busy. The Jewish cabinet makers are moderately employed; upholsterers are quiet. Coachmakers report employment as good; coopers and French polishers as fairly good.

G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders and brass and iron foundries report employment as moderate; drillers and hole-cutters and shipwrights as dull; whitesmiths as good; ship-joiners as slightly improved; engineers and pattern-makers as moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers, French polishers and upholsterers continue quiet; coach-makers report employment as moderate; mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists continue fairly employed.

Transport Trades.—Dock labourers and flatmen report employment as fair; quay and railway carters as steady; sailors and firemen as slightly improved; coal-heavers as moderate; salt-heavers as dull.

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

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade has declined, in the boot and shoe trade there is a slight improvement.

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as moderate; painters as dull; house-joiners as unchanged; all other branches as fair.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Miners at Whiston continue better employed. St. Helens miners have worked an average of five days per week. Quarrymen are well employed.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as moderate; chemical workers continue dull.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has been dull both at that town and at Middlewich. Employment in both towns has been fair in the building trades and slack with fustian cutters. With chemical workers at Middlewich employment, has been fair, and with moulders at Winsford moderate.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—All branches of these trades are affected by the engineering dispute. Branches with 5,919 members have 1,360 unemployed directly or indirectly through the dispute. Short time prevails in the shipyards. The engineers at Doncaster, Grimsby, Goole, and Beverley; the boiler-makers at Goole, and the shipwrights at Goole and Grimsby report employment as moderate.

Building Trades.—Painters, lath-renders and builders' labourers report employment as moderate; other branches as good. Employment is good at Beverley, Driffield, Bridlington and Selby; moderate at Grimsby and Goole.

Transport Trades.—Employment is good with deal carriers, and timber workers; and moderate with other dock and river quay labourers. Employment for seamen and firemen on long voyages is reported as good, on the shorter voyages and home trades as fair. Dock labour at Grimsby and Goole is reported as moderate. The railway workers at Hull, Grimsby, Goole, and Selby report employment as good.

Fishing Industry.—Employment for trawl fishermen at Hull and Grimsby is fair. Steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull report employment as fair; at Grimsby as good. Fish curers and general fishing trade labourers as normal.

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

Leather Workers.—The carriers and leather dressers at Doncaster report employment as good; the tanners, lace cutters and belt makers at Hull as moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The coopers report employment as good; the coachbuilders in Hull and Doncaster, and the cabinetmakers in Hull as moderate.

Seed Crushing, Paint and Colour Works.—Employment in the seed crushing mills, and in the paint and colour trades is reported as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with farriers and gasworkers; moderate with general labourers. In Selby many braidworkers are working short time. Brushmakers report employment as bad.—W. G. Millington.

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

Leeds and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers not affected by the dispute are well employed. Ironfounders, pattern-makers, boiler-makers, spindle and flyer-makers, smiths and strikers, and brass-workers are still slack in consequence of the dispute. Employment with steel workers is fair; with stove grate workers and white-smiths good.

Clothing Trades.—In the boot trade employment has slackened, and shorter hours are being worked. In the ready-made clothing trade work is reported as slack; the Jewish operatives have a large number unemployed. Employment with bespoke tailors is only moderate; with slipper makers fair.

Textile Trades.—Employment in this industry is generally quiet. Blanket raisers in Leeds report employment as bad; linen workers are on short time; woollen spinners, willeys, and fettlers are slack; flax workers are fairly employed. At Yeadon employment generally is slack; at Wakefield it is fair.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good with joiners, bricklayers, masons and plasterers in Leeds; it is moderate with plumbers. At Wakefield employment is moderate, and at Harrogate fair.

Mining.—Employment in the Leeds pits continues good, full time being worked.

Leather Trades.—Tanners report employment as only moderate; leather shavers as quiet, curriers as dull, saddlers and harness-makers as slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographers and bookbinders, and machine-rulers as fair; paper-mill workers as quiet.

Glass Trades.—Employment in the glass bottle trade in Leeds is slack; at Wakefield moderate; with flint glass makers fair.

Miscellaneous.—Brushmakers are slack; coachmakers are well employed; cabinet-makers continue busy.—O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worst Trade.—Employment in the worst trade in Bradford shows no improvement. In Halifax, Keighley and Huddersfield, employment is quiet in the weaving departments, except at one or two establishments.

Woollen Trades.—Employment in the woollen trade in and around Huddersfield is worse, especially in the Colne Valley. Fewer mills are working overtime, and at some places the weavers are working short time. In the heavy woollen districts of Dewsbury and Batley, employment is also worse than last month.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade is a little brisker at Manningham, but is no better at Halifax or Brighouse. In the cotton trade employment remains fair in Huddersfield, and is still reported as slack in Brighouse. In the carpet trade in Halifax employment is quiet, but one large firm near Brighouse is reported as working overtime.

Metal Trades.—Except at Dewsbury, employment is everywhere considerably affected by the dispute.

Building Trades.—Employment is still fairly good throughout the district, and more men are wanted in Huddersfield.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as bad in the tailoring trade; moderate in the printing trade; busy in the wire trade.

A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of engineers, and kindred trades affected by the dispute, and of coal miners), with 10,046 members, have 177 (or 1.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 165 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Iron and Steel Industries.—The ironfounders, Bessemer steel workers, Siemens steel smelters and boiler makers report employment as moderate; railway spring makers and core makers as fair. Merchant iron rollers and wire drawers are slack; stove-grate workers are busy, overtime being worked; iron and steel dressers report employment as good. Branches of societies with 5,329 members have 106 unemployed, in addition to 552 directly affected by the dispute. At Parkgate, Rotherham and Masboro', iron workers are slack, steel workers are busy, with the exception of railway spring makers, who are slack; stove-grate and bath-makers are fully employed. At Barnsley engineers and iron-founders report employment as good.

Cutlery and Tools.—Employment is fair with edge-tool makers; good with sword and bayonet makers; moderate with sawmakers; fair with makers of best table knives, but slack on common work. Pen and pocket blade folders and grinders and cutlery report employment as slack, with many on short time. File makers are much

affected by the engineers' dispute. Razor makers are slack. Handle and scale cutters report employment as fair; haft and scale pressers as improving.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the silver trade continues good, Britannia metal-smiths and brassworkers are fairly well employed; the spoon and fork filers report further slackness. At Rotherham the brassworkers in all branches are busy.

Coal Mining.—The returns from 64 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.39 days per week worked, as against 5.67 in October.

Building Trades.—Employment with stonemasons in Sheffield is good; at Barnsley and Rotherham moderate. Bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, and plumbers throughout the district report employment as good. Branches with 1,367 members have only 8 unemployed.

Linen Trade.—Employment in this industry is improving, the mills working 5 days per week, as compared with 4 in October.

Glass Trade.—Employment with the bottle-makers throughout the district is better; and with flint glass makers it is fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is slack in the bespoke and wholesale branches of the tailoring trade in Sheffield; moderate in Barnsley and Rotherham.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders are well employed.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding.—Coachmakers report employment as fair; cabinet-makers as good. At Barnsley bobbin-makers are fully employed; boxmakers are slack.—S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners), with 6,997 members, have 91 (or 1.3 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, the same percentage as at the end of October.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,469 members have 65 (or 2.6 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 73 (or 3.0 per cent.) at the end of October. Employment continues good in the locomotive works. In engineering generally employment is reported as moderate. With ironfounders in Derby it continues to improve; in Butterley it is good; in Chesterfield moderate; with brass-moulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent moderate; with lace machine builders in Long Eaton busy, and with cycle workers in Long Eaton and Draycott improving. Stove grate workers in Derby, Belper, and Langley Mill continue fairly well employed, the blast furnacemen at Ilkeston are well employed.

Coal Mining.—At collieries employing upwards of 39,000 men, an average of 5.10 days per week was worked as compared with 5.33 days in October.

Quarrying.—Employment in limestone quarries continues satisfactory. In chert quarries at Bakewell overtime is being worked.

Textile Trades.—Cotton weavers and spinners in Belper and Borrowash are busy. In Glossop and Hadfield employment continues to improve. Employment with hosiery workers in Heanor is fair; in Belper and Ilkeston dull. Lacemakers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton are busier in cotton goods, but are slack in silk goods. Calico printers and engravers in Hayfield, Dinting, and New Mills are busier.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches is reported as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with boot and shoe operatives, tailors, and with dress and mantle makers continues to improve.

Coachbuilding Trades.—Railway carriage and wagon builders report employment as fair in Derby, and moderate in Long Eaton; carriage builders in private shops as improving.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment with the coopers at Burton-on-Trent on new work is good, but, on repairing, work has slightly fallen off.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress and lithographic printers, and bookbinders and machine rulers is reported as good.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment is bad in the levers and curtain branches, active in the plain net branch. Warp lace workers, warpers, curtain readers, designers, and draughtsmen report employment as bad; auxiliary laceworkers as slack; female laceworkers as rather brisker; dyers as slack.

Hosiery Trade.—Framework knitters report employment as worse with one-third unemployed; the rib top branch as much slacker circular hosiery branch as bad. Shetland shawl makers at Hucknall report a decline. Elastic bandage-makers are busy

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

Hosiery trimmers and finishers are only moderately employed at Bulwell, Basford and Nottingham.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the cycle trade is unsettled. Lace machine and hosiery machine builders are fairly well employed. The engineers report employment as moderate at Mansfield, Beeston and Newark; boiler-makers at Nottingham as moderate; the ironfounders as moderate at Nottingham, busy at Mansfield, and fair at Retford and Grantham. Iron dressers, steam engine makers, tool machinists, farriers, wheelwrights and black-smiths report employment as moderate; brass workers as quiet; bobbin and carriage-makers and carriage straighteners, and kitchen range and stove grate workers as good. Blast furnacemen at Bestwood are moderately well employed.

Building Trades.—Except with painters employment is fair in all branches.

Coal Mining.—Returns from pits employing over 16,000 men, show that an average of nearly four days per week was worked during November.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate, bookbinders as improved; lithographic artists, printers' assistants and printers' cutters as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment on bespoke tailoring is slack; in the ready-made branch moderate; mantle-makers and other branches are busy. Employment with boot and shoe operatives is slack at Nottingham, moderate at Hucknall and Mansfield.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers, and coach builders are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Silk dressers are working short time; female cigar makers are fairly busy; basket-makers and brushmakers are well employed.—W. L. Harstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and Shoe Industry.—All branches of the boot and shoe trade throughout the district report employment as irregular, short time being general. **Other Clothing Trades.**—Employment is slack in the wholesale tailoring trade, and only moderate with bespoke tailors. Milliners and dressmakers are fairly well employed. Corset-makers are not so busy. Work is quiet with silk and felt hatters, but improving with capmakers.

Hosiery, Yarn and Woolspinning Trades.—Hosiery workers at Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley, are only partially employed. No improvement is reported in the yarn and woolspinning departments; work is also slack with dyers and trimmers.

Elastic Web Trade.—Weavers on broad and narrow webs and fancy goods, are better employed. In other branches work is still slack.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Employment is affected by the engineers' dispute. Many ironfounders, pattern-makers and needle-makers are working short time. Work is much slacker with cycle-makers.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment is not quite so regular with coalminers; it is still good with ironstone-workers and stone quarrymen.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Letterpress printers are working overtime at Leicester. Employment is good at Loughborough, Kettering, and Northampton, and fair at Rugby. It is moderate with lithographic printers, and good with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—For the time of the year employment is satisfactory in all branches.

Coachmaking and Furnishing Trades.—Work is brisk in the carriage, coach, and railway wagon trades; car builders and cabinet-makers are working overtime, upholsterers and wood turners are well employed.

Leather Trades.—Tanners and curriers are in full work at Northampton and Market Harborough. Employment is not so good at Leicester.

Miscellaneous.—Work is good with cigar-makers, and also with brick and tile makers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Flat pressers and hollow-ware pressers report a further improvement, and are now averaging 4 and 4½ days per week respectively. Sanitary pressers report no change. Printers and transferers report very little change in employment. The introduction of lithographic transfers has displaced a number of printers, but does not affect the transferers. Throwers and turners report a slight improvement in the general trade, and are busy in the electrical branches. Women gilders and decorators and men artists report a general improvement. Encaustic tilemakers and stilt and spurmakers keep busy. Modellers, designers, and mould-makers are better employed. Ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggar-makers report a further improvement.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in the steel mills continues good. Puddlers and blast furnacemen are busy. Rollers in the iron mills are only averaging four days per week.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and boiler-makers in North Staffordshire are moderately busy except at the works at Stoke affected by the dispute. At Crewe and Stafford all departments report employment as good. Copper-workers at Oakamoor and Froghall report employment in the tubing department as very good, wire workers being not quite so busy. At Rugeley and Uttoxeter agricultural engineers keep busy.

Coal Mining.—Employment has improved throughout North Staffordshire and at Rugeley.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade shows a further decline. Trimming weavers have 75 per cent. on short time, and other departments report a similar state of affairs. At Congleton silk throwsters are fully employed; spun silk workers report a slight improvement; fustian cutters are still working short time, with 33 per cent. totally unemployed. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape-workers are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report an improvement. In the shoe trade, both at Stafford and Stone, short time is general. Corset makers at Uttoxeter remain busy.

Building Trades.—Employment is plentiful in all branches.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report employment as moderately good. At Stafford no change is reported. Lithographic artists and printers and bookbinders and machine rulers are moderately busy.

Miscellaneous.—At Alton and Hollington, stone quarrymen report employment as good. Bakers are fairly employed. Brushmakers report a decline. Gas workers are busy.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues good in the iron bar, angle, and hoop trades. In the steel trade employment is good, but in the sheet trade it continues dull. In Shropshire the mills and forges are running full time.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment is good with engineers, moulders, boiler, bridge, girder, and tank makers; cycle makers are busier. The malleable iron workers at Walsall report a slight improvement. At Coalbrook Dale, Madeley, and Tamworth employment is good.

Hardware Trades.—Makers of vices, tubes, nuts, bolts, iron-fences, hurdles, axles, springs, coach ironwork, hand cut files, wrought iron odd work, builders' ironmongery, spring traps, edge tools, plantation and brazil hoes, malleable nails, protectors, cycle castings, electrical and gas fittings, all report employment as good. Brass workers and makers of wrought nails, latches, keys, rims, mortices and cabinet locks, padlocks and steel toys, are moderately employed. Makers of anvils, anchors, cable-chains, iron-plate, light hollow-ware and cut nails are slack.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Cannock Chase, Shropshire and Tamworth districts is good. Employment at Tipton and Blackheath is fairly good. In the Oldbury districts the pits are practically at a standstill.

Building Trades.—Employment with carpenters, joiners and plumbers is fairly good. Bricklayers and builders' labourers are moderately employed; painters are dull.

Glass Trades.—Employment in all branches of the flint glass trade at Wordsley and district is good. The glass bottle makers at Brierley Hill are still unemployed.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the leather trades at Walsall shows no improvement.

Textile Trades.—In the carpet trade at Kidderminster employment has improved; some firms are working overtime. The Bridgnorth mills continue busy. The Tamworth tape mills are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trades. In the boot trade short time continues. Employment in the printing trade is good.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 20,662 members have 313 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 411 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Engineering.—Eight branches of the engineers report employment as moderate, two as good, one as fair. The pattern makers report employment as fair, the toolmakers as moderate, the smiths and strikers as busy. In Coventry and West Bromwich employment in the engineering trade is returned as good. In Birmingham and Coventry cycle makers are busier. Employ-

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

ment in the tyre and rubber trade is gradually improving. The Redditch cycle makers are well employed.

Brass and Copper Trades.—In all branches of the brass trade employment is reported as good. The tube trade continues slack. The fire brass makers report employment as good. Employment with fender makers in the Dudley district is good.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, & Electro-platers.—Jewellers and electro-plate workers report employment as good; Britannia metal workers as fair.

Other Metal Trades.—Ironfounders report employment as moderate; the bedstead makers as bad; hand file cutters are fully employed. Employment in the iron-plate trade is fair in Birmingham, but is unsatisfactory in the Dudley district.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good generally.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass makers, flint glass cutters, plate glass bevellers and silverers report employment as good. In West Bromwich employment in the glass trade is good.

Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet makers, sawyers, and machinists report employment as good; coachmakers as fairly good; coopers as good on wet work, but quieter on dry. With railway carriage makers employment is good.

Miscellaneous.—In the printing trade employment is good throughout the district. The gunmakers in all branches are fairly employed. Brushmakers are slack; gas workers busy. In Birmingham, unskilled labour is fairly employed. In Coventry, leather workers in cycle accessories are well employed. Employment with watchmakers is brisker; with weavers slightly improved. In West Bromwich, employment is fair in nearly all branches. In Redditch, needle makers, needle case makers, fish hook and fishing tackle makers are well employed.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

General.—Branches with 3,910 members have 35 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 95 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are slack at Norwich and Cambridge; fairly employed at Yarmouth. The ready made clothing factories at Norwich are fairly busy. The boot and shoe makers at Norwich have a large number idle, and much distress exists. At Cambridge employment is fair. Corset makers at Diss are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—Except with painters, employment is fairly good throughout the district.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers are well employed throughout the district. Shipwrights at both Yarmouth and Lowestoft have been slack.

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

Printing and Bookbinding.—Letterpress printers at both Norwich and Fakenham are fairly busy. Lithographic printers and bookbinders are fully employed.

Fishing Industry.—The herring fishing at both Yarmouth and Lowestoft has been good. Trawl fishing has been good at Lowestoft; not quite so good at Yarmouth.

Miscellaneous.—Brushmakers at Norwich, Wymondham, and Diss are not busy. Mat and matting weavers at Diss are fully employed. Wire weavers are slack. Horticultural workers are working overtime.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as good at Colchester, Bury St. Edmunds, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; fair at Ipswich, Beccles, and Leiston; bad at Wickham Market; as affected by the dispute at Chelmsford. The boiler-makers at Ipswich, Harwich, and Leiston, and the shipwrights at Ipswich, Wyvenhoe, and Rowhedge are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—In the boot and shoe trade employment is dull at Ipswich and Colchester; in wholesale tailoring employment is steady at Ipswich, and moderate at Colchester; bespoke tailoring generally is good. The corset-makers are well employed at Ipswich and Sudbury.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the matting industry is reported as good at Hadleigh, Lavenham, and Long Melford, and moderate at Sudbury and Glemsford. Employment is good, with horse-hair weavers at Lavenham and Long Melford, silk weavers at Sudbury and Baintree, and silk and crape operatives at Halstead and Earl's Colne.

Building Trades.—Painters at Ipswich report a decline, but plumbers at Ipswich and bricklayers, and carpenters throughout the district report employment as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The demand for compositors in this district has exceeded the supply. Employment with bookbinders is good; with lithographers moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment at Ipswich and Chelmsford with horticultural builders has been moderate; with brick-makers fair; shipping and dock labour at Ipswich is reported as improving.

R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Societies and branches (excluding those affected by the engineering dispute) with 5,696 members, have 89 (or 1.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 54 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building.—Employment generally continues good. Societies with 3,007 members have 45 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 24 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the Bristol coal fields is reported as good, except at one colliery. In the Forest of Dean employment in the stone quarries is reported as fair; in the house and steam coal mines as good. The improvement in the Radstock district has been maintained.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The shipwrights at Bristol and Gloucester report a large percentage out of work, but all other branches of this industry report employment as full and steady, except where affected by the general dispute.

Dock Labour.—Employment with quayside labourers is fair.

Clothing Trades.—In Bristol most of the boot and shoe operatives are on short time. In the Kingswood district employment is slack. Employment continues unsteady in the wholesale tailoring, except on heavy goods. The bespoke tailors report employment as quiet; the silk hatters as fair.

Textile Trades.—At Twerton the spinners are on full time, but the weavers are only doing four days per week. The Wellington and Westford Mills are busy. In the Trowbridge district short time prevails.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The cabinet-makers and upholsterers report employment as declining; the furniture polishers as fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment is good, branches with 715 members return 16 (or 2.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 14 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

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

Miscellaneous.—The tobacco workers report employment as moderate; the brickmakers, glass bottle makers, and brush makers as good; the basket makers as quiet.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—Employment continues slack in the metal mining industry of Cornwall. In the quarries at Oreston (Devon) and in Cornwall the men are generally fully employed; the china clay workers report an average month's employment.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers report employment as fair; good at Hayle, and moderate at Newton; ironfounders and brassworkers as good; boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as moderate; shipwrights are well employed in the Three Towns; fairly so in Dartmouth and Brixham.

Building Trades.—The stonemasons, plasterers and plumbers are well employed; bricklayers and painters moderately so; carpenters and joiners report employment as fairly good in Plymouth and Devonport; quiet at Tavistock. In Exeter employment generally is slack; in Torquay dull.

Clothing Trades.—In the bespoke tailoring department work continues slack, but in the ready-made a slight improvement has taken place. In the boot and shoe trade short time is being worked.

Printing Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers and bookbinders has improved; with lithographic printers it is fairly good. Paper-mills are in full work.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—There has been rather less shipping in the port than usual. Employment with timber and coal men is fairly good.

Fishing Industry.—Catches have been good, especially on the Cornish coast, but prices have been low, and the shares of the men employed below the average. At Brixham fishing has been light.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with brickyard workers and general labourers and excavators continues fair; carriage builders are well employed.—W. Hedge.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—WALES AND SCOTLAND.

WALES.

North Wales District.

Mining.—Except at one or two collieries, employment has been good in every district of North Wales. Employment is good at the lead and blende mines.

Quarrying.—Employment is good at slate and freestone quarries, fair at lime and roadstone quarries. The granite sett quarrymen are fully employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good at the Brymbo Steel Works. Employment with engineers is moderate at Sandycroft and Oswestry. The engineers at Ruabon continue fully employed. Employment is reported as rather slack at the Ruabon wagon works. The spleter works at Mold have been closed.

Building Trades.—Employment is fair throughout the district.

Brick and Terra Cotta Industries.—Employment continues good in all branches of the brick and terra-cotta industries at Wrexham, Ruabon, Rhos, Buckley, Mold, and Penybont.

Chemical Industries.—The men continue fully employed at the chemical works in Ruabon.

Clothing and Textile Industries.—Employment in the woollen trade of Montgomeryshire is reported as fair. The tailors at Rhyl report employment as fairly good; at Oswestry as rather slack; at Bangor as quiet.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Employment has been irregular. The Blaenavon, Tredegar, Dowlais, Cyfarthfa, and Pontypool collieries have worked full time during the month; in the Western District, the Ogmore Valley, and the Rhondda Valley several collieries have had from 6 to 12 days' stoppages. Of the pits in the Rhondda, Ferndale, Aberdare, and Merthyr districts, 47 have stopped one or more days during the month, the average days worked by each pit being 5.1 per week during November, the same average as during October. Distress prevails in many parts of the Rhondda. The result of the sliding scale audit makes no change in the wages.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Cyfarthfa, and Rogerstone mills and furnaces are reported as busy; in Briton Ferry, Neath and Morriston as steadily employed, except in one case, where half time is being worked. Employment at the Landore steel tube works and Cardiff Dowlais works is brisk.

Engineering.—Employment has been better than during October. Branches of the engineers, with 2,810 members, return 133 (or 4.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 148 (or 5.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. Employment has been better with fitters' and boiler-makers' helpers, and general labourers, and good with ship painters and ship and boiler scruffers. Engineering firms and foundries in the inland and colliery districts, and also the mechanics in many of the iron and steel works, have been working overtime. Moulders and iron founders report employment as good.

Ship Repairing.—Shipwrights return 25 per cent. as unemployed; the boiler-makers 20 per cent.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been much below the average at Cardiff, Barry, and Penarth; moderate at Swansea and Newport. The corn porters, pitwood, timber and ore workers have had a fairly good month. Shipment of crews has been slack.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is moderate. Branches of carpenters and joiners, with 1,563 members, have 46 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 59 (or 3.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is fair in the fuel trade; not so good in chemical works; steady in copper and silver smelting works.

T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.—The resumption of work continued during November. At the end of the month out of 484 mills at 86 works 325 were working, as compared with 306 out of 485 at the end of October, and 261 out of 490 a year ago. Of the 86 works 47 with 248 mills were giving full employment, 14 with 106 mills partial employment (77 of the mills being at work), and the remaining 25 were idle. A few works were still being paid at the 1874 list at the end of November, but have had notices of reduction. The agreements at most of the works are no longer in force for at least 6 months.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies (excluding the engineering and allied trades) with 9,616 members have 462 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 329 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Coal Mining.—Employment in Mid and East Lothian continues

good, full time is generally obtained. In West Lothian employment has declined a little at some of the collieries; in the Bathgate and Fauldhouse districts from 11 to 12 days per fortnight have been worked; in the Armadale district 10 to 11 days, and in the Benhar district 11 to 12, and in some cases 9 to 10 days.

Shale Mines and Oil Works.—Employment in these trades continues fairly good. Returns from 32 pits employing 3,412 workpeople (as compared with 4,098 in November, 1896) show that full time was worked by 2,583 men, that 594 worked 22 and under 24 days, and that 194 worked from 18 to 20 days during November last. The remaining 41 workpeople were idle during the month, owing to the closing of a mine for repairs.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,419 members have 107 (or 4.4 per cent.) idle, in addition to 349 directly affected by the dispute. Branches of these trades in Falkirk with 3,124 members have 122 idle, as against 102 at the end of October.

Shipbuilding.—Employment has declined in the shipbuilding yards in Leith. Branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights with 580 members have 144 (or 24.8 per cent.) idle, as against 86 (or 15.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the linen industry in Dunfermline has been good. In the woollen industry it has been quieter in Selkirk, and in Hawick and Galashiels short time has been general. Employment in the hosiery industry generally has been fair in both Hawick and Selkirk, but the hand made department in the latter town has been slack. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,136 members have 186 (or 3.6 per cent.) idle, as against 143 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,083 members have 15 idle, as against 11 at the end of October.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment has been fair with seamen and firemen and dock labourers, good with coal porters.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches (not including press and machine men) with 1,870 members have 87 (or 4.7 per cent.) out of work, as against 54 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The increase in the number unemployed is owing to the dispute of the press and machine men.

Miscellaneous.—The sett-makers report employment as good; the bakers as quiet; the tailors and shoemakers as bad.

J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues much disturbed by the engineers' dispute. Branches with 10,552 members have 892 (or 8.5 per cent.) idle, as against 834 (or 7.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues much the same. Branches with 27,232 members, in addition to 4,000 engineers idle through the dispute have 1,603 (or 5.9 per cent.) unemployed as against 1,643 (or 6.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire except in a few small collieries in the Slamannan districts, employment is reported as good, 5 and 5½ days per week being worked. In Dumbartonshire and in Lanarkshire, employment is still good, full time being wrought at nearly all the collieries in the latter district. In Ayrshire, the men are well employed in the coal and ironstone mines; employment in coal and iron mines in Renfrewshire continues good. Pits in the Paisley district are working 10 or 11 days per fortnight; employment has improved at the Nitshill pits.

Building Trades.—Employment except with painters is still good. Branches with 11,039 members (excluding painters), return 144 (or 1.3 per cent.) as idle, as against 113 (or 1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 3,902 members return 104 (or 2.7 per cent.) as idle, as against 82 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow employment has improved on silks and coloured fine goods; on gingham and lappets it remains slack. At Kilbirnie employment in networks is dull; thread and twine works are running full time. At Paisley, Port Glasgow, Galston and Darvel textile workers are busy. At Greenock merino and woollen mills are running full time. Glasgow dyers and power loom beamers are busy. Carpet weavers are not so well employed. Calico engravers report employment as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors is no better, and with clothiers' operatives is quiet. Boot and shoe operatives

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

report no improvement; knee boot and shoemakers are exceptionally quiet. Carriers report employment as fair.

Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.—The seamen report no improvement; dock labourers in Glasgow report employment as dull; in Ardrossan as busy; carters in Glasgow and Greenock as quiet; railway men, hackney carriage drivers and tramway men as busy.

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

Glass Trades.—The improvement amongst the flint glass makers and flint glass cutters has been fully maintained. Bottlemakers report employment as steady. Medicine bottlemakers are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Tobacco pipe makers, and finishers and saddlers report employment as dull; setmakers, and scale beam makers and potters as good.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry has not been so brisk in certain departments, and there has been a stoppage of looms in several factories. In the linen trade a slight improvement is reported, and employment continues fairly steady.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the collieries in Fifeshire continues fairly steady. At pits employing nearly 10,000 workpeople an average of 5.3 days per week has been worked during the four weeks ending 27th November, as compared with 5.5 in the month of October.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment continues brisk in the shops not affected by the dispute. Work at the ship-yards remains good for almost all classes of workmen. In addition to 704 directly affected by the dispute, branches with 2,461 members have 274 (or 11.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 251 (or 10.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—With the exception of the painters, who are slack, all branches are well employed. The cabinet-makers and furniture-workers continue busy. Societies with 1,600 members report 15 (or 0.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 16 (or 1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Fishing Industry.—In the last week of the month the Broughty Ferry boats were only twice at sea, and the Arbroath and Montrose boats three and four days respectively. The haddock fishing has been poor.

Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks and jetties has been fair. **Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the printing and allied trades remains steady. The tailors and boot and shoe makers report employment as dull; floorcloth and linoleum makers as steady.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Societies with 6,880 members have 254 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of October.

Quarrying.—Blockers, drillers, cranemen, labourers, setmakers, granite cutters (monumental), and granite polishers all report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as bad with painters, moderate with plumbers and good in other branches. Branches with 2,439 members report 63 (or 2.6 per cent.) as idle, as against 52 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership), at the end of October.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders, shipwrights and ironmoulders report employment as bad; the patter-makers as unsettled; the blacksmiths as fair; the tinsmith workers as moderate; the brass moulders and finishers and toolsmiths as good. Branches of societies (excluding the engineers, of whom 237 are directly affected by the dispute) with 1,090 members, have 157 (or 14.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 161 (or 14.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate; bookbinders as good. **Clothing Trades.**—The hand-sewn boot and shoe makers report employment as good; the riveters and finishers as moderate; the tailors as bad.

Textile Trades.—The cotton, jute, flax, and woollen operatives report employment as fair.

Transport Trades.—Dock labourers report employment as fair; carters and general labourers as moderate.

Fishing.—In November at the Port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 56,801 cwts. of fish realizing £35,546 a slight increase in quantity, but a decrease in value as compared with October.

W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment in most branches is good. Branches with 3,935 members have 198 (or 5.0 per cent.) unemployed as against 124 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate, other branches as fair or good. Branches with 826 members have 27 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 17 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers and organ builders report employment as good; cart and wagon-builders, and upholsterers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as dull with a large number casually employed, the bootmakers as fair.

Printing Trades.—All branches report employment as good. Several houses in the letterpress branch are working overtime. Of the 1,266 members in these trades, 34 (or 2.7 per cent. are unemployed, as against 69 (or 5.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Transport Trades.—Dock labourers have been well employed on cross channel boats, but have been dull in the foreign trade.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is fair with bottle makers and saddlers; good with brushmakers; dull with shipwrights.

J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Societies with 10,398 members have 381 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 265 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October, in addition to 704 directly affected by the dispute. Employment in all branches is reported as quiet.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 4,041 members have 78 (or 1.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 79 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The beetlers and spindle and fly-makers report employment as dull; flax dressers, flax roughers, hackle and gill makers, powerloom tenters and yarn bundlers as fair, and powerloom yarn dressers as improving; linen-lappers as good and the women workers as brisk in all departments.

Building Trades.—Branches (not including painters) with 2,820 members have 56 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 41 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The carpenters and joiners report employment as quiet; the hodsmen, mill-sawyers and plumbers as moderate, and bricklayers and paviors as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 662 members return 42 (or 6.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 26 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The coach-builders report employment as dull; cabinet-makers, French polishers and packing-case makers as quiet, and the upholsterers and coopers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Societies with 928 members return 27 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 28 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The letterpress printers report employment as dull; the bookbinders, lithographic printers and artists and designers as good.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives and tailors report employment as quiet.

Miscellaneous.—All branches with 1,859 members have 47 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 52 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The butchers report employment as quiet, the bakers as fair, the carters and locomotive engine drivers as good, sailmakers as bad.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineering in all its branches continues steady. Shipwrights and shipjoiners report employment as fair in Passage West; bad in Cork.

Building Trades.—All branches of these trades are steadily employed in Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

Textile Trades.—Flax and tweed operatives in Millfield, Blarney and Cork are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Feather operatives report employment as good; tailors and boot and shoe operatives as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with coach-makers, cabinet-makers, mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists and packing case makers; as fair with coopers in Limerick and Waterford, but dull in Cork.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as steady; quay labourers and coal porters as dull.—P. O'Shea.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

(For Summary of these detailed Tables, see p. 360.)

I. Railway Servants.

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned, during the month of November, 1897.

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

| Class of Service. | Killed | Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident. | | | | | | Total Injured. |
|---|-----------|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| | | Causing Amputations. | Dislocations, Fractures, and Internal Injuries. | Contusions and Bruises. | Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c. | Shock and Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries. | Total Injured. | |
| Brakemen and Goods Guards | 3 | — | 7 | 23 | 21 | — | 33 | 84 |
| Engine Drivers | 2 | — | 1 | 5 | 7 | — | 11 | 24 |
| Firemen | — | — | 3 | 14 | 11 | — | 14 | 42 |
| Guards (Passenger) | — | — | 1 | 3 | 3 | — | 5 | 12 |
| Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) | 8 | — | 3 | 4 | 2 | — | 5 | 14 |
| Porters | — | — | 6 | 22 | 7 | — | 14 | 49 |
| Shunters | — | — | 3 | 18 | 11 | — | 22 | 54 |
| Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants) | — | — | 12 | 8 | 24 | — | 23 | 67 |
| Total for November, 1897 | 34 | 2 | 31 | 113 | 73 | — | 127 | 346 |
| Total for November, 1896 | 38 | 5 | 33 | 105 | 82 | — | 119 | 344 |

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 2 servants killed and 735 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during November, as compared with 4 killed and 982 injured in November, 1896.

II. Miners and Quarrymen.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of November, 1897.

(The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 725,803, and in and about quarries (more than 20 feet deep) as 112,829, in 1896.)

| Cause of Accident. | MINES. | | QUARRIES. | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Killed. | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. |
| Underground:— | | | | |
| Explosions of Fire-damp | 1 | 24 | — | — |
| Falls of ground | 39 | 185 | — | 9 |
| In shafts | — | 9 | 2 | 13 |
| Miscellaneous | 16 | 187 | — | — |
| Surface:— | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | 56 | 405 | 3 | 31 |
| Total for Nov., 1897 | 64 | 452 | 7 | 53 |
| Total for Nov., 1896 | 75 | 413 | 11 | 74 |

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

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

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of November, 1897, as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

| Cause and Class of Accident. | Number reported as Killed or Injured. | | | | Total for 3 months Sept. to Nov., 1897. | Corresponding total for 3 months of 1896. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| | In November, 1897. | | | | | |
| | On Trading Vessels. | On Fishing Vessels. | Total in Nov., 1897. | Total in Nov., 1896. | | |
| I.—By Wreck or Casualty:— | | | | | | |
| Killed | 13 | 4 | — | 21 | 88 | |
| Fractures and Dislocations | — | — | — | — | 3 | |
| Other or unspecified Injuries | — | 2 | — | 3 | 17 | |
| II.—By other Accidents:— | | | | | | |
| Killed | 16 | 34* | 2 | 52* | 28 | |
| Fractures and Dislocations | 4 | 27 | 2 | 35 | 114 | |
| Other or unspecified Injuries | 7 | 101 | 4 | 117 | 363 | |
| III.—All Accidents— | | | | | | |
| Total Killed | 29 | 38* | 6 | 73* | 306 | |
| Total Injured | 11 | 130 | 6 | 155 | 481 | |

NOTE.—Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included.
* One of this number was included in the number of non-fatal injuries in the return for September last.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.*

(A) Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during November, 1897, distinguishing Factories and Workshops. †

[The number of persons employed in Factories in 1895 is returned as 3,555,870. The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 (2) of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.]

| Class of Accident. | Number of Males. | | | | Number of Females. | | | | Total Males and Females. |
|---|------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|----------|------------|--------------------------|
| | Adults. | Young Persons. | Boys. | Total. | Adults. | Young Persons. | Girls. | Total. | |
| In Factories. | | | | | | | | | |
| Killed | 54 | 11 | — | 65 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 67 |
| Injuries: | | | | | | | | | |
| Causing Amputation | 131 | 66 | 7 | 204 | 19 | 17 | 1 | 37 | 241 |
| Fractures | 62 | 28 | — | 90 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 100 |
| Injuries to head or face | 51 | 20 | — | 71 | 14 | 10 | — | 24 | 95 |
| Loss of Sight of one or both eyes | 2 | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 4 |
| Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries | 583 | 295 | 10 | 888 | 66 | 60 | 4 | 130 | 1,018 |
| Total (Killed and Injured) | 829 | 409 | 17 | 1,255 | 107 | 90 | 6 | 203 | 1,458 |
| In Workshops. | | | | | | | | | |
| Killed | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Injured | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total in Factories and Workshops:— | | | | | | | | | |
| Killed | 54 | 11 | — | 65 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 67 |
| Injured | 829 | 409 | 17 | 1,255 | 107 | 90 | 6 | 203 | 1,458 |
| In Nov., 1896 | 49 | 7 | 1 | 57 | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | 59 |
| Injured | 747 | 335 | 17 | 1,099 | 108 | 92 | 5 | 205 | 1,304 |

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 2,233 other non-fatal accidents (2,228 in Factories and 5 in Workshops) only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors, as compared with a total of 1,846 in November, 1896.

(B) Table showing the number of persons killed or injured by accidents reported to H.M. Inspectors of Factories by occupiers of factories and workshops during October and November, 1897, respectively, grouped according to industries.*

| Groups of Industries. | November, 1897. | | October, 1897. | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | Number of Persons. | Number of Persons. | Killed. | Injured. |
| Textiles— | | | | |
| Cotton | — | 235 | 2 | 294 |
| Wool and Worsted | 1 | 90 | 1 | 82 |
| Other Textiles | 3 | 59 | — | 52 |
| Non-Textiles— | | | | |
| Metals, Founding and Construction of | 10 | 474 | — | 416 |
| Machines, Tools, Appliances, &c. | 10 | 982 | 10 | 977 |
| Other Metal working | 3 | 63 | 4 | 73 |
| Shipbuilding, &c. | 10 | 481 | 3 | 435 |
| Woodworking, &c. | 1 | 124 | 6 | 157 |
| Chemicals, &c. | 3 | 120 | 4 | 124 |
| Locks, Wharves and Quays | 6 | 350 | 3 | 247 |
| Other Non-Textile Industries | 18 | 669 | 13 | 751 |
| Total | 63 | 3,647 | 48 | 3,478 |

* Exclusive of accidents reported by Mines' Inspectors.

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

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

Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of November, 1897.

| Nature of Works, &c. | Construction or Repair. | | | Use or Working. | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | Number of Persons. | | | Number of Persons. | | |
| | Killed. | Fractures and Dislocations. | Other Injuries. | Killed. | Fractures and Dislocations. | Other Injuries. |
| Bridge | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Railway | — | 3 | 42 | — | — | 5 |
| Tramroad | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Tramway | — | — | — | — | — | 12 |
| Tunnel | — | 1 | 6 | — | — | — |
| Other Works† | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Traction engine | — | 3 | 29 | — | — | 2 |
| Total for Nov., 1897 | 1 | 7 | 78 | — | — | 20 |
| Total for Nov., 1896 | 3 | 12 | 86 | 2 | 7 | 12 |

* 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 NOVEMBER.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during November affected about 4,200 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these workpeople was a decrease estimated at 1s. 3d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases affected 800 colliery mechanics in Northumberland, and 320 cycle tube makers at Birmingham.

Decreases.—The decreases were practically confined to the tinplate trade, about 1,900 workpeople agreeing to reductions from the full 1874 list of prices.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 950 workpeople were preceded by strikes, the changes being subsequently arranged by negotiation between the parties. The remaining changes affecting 3,250 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives, without any cessation of work.

Totals for First Eleven Months of 1897.—For the eleven months—January to November—the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 576,000. The net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these workpeople is estimated at an increase of about 1s. per head.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week, Inc. change, Dec. change.

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

† See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

DURING November changes in hours of labour affecting 5,758 workpeople were reported, and resulted in an average reduction of 24.7 hours per week in the working hours of those affected.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Extent of decrease per week.

DECREASES.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Extent of decrease per week.

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. † Summer Hours.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

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

As the result of the ascertainment, the rates of wages of miners in South Wales and of the puddlers and millmen in the North of England and the Midlands remain unaltered for the months of December and January. The figures for Northumberland and Cumberland are unchanged, no audit having been made since the last publication of the table.

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

* The exact amount of the ascertained selling price cannot be stated.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Newcastle-on-Tyne Mining District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on January 6th and 7th, 1898.

South Staffordshire Mining District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly.

South Wales Mining District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly.

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.)

Number and Magnitude.—Forty-one fresh disputes were reported as beginning in November, 1897, as compared with 49 reported in the previous month, and 65 in November, 1896. In these 41 disputes, 6,644 workpeople were involved, compared with 8,769 in October, and about 16,000 in November, 1896.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades there were 4 disputes, involving 118 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 6 disputes, involving 1,394 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding, 6 disputes, involving 983 workpeople; other metal trades, 7 disputes, involving 3,144 workpeople; textile trades, 6 disputes, involving 672 workpeople; clothing trades, 3 disputes, involving 106 workpeople; transport, 5 disputes, involving 179 workpeople; and in other industries, 4 disputes, involving 48 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 41 new disputes, 20 arose on wages questions, 4 on the question of hours of labour, 5 were in defence of fellow-workpeople, 9 on questions of working arrangements, 1 was against the employment of non-unionists, 1 on the question of fines, and 1 was a demarcation dispute.

Results.—Thirty-five new disputes, involving 6,389 workpeople, and 14 old disputes, involving 3,658 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 49 new and old disputes terminated, 9, involving 1,825 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 26, involving 3,954 workpeople, in favour of the employers, and 14, involving 4,268 workpeople, by compromise.

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in November owing to labour disputes new and old was about 1,535,000, as compared with about 1,530,000 in October, and 1,614,000 in September.

Total Disputes for the First Eleven Months of 1897.—For the eleven completed months of 1897, the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 903 disputes which commenced in those months was 209,303, as compared with 191,585 workpeople involved in the 969 disputes occurring in the corresponding months of 1896. The number of working days lost owing to disputes in the first eleven months of 1897 was about 8,973,378.

| Employment. | Locality. | Date when Dispute began. | Alleged Cause or Object. | No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly Affected. | Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days. | Result. |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---------|
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---------|

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN NOVEMBER, 1897.

| 4 Disputes. BUILDING TRADES. 118 Workpeople affected. | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|---|----|---|--|
| Stonemasons ... | Little Hulton, Bolton | Nov. 4 | Against introduction of ready-dressed stone ... | 12 | 3 | Employer agreed to conform to union rules on the question. No settlement reported. |
| Plumbers ... | Rochdale ... | 2 | Objection to work with non-unionists ... | 6 | — | No settlement reported. |
| Stonemasons ... | Edinburgh ... | 25 | Against proposal that one meal hour per day should be taken instead of two, when winter hours were being worked | 50 | 7 | Each squad to settle with its own employer as to one meal hour or two. |
| Joiners ... | Glasgow ... | 17 | Against use of American joinery, made under alleged unfair conditions | 50 | 4 | No further joinery of this kind to be used. |

| 6 Disputes. MINING AND QUARRYING. 1,394 Workpeople affected. | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|----|---|-----|----|--|
| Coal Miners ... | Alfreton ... | 3 | For change from day to piecework where stalls are in fit condition to be taken by contract | 350 | 12 | Piecework to be adopted where practicable, and wages and other conditions agreed to. |
| Enginemn and Coal Miners | Kirkby, Notts. | 23 | For increase in wages and reduction in hours to enginemn and cranemn | 580 | 6 | Advances in wages to all, and reduction in hours to some of the men. |
| Coal Miners ... | Cwmtwrch, Brecknock | 1 | Dissatisfaction with cutting and yardage prices as fixed by an arbitrator early in the present year | 119 | 18 | Miners resumed work under advice of their agent, who was of opinion that prices were fair. |
| Ditto ... | Benhar ... | 26 | Disputes as to tare allowance on new hutches, the employers desiring continuance of a provisional tare of 14 lbs. | 45 | 4 | A tare of 7 lbs. per hutch agreed to. |
| Ditto ... | Dalkeith ... | 20 | Dispute as to deductions for faulty coal sent up | 100 | 1 | Miners undertook to send up the coal as clean as possible for the future, certain deductions to be refunded. |
| Pit Boys ... | Wrexham ... | 4 | Refusal to work overtime unless paid for | 200 | 1 | Work resumed on previous conditions. |

| 6 Disputes. ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 983 Workpeople affected. | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|--|-----|-----|---|
| Machinists, Moulders, Fitters & Carpenters | Wickham Market | 11 | Against proposed re-arrangement of working hours, involving a later hour of leaving on Saturdays | 78 | 4 | Hours on Saturdays to remain as before, a slight re-arrangement being made on other days of the week. |
| Apprentice Shipwrights | Dumbarton ... | 11 | For payment of full wages during compulsory short time consequent upon the engineering trade dispute | 26 | 6 | Resumed on the basis of payment only for the hours worked. |
| Fitters' Helpers | Dumbarton ... | 11 | For payment of full wages during compulsory short time consequent upon the engineering trade dispute | 35 | 3 | Resumed on the basis of payment only for the hours worked. |
| Enginemn and Cranemn (in steel and engineering works) ... | Glasgow ... | 15 | Against requirement to attend to increased number of boilers upon introduction of mechanical stoking | 658 | 2 | Same number of boilers to be attended to as before. |
| Axle Makers ... | Glasgow ... | 17 | Against proposed reduction in rates | 14 | 12 | Reduction of 7 1/2 per cent. accepted. No settlement reported. |
| Fitters, &c. ... | Glasgow ... | 29 | Objection to a "handy-man" being put to work a boring machine | 172 | ... | |

| 7 Disputes. OTHER METAL TRADES. 3,144 Workpeople affected. | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----|---|-------|-----|--|
| Wire Drawing (Hole Setters) | Cleckheaton ... | 23 | Against dismissal of fellow workpeople for refusal to accept a rearrangement of work | 50 | 4 | New arrangement accepted. |
| Beds ead Mount Makers | Birmingham ... | 22 | Employers not members of trade alliance, and against discharge of union men | 9 | ... | No settlement reported. |
| Bras-workers ... | Willenhall ... | 20 | Refusal of employers to pay the trade bonus of 20 per cent. received in the Birmingham district | 41 | ... | No settlement reported. |
| Tinplate Workers | Briton Ferry ... | 1 | Refusal to accept a reduction in wages of 15 per cent. to men and 5 per cent. to boys recommended by the union, and agreed to at Llanelly | 909 | 19 | Modified reduction of 12 1/2 per cent. off 1874 list agreed to by tinplaters, boys to continue on the 1874 list. |
| Ditto ... | Cwmavon ... | 1 | Against proposed reduction in wages of 15 per cent. | 471 | 13 | Modified reduction of 10 per cent. agreed to. |
| Ditto ... | Llanelly ... | 1 | General reduction of wages of 15 per cent. to principal operatives, of 10 per cent. to junior, and 5 per cent. to day-work labour had been agreed to, but the latter sections struck work | 1,500 | 15 | The agreed reduction to be submitted to for a fortnight only by the sections who refused to accept. |
| Ditto ... | Neath ... | 1 | Against proposed reduction in wages of 15 per cent. | 164 | 15 | Modified reduction of 10 per cent. agreed to. |

TRADE DISPUTES IN NOVEMBER—(continued).

| Employment. | Locality. | Date when Dispute began. | Alleged Cause or Object. | No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly Affected. | Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days. | Result. |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---------|
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---------|

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN NOVEMBER, 1897—(continued).

| 6 Disputes. TEXTILE TRADES. 672 Workpeople affected. | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----|---|-----|-------|--|
| Dyers, Labourers, Finishers and Scourers | Bradford ... | 1 | Against dismissal of two fellow workmen for refusal to do certain alleged extra work | 215 | 1 | Work resumed, the question of reinstatement of the discharged men to be afterwards considered. |
| Cotton Spinners and Piecers | Huddersfield | 6 | Against proposed reduction in wages, and employer, pending negotiation, withholding a portion of men's wages | 72 | 2 | Reduction accepted on trial. |
| Piecers ... | Bolton ... | 18 | An unemployed spinner having been appointed to a vacancy instead of appointing one of the piecers in the mill | 30 | 1 | Places filled by other piecers. |
| Cotton Spinners and Piecers | Darwen ... | 11 | Employers insisted upon the spinner's advancing the wages of the piecers | 24 | 7 | Agreed that the piecers should be paid directly by employers at an advanced rate from job earnings. |
| Cotton Weavers and Jobbers | Tottington, Bury | 3 | Objection to fines inflicted on some men for a breach of rules | 296 | 1 | A new rule adopted, and the fines remitted, it being proved that the same breach had in previous cases escaped punishment. |
| Jute Spinners and Piecers | Dundee ... | 15 | For advance in wages on account of alleged difficulties in material | 35 | 1 1/2 | Work resumed on old conditions. |

| 3 Disputes. CLOTHING TRADES. 106 Workpeople affected. | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|----|---|----|----|---|
| Corset Makers (seam sewers) | Rugby ... | 10 | For increase in wages to rates obtaining for the work in other districts | 60 | 3 | Advances granted ranging from 1d. to 1d. per dozen. |
| Glove Cutters ... | Yeovil ... | 26 | Refusal to accept a reduction in wages of 2d. per dozen on a special class of glove | 22 | 10 | Work resumed at the district rate, i.e. 6d. per dozen instead of 1s. which had previously been the price. |
| Boot and Shoe Operators | Arbroath ... | 13 | Notice given that men who were co-operators must sever their connection with the stores or leave their employment | 24 | — | No settlement reported. |

| 5 Disputes. TRANSPORT. 179 Workpeople affected. | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----|--|----|---|--|
| Dock Labourers ... | Hartlepool ... | 23 | Against short winter hours with payment as for three-quarter time | 50 | 6 | Employer's terms accepted. |
| Ditto ... | Ditto ... | 24 | Ditto ... | 25 | 5 | Ditto. |
| Ditto ... | Ditto ... | 24 | Ditto ... | 75 | 1 | Ditto. |
| Drivers, Fitters, Labourers, etc. (steam tramways) | Sedgley ... | 22 | Objection to a certain inspector, whom the management refused to discharge | 24 | 5 | Places mostly filled up by other men, a few re-engaged. 17 men were prosecuted and ordered to pay damages. |
| Omnibus Drivers and Conductors | Leeds ... | 15 | Against employment of a man to check number of passengers and fares, also for advance in wages | 5 | 1 | Places filled by other men. |

| 4 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 48 Workpeople affected. | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|----|---|----|---|---|
| Gas Stokers ... | Chorley ... | 17 | Introduction of mechanical stoking, and consequent rearrangement of work | 30 | 2 | Men agreed to work the machines and to do the same amount of work as in other gas works under similar conditions. |
| India-rubber Workers | Heywood ... | 10 | In support of certain men suspended on questions of discipline | — | — | No settlement reported. |
| Compositors and Machine-minders | Wigan ... | 6 | Employers gave notice to terminate engagements, alleged to be in consequence of agitation for increased wages and reduced hours of labour | 5 | — | Places filled by non-union men. |
| Fancy Box Makers | Aberdeen ... | 2 | For advance of 6d. per gross on prices | 10 | 2 | Work resumed on old conditions. |

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

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------|---|-------|-----|--|
| Coal Miners ... | Pontefract ... | 31 Mar. | Dispute as to tonnage prices upon change of system from day to piece work. ... | 160 | 194 | Referred to Joint Committee, and a price list settled on the basis of that obtaining in the pits of a neighbouring company. |
| Brushmakers ... | Accrington ... | 25 Oct. | Dispute as to the employment of females at certain brushmaking machines | 9 | 12 | Hands replaced. |
| Coal Miners ... | Ashton-under-Lyne | 18 Oct. | For advance in price of 6d. per ton ... | 204 | 23 | Work resumed at an advance of 1 1/2d. per ton |
| Cotton Weavers ... | Nelson ... | 21 Oct. | Against dismissal of a weaver (a union official), and alleged underpaying | 18 | ... | Employers got all their looms filled at old rate of wages. |
| Cloggers ... | Northwich and District | 4 Oct. | For advance of 15 per cent. on price list ... | 7 | 42 | Advance of 9d. to 1s. 6d. per week granted. |
| Edge Tool Grinders and Polishers | Birmingham ... | 23 Oct. | For advance in wages of 10 per cent., with a fixed minimum rate | 64 | 31 | Some places filled up, others resumed piecework. |
| Cut Nail Machine Minders | Birmingham ... | 2 Oct. | Against proposed change of system, from piece to day work, alleged to reduce earnings | 75 | 37 | Other men to be taught the business. |
| Bricklayers ... | London, S.E. | 28 July | Objection to tilers being engaged to lay Broseley tiles ... | 48 | 92 | Bricklayers to do the tiling work in future. |
| Boilermakers ... | London, E. | 15 Oct. | In maintenance of eight hours' working day ... | 1,500 | 27 | Work resumed on terms of an agreement entered into in 1892 and offered to men before they struck work. |
| Basket-makers ... | London, W. | 23 Oct. | For increase in rates on a certain class of work | 9 | 12 | Men found work elsewhere. |
| Plumbers ... | Tunbridge Wells | 18 Oct. | For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ... | 14 | 18 | Advance granted from 8d. to 8 1/2d. per hour. |
| Tinplate Workers (Boys) | Lydbrook ... | 3 May | Objection to a change in the hours of shifts agreed to by the men | 250 | ... | Settlement effected, but work not yet fully resumed. |
| Lace Operatives ... | Newmills ... | 28 June | For advance in wages, and for reinstatement of certain operatives who had been discharged | 1,200 | 120 | Work resumed at former rates, employers taking back as many as they had room for. Settlement under Conciliation Act. (For full terms see p. 360) |
| Coopers ... | Belfast ... | 29 Oct. | For advance in wages of 1s. per week ... | 100 | 14 | Advance of 6d. per week conceded. |

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

The following 28 disputes, the commencement of which has been previously reported, and which now involve about 54,600 workpeople, were still unsettled at the end of November: Disputes commencing in—
March: Tinplate operatives, Pentrych.
April: Carpenters and joiners, Tavistock; tinplate workers, Llangennech.
May: Plasterers, Liverpool; iron and steel dressers, Liverpool and Birkenhead.
June: Carpenters and joiners, Oxford and Bournemouth.
July: Cotton weavers, Blackburn (2 disputes) (since settled—Dec.); engineers, United Kingdom generally; coal miners, Leeds, Castleford and Mansfield; boiler makers, Ebbw Vale.
August: Joiners, Blackburn; coal miners, Washington (since settled—December); Plumbers, Chesterfield (since settled—December); bricklayers, Scarborough; saddle and harness makers, Dublin.
September: Coal miners, Normanton; plumbers, Nelson, Colne and Brierfield; cotton weavers, Clitheroe and Burnley.
October: Coal miners, near Barnsley; bedstead mount makers, Birmingham; letterpress machine minders, Edinburgh (since settled—December); coal miners, Abernant (2 disputes).

PAUPERISM IN NOVEMBER.

Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland. The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of November in the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom was 330,099, corresponding to a rate of 211 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1897.

Compared with October last there was an increase of 7,579 in the number relieved, and of 5 in the rate per 10,000. Thirty-two out of the 35 districts show increased rates, the largest increases being in the Dublin district (12 per 10,000), Central London, and Cardiff and Swansea (9 each), Stockton and Tees district, Leeds, Leicester, and Belfast districts (8 each). The three districts showing decreased rates were Paisley and Greenock (4 per 10,000), Coatbridge and Airdrie (1), and Hull (1). For the whole of London (excluding West Ham), the rate shows an increase of 6 per 10,000, while for West Ham the increase is 5 per 10,000.

Compared with November, 1896, the number relieved is about the same, but the rate per 10,000 shows a decrease of 2. The rate has decreased in 22 districts, the most marked decreases being in the Leicester district (28 per 10,000), Hull (20), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (19), Bristol (14), West Ham (12), North Staffordshire and Wolverhampton districts (11 each), and Wigan (10). In the Glasgow district the rate was unaltered, while in the remaining 12 districts increases are shown, the largest being in the Bolton, Oldham, &c. district (17), Manchester (11), Barnsley and Belfast districts (9 each).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of November, 1897 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of estimated population, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year (Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of estimated population). Includes sections for ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. † Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c. who are classified as not able-bodied.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN NOVEMBER.

DURING November, 2,568 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux furnishing returns for November, 1897, and November, 1896, as compared with 2,532 in November, 1896, a decrease of 36. Work was found for 1,027 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 988 in November 1896. The number remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 2,994, compared with 3,132 a year ago.

(I.) Work Done in November.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities. Includes London, Provincial, and Reading (Abbey Gateway) sections.

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

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Build-ing, Engi-neering and Metal Trades, Car-men, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Ware-house-men, Porters and Messen-gers, General Labour-ers, Other Occu-pations, Total Men). Includes London, Provincial, and Reading sections.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Ser-vants, Dress-makers and Semp-stresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total). Includes London, Provincial, and Reading sections.

* Temporary employment. † Permanent employment. ‡ These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. § Of the 54 work people found work, 25 were temporarily engaged. ¶ New Bureau. * Women and Girls are not registered.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Monthly Accounts of Trade and Navigation show that the value of the imports into the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions for the month ended November 30th last was £41,161,871, as compared with £42,492,369 for November, 1896, a decrease of £1,330,498 or 3.1 per cent. The exports of British and Irish Produce and Manufactures for November, 1897, were valued at £19,773,594, as against £18,570,877 for November, 1896, showing an increase of £1,202,717 or 6.4 per cent.; and the exports of Foreign and Colonial merchandise for the month amounted in value to £4,228,826, as compared with £4,349,407 in November, 1896, showing a decrease of £120,581 or 2.8 per cent.

The following table gives the value of the imports for November, 1897, as compared with November, 1896:—

Table with columns: Month ended 30th Nov. (1896, 1897), Increase, Decrease. Includes categories: Food, Drink and Tobacco; Metals; Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances; Oils; Raw Materials for Manufactures; Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles; Total.

Among the articles for food and drink, the imports of wheat show an increase in value of £631,938 for November, 1897, as compared with November, 1896. Sugar, refined and unrefined, an increase of £447,149, and fresh beef and mutton an increase of £267,169. On the other hand, the imports of corn and meal, other than wheat, have decreased in value by £1,309,352, as compared with November, 1896. The imports of raw cotton have decreased by £1,467,982, and of jute by £392,278, but those of sheep and lambs-wool have increased. Less caoutchouc, to the extent of £140,063 was imported than during November, 1896, but the imports of wood and timber of all kinds have increased in value by £356,012.

Exports.—With regard to the exports for November, 1897, the following table gives the value for that period, as compared with November, 1896:—

Table with columns: Month ended 30th Nov. (1896, 1897), Increase, Decrease. Includes categories: Animals, living; Articles of Food and Drink; Raw Materials; Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, viz.—Yarns and Textile Fabrics; Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery); Machinery and Millwork; Miscellaneous; Total.

The only class of exports given in the above table which shows a net decrease is that of machinery and millwork which is valued at £207,953 less than for the corresponding period of 1896. The exports of cotton yarn and piece goods have improved to the extent of £154,576 and £127,433 respectively. The increase in the exports of metals is chiefly in that of unwrought and wrought iron amounting to £222,007. No exports show any important decrease for November, 1897, as compared with November, 1896, except machinery and millwork already referred to, which may partly be due to the continuance of the engineering dispute, and worsted tissues, of which the exports were £92,359 less than in the corresponding period of 1896.

The exports to the United States of some classes of yarns and textiles continue to show a decrease when compared with preceding years, especially worsted and woollen tissues and yarns, the value of which last month was only £34,199 compared with £142,411 in November, 1896, and £464,243 in November, 1895.

The total imports into the United Kingdom for the eleven months ended November 30th, 1897, were valued at £409,933,186, as compared with £398,311,271 for November, 1896. The exports for the same period, as compared with the eleven months ended November 30th, 1896, show a net decrease of £4,862,312.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered during November at ports of the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions amounted to 2,881,706 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,203,720 tons, as compared with 2,845,909 tons entered, and 2,974,980 tons cleared in November, 1896. The tonnage entered Coastwise amounted to 2,707,740 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,628,971 tons, as compared with amounts of 2,751,421 tons, and 2,628,106 tons respectively in November, 1896.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during November show a slight falling off as compared with a year ago, but a large increase when compared with November, 1895, an increase almost entirely due to increased imports of American cotton. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was greater than in either November, 1896 or 1895.

Table with columns: The figures for the different periods are as follows:—Imports, Forwards from Ports to Inland Towns, Exports. Includes data for November, 1897, 1896, 1895.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended December 4th amounted to £7,433,298, an increase of £115,978 (or 1.6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1896. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,822,835, an increase of £93,375, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,610,463, an increase of £22,603.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shellfish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during November was £678,966, an increase of £48,655 as compared with November, 1896. In England and Wales there was an increase of £44,184, in Scotland of £3,356, and in Ireland of £1,115.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankruptcies gazetted during November was 385, being 71 more than in November, 1896, 8 less than in November, 1895, and 41 less than in November, 1894.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during November was 13,338, as compared with 13,514 in November, 1896.

British and Irish.—Of the 13,338 passengers, 8,685 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 138 as compared with a year ago, the decreases being most marked in the numbers bound for South Africa and the United States respectively. The figures for November, 1897 and 1896, are as follows:—

Table with columns: Destination, November, 1897, November, 1896. Includes United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, Totals.

The remainder of the 13,338 passengers, viz. 4,653, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 38 less than in November, 1896.

Total Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during November was 5,819. Of these, 1,802 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 1,682 so stated in November 1896. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,017 (including 845 sailors), the corresponding figure for November 1896 being 3,595 (including 924 sailors).

HALF-TIMERS.

At the Trade Union Congress, held at Birmingham on September last, a resolution was carried in favour of raising the age limit of children employed in factories to 15 years. With a view to determining their action in the matter the Northern Counties Amalgamation of Weavers' Associations ordered a ballot to be taken of the whole of their members. The result showed 3,429 members to be in favour of the proposal, 79,959 to be against it 694 members were neutral.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN NOVEMBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Informations laid, Convictions, Amount of Penalties, Amount of Costs. Rows include: By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; By Parents.

II.—Under the Mines and Quarries Acts.*

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs. Rows include: UNDER THE MINES ACTS; UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.

NOTE.—There were no prosecutions under the Quarries Act during November, 1896.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Penalties, Costs. Rows include: By Owners or Masters of Ships.

IV.—Under the Friendly Societies and the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, With-drawn on compliance with Act, Convictions, Fines & Costs.

* Supplied by the Home Office.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN NOVEMBER.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in November it will be seen that 8 Trade Unions, 1 Trades Federation, 4 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 4 Co-operative Associations for Production, and 1 other Society, 20 new Friendly Societies, and 28 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Two Trade Unions, 30 Building Societies, and 5 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding up," or to have had registry withdrawn.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Burton and District Builders' Labourers' Protective Accident and Burial Society, Crown Inn, New-street, Burton; Amalgamated Cigarette Makers and Tobacco Cutters' Union, 7 Aldgate-Avenue, E.C.; Kidderminster and District Builders' Labourers' Protective Accident and Burial Society, Vine Inn, Horsefair, Kidderminster; Society of Shoe Rivet and Wire Nail Makers, White Swan Hotel, Edmund-street, Birmingham; Northern Counties Laundry Association, Liverpool Branch, 16 Hicks-road, Seaford, Liverpool; Bridlington and District Builders' Labourers' Trade Society, 4 Fletcher's-yard, High-street, Bridlington; Barry Trades and Labour Council, Glamorgan Restaurant, Temperance Hotel, Thompson-street, Barry; North Staffordshire Building Trades Federation, 3 Percy-street, Longton, Scotland.—Greenock Dock Labourers, 33 Market-street, Greenock. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Thirsk Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd. (formerly a Regd. Company) Society's Stores, Millgate, Thirsk; Coggeshall Co-op. Heart-in-Hand Ind. Soc., Ltd., Church St., Coggeshall, Kelvedon; Kirby Muxloe Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Society's Stores, Kirby Muxloe; Dorchester Mutual Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 12, Allington Terrace, Dorchester.

(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—Sheffield Table Blade Grinders' Co-op. Productive Soc., Ltd., 33 Cleveland St., Sheffield; Kettering Co-op. Corset Mfrs. Ltd., Havelock Works, Havelock St., Kettering. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Sixmile Bridge Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Sixmile Bridge, Co. Clare; Carrickmacross Co-op. Lace Soc., Ltd., Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Mutual Finance Soc., Ltd., 15 Coleman St., London, E.C. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly (including one juvenile), 5; Specially Authorised, 2; Dividing, 4; Medical Association, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 6. Scotland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1. Ireland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—I.O. Odd Fellows M.U., 4; I.O. Rechabites, 4; H.O. Yearly Dividing Soc., 3; A.O. Foresters, 2; G.U. Odd Fellows, 2; O. Sons of Temperance, 2; N.U.O. Free Gardeners, 2; Various, 5. Scotland.—Various, 3. Ireland.—I.O. Rechabites, 1.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Chemical and Copper Workers' Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 47 Westfield St., St. Helens; Ipswich Dock Wharf and Riverside Union, Union Jack Inn, Quayside, Ipswich (Registry withdrawn).

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Resolutions to wind up: Manchester Co-op. Cycle Mfg., Soc., Ltd., Poland St., Oldham Rd., Manchester; Liquidator's final return received and report of dissolution; Pioneer Gt. Grimsby Co-op. Boot and Shoe Mfg. Soc., Ltd., 231 Cleethorpes Rd., Gt. Grimsby; Blackburn and District Farmers' Association Supply Soc., Ltd., 2 Salford, Blackburn; Milnrow Equitable Pioneers' Soc., Ltd., 80 Dale St., Milnrow; Borough of Tynemouth Trading Bank, Ltd., 19 Howard Street, N. Shields (Transfer of engagements to York City and County Banking Co., Ltd.) Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—By instrument of dissolution, 10; notice of commencement of dissolution, 7; notice of termination of dissolution, 13.

NOTICE.

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

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, 44 Parliament Street, London, S.W.

Printed by VEALE, CHIFFEREL & CO., LTD., 31 to 37 Cursitor Street, London, E.C. and Published for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by HORACE MARSHALL & SON, Temple House, Temple Avenue, London, E.C. Sole Advertising Agents.—RATCLIFFE, DUNBAR & CO., 3, George Yard, Lombard Street, E.C.—December, 1897.