

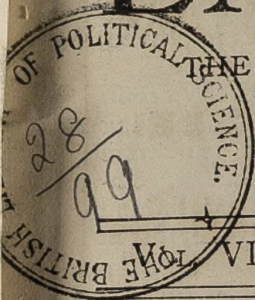
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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY.

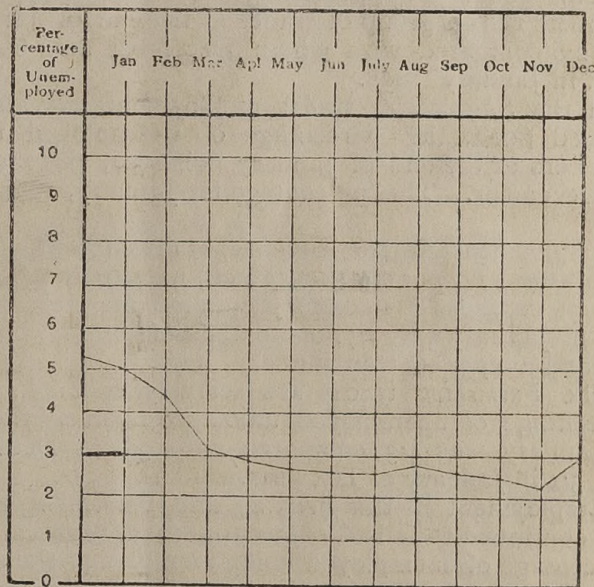
[Based on 2,318 returns, viz.: 1,618 from Employers, 542 from Trade Unions, and 158 from other sources.]

ON the whole the state of employment has undergone little change, and remains good in all the principal trades. The very slight falling off in one or two industries, such as printing, is attributable to seasonal causes, while there has been a marked improvement in employment in the boot and shoe trade. Few trade disputes of any importance have begun during the month.

In the 121 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 486,094, 14,627 (or 3.0 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of January, compared with 2.9 per cent. a month before, and 5.0 per cent. in the 116 unions, with a membership of 461,544, from which returns were received for January, 1898, when employment was still affected by the engineering dispute.

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

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



The table below classifies the membership of the 121 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the under-mentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of January, 1899.		Corresponding Percentages for	
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Under 1 per cent. ...	28	108,027	22.2	18.5
1 and under 2 per cent. ...	21	91,282	18.8	17.2
2 " 3 " ...	18	105,503	21.7	9.6
3 " 5 " ...	27	119,882	24.7	6.6
5 " 7 " ...	9	23,214	4.8	26.2
7 " 10 " ...	7	25,954	5.3	5.0
10 per cent. and upwards	11	12,332	2.5	16.9
Total	121	486,094	100.0	100.0

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in January was on the whole better than a year ago. Returns relating to pits employing 446,489 workpeople show that these pits worked on an average 5.16 days per week in the four weeks ended January 21st, as compared with an average of 5.06 days a year ago. These averages are considerably diminished by Christmas and New Year holidays. (For further details, see page 43.)

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. At 136 iron mines and openworks, at which 17,416 workpeople were employed, an average of 5.49 days per week was worked during the four weeks ended January 21st, as compared with 5.59 days a year ago. (For further details, see page 44.)

In the **Pig Iron Industry** the improvement in employment continues. Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 369 furnaces were in blast at the end of January, or 5 more than at the end of December, and 15 more than a year ago. The estimated number employed was 23,903, or 278 more than at the end of December, and 547 more than at the end of January, 1898. (For further details, see page 44.)

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment has further improved and continues noticeably better than a year ago. At the 205 works from which returns were received, 79,637 workpeople were employed in the last week of January, as compared with 78,496 in the week ended December 24th, and 76,282 a year ago. The average number of shifts worked was 5.60 in the last week of January, 5.59 in the week ended December 24th, and 5.54 a year ago. (For further details see page 45.)

Timplate Trade.—Employment fell off somewhat during the month. At the end of January 319 mills were working and giving employment to 16,148 workpeople, as compared with 335 mills employing 17,333 workpeople at the end of December, and 355 mills, employing 18,061 workpeople a year ago. (For further details see page 45.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades still remains good. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of January, was 2.6 compared with 3.0 in December and 6.4 per cent. in January, 1898.*

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment has also remained good, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January being 3.7, the same as in December. The percentage for January, 1898, was 10.9.*

Employment in the **Building** trades (painters and decorators and plumbers excepted) has continued good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 1.7, compared with 1.8 in December and 2.0 per cent. in January, 1898.

The **Furnishing** trades are scarcely so brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 4.3, compared with 3.8 in December and 5.1 in January of last year.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has continued to fall off owing to seasonal causes. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 4.4, compared with 3.9 in December, and 4.9 in January, 1898.

Employment in all branches of the **Paper** trade has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 3.2, compared with 5.9 in December, and 3.0 per cent. in January of last year.

In the **Glass** trades the percentage of unemployed was 13.6, compared with 11.5 in January, 1898.

Employment in the **Leather** trades remains steady, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January being the same as in December, viz., 4.5, compared with 4.2 in January of last year.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trade has much improved, and is now good at nearly every important centre.

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

* Employment affected by the Engineering dispute.

improved in the factories, but is still slack in the workshops.

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

Employment in the **Worsted and Woollen** trades remains quiet. In the **Hosiery** trade employment has improved, and is fair.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades information respecting 491 mills, employing 82,000 women and girls, shows that 84 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 85 per cent. during the previous month, and 67 per cent. in January, 1898. (For further details see page 45.)

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—In the five weeks ended January 28th an average number of 15,283 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with averages of 16,431 per day in the four preceding weeks, and 16,190 in January, 1898. (For further details see page 47.)

Generally speaking **Agricultural** labourers were regularly employed during January, though odd hands not infrequently lost some time owing to wet weather, which prevailed during the greater part of the month and which interrupted outdoor work a good deal. (For further details see page 46.)

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-six fresh disputes occurred in January, 1899, involving 2,194 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for December was 29, involving 6,319 workpeople, and for January, 1898, 28 disputes, involving 6,795 workpeople. Eight disputes took place in the building trades, 8 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 5 in the textile trades, and 5 in other industries. Of the 26 new and old disputes, involving 4,171 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 6, involving 913 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 11, involving 412 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 9, involving 2,846 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 60.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 168,700 workpeople were reported during January, of which number 47,900 received advances averaging 10.3d. per head, and 120,800 (including 120,000 Welsh miners) sustained decreases averaging 2.3d. per head. The net result was an increase estimated at about 1.4d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases were mainly in the iron and steel manufacture group (32,554), and the engineering and shipbuilding trades (9,549). Changes affecting 200 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 152,100 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales, and the remaining changes affecting about 16,400 persons were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or conceded voluntarily by the employers. (For further particulars see page 56.)

Pauperism.—In 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom, 337,265 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of January. This number corresponds to a rate of 211 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, or 4 per 10,000 less than a year ago. (For further details, see page 62.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom during January, for places out of Europe, was 5,969, as compared with 6,639 in January, 1898. (For further details, see page 61.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES.

During January, one additional scheme has been approved by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, the total number of approved schemes being now 59.* The title of the new scheme is the "Cliviger Miners' Relief Society," and it affects 202 workpeople engaged at the Cliviger Collieries, Burnley.

* Information respecting two schemes in Scotland, registered in October and November respectively, has recently come to hand. The title of the first scheme is the "Leven Shipyards Accident Fund" and it affects 19.0 workpeople engaged in shipbuilding. The second, the "Engine Works Accident Fund Society," affects 850 workpeople engaged in marine engineering and boiler-making. Both works are situated at Dumbarton.

THE LABOUR MARKET IN 1898.

THE Department obtains each month about 1,330 returns from employers showing the state of employment at a large number of mines, iron, steel and other works, at which about 550,000 workpeople are usually employed. It also receives from the secretaries of trade unions about 430 returns each month relating to the state of employment of about 467,000 workpeople in the building, metal, engineering and shipbuilding, printing, textile and other trades. Monthly returns are also received from 35 women correspondents, showing the state of employment at certain textile mills and factories at which about 86,000 women and girls are employed. Thus nearly 1,800 statistical returns are received each month, showing the state of employment of over a million workpeople. In addition, about 250 returns are collected each month from persons conversant with the state of employment prevailing among agricultural labourers, especially in districts where such employment is subject to the greatest fluctuation.

The information derived from all the above sources is supplemented by local reports received each month from 30 local correspondents throughout the United Kingdom, with regard to the state of employment in the principal industries in their districts. The statistical results are further checked by comparison with other statistics bearing directly or indirectly on the state of employment (e.g., production, foreign trade, traffic returns, pauperism, wages, &c.), with which, as a rule, they show a correspondence sufficiently close to make it certain that the industries covered by the employment returns afford a good index of changes of employment generally.

From the following analysis of some of the more important statistics, it appears clear that 1898 was an exceptionally good year as regards employment.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, Metal, Building and Miscellaneous Trades.—The employment returns for these trades come from trade unions, and show that 3 per cent. only of their total membership in 1898 (466,754) were unemployed, a lower percentage than in any of the last seven years. The percentage unemployed varied in different trades. In shipbuilding it was 4.7 per cent., a figure much lower than the mean (10.7) for the seven years 1892-8, but still higher than what might be expected having regard to the present great activity in shipbuilding yards. It must be remembered, however, that the percentages in the early part of the year were still affected by the engineering dispute, and the mean for the twelve months (4.7) is thus higher than that for the second half of the year, viz., 3.6 per cent. The percentages for the engineering group of trades were similarly affected in the first part of the year, the mean percentage for January to June being 4.5 and for July to December 2.9, the mean for the whole year being 3.7 per cent. In the building trades, the returns from two branches, viz., carpenters and plumbers*, indicate great prosperity, the percentage unemployed being 1.3 only, a remarkably low proportion. In the following table the above facts and others are set out in comparative form for 1892-8:—

Years.	All Trades covered by returns from Trade Unions.	Principal groups of Trades.			
		Engineering and Metal.	Shipbuilding.	Building.	Printing & Bookbinding.
1892	6.3	2.6	10.0	3.0	4.3
1893	7.5	9.1	16.3	3.8	4.1
1894	6.9	9.1	15.7	4.1	3.7
1895	5.8	6.4	12.5	3.8	4.9
1896	3.4	2.6	8.2	1.8	4.3
1897	3.5	3.6	7.6	1.6	3.9
1898	3.0	3.7	4.7	1.3	3.7
Mean for 7 years	5.2	6.0	10.7	2.8	4.4
Mean number of members in 1898 covered by returns	466,754	136,586	58,435	67,045	44,273

Coal Mining.—Monthly returns relating to about 65 per cent. of the total number employed in and about coal mines are received, mainly from coal owners. They show that the pits at which these persons were employed worked on an average 5.1 days per week

* The other branches do not, as a rule, pay unemployed benefit.

throughout the year, or more than in any of the three years, 1895-7. In this result the figures relating to South Wales and Monmouthshire are excluded for the six months during which the dispute in that district lasted. All the other coal fields, with the exception of West Scotland, showed an improvement in 1898 over 1897. The increase in each case was less than 1/4 day per week except in the Midlands, but as 1897 was also a good year the general character of the year 1898 will, perhaps, be better indicated by a more extended comparison, as in the following table:—

Principal Coalfields.	Mean No. of days worked per week by Coal Mines.				No. employed in 1897 at all Coal Mines.†
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	
Yorkshire	4.50	4.78	5.12	5.26	96,513
Lancashire and Cheshire	4.61	4.90	5.03	5.23	84,250
Midlands	4.28	4.42	4.68	4.94	128,197
South Wales & Monmouth	5.17	5.28	5.47	5.45	126,802
Durham	5.12	5.23	5.36	5.45	104,452
Northumberland	4.99	4.79	5.09	5.18	33,679
West of Scotland	5.06	5.21	5.37	5.32	64,404
United Kingdom	4.74	4.92	5.13	5.25	695,213
Exports of Coal & Coke (tons)	33,101,000	34,262,000	37,097,000	36,546,152	—

The exports of coal also show an increase in each year up to 1898, when the Welsh dispute checked the advance to some extent. In spite, however, of that dispute, the exports for 1898 exceeded those for 1895 and 1896. During April to August the exports of coal fell off by 2,282,000 tons as compared with the corresponding period of 1897. In the three months before the dispute there was an increase of 523,000 tons, and in the four months after of 1,203,000 tons, making a total increase of 1,726,000 to be set off against the decrease of 2,282,000 tons, the net decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 being thus a little more than 500,000 tons.

Iron Mines and Openworks.—The returns received cover a very large proportion of the total number of workpeople employed, and indicate that there is very little variation in employment from month to month and from year to year. The average number of days worked per week in 1898 was 5.75, compared with 5.76 in 1897, and 5.72 in 1896.

The number of workpeople employed also shows very little fluctuation, the extremes in 1898 being 17,105 and 17,566. The total production of iron ore in 1896 was 13,700,764 tons, and 13,787,878 tons in 1897. The figures for 1898 are not yet known.

Iron and Steel Works.—Returns received from over 200 iron and steel works, engaged in iron puddling and rolling, and steel making and rolling, show that on the whole there was an improvement in 1898, as compared with 1897. The number of workpeople employed rose from 72,311 in January to 81,183 in December, the mean number for all the twelve months of 1898 being 77,207, which compares with 76,234 in 1897, an increase of 973 or 1.3 per cent. All districts except South Wales showed an increase in the numbers employed. In South Wales there was an improvement up to the time of the dispute in the coal mining industry, during which the number employed fell from 9,151 at the end of March to 5,454 in August. In September, when the coal dispute ended, the number rose to 7,330, but at the end of 1898 it had not reached the corresponding figure for 1897.

Manufacture of Pig Iron.—The year 1898 was better than 1897, and considerably better than 1896, both as regards the mean number of furnaces in blast and of workpeople employed, as will be seen from the following summary, based on returns from 110 ironmasters, showing the mean number of furnaces owned by these employers which were in blast during each year, and the number of workpeople employed:—

	Number of Furnaces.	Number of Workpeople.
1896	342	21,836
1897	348	22,242
1898	350	22,960

* The majority of the miners in this district were idle for about six months in 1898.
† Including persons employed in and about fireclay, stratified ironstone and shale mines.

These figures, however, hardly indicate the real state of this industry in 1898, as for five months the number of furnaces in blast, and consequently the number of workpeople, was reduced owing to the Welsh coal dispute. From January to March the average number of furnaces at work, as shown by the returns, was 352, and from September to December 357, but during the coal dispute it was 342 only.

Tinplate Trade.—The year 1898 was somewhat worse in this trade than 1897, so far as can be judged from the mean number of mills and workpeople at work. These figures are compared with the exports in the following table:—

	Mean number of mills at work.	Mean number of workpeople employed.	Exports of tinplates and sheets. Tons.
1897	315	16,504	271,230
1898	306	15,756	251,769

While the exports of tinned plates have fallen from 366,120 tons in 1895 to 251,769 tons in 1898, the quantities of black plates exported increased from 34,368 tons to 58,356.

Textile Trades.—According to returns received from women correspondents in mills and factories employing about 85,000 workpeople, employment improved in 1898 as compared with 1897, the mean percentage ordinarily employed in works on full time during each month being as under:—

	Cotton Trade.	Woolen & Worsted.
1897	69	67
1898	80	68

The improvement is very slight in the case of the woollen and worsted trades, but marked as regards cotton. It may be noted that these returns in the cotton trade relate more to weaving than spinning works, a fact which should be borne in mind in comparing these results with the export returns, which show that the quantity of cotton yarn exported was less, and of piece goods greater than in the previous year. The exports, however, of woollen fabrics showed a falling off.

Agricultural labourers were generally well employed throughout the year, and reports of any irregularity of work were exceptional. On the contrary, in a number of districts employers complained of a scarcity of labour and frequently referred to a great difficulty in getting extra hands at busy seasons, such as for hoeing or harvest work. The open weather, both in the early and later months of the year, was favourable to employment, as were also the good hay crop and heavy grain harvest. In some counties, however, the drought affected the root crop, so that the labourers earned less at piece work. In some districts farmers employed rather more labour in 1898 than was the case during the period of agricultural depression.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made by the Department to receive monthly returns from eight employment bureaux established by societies interested in the employment of women. Of those the largest are these of the Young Women's Christian Association, 26, George-street, Hanover-square, W.; the larger of the two is mainly used by persons offering or desiring situations as domestic servants; the other is the business branch and is most used by dressmakers, milliners and machinists. The Society for Promoting the Training and Employment of Women, 22, Berners-street, W., was established in 1859, and, like the five other societies, aims especially at finding employment in occupations in which education and training are valued. The Central Bureau, 60, Chancery-lane, W.C., managed by a committee in connection with the National Union of Women Workers, has been at work about a year, and in addition to finding new employments for women has initiated a system of exchanging lists of vacancies with other employment societies, and has appointed employment referees in several large towns in the United Kingdom.

The returns from the other four bureaux, viz., the Liverpool Union of Women Workers' Bureau, 8, Sandon-terrace, Liverpool, the Gentlewomen's Employment Association and Ladies' Work Society, 16, King-street, Manchester, the Edinburgh Bureau, 116, George-street, Edinburgh, and the business agency of the Girls' Friendly Society, 20, Cornwall-gardens, S.W., are for the present grouped together in the following table which shows the work done by the eight Bureaux during January:—

WORK DONE IN JANUARY.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.
Summary by Bureaux.			
Central Bureau ...	35	72	23
S. P. T. E. W. ...	40	72	35
Y. W. C. A. ...	605	370	96
Other Bureaux ...	77	155	45
	30	84	15
Total of 8 Bureaux ...	847	753	214
Summary by Occupations.			
Superintendents, Forewomen, Ma-	24	64	12
trons, etc. ...	13	14	10
Shop Assistants and Waitresses ...	56	112	46
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc. ...	21	73	14
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists ...	20	16	12
Apprentices and Learners ...	660	291	97
Domestic Servants ...	44	183	23
Miscellaneous ...			
Total Number ...	847	753	214

Returns from bureaux exclusively intended for domestic servants are not included in the above table. It should be noted, however, that in 1898 the "Associated Guild of Registries" was formed under the auspices of the Girls' Friendly Society, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants, the Church of England Women's Help Society, the Charity Organisation Society, the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women, the National Vigilance Association, the Union Internationale des Amies de la Jeune Fille, and the National Union of Women Workers, with the object of providing an annual list of trustworthy registries for the use and protection of the public. The address of the hon. secretary is 11, Eccleston-square, S.W.

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:—

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.		
				According to last audit.	According to previous audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.
Coal.				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland—(Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	Sept., Oct. Nov.	—	6 6 63	6 8 88	- 0 2 25
South Wales and Monmouth—(Average for certain classes of coal, free on board)	120,000	Nov., Dec.	1st Feb.	10 0 00 ^a to 10 1 71	10 1 71 ^a to 10 3 43	—
Pig Iron.						
Cumberland ...	1,350	Oct., Nov., Dec.	1st Jan.	56 7 538	52 5 892	+ 4 1 646
Cleveland ...	5,500	Oct., Nov., Dec.	7th Jan.	42 5 21	40 3 35	+ 2 1 86
Manufactured Iron.						
North of England—(Rails, plates, bars and angles)	6,000	Nov., Dec.	30th Jan.	109 11 14	106 5 25	+ 3 5 89
Midlands—(Bars, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips)	20,000	Nov., Dec.	1st Feb.	126 6 14	121 10 68	+ 4 7 46
West of Scotland—(Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops and ods)	3,500	Nov., Dec.	30th Jan.	112 7 65	108 8 84	+ 3 10 81

As the result of the ascertained, the wages of the miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire have been reduced 1 1/4 per cent. In Cumberland and Cleveland the wages of the blastfurnacemen have been increased 5 1/4 and 5 per cent. respectively. In each of the manufactured iron districts—the North of England, the Midlands, and the West of Scotland—prices show a considerable advance, and the wages of the puddlers have been increased 3d. per ton, and those of the millmen 2 1/2 per cent. The ascertainment for the West of Scotland is published for the first time.

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

ACCIDENTS TO WORKPEOPLE IN 1898.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

In the year 1898, the number of workpeople reported as killed in industrial accidents was 3,955, or 75 less than in 1897, and 196 less than in 1896. The number of workpeople employed in certain works covered by the accident returns is not known, and therefore as regards the 208 deaths that occurred in 1898 owing to accidents at these works no death rate can be stated. The remaining 3,747 fatal accidents occurred among 5,291,998 workpeople, or at the rate of about 71 deaths per 100,000 employed. In 1897, the corresponding death rate was 72, and in 1896, 75 per 100,000, so that there has been, on the whole, a small decline in the death rate owing to industrial accidents in 1898, as compared with both 1896 and 1897.

The figures for 1898 are, however, preliminary only, and are subject to revision, and it would, therefore, be undesirable to attach too much weight to the slight improvement observable in the 1898 figures. On the other hand, the death rate for 1898 is calculated mainly on the numbers employed in 1896 and 1897, and as the total has probably increased since then, the tendency is for the death-rate for 1898 to appear somewhat higher than it really is.

In the following table the industrial accidents causing death are analysed according to classes of industries. The table shows for each class both the absolute number of deaths from industrial accidents and the proportion of such deaths per 100,000 workpeople employed for each of the years 1896, 1897, 1898:—

Industry.	Number employed according to latest returns.	Total number of deaths in			Annual death-rate per 100,000 employed.		
		1896.	1897.	1898.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Shipping ...	231,385	1,818	1,642	1,598	778	710	691
Mines—							
Underground ...	578,226	935	875	799	162	151	138
Surface ...	150,487	130	104	134	87	69	89
Total mines ...	728,713	1,065	979	933	147	134	128
Quarries (over 20 ft. deep)	123,370	124	123	133	110	100	108
Railway service ...	465,112	490	566	508	105	122	109
Factories ...	3,743,418	490	513	575	13	14	15
Total for above industries	5,291,998	3,987	3,823	3,747	75	72	71
Workshops ...							
Works under Secs. 22 and 23 of Factory Act, 1895		106	142	150			
Under Notice of Accidents Act		58	62	56			
		Cannot be stated.			Cannot be stated.		

Thus, it appears that of every 100,000 seamen employed 691 were either drowned or killed in other ways in 1898. In the case of workers at mines, 138 per 100,000 of underground workers were killed, and 89 per 100,000 of surface workers were killed. In quarries the death rate was 108 per 100,000 employed, a rate almost identical with that for railway servants. Among factory operatives the rate was 15 per 100,000 employed. On looking at the absolute number of deaths, it will be observed that while the figures for shipping, mines, railways, and works under the Notice of Accidents Act, all show a decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897, amounting in the aggregate to 154, those for quarries and factories and workshops show an increase of 79, the net result being, as already stated, a decrease of 75 deaths. The increase in 1898, as compared with 1897, was mainly in the latter half of the year, and in this connection it should be noted that many engineering works were closed in the latter part of 1897, owing to the great dispute, whereas in the second half of 1898 they were busily employed.

^a Including a few persons in workshops.
[†] Included with accidents to factory operatives.

NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.

In Section 18 of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895, an accident which must be reported to the inspector is defined as one which—

"causes to any person employed in the factory or workshop such bodily injury as to prevent him on any one of the three working days next after the occurrence of the accident from being employed for five hours on his ordinary work."

This definition also now applies to accidents on railways and to those reportable under the Notice of Accidents Act of 1894. There is, however, no definite minimum fixed in the case of non-fatal accidents in connection with mines, quarries, and ships, and the number of non-fatal accidents reported in these industries cannot, therefore, be compared with those reported concerning other workpeople. In the following table, therefore, no attempt has been made to show the proportion of accidents in the several trades to the numbers employed:—

Industry.	Number of persons injured so far as reported.		
	1896.	1897.	1898.
<i>Industries in which the "3 days" limit is in operation.</i>			
Factories and workshops:—			
Factories ...	29,251	35,447	49,290
Workshops	76	135
Works under sections 22 and 23 of Factory Act, 1895	3,710	4,293	7,410
Total, factories and workshops ...	32,961	39,816	56,835
Railways	14,110	14,402	12,893
Works under Notice of Accidents Act ...	1,139	1,154	1,491
<i>Other Industries.</i>			
Mines—			
Underground ...	5,426	4,164	3,823
Surface ...	647	600	553
Total mines ...	6,073	4,764	4,376
Quarries ...	931	1,126	1,410
Shipping ...	2,258	2,643	2,722
Total, above industries ...	57,472	63,905	79,727

The most noticeable feature in this table is the considerable increase in the number of persons reported as injured in 1898 in factories and workshops. The number of non-fatal accidents on railways and in mines has declined, while those in quarries and on ships have somewhat increased. The net effect of all the increases and decreases is an increase of 15,822 in 1898, as compared with 1897, and of 22,255, as compared with 1896.

It may be added that fuller details of accidents in 1898 with comparative figures for a number of years will appear in the "Abstract of Labour Statistics" which will shortly be issued by the Board of Trade.

PROPOSED FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS.

At the annual Trades Union Congress, held in Bristol in 1898, it was determined to hold a special Congress for the purpose of discussing proposals for a Federation of Trades (see LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1898, p. 260).

The Special Congress was held in St. James's Hall, Manchester, on Tuesday, January 24, and two following days, and consisted of 288 delegates representing 93 separate organisations, having an aggregate membership of 986,495.

The scheme considered was that drawn up by a committee appointed by the Congress held in Birmingham in 1897. This Committee's report contained 40 rules for the government of the Federation, to 35 of which 95 amendments were submitted.

After a lengthy debate it was resolved that:—
"This Federation shall be called the General Federation of Trades Unions."

"The objects shall be to uphold the rights of combination of Labour; to improve in every direction the general position and status of the Workers by the inauguration of a policy that shall

^a Can be obtained through any bookseller, or direct from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, Fetter-lane, E.C.

secure to them the power to determine the economic and social condition under which they shall work and live; to secure unity of action amongst all Societies forming the Federation; to promote industrial peace, and by all amicable means, such as Conciliation, Mediation, References, or by the establishment of Permanent Boards, to prevent strikes or lock-outs between Employers and Workmen, or disputes between Trades or Organisations; where differences do occur, to assist in their settlement by just and equitable methods; to establish a fund for mutual assistance and support, and for carrying out the foregoing objects."

It was agreed that each society federating should pay contributions for 90 per cent. of its total membership. The entrance fee was fixed at one penny per member, and the quarterly contributions at either 6d. or 3d. per member, the corresponding benefits being fixed at 5s. and 2s. 6d. per week per member after the termination of the first six days of a dispute. Power was given to the committee to double the contributions in cases of emergency, but not to increase them further without the sanction of the societies federated.

In the event of differences arising between federated societies with respect to demarcation or other matters, it was determined that no cessation of work should take place, but that the dispute should be submitted to a board of reference or arbitration.

Other rules dealt with the appointment and duties of the Council, Committees, and Auditors, the interpretation and alteration of rules, and dissolution.

It was finally resolved to constitute the Parliamentary Committee a provisional committee of management, with instructions to circularise all the trade societies of the United Kingdom with a view to affiliation; a General Council of the Federation to be called not later than July next.

ACCIDENT, OLD-AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN GERMANY, 1897.

THE following particulars are based on the Whitebooks* relative to the German Accident Old-Age and Invalidity Insurance, laid before the Reichstag in December, 1898.

1.—Accident Insurance.

The mean number of persons insured under the Accident Insurance Laws in 1897 (exclusive of those employed in the building trades, whose number is not known) was 17,947,447, as compared with 17,605,190 in 1896. As in previous years, allowance must be made for the fact that some million and a half persons employed both in industry and agriculture are counted twice over in these figures. The figures also include from four to five millions of persons engaged in agriculture on their own account as farmers, proprietors, &c.

The following table shows the number and nature of the new accidents compensated in each year from 1886 to 1897:—

Year.	Persons who met with Accidents resulting in				Total New Accidents Compensated.
	Death.	Permanent Disablement.		Temporary Disablement.	
		Total.	Partial.		
NUMBER.					
1886	2,716	1,778	3,061	2,085	10,540
1887	3,270	3,166	8,462	2,204	17,102
1888	3,645	2,203	11,023	4,186	21,057
1889	5,185	2,892	16,337	6,675	31,019
1890	5,058	2,681	22,615	10,166	41,420
1891	6,346	2,561	27,888	13,812	50,507
1892	5,811	2,640	30,569	15,807	54,827
1893	6,245	2,487	36,236	16,906	61,874
1894	6,250	1,752	38,952	21,723	68,677
1895	6,335	1,668	40,527	25,937	74,467
1896	6,950	1,524	44,373	34,386	85,272
1897	7,287	1,452	46,489	35,943	91,171

Year.	PER 1,000 INSURED.				2'83
	0'73	0'48	1'06	0'56	
1886	0'73	0'48	1'06	0'56	2'83
1887	0'79	0'77	2'05	0'54	4'15
1888	0'35	0'21	1'07	0'41	2'04
1889	0'39	0'22	1'22	0'49	2'32
1890	0'44	0'20	1'66	0'74	3'04
1891	0'35	0'14	1'54	0'77	2'80
1892	0'32	0'15	1'69	0'88	3'04
1893	0'34	0'14	2'00	0'93	3'41
1894	0'34	0'10	2'14	1'20	3'78
1895	0'35	1'09	2'20	1'41	4'05
1896	0'39	0'09	2'52	1'84	4'84
1897	0'41	0'08	2'59	2'00	5'08

* Whitebooks Nos. 76 and 78, Reichstag, 10. Legislatur-Periode I. Session, 1898-99.

The above figures are exclusive of accidents sustained by persons employed by members of the building trade insurance corporations, the number of workpeople insured in these corporations not being known to the Imperial Insurance Department.

The number of persons, whose claims for compensation in respect to fatal accidents were fixed in 1897, was 14,644, of whom 4,802 were widows, 9,575 children, and 267 parents, &c., of the deceased.

The total expense incurred in 1897 in compensating new and old accidents was £3,198,677, as compared with £2,857,720 in 1896. (The expenses of the first 13 weeks after the accident have to be borne by the Sickness Insurance Institutions, and are not included in these figures.) The greater part of this expenditure, viz., £2,293,503, was required for the payment of pensions to persons injured by accidents. The number of persons drawing such pensions was 377,495 (as compared with 327,270 in 1896). Each therefore received, on an average, £6 1s. 6d. (£6 4s. 1d. in 1896). The sum of £594,002 was spent in paying pensions to the families of deceased workpeople. Thus there were 36,993 widows drawing pensions of an average annual value of £6 14s.; 66,208 children with pensions worth, on an average, £4 19s. 11d.; and 2,286 parents, &c., drawing, on an average, £6 16s. each. Capital sums amounting to £23,225 were paid to 976 widows who re-married—£23 15s. 11d. each, on an average.

2.—Old-Age and Invalidity Insurance.

The number of new pensions granted under the Old-Age and Invalidity Insurance Laws in 1897 was 93,421 (21,688 for old age and 71,733 for invalidity). The number granted in the previous year was 85,964 (of which 25,402 were old-age and 60,562 invalidity pensions). Pensions granted by the 9 special institutions, in which persons employed on railways and in the mining and cognate industries are insured, are not included in the foregoing figures; but they are included in the following statement showing the amounts expended upon pensions in each year since the law came into effect:—

	Expenditure on Pensions.		
	From money contributed by Employers and Workpeople.	State Subvention (£2 10s. per pension).	Total.
Old Age:			
1891	£ 462,843	£ 302,402	£ 765,335
1892	633,977	420,503	1,054,480
1893	685,535	452,632	1,138,167
1894	730,613	484,109	1,214,722
1895	804,639	524,179	1,328,818
1896	834,931	535,710	1,370,641
1897	844,073	537,142	1,381,215
Invalidity:			
1891	—	—	—
1892	59,621	28,051	87,672
1893	153,692	110,451	264,143
1894	300,023	208,636	508,659
1895	459,798	316,484	776,282
1896	634,808	420,251	1,055,059
1897	826,633	542,681	1,369,314
Total.			
1891	£ 462,843	£ 302,402	£ 765,335
1892	672,698	448,554	1,121,252
1893	839,227	563,083	1,402,310
1894	1,039,636	692,745	1,732,381
1895	1,264,437	846,663	2,111,100
1896	1,469,739	955,907	2,425,646
1897	1,670,708	1,079,823	2,750,531

The law provides for the repayment, in certain cases, of contributions that have been paid for at least five years by persons who do not ultimately become entitled to benefits. Sums repaid in this way are not included in the above table. Their total amount in 1897 was £169,552 (£129,372 to women on their marriage and £42,180 to the families of persons who died before receiving a pension).

The average value of the old-age pensions granted by the 31 district insurance offices in 1897 was £6 17s. 11d., compared with £6 13s. 11d. in the case of pensions granted in 1896. The average value of the invalidity pensions granted in 1897 was £6 7s. 11d., as compared with £6 6s. 8d. in 1896.

These figures may be regarded as representing the average value of pensions granted under the law, since the bulk of the insured belong to the district offices (11,075,000 out of a total of 11,585,000 who were insured under the law in 1895).

From a recent number of the official *Reichs-Anzeiger* it appears that on January 1st, 1899, 466,218 persons were drawing pensions under the law (201,329 for old age and 264,889 for invalidity). The number of pensioners on January 1st, 1898, was 414,503 (203,644 on account of old age and 210,859 on account of invalidity). These figures include both the 31 district offices and the 9 special funds.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN 1897 AND 1898.

INFORMATION has been received from a large number of chairmen of District Councils in England, and also from a number of other correspondents, as to the rates of weekly cash wages in 249 Poor Law Unions paid to ordinary agricultural labourers (men not exclusively engaged with the charge of animals, such as shepherds, cattlemen, carters, and wagoners), exclusive of piece work earnings, and all extra allowances in cash or kind, in December, 1898, compared with December, 1897.

The general effect of the returns is to show that there has been an upward movement in agricultural wages.

It has been assumed, for the purposes of calculation, as on former occasions, that where the predominant rates of wages of ordinary labourers have changed in a district, a similar change has taken place in the wages of all classes of agricultural labourers. Although, strictly speaking, this assumption is not absolutely correct in all counties, it may be said that the wages of men in charge of horses, cattle, and sheep, roughly follow the movement in the wages of the ordinary labourers, though they are not necessarily of the same amount, nor do they always take place at the same time.

The following table shows the changes of wages of agricultural labourers in certain Poor Law Unions in the Midland, Eastern, Home, and Southern and South Western Counties as between the end of 1897 and the end of 1898.

Changes in the Winter Rates of Agricultural Wages.

Districts.*	No. of Poor-Law Unions reported on.	Number of Agricultural Labourers in 1891 in Unions in which there has been the under-mentioned rise in the weekly rates of Wages of Agricultural Labourers in the winter of 1898, as compared with the winter of 1897.	Increase per week of				Total.
			No change.	Increase per week of			
				6d.	1s.	1s. 6d.	
Midland Counties...	71	80,930	302	13,579	1,016	1,063	96,890
Eastern Counties...	47	34,878	—	61,715	14,941	1,942	113,476
Home Counties...	37	35,623	948	18,995	3,373	—	58,939
Southern and South-Western Counties...	94	95,673	—	14,851	—	—	110,524
Total ...	249	247,104	1,250	109,140	19,330	3,005	379,829

It will be seen from this table that, out of a total of 379,829 agricultural labourers in the districts named, 132,725 (or 34·9 per cent.) were in Poor Law Unions in which wages rose, the increases varying from 6d. to 2s. a week. Of the 132,725 in Unions where wages were increased, 109,140 were in Unions showing increases of 1s. a week, and 19,330 in Unions showing increases of 1s. 6d. Thus it will be seen that the predominant rise (in Unions where any change took place) was 1s. per week. The average rise, spread over the whole number of labourers included in the returns, was about 4½d. a week.

The greatest number of changes took place in the corn-growing counties of Cambridge, Essex, Lincoln, Norfolk and Suffolk. Out of a total of 132,725 agricultural labourers in Unions in which wages were changed in all the districts referred to, 78,598 (or 59·2 per cent.)

*For counties included in these districts see article on "Agricultural Employment" p. 46

were in these five Eastern counties, forming nearly 70 per cent. of all the labourers, covered by the returns from those counties.

Of the 61,715 labourers in Unions in the Eastern Counties in which the rates of wages were generally increased by 1s. per week, 24,246 were in Suffolk, 16,274 in Norfolk, 14,007 in Essex, and 7,188 in Cambridgeshire. The increases of 1s. 6d. per week were chiefly in Lincolnshire.

In a considerable number of cases the increase in the rate of wages in December, 1898, compared with December, 1897, was due to a rise taking place in the summer of 1898 without a subsequent reduction in the winter.

The Northern Counties have been excluded from these calculations, as the greater number of labourers there are hired by the year or half-year. Wages in these counties during 1898 were well maintained, and at some of the hiring fairs there was an upward tendency. (See LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1898, p. 197; December, 1898, pp. 356, 382.)

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Coal Conciliation Board for the Federated Districts.

A MEETING of this Board was held on January 27th, in London to consider an application on the part of the miners' representatives for an advance in wages of 7½ per cent. After discussion it was agreed that there should be an informal adjournment until February 10th. At the adjourned meeting the question was further considered, and the following resolutions were, unanimously passed:—

"1. That the present rate of wages be increased as from the first making-up day in April, 1899, by 5 per cent. on the standard, and as from the first making-up day in October, 1899, by a further 2½ per cent. on the standard.

"2. That the before-mentioned advances apply to underground labour only."

The question of surface labour was discussed, but no arrangement was arrived at.

Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board.

At a meeting of the Standing Committee of this Board, held on January 26th, it was resolved:—

"That as the advance of 4s. 7d. per ton in actual selling price is nearly sufficient to give an advance of wages, with a certainty of a further increase in price, an immediate advance be declared, making puddlers' wages 8s. per ton, and other tonnage men 2½ per cent. advance. To commence on Monday, February 6th, and to continue until Saturday, April 1st, next."

Arbitration in the Iron Ore Mining Trade.

A dispute which commenced about December 20th last has been settled by reference to arbitration. The hæmatite iron ore miners employed by a company at Egremont came out on strike for an advance of wages, 135 men being affected directly or indirectly. The strike terminated on January 13th, the question being referred to the arbitration of Mr. Barlow Massicks. The arbitrator decided that miners' wages should be advanced so that they might earn on an average not less than 5s. 6d. per day, and that the wages of trailers and underground workers should be advanced from 4s. to 4s. 6d. per day.

Agreement in the Scottish Furniture Trade.

After a dispute of nearly ten months' duration, affecting the principal furniture manufacturing towns in Scotland except Edinburgh, an agreement respecting the principal conditions of employment has been arrived at between the Scottish Furniture Manufacturers' Association, representing the employers, and the United Furniture Trades' Association, representing the workpeople. The dispute arose in connection with notices posted by employers at the end of March last, formulating certain new conditions of employment. Objection was principally taken to a proposal of the employers that they

should be entitled to pay time rates or piece rates as they preferred. It has now been agreed that:—

It shall be in the option of the employers to adopt the system of piecework on repeat work or time work, as they prefer. It must be clearly understood that by repeat work is meant ordinary stock jobs or catalogue work, or patterns or designs commonly and repeatedly made in the workshop, or any new work after it has been made three times on day wages by the average man. The employer or his representatives, in conjunction with the workmen employed by him in the particular department of the workshop affected, shall mutually arrange the prices.

Prior to the dispute the cabinet-makers in Beith had asked for an advance in wages. It has now been agreed that the minimum rates prevailing before the dispute commenced shall be maintained.

Other clauses deal with overtime, the Truck Act, holidays, etc. The following provisions for avoiding disputes form part of the agreement:—

With the view of avoiding disputes in future deputations of workmen will be received by their employers by appointment for mutual discussion of questions in the settlement of which both parties are directly concerned. In case of disagreement the Local Association of Employers will negotiate with the Local Officials of the Trade Union. In the event of any Trade Union desiring to raise any question with the Employers' Association a meeting can be arranged by application to the Secretary or Chairman of the Employers' Local Association to discuss the questions. 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 Committee of the Scottish Furniture Manufacturers' Association and the Executive Committee of the United Furniture Trades' Association, and pending the question being dealt with there shall be no stoppage of work either of a partial or general character, but work shall proceed under the current conditions.

The agreement covers Glasgow, Dundee, Beith, and other Scottish towns.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

What is "Serious and Wilful Misconduct."—In a case in which compensation was claimed for fatal injuries received by a workman shown to have been intoxicated, the judge held that drunkenness constitutes "serious and wilful misconduct" within the meaning of the Act, and the claim was accordingly disallowed.—*Wrexham County Court, January 11th.*

Meaning of "in or about" a Factory, etc.—A drayman, employed by a firm of millers, claimed compensation for injuries received while delivering flour to customers of his employers at a place a mile and a half distant from the firm's mills. The plaintiff was non-suited.—*Sheffield County Court, January 17th.*

What is a Building which exceeds 30 feet in height.—A bricklayer, who had been employed by a builder on a furnace stack at certain works, and who had been injured by a fall caused by the scaffolding giving way, claimed compensation from his employer. The claim was resisted on the ground that the plaintiff was not at the time of the accident employed on in or about a factory or a building which exceeded 30 feet in height. The plaintiff contended that the height ought not to be measured to the top of the building other than the furnace stack (which would make the height 20 feet only), but that the furnace stack should be measured in (which would make the height 36 feet). For the defendant it was argued that, since the building was not finished, it was not a "factory," and that the furnace stack ought not to be measured in, so that the building was not over 30 feet high. The judge, adopting this view, gave judgment for the defendant.—*Sheffield County Court, January 26th.*

Building "being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding." What is meant by "a scaffolding."—Compensation was claimed by a workman injured by the fall of a joist while working on a building in course of erection, on the floor of which there were at the time of the accident two pairs of trestles with two boards resting upon them as a temporary scaffold to enable the workmen to work at the roof or ceiling, while in the basement below there were other pairs of trestles with boards resting on them for a similar purpose. The judge held that under these circumstances the building was not "being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding" within the meaning of the Act, since the term, "a scaffolding," there used must refer to something secured and fixed, and not to an erection of the nature described—unfixed, unsecured, and movable by the workman as occasion requires; and he accordingly dismissed the application.—*Marylebone County Court, January 25th.*

Building on which power-driven machinery is used.—In the case reported in the GAZETTE for December, 1898, in which a bricklayer was awarded compensation for injuries received while at work upon a building in course of construction, which was under 30 feet high, but on which machinery driven by mechanical power was used for the purposes of construction, the decision of the judge was confirmed on appeal. The Court held that in Section 7 (1) of the Act the words "on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power, is being used" have as their antecedent the word "building" simply, and not the words "building which exceeds 30 feet in height."—*Court of Appeal, January 14th.*

Amount of compensation.—Benefits from Accident, etc., Funds not to be taken into account.—A widow, the mother of a collier who had met with a fatal accident, claimed compensation from his employers. The defendants urged that the plaintiff was not "wholly dependent" upon her late son, because she would receive a weekly sum from a miners' relief fund, and that this allowance ought to be taken into account in assessing the compensation due to her. The judge held that the plaintiff was wholly dependent upon her son, and awarded her £180 as compensation. In another case a labourer, employed by a firm of engineers, who had received injuries making it impossible for him again to follow his employment, claimed as compensation one-half of his weekly wages. There was in connection with the firm a fund maintained mainly by contributions from the workmen, every man who entered their employment being required to sign an agreement that his wages should be so much per week, less 2d. to be paid into the fund, but the firm contributed to it each year a certain amount. From this fund the applicant was entitled to receive 8s. per week for the first 13 weeks after his accident, and 5s. per week for the subsequent 13 weeks. It was argued for the employers that they ought to be allowed to deduct from the compensation claimed the amount of those weekly allowances as being a "payment not being wages which he may receive from the employer in respect of his injury during his incapacity" within the meaning of the Act. This contention was rejected by the arbitrator, who awarded to the applicant one-half of his weekly wages, to be paid so long as the disability continued.—*Pontypridd County Court, January 16th; Manchester County Court, January 18th.*

Assessment of compensation.—"Average Weekly Earnings."—An operative, employed by a firm of cotton-spinners, who had, through an accident, been temporarily incapacitated from work, claimed compensation. It was admitted that he was entitled to an amount equivalent to one week's wages; but a question arose as to how such wages should be calculated. Up to September 9th, 1898, the operative had been employed as a little piecer, in which capacity he earned 9s. 6d. a week; but on that date he was promoted to be a side-piecer, in which capacity he earned 13s. 8d. a week. The accident occurred on September 28th. The compensation provided by the Act is a weekly payment not exceeding one-half of the man's "average weekly earnings during the previous 12 months, if he has been so long employed, but, if not, then for any less period during which he has been in the employment of the same employer, such weekly payment not to exceed £1." On behalf of the operative it was maintained that his employment as a side-piecer had alone to be considered, his previous employment as a little piecer being a separate matter, and that he was accordingly entitled to 13s. 8d. But the employers contended that the amount payable was to be calculated by making an average of the total weekly earnings of the operative during the last 52 weeks, irrespective of the capacity in which he was for the time being employed, and accordingly paid him 9s. 10d. The judge held that the contention of the employers was correct, and gave his award in their favour. In another case it was decided by the Court of Appeal (reversing a decision of the judge of the Lancashire County Court) that the "average weekly earnings" are to be calculated without any allowance for idle time, i.e., the man's actual earnings during the previous year are to be divided by the number of weeks in the year, and not by any less number excluding the weeks in which the man was not at work.—*Bolton County Court, January 4th; Court of Appeal, January 14th.*

Time for Taking Proceedings.—By Section 2 (1) of the Act it is provided that "proceedings for the recovery under this Act of compensation for an injury shall not be maintainable unless notice of the accident has been given as soon as practicable after the happening thereof and before the workman has voluntarily left the employment in which he was injured. . . . Provided always that the want of . . . such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings, if it is found in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not prejudiced in his defence by the want . . . or that such want . . . was occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause." An engine-smith sued his employer for compensation for an injury which totally incapacitated him for six months. After the accident he was treated at the hospital for three weeks, and then returned to work, but suffered great pain and weakness, and after ten days left, telling the foreman that he was unable to do his work properly. A few days later he sent in a notice of claim for compensation. On behalf of the man's employer it was objected that the claim could not be entertained because the notice was not delivered until after the man had voluntarily left his employment. The judge held that notice in accordance with the Act had not been given, and that the employer was prejudiced by the want of such notice, and that for these reasons the action could not be maintained.—*Northampton County Court, January 25th.*

(2) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Factory in Condition Dangerous to Life or Limb.—The occupier of a factory was summoned by a factory inspector for being the occupier of a factory in such a condition that the handicraft carried on therein could not be so carried on without danger

to life or limb. Evidence was given that the factory was in a ruinous state, the walls being liable to fall down if there was the least vibration. The defendant said that the premises were not his property. The Court ordered that the building should not be used until it had been put in thorough repair.—*Rochdale Borough Police Court, January 6th.*

Shuttle-guard tied up by Weaver.—An operative weaver was summoned by a factory inspector for neglecting to keep fenced a shuttle in one of his looms. The defendant had tied up the guard on his loom so as to render it useless. There was a notice affixed in the room cautioning weavers against tying up their guards; and the inspector, being satisfied that the man's employers had used due diligence to enforce the execution of the law, and that the operative had committed the offence without their knowledge, consent, or connivance, proceeded against the workman, who was fined 5s. and costs.—*Blackburn County Police Court, January 11th.*

(3) CONSPIRACY AND PROTECTION OF PROPERTY ACT.

What is illegal "following."—Four miners were summoned for intimidating a fireman, who had during a dispute continued working at the colliery, by "persistently following" him "about from place to place." The defendants and other colliers, who had left their work in consequence of the dispute, formed a band, and as soon as the fireman, after leaving the pit, came up to them, they marched ahead of him all the way to his home, a distance of half a mile, playing bagpipes and tin whistles and beating drums, while a hooting crowd followed him. It was contended that, as the defendants carefully kept in front of the fireman, they could not be convicted under the law which forbids "following." Each of the defendants was fined 20s. and costs.—*Burnley Sessions, January 18th.*

(4) MISCELLANEOUS.

Master and Servant.—Liability of employer for negligence of contractor.—A telephone company were laying down wires under a street. They had no statutory powers, but had the consent of the local authority, and were acting lawfully. They had employed a plumber who undertook to make certain connections at so much apiece to the satisfaction of their foreman. Owing to the negligence of a workman, whom this contractor sent to make these connections, in plunging a benzoline lamp, with its safety valve out of order, into an iron pot (placed upon the foot-path) which contained melted solder, the metal flew up and injured a person passing along the street. It was held by the Queen's Bench Division (reversing the judgment of the deputy-judge of the City of London Court) that the company were not liable for the damage, since the relationship, which the plumber bore to them, was not that of servant, but of contractor, and that, as the work, which was being done, was not an interference with the rights of others, and was not in the ordinary course dangerous to others, the company were not liable for the negligence of the contractor, or his servant.—*Queen's Bench Division, November 11th and 29th, reported January 28th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.—The Commissioner of the Yukon Territory has issued a notice forbidding anyone to enter the Territory unless he has—over and above the expenses of his journey to Dawson—two months provisions and £100 in cash, or six months provisions and £40 in cash. A report from Toronto states that there is a surplus of labour there. At Calgary and other places in the North-West there is a great demand for female servants.

New South Wales.—A report from the Broken Hill Silver Mines states that there is no demand for any kind of labour. Numbers of miners are out of work, owing to the removal of the smelters to Port Pirie in South Australia. At Robertson there is a limited demand only for labour. There is a good opening in the colony for farmers with a little capital; the area under crops has increased from 846,000 acres in 1891 to over 2,000,000 acres this year, the main increase being in wheat.

Victoria.—Reports just received from Melbourne, Collingwood, Horsham, Daylesford and Stawell state that there is no demand for more labour. At Sale, however, there is a steady demand for farm labourers at 17s. 6d. a week with board and lodging, and a good demand for female servants. The wheat harvest prospects are good, and the dairying industry is improving. Although local labour is sufficient, as above stated, the building trade in the colony has revived and shows more activity than it has for some years, and kindred industries also feel the effects of the improvement.

South Australia.—A report from Adelaide states

* 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.

that the labour market is overstocked with all kinds of labour; about 2,000 persons have registered their names at the new Government Labour Bureau.

Queensland.—A new regulation has just been issued, by which free passages are granted to farm labourers and female domestic servants, approved by the Agent-General. They must be from 17 to 35 years of age, and must not have been otherwise engaged. They must all pay £1 for ship kit. Agents have been appointed in England, Ireland and Scotland, for the selection of these emigrants, and all farm labourers must be seen by an agent appointed for this purpose. The Agent-General is also prepared to entertain applications for some assistance towards the total cost of the passage of small capitalist farmers, market gardeners, dairymen, fruit growers and their families. Full particulars as to the occupation of the head and members of the family, their available capital, objects in going, and intentions as to occupation or pursuit on landing in the Colony, must be forwarded to the Agent-General of Queensland, 1, Victoria-street, London, S.W. There is a good demand for boys on dairy farms, for farm hands, ploughmen, married couples (without families or with working boys) on stations and farms, and for country blacksmiths, carpenters and wheelwrights.

Western Australia.—Work is less plentiful than it was, and many persons have left in search of employment elsewhere.

New Zealand.—There appears to be plenty of employment in nearly all parts of New Zealand for men in the building, engineering, boot, and clothing trades. Napier, Palmerston North, Wanganui, Masterton in the North Island, and Greymouth, Oamaru, and Invercargill in the South Island have been especially busy. Mechanics, however, in Wellington, Christchurch, and Auckland have not been all fully employed. With very few exceptions work is plentiful in country districts for shearers, bush-fellers, and farm hands, this being the busy season of the year.

Cape Colony and Natal.—There is no demand for more labour in these colonies.

Transvaal.—The demand for labour in the Transvaal is in no way improved.

LABOUR ABROAD.

GERMANY.

Labour Disputes in January.—According to the monthly summary prepared by *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, 33 disputes were begun in Germany in the month of January, as compared with 19 in December. Six of these disputes (the same number as in December) were in the metal and engineering trades; 4 (compared with 3 in December) in the textile trades; 6 (compared with 2 in December) in the woodworking and allied trades; 4 in the food-preparing trades (2 in December); 4 in the clothing trades (none in December), and 9 in trades not coming under any of the foregoing groups.

The differences referred to in last month's GAZETTE (p. 11) as having arisen in the velvet-making industry in Crefeld have resulted in a strike. The number of operatives involved is stated variously. *Der Arbeitsmarkt* considers 2,000 a safe estimate of their number in the middle of January, when the strike had reached its greatest extent. It was still in progress on February 9th. According to *Soziale Praxis*, the intervention of the Industrial Court has been sought by the operatives, but declined by the employers.

Operations of public labour registries in January.—The total number of situations offered by employers in January at 55 of the municipal and other public labour registries which have sent returns to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, was 26,999 (17,848 for males and 9,151 for females), compared with 22,259 in January, 1898; the number of situations sought during the month being 35,518 (27,877 by males and 7,641 by females), compared with 33,158 in January, 1898. There were, in January, 1899, on an average, 131.6 applicants for every 100 vacant situations, the proportion in the previous January having been 149.9. In the case of males, the proportion of applicants for every 100 vacant situations was 156.2 (179.2 in the previous January); and in the case of females, 83.5 (91.1 in the previous January).

Pig-iron Production in 1898.—According to returns of the Association of German Iron and Steel Manufacturers, published in *Der Reichs-Anzeiger* the production of pig-iron in Germany (including the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg), in 1898, amounted to

7,402,717 metric tons (of 2,204 lbs), compared with 6,889,067 tons in 1897, the increase being equivalent to about 7½ per cent.

Uniform wages and hours list for book-printers.—According to information collected by the Joint Board (*Tarifanti*) for securing the observance of the wages and hours agreement arrived at in the book-printing trade in May, 1896 (*see GAZETTE*, May, 1896, p. 147, and June, 1896, p. 179), the number of firms in Germany by whom the terms of the agreement were being observed at the end of 1898, was 2,674 (in 871 localities), compared with 2,030 (in 647 localities) in May, 1898. Five hundred and thirty-nine of the firms observing the agreement did not return the number of journeymen employed; the remaining 2,135 firms employed 25,132 journeymen.—*Soziale Praxis*.

BELGIUM.

Unemployed in Trade Unions at Ghent.—The January issue of the *Revue du Travail*, published by the Belgian Labour Department, contains tables showing the number and percentage of unemployed members of trade unions at Ghent on the 15th of each of the twelve months, December, 1897, to November, 1898. Combining the figures for the twelve months, the following averages result for the year ended November 15th, 1898, the corresponding averages for the two preceding years being given for comparison:—

Trades and Occupations.	Trade Unions reporting in 1897-8.		Average percentage of membership reported unemployed in the years—		
	Number.	Membership.	1897-8.	1896-7.	1895-6.
Building	7	967	8.1	11.4	19.8
Metal (Smelting and Manufacture)	4	2,032	3.3	2.0	1.5
Textile	9	8,031	2.8	2.3	1.9
Clothing	7	424	19.6	10.8	8.5
Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	5	376	0.8	2.7	4.5
Woodworking	5	905	2.2	1.8	4.4
Food and Tobacco	4	306	6.8	8.4	8.2
Transport, Dock Labour and General Labourers	3	119	14.3	12.0	5.2
Clerks, Commercial Travellers, and Foremen	6	2,224	0.8	0.9	1.2
Other Trades	3	266	6.8	8.0	15.2
Total and averages	51	15,650	3.5	3.2	3.9

With reference to the figures stated in the preceding table, it is observed that those in regard to the clothing trades must be considered approximate only, because the degree of unemployment cannot be measured in the same manner as in other trades. For in the slack season, tailors and bootmakers, although not discharged from their employment, are yet able to obtain only a very small amount of work. As to the figures for transport, dock, and general labour, these statistics, it is stated, are furnished by a few small trade unions of cabmen, carmen, and discharge labourers, while the important unions in these trades find it impossible to furnish figures as to the number of their unemployed members, which varies greatly from hour to hour.

The Communal Council of Ghent, at its meeting of December 19th, 1898, decided to appoint a commission to study the question of want of employment, with special regard to local conditions.

Recognised Friendly Societies at the end of 1898.—The total number of recognised Friendly Societies in Belgium on December 31st, 1898, according to the *Revue du Travail* (January, 1899), was 1,924, the number existing at the corresponding date in each of the four years 1894-7, being 593, 756, 946, and 1,256 respectively. The figure for 1898 is stated to include five federations.

Co-operative societies at the end of 1898.—From the same source it appears that the number of co-operative societies in Belgium on December 31st, 1898, was 1,128, as compared with 311, 394, 564 and 873 on December 31st of the years 1894-7 respectively. The number of co-operative societies dissolved in 1898 was 8; the number of societies formed in that year was 263, of which 119 are classed as agricultural, 50 as savings and loan, 43 as distributive, 30 as productive, 11 as insurance, one as pension, one as building (workmen's dwellings), and 8 as miscellaneous.

Rules for ensuring safety in open quarries.—A Royal Decree, dated January 16th, 1899, contains provisions relating to the working of open quarries, including provisions as to the registration and inspection of such quarries and as to the precautions to be taken against accidents arising from sudden falls of earth, &c., unfenced machinery, the presence or use of explosives, and the working of trolley-ways, &c. Provision is also made for the notification of accidents, and for the holding of an inquiry in case of fatal accident.

HOLLAND.

Minimum Wage Clauses in Public Contracts.—*Maatschappelijk Werk* reports that the specifications of the contract for the erection of a post-office savings bank in Amsterdam include provisions for the payment of minimum rates of wages, this being, it is added, the first case in which such provisions have been included in a Government contract in Holland. The minimum rates payable to adults are 4½d. per hour for artisans who have served an apprenticeship, 4d. for those who have not, and 3½d. for labourers. The hours of labour must not exceed 11 per day. *Sociaal Weekblad* mentions Middelburg, Nijmegen and Amersfoort as municipalities which have adopted the principle of inserting minimum wage clauses in their contracts within the past few weeks.

Amsterdam Unemployed Statistics.—No. 3 of the *Statistische Mededeelingen*, published by the Municipal Statistical Bureau of Amsterdam, contains a statement showing the number and proportion of members unemployed in certain trade unions in Amsterdam at the end of each week in 1898. The unions making the returns had an aggregate membership (at the end of 1898) of 10,394, of whom 7,500 were diamond workers; 1,775 printers; 969 carpenters; and 150 shipwrights.

Amongst diamond workers the percentage unemployed was highest from the middle of April to the end of June (ranging from 9.0 to 18.8), and lowest from the week ended October 22nd to that ended November 19th (ranging from 1.3 to 1.8), the average for all the weeks of the year together being 5.8 per cent. The printers appear to have been well employed the whole year; the largest proportion out of work in any week being 1.9 per cent. (September 17th), and the average for the year being 0.8 per cent. For carpenters the percentage unemployed was greatest during the period including the weeks ended January 8th to April 23rd, the average for that period being 16.1 per cent., and for the remainder of the year (excluding seven weeks when they were out on strike) 3.8 per cent. The proportion of unemployed shipwrights was highest in January, April, June, and December, averaging 14.4, 9.5, 11.7 and 10.8 for those months respectively, and for the whole year, 7.2 per cent.

Work of Amsterdam Labour Registries in 1898.—The publication referred to above also contains a table showing the operations of the Amsterdam labour registries in 1898. The total number of applications for situations in 1898 was 9,238 (of which 617 were afterwards withdrawn). These applications include 2,044 from persons who are described as having no knowledge of a trade, and 2,894 from messengers, etc. The number of situations offered was 2,587, of which 1,502 were for messengers, etc.; and the number of situations found was 1,753, of which 107 only were for persons without a trade, and 1,023 were for messengers, etc.

Re-organisation of State Statistical Service.—By Royal Decree, dated January 9th, 1899, the Royal Decree of October 6th, 1892, is revoked and the Government Statistical Service of Holland is organised on a new basis.

The main feature of the new organisation is the creation of a "Central Bureau for Statistics" for collecting, arranging, and publishing statistical information when instructed or authorised to do so by a Central Commission for Statistics. The members and secretary of the existing Commission of that name (created by Royal Decree of October 6th, 1892) are to be relieved of their duties from the date on which the present Decree takes effect, and, from the same date, the records and library of the old Commission are to be taken over by the new Statistical Bureau.

The Commission and the Bureau will report annually to the Minister of Internal Affairs.

AUSTRIA.

Rules for Working Composing Machines in Vienna.—On January 10th, rules were agreed to between representatives of the journeymen newspaper compositors of Vienna and their employers respectively as to the working of composing machines in the offices of daily newspapers. The rules are to be operative until December 31st, 1899, and include the following: Only duly recognised compositors to be employed at the machines; all work at the machines to be paid for by weekly wage; the hours of operators to be 7½ per day, including one hour for cleaning, heating, etc., these hours to be worked between 9 a.m. and 12 midnight; no overtime to be worked at the machine; the learning-time for an operator not to exceed 8 weeks, during which he is to be paid at the rate of at least £1 16s. 8d. per week for work performed in the day-time, and £2 3s. 4d. for work performed in the night-time; the minimum weekly wages for skilled operators to be £2 1s. 8d for day-work, and £2 10s. for night-work. *Arbeiter-Zeitung*.

* De Werkloosheid in eenige vakverenigingen te Amsterdam in het jaar 1898. Amsterdam, 1899. On sale by Johannes Müller, Singel, 266, Amsterdam. Price: 1 florin 0.15 (about 3d.).

NORWAY.

Quinquennial Factory Census.—The results of the last quinquennial census of factories in Norway have just been published by the Central Statistical Bureau in Christiania,* the figures having reference to the year 1895.

The number of factories in Norway at the end of 1895 was 1,910 (compared with 1,935 at the end of 1890), the number of workpeople (not counting foremen, overseers, etc.) employed in 1,900 of these establishments being 54,510 (compared with 55,859 at the end of 1890), and the number of days worked (in 1,902 establishments) 15,052,500 (compared with 14,946,200 in 1890). In respect to the falling off in the number of factories and workpeople employed therein, it is pointed out that, during the period 1890-95, great progress was made in the use of machinery, thus increasing the efficiency of labour in production.

The following statement classifies the workpeople employed in factories in 1895 according to age and sex, and shows the corresponding figures for 1890:—

Age and Sex of Workpeople Employed in Factories.	1890.		1895.	
	No. of Workpeople.	Proportion per cent. of all Workpeople.	No. of Workpeople.	Proportion per cent. of all Workpeople.
Adults (18 years and over):				
Men	39,754	71.2	38,896	71.4
Women	8,957	16.0	10,053	18.4
Young Persons (under 18 years) and Children:				
Lads and Boys	5,580	10.0	4,167	7.6
Girls	1,568	2.8	1,394	2.6
Total	55,859	100.0	54,510	100.0

Factories, in which less than 300 days of work were performed during the year, are excluded from the census. (Thus, an establishment employing 10 workpeople would be excluded unless work had been carried on for at least 30 days in the year.)

Working Hours in Book-printing Offices.—Data relative to working hours in book-printing offices in 1897, have been collected by the Inspector in charge of the Vestland and Nordenfjeld district, one of the two districts into which Norway is divided for purposes of factory inspection. The length of the regular working day (intervals excluded) has been ascertained in respect to 544 workpeople in 57 establishments in the district named. Of these 544 persons, 264 worked 9 hours per day, and 160 worked over 9 and under 10 hours. Of the remaining 120 workpeople, 39 worked 8 hours; 32, 8½ hours; 41, 10 hours; and 8, 10½ hours.

The average duration of the working day for the whole 544 workpeople was 9 hours 9 minutes.

RUSSIA.

Co-operative Distributive Societies in 1896.—Particulars as to the business, in 1896, of 117 co-operative distributive societies, have been supplied to the "Committee for Rural Deposit and Loan Societies and Industrial Co-operative Societies" in St. Petersburg, and are contained in the 23rd report of that committee, which has recently been issued. The figures, as summarised by the *Viestnik Finansov* of January 8 (N.S.), show the value of the sales of the 117 societies to have been £957,507 and the gross profits £145,809. The net profits (gross profits minus expenses of administration) amounted to £49,150, of which £13,400 was used for the payment of interest on shares, and £34,225 to pay dividend on purchases. Part of the remainder went to reserve funds.

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the societies at the end of 1896:—

Assets.	£	Liabilities.	£
Cash in hand and at Banks, and Interest-bearing Securities	68,227	Share Capital	239,475
Land, buildings and fixed stock	40,476	Reserve "	42,215
Goods	344,523	Special Funds	13,449
Accounts owing to Societies	214,074	Deposits	1,539
Sundries	2,771	Accounts owing by Societies	292,011
Debit Balances	3,567	Sundries	6,362
		Profit Balances	78,797
Total	673,638	Total	673,638

* Norges officielle Statistik, Tredie Række No. 305. Statistik over Norges Fabrikantlag ved Udgangen af Aaret, 1895. Christiania, 1898. On sale by K. Aschehoug & Co. Price 1 Krone (s. 13d.).

† Aarsberetninger fra Fabrikinspektørene for 1897. Published by the Norwegian Home Office. Christiania, 1898.

‡ Out of a total of 66,400 operatives employed in factories in Norway in 1897, 20,042 were employed in the Vestland and Nordenfjeld district.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was, on the whole, better in January than a year ago. Owing to the Christmas and New Year holidays (the latter affecting chiefly the Scottish districts) it is difficult to make a trustworthy comparison with the previous month. The holidays during the month appear to have amounted generally to from two to three days, a somewhat shorter period than in the corresponding month of last year.

Returns relating to 1,302 pits, at which 446,489 workpeople were employed, show that these pits worked on an average 5.16 days per week in the four weeks ended January 21st, as compared with an average of 5.06 days per week in the corresponding period of last year. The following table shows the average number of days worked in these periods and in December, 1898, in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in Jan., 1899, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		21st Jan., 1899.	22nd Jan., 1898.	24th Dec., 1898.
England and Wales	409,463	5.20	5.08	5.55
Scotland	36,431	4.66	4.82	5.45
Ireland	595	5.26	4.31	5.82
United Kingdom	446,489	5.16	5.06	5.84

Taking the December and January periods together, the number of days worked in the eight weeks ending January 21st, 1899, averaged 5.35, as compared with an average of 5.19 days in the corresponding period a year ago.

The next table, in which the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced, shows that the chief improvement as compared with a year ago was in pits producing manufacturing coal. Coking-coal pits continue to give the best employment.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Jan., 1899, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		
		January, 1899.	January, 1898.	December, 1898.
Coking Coal	26,046	5.45	5.45	5.77
Gas "	44,274	5.15	5.29	5.65
House "	105,400	5.03	4.89	5.47
Manufacturing Coal	31,466	5.17	4.99	5.69
Steam "	162,809	5.24	5.12	5.53
Mixed "	76,494	5.07	4.91	5.46
All Classes of Coal	446,489	5.16	5.06	5.84

In the table below workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 73.7 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, as compared with 66.5 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.	January, 1899		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	January, 1898.	December, 1898.
24 days (full time)	8,887	2.0	2.0	31.0
20 and under 24 days	320,022	71.7	64.5	67.2
16 " " 20 " "	102,414	22.9	25.6	10.6
12 " " 16 " "	14,049	3.1	6.3	1.0
8 " " 12 " "	426	0.1	1.0	0.0
Under 8 days	691	0.2	0.6	0.2
Total	446,489	100.0	100.0	100.0

Comparison by Districts.—In the majority of districts a higher average was worked than a year ago. The improvement amounted to over two-thirds of a day per week in Nottingham and Leicester, and to about half a

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(g) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN JANUARY.

The Agricultural Correspondent to the Department on the basis of 250 returns from all parts of England reports as follows: Generally speaking, agricultural labourers were regularly employed in most of the districts reported upon, though odd hands not infrequently lost some time owing to the wet weather which prevailed during the greater part of the month, and which interrupted outdoor work a good deal. Changes in the weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers, amounting to a rise of 1s. a week, took place in January in certain districts in the counties of Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, and Wiltshire.

Northern Counties.—In *Northumberland* employment is said to have been regular during the month. Reports from *Cumberland* from the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Penrith, and Whitehaven, state that employment was generally regular, though in some districts, owing to wet weather in the first three weeks of the month, and to frost in the last week, day men had some irregular work. A report from *North Lancashire* and *South Westmorland* states that, owing to the saturated state of the land, winter ploughing and tillage was generally impracticable, but that threshing and indoor work kept the regular farm hands fairly well employed. The day men, however, are said to have had much broken time during the month. In *Durham* employment is said to be regular in the Union of Chester-le-Street, and in the Darlington Union (*Durham* and *Yorks*). Reports of a favourable character come from *Yorkshire* from the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Driffield, Guisborough, Howden, Knaresborough, Malton, Ouseburn, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. A report from a district in the Ripon Union states that a few casual hands, chiefly old men and those less skilled, had some irregular work during the month. Another report from the same Union states that a few drainers were out of work for several days. A scarcity of work is referred to in reports from the Unions of Driffield and Guisborough.

In *Cheshire* reports state that agricultural labourers were generally well employed in the Unions of Nantwich, Tarvin, and Macclesfield, though a few casual hands were in irregular work for a few days owing to frost. Satisfactory reports come from *Derbyshire*, from the *Derbyshire* portion of the Mansfield Union (*Notts* and *Derby*) from the *Derbyshire* portion of the Workop Union (*Derby* and *Notts*), and from the *Derbyshire* portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs* and *Derby*); in the last-named district agricultural labourers are said to be very scarce. In *Shropshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Atcham, Bridgnorth, Drayton (*Salop* and *Staffs*), and Oswestry. Reports of a favourable character come from *Staffordshire* from the Unions of Leek and Tamworth (*Staffs* and *Warwick*); a report from the last-named Union states that labour is scarce, and that extra hands are very difficult to get. In *Warwickshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon, and in the *Warwickshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants*, and *Warwick*), and in *Leicestershire* in the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough, Market Harborough, Market Bosworth, Melton Mowbray, and Lutterworth (*Leicester* and *Warwick*). In the last-named union a report states that men who follow threshing machines lost time owing to wet weather.

Reports from *Nottinghamshire* state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Bingham, Mansfield, Retford, and Southwell. In the Bingham Union labour is said to be scarce. Reports of a favourable character come from *Rutland* from the Oakham Union, from the *Leicestershire* portion of the Uppingham Union (*Rutland*, *Leicester*, and *Northants*) and from *Worcestershire* from the Unions of Evesham, Martley, and Tenbury. A report from the Tenbury Union states that "labour is scarce, and farmers have a difficulty in getting their work done." In *Oxfordshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and in the *Oxfordshire* portions of the Abingdon, and Wallingford Unions (*Oxon* and *Berks*). A report from the Thame Union states that regular men for milking are scarce. Agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in *Northamptonshire* in the Unions of Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, and Wellingborough, and in the *Northamptonshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants*, and *Warwick*). A report from the Wellingborough Union states that a number of the best agricultural labourers have gone to the ironstone pits. Another report from the same Union states that extra men for threshing, etc., are very scarce. Reports from *Huntingdonshire* say that employment is

regular in the Unions of Huntingdon and St. Neots (*Hunts* and *Beds*). In *Bedfordshire* agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, and Leighton Buzzard, and in a district in the Luton Union. In the Bedford Union a report states that some irregularity existed owing to wet weather. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton.

Eastern Counties.—Reports from *Essex* state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett, and Tendring. Reports state that labour is scarce in the Unions of Colchester, Ongar, and Orsett. In the latter union it is stated that horsemen and milkers are in great demand. In *Norfolk* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. A report from a district in the Forehoe union says that odd hands with threshing machines lost a little time owing to wet weather. Reports from the following Unions refer to a scarcity of labour, namely, East and West Flegg, Forehoe, Guiltcross, Henstead, St. Faith's, and Thetford.

In *Suffolk* employment is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildehall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Sudbury, and Thingoe. Agricultural labourers in *Cambridgeshire* are said to be generally in regular employment in the Unions of Chesterton, and North Witchford, and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Northants*, *Cambs*, *Hunts*, and *Lincoln*). A report from the Chesterton Union states that "generally the complaints of shortness of labour are increasing, particularly in the fruit-growing districts of Cottenham, Willingham, etc. Labour is also short at Longstanton and Chesterton." Favourable reports come from *Lincolnshire* from the Unions of Brigg, Gainsborough, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford, and from the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Lincoln* and *Notts*). A report from the Boston Union states that some men were in irregular work, as it was not possible to do carting work. Some scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Lincoln, Spilsby, and Stamford. A large employer in the last named Union writes:—"There is a gradual tendency to increased scarcity of agricultural labour. A series of good harvests have enabled farmers to find the funds to pay for necessary labour for their farms, which was left undone during the low prices and bad harvests of the worst period of depression."

Home Counties.—In *Buckinghamshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. Several reports from the county state that a scarcity of labour exists. Favourable reports come from *Berkshire* from the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage, from *Surrey* from the Unions of Godstone, and Hambleton, and from the *Surrey* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants* and *Surrey*). A report from the Godstone Union states that "we are still short of hands for threshing. I am threshing to-day, and had to borrow hands from my neighbour." Agricultural labourers in *Kent* are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Blean, Cranbrook, Elham, Faversham, Hoo, and Sevenoaks. In the Faversham, and Hoo Unions labourers are said to be scarce. Reports of a favourable character come from *Hertfordshire* from the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, and Hitchin, and from a district in the Hemel Hempstead Union. A report from the Hitchin Union states that "labour is scarce, and all men can find employment. In many villages there is difficulty in procuring sufficient labour. Higher wages paid by the railway companies tempt the labourers to leave their work on the land."

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in *Sussex* in the Unions of Battle, Chailley, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. A report from the Cuckfield Union states that some men had irregular work owing to wet weather. Reports from the Unions of Battle and Chailley refer to a scarcity of labour. In *Hampshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Basingstoke, Havant, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants* and *Surrey*). In the last-named union extra labour is said to be difficult to obtain. Reports of a favourable character come from *Dorsetshire*, from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wimborne, Sherborne, and Wareham and Purbeck. In the Wimborne Union a report states that there was some irregularity of work owing to wet weather. In the Wareham

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; SEAMEN.

and Purbeck Union labour is said to be scarce. In *Wiltshire* the state of employment is said to be generally satisfactory in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwells-down. In the Chippenham Union a report states that some men lost time through wet weather. Another report from the same Union says that labour is scarce. A report from the Bradford-on-Avon Union states that "labour is still very scarce and the work is in arrears, as the wet weather has been most unfavourable for outdoor work. A little time may have been lost in some instances by day men."

Reports of a favourable character come from *Gloucestershire* from the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Dursley, Northleach, Thornbury and Wheatenhurst. Some odd men are said to have been in irregular work in the Unions of Barton Regis, Thornbury, and Wheatenhurst owing to wet weather. A report from the Cirencester Union refers to a scarcity of labour. In *Herefordshire* work is said to be generally regular, with some few exceptions owing to wet weather, in the Union of Bromyard. In the Dore Union (*Monmouth* and *Hereford*) there is said to have been a good deal of irregularity of work owing to wet weather. Reports of a favourable character come from *Somersetshire* from the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Largport, Taunton, Wells, and Wellington. In the Frome and Wells Unions a few men are reported to have been in irregular work owing to wet weather. Agricultural labourers in *Devonshire* are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, and Torrington. Reports from some districts in the county refer to some slight irregularity of work owing to wet weather. Favourable reports come from *Cornwall* from the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton. A report on February 9th from the last named Union states that "The weather is now fine, and farmers are getting on well with the work in general. Ploughing is well forward, and farmers will be well prepared for the spring tilling. Labour is regular and is equal to the demand."

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN JANUARY.

The table and chart given below deal with the total figures, that is to say, the total estimated number employed at all the docks and the principal wharves. Heretofore the chart has represented only a section of this number, namely, those employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee.

Employment in January was not so good as in December, or a year ago.

The average number employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves during the five weeks ended January 28th was 15,283, as compared with 16,431 in the four preceding weeks, and 16,190 in the corresponding period of 1898.

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

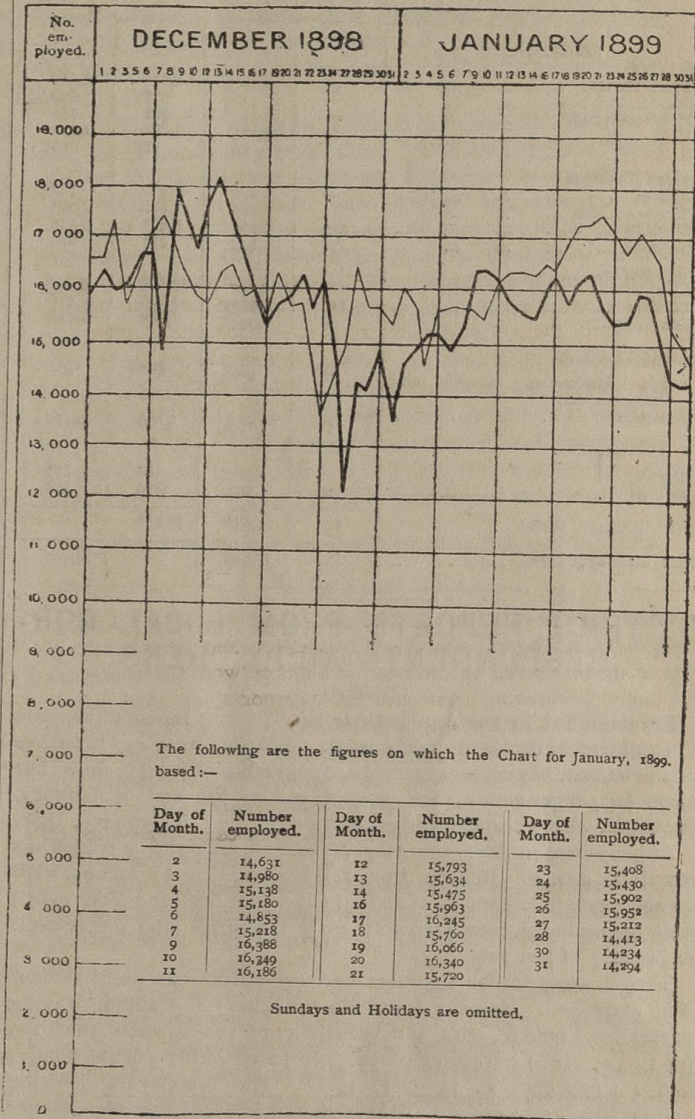
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Dec. 31	5,687	2,465	8,152	5,643	13,795
" " Jan. 7	6,550	2,590	9,140	5,861	15,001
" " " 14	7,366	2,710	10,076	5,896	15,972
" " " 21	7,394	2,746	10,040	5,975	16,015
" " " 28	7,179	2,119	9,298	6,087	15,385
Average for 5 weeks ending Jan. 28th, 1899	6,854	2,528	9,382	5,901	15,283
Average for Jan., 1898	7,882	2,706	10,588	6,233	16,821
Average for Dec., 1898	7,416	2,813	10,229	6,202	16,431

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock labourers employed by all the docks and the principal wharves during December and January is shown on the chart below. The numbers in January ranged from 14,234 on the 30th to 16,388 on the 9th.

During January, 1898, the total number of Dock and Wharf Labourers employed varied from 14,607 on the 5th to 17,493 on the 22nd.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Dock Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal wharves for each day during the month of December, 1898, and January, 1899. The corresponding curve for December 1897, and January, 1898, is also given for comparison.

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



Employment in mid-stream was fairly good in the first two and last two weeks of the period, slack in the third week. It has been moderate with deal porters, lumpers and corn porters, rather slack with stevedores, and fair with lightermen, coal porters and winchmen.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have had fairly good employment. The average number of men employed daily was 328, compared with 415 in December.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN JANUARY.

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

The number of men shipped [as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 35,238 in January last, being 330 less than in January, 1898. During January the supply of seamen and firemen is reported to have been equal to or in excess of the demand at most of the ports included in the table below. At Bristol, however, the supply of able seamen is stated to have been not quite equal to the demand, while at Liverpool some little difficulty was experienced in getting eligible men for sailing vessels.

Particulars of changes in rates of wages affecting seamen and firemen at certain ports will be found in the table on page 58.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—SEAMEN; LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

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 January, 1899 and 1898 respectively.

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in January, 1899.*			Total in Jan., 1898.*
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Jan., 1899.	
ENGLAND.				
East Coast.				
Tyne Ports	44	2,667	2,711	3,514
Sunderland	—	576	576	682
Middlesbrough	—	353	353	465
Hull	14	1,457	1,471	1,848
Grimsby	3	66	69	120
Bristol Channel.				
Bristol	—	212	212	262
Newport, Mon.	14	1,411	1,425	1,687
Cardiff	313	6,161	6,474	6,308
Swansea	38	843	881	873
Other Ports.				
Liverpool	211	10,207	10,508	9,410
London	118	5,788	5,906	6,870
Southampton	—	1,558	1,558	1,199
SCOTLAND.				
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	—	921	921	967
Glasgow	47	1,653	1,700	2,344
IRELAND.				
Dublin	—	163	163	185
Belfast	15	295	310	354
Total, January, 1899	817	34,421	35,238	—
Idto, January, 1898	922	34,646	—	35,568

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—During January the state of employment continued fairly good. Returns from 437 branches of 108 unions, having an aggregate membership of 73,416, show that 2,762 (or 3·8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 3·6 in December, and 4·5 per cent. in January, 1898.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding* trades has remained steady. Reports from 143 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 20,883, show that 602 (or 2·9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·0 in December, and 4·5 per cent. in January of last year.

The *Building* trades (painters and decorators excepted) remain well employed. Returns from 180 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,400, show that 109 (or 1·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·3 in December, and 1·2 per cent. in January, 1898. The bricklayers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, plasterers, stone-masons, and stone-carvers as fair; the plumbers as moderate; the painters and decorators as dull, but improving.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has somewhat improved. Reports from 43 branches of 11 unions, with a membership of 7,177, show that 430 (or 6·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7·1 in December, and 6·9 per cent. in January, 1898.

Coopers are scarcely so busy, two societies, with a membership of 990, returning 17 (or 1·7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with less than 1 per cent. in January and December, 1898.

Coachbuilders and *Wheelwrights* remain steadily employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,366, show that 31 (or 2·3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·7 in December and January, 1898.

The *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades have continued to fall off, as is usual at this season. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 22,627, show that 1,135 (or 5·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·5 in December and 5·7 per cent. in January of last year.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades has slightly improved. The West-end bespoke tailors have remained dull; the East-end bespoke trade has been bad; the contract trade good; the stock trade fair; the ladies' tailors and mantle-makers' trade is improving. Employment with hatters has continued to improve; fur skin dressers are fairly busy; and with silk weavers employment is good.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the East-end sewound trade is bad; with boot and shoe operatives it is improving.

Employment in the *Leather* trades still remains fairly steady. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,618, show that 61

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

(or 3·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·7 in December and 2·8 per cent. in January, 1898.

In the *Glass* and *Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,476, show that 121 (or 8·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5·3 in December and 5·4 per cent. in January of last year.

Hair, Fibre and Caneworkers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 902 show that 37 (or 4·1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·2 in December and 5·3 per cent. in January, 1898.

Gold and Silver Workers are not busy. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,097, show that 50 (or 4·6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·4 per cent. in December and 1·3 in January of last year.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades is slack. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,495 show that 115 (or 4·6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·0 in December and 3·8 in January, 1898.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—In the five weeks ended January 28th an average number of 15,283 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves as compared with averages of 16,431 per day in the four preceding weeks, and 16,190 in January, 1898. Employment in mid-stream was fairly good at the beginning and end, slack in the middle of the month. It has been moderate with deal porters, lumpers and corn porters, rather slack with stevedores, fair with lightermen, coal porters and winchmen, and fairly good with fruit porters. (For further details see page 47)

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Three fresh disputes have been reported as arising during the month viz., one among plasterers, one in the clothing trade, and one with wharf labourers, the aggregate number affected being 325 (see page 60).

Labour Bureaux.—Returns received from six labour bureaux at which those registered are mostly men, show that 1,284 fresh applications for work were received by these bureaux during January, as compared with 1,439 in January, 1898. Work was found by the six bureaux for 856 persons during the month, as against 770 in the corresponding month of 1898. At the end of January the number of persons on the registers was 1,024 in 1899 and 1,191 in 1898. Returns received from five women's employment bureaux show that 847 fresh situations were offered by employers, and 753 fresh applications were made for employment during January. Work was found by the bureaux for 214 women. (For further particulars see pages 36 and 62.)

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week in January was 104,883, being 283 more than on the corresponding day of December, 1898. As compared with January, 1898, the number remains practically the same. On the same day in January 1,067 vagrants were relieved, as compared with 1,060 on the corresponding day of December, and 1,148 a year ago.

In the West Ham district the number of persons relieved on one day in the second week was 9,576 in January, 9,635 in December, and 8,872 a year ago. (For further details see page 62.)

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland.*—The Christmas and New Year holidays have affected the working of most of the pits. Steam and house coal pits have averaged respectively 5 days and 5·07 days per week, for the four weeks ending January 21st, as against 5·26 and 5·42 days in December. Out of 21,594 union miners 15 are unemployed. The 2,182 union deputies, colliery mechanics, engine, and firemen are fully employed. *Durham.*—Gas, house, manufacturing, and coking coal collieries, have each averaged 5·07, 5·05, 5·16, and 5·37 days per week, as against 5·45, 5·50, 5·55, and 5·66 days in December. At the 119 collieries employing 60,549 men and boys, from which returns have been received, an average of 5·19 days per week has been worked, as against 5·55 days in December. Of the 60,954 union miners, 275 (or 0·45 per cent.) are idle through bad trade, as well as 334 (or 0·55 per cent.) from other causes, as against 0·47 per cent. and 0·55 per cent. respectively, in December. Deputies and colliery enginemen with a membership of 2,841, have 12 unemployed. Coke workers are all fully employed.

Metal Mining.—Several additional men have been employed in Weardale lead mines. Ironstone miners generally have worked less than full time.

Quarrying.—In Gateshead and district employment has improved. Quarries at Blyth have worked fairly regularly. At Frosterley two are busy. Lime and whinstone quarries in Weardale, Stanhope and Haswell, are still well employed. A new quarry has been opened out at Wearhead.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry shows a falling off. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended January 21st, at the 18 pits from which returns have been received was 5·09 per week, as compared with 5·51 days per week a year ago. Owing to the Christmas and New Year holidays no useful comparison can be made with December, 1898. The number of workpeople employed in January, 1899, at the pits covered by the returns was 5,575, the corresponding number a year ago being 5,653.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended January 21st at the 46 mines from which returns have been received was 5·63 per week, as compared with 5·75 days per week in January, 1898. The remark made above as to Christmas holidays in the case of coal mining applies also to this industry. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 5,987, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,285.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast was 48 at the end of January, the same number as in December, 1898, and a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces in January was 3,636, this number showing but little change as compared with either a month or a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—In Oldham full time is the general rule. In Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, and Stockport employment is reported as good. Twiners report employment as slack in Oldham and Stockport; ring frame spinners and throstle-frame tenters as good. Throughout the district card room workers report employment as fair. *Weaving.*—The power-loom overlookers and weavers report employment as good in calicoes and as bad in velvets and fustians; ball warpers as moderate; sectional and beam warpers as fair; reelers and winders as moderate.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—Employment in the woolen trade in Rochdale and Milnrow districts is reported as moderate; in Stockport as bad. Silk dressers in Rochdale report employment as slack.

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

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate; painters and plumbers as slack; plasterers as fair.

Coal Mining.—The miners are fairly well employed. Full time is the rule at the collieries in Shaw and Crompton, Royton, Chadderton, and Oldham. A pit in the Ashton district is closed, throwing 350 miners out of employment.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—In Bolton and Chorley a further improvement in employment is reported. In Bury and Wigan employment is good. Cardroom operatives are well employed in Bolton, Farnworth, Leigh, Atherton and surrounding districts. *Weaving.*—In Bolton and vicinity weavers are fairly well employed. The improvement in Bury has been well maintained. Employment in Wigan and Chorley has improved.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment generally is good throughout the district.

Building Trades.—In Bolton and immediate district employment continues fairly good with painters, decorators, plumbers, bricklayers, masons and labourers; and is moderate with plasterers, slaters and flaggers. In Chorley it is irregular; in Wigan and Bury it is fairly good.

Coal Mining.—At Bolton, Darcy Lever, Little Hulton, Little Lever, and the surrounding colliery district most collieries continue active, the miners working on an average 5½ days per week. In Westhoughton, Hindley, and Wigan employment is reported as good.—*R. Tootill.*

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne.*—Machine men continue steadily employed. Fitters in engine shops are not so busy. Employment at the ordnance works, with the exception of the cartridge department, is still good. Electrical and locomotive shops are fairly active. Boiler shops are fully employed. Platers are in active demand, riveters are not so fully employed. Of these trades, with 12,591 members, 310 (or 2·5 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 562 (or 4·4 per cent. of their membership) in December. *On the Wear.*—There are no shipsmiths idle. Riveters and caulkers have had fuller employment. Forges and boiler shops are busy. Branches with 4,777 members have 125 (or 2·6 per cent.) idle, as against 176 (or 3·7 per cent. of their membership) in December. The 543 patternmakers on both rivers are all employed. Ironmoulders have few men idle. Employment with shipwrights is moderate on the Wear, better on the Tyne. Ship joiners on both rivers are quiet. The drillers and hole cutters have 3·1 per cent. unemployed; the brass finishers 1·9 per cent. Steel plate and angle mills at Consett have worked 5 shifts per week; smelting shops and furnaces full time; chain and anchor men 5½ shifts. Employment with sailmakers is fairly good, except on the south of the Tyne.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal porters have averaged 5 days per week. Trimmers and teamers have had full employment. Quayside labourers report employment as steady. Tyne watermen as good. Sailors and firemen are still in excess of the demand. Employment of tug boat men has improved.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders are well employed. Five paper mills have worked less than half-time; three others report employment as good.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment with cabinet-makers and upholsterers remains good. Mill sawyers report a slight decline. Coopers continue quiet.

Other Metal, Chemical and Glass Trades.—Chemical factories, with one exception, have worked full time. Copper works are fairly busy. White lead and cement factories continue steadily employed. Glass bottle makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour are all employed. Pressed glass makers have worked short time.

Fishing.—The catches landed by the trawl and line boats have been below the average. Prices have been exceptionally good.

J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners report employment as fairly good during the month. The average number of days worked by 22 mines reported on was 5·47 days during the 4 weeks ending January 21st, as compared with 5·59 days per week during the 4 weeks ending January 22nd, 1898.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The finished iron works have been actively employed during the month. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Arbitration and Conciliation Board wages have been advanced to forge and millmen 2½ per cent., and to puddlers 3d. per ton from the end of January. Employment continues good at steel works, blastfurnaces, bridge works, and metal expansion works. Pipe foundries are reported to be busy, chair foundries quiet.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is good at Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool, and Bishop Auckland; moderate at Darlington. With the patternmakers and ironfounders it is good throughout the district. Branches of these trades with 3,619 members have 41 (or 1·1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 42 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

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

Shipping, Dock and Riverside Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as quiet; dockers and riverside labourers as bad early in the month, but good towards the end.

Building Trades.—All branches except painters report employment as good for the season of the year.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as fair at the Hartlepoons, good at Darlington, Stockton and Middlesbrough; cabinet-makers and sawmillers as fair; woodworking machinists as good; cement workers and paper and pulp workers as busy; tailors as moderate; saltworkers as slack.—*A. Main.*

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

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment is reported as fairly good in Blackburn, good in Burnley, moderate in Preston and Nelson, good in Darwen, all the looms in the district being now working. In Colne there is an improvement in the coloured goods weaving trade, but in grey goods there is no change. There is a falling away in the hard waste trade. Loomers and drawers continue fully occupied. Employment with warp dressers is fair in Colne, but only moderate in Nelson, Brierfield and Burnley. **Spinning.**—Employment is stated to be good in Preston, Darwen, Blackburn and Padiham; brisk in Accrington; moderate in Burnley; good with ring frame spinners and card room workers throughout the district. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers and warp dressers, with 3,997 members, have 140 (or 3·5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 173 (or 4·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is only moderate.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers and ironfounders report employment as moderate; fitters and erectors in the machine shops as good.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment with coal miners is reported as fair in Accrington; as good in Burnley and district. Stone quarrymen are only moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers report employment as good; cabinet-makers as quiet; tailors as fair; felt printers as slack; boot, shoe, and slipper makers as improved; calico printers and dyers as declined.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,117 members have 831 (or 3·9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 728 (or 3·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Manchester engineers, boiler-makers, sheet metal workers, and smiths and strikers, describe employment as moderate; brass founders and finishers and machine workers as good. Ironfounders throughout the district report employment as good. In Warrington engineers, wire drawers, and wire weavers are fully employed; filesmiths moderately so. At Northwich the engineers are slack, but boiler-makers are busy, and smiths and strikers moderately so.

Building Trades.—In Stockport, Warrington, and Manchester, plumbers, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners and plasterers, report employment as moderate; bricklayers' labourers as good; painters as bad. In Macclesfield and Northwich employment is slack.

Textile Trades.—Employment with cotton-spinners remains moderate. In Stockport and Macclesfield looms are fully occupied, and spinners and card-room operatives are working full time. In the silk trade handloom weavers are slack, and powerloom weavers are moderately well employed. The "bleachers and dyers" report employment as good; the "dressers, dyers, and finishers" as bad, but slightly better.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is slack with bespoke tailors, Jewish tailors, and boot and shoe makers; and still bad in the felt hat trade; in the wholesale tailoring department it is fair. Capmakers and shirtmakers are fully employed. Ready-made mantle-makers, waterproof garment-makers, and fustian cutters are moderately well employed.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinetmakers and upholsterers in Manchester report employment as bad; in Warrington they are fully employed. Employment is good with French polishers for the time of year. Coachmakers in Manchester, in railway and private shops, continue busy, but in Warrington they are only moderately well employed. Coopers are fairly busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers has fallen off in Manchester and Stockport. In Macclesfield it remains moderate. Lithographic artists report employment as bad; lithographic printers as moderate; stereotypers, bookbinders, and pattern-card makers as fair.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Employment continues fair with boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders. The patternmakers, turners, brassfounders, ironfounders, drillers, whitesmiths, iron and steel dressers, hammermen, and shipwrights report employment as good; the ship joiners and painters as moderate.

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

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinetmakers, coopers and mill-sawyers report employment as fair; upholsterers and

French polishers as rather quiet but improving; coachmakers as moderate.

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

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors and boot and shoe makers report employment as moderate; ready-made tailoring operatives as fairly good.

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

Coalmining and Quarrying.—Coalminers report employment as fair throughout the district. Quarrymen are fully employed.

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

Miscellaneous.—Saddlers and harness-makers report employment as fair; street paviers as busy.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade is bad. In both Winsford and Middlewich employment is moderate with boiler smiths and barge-repairers, dull in the building trade, and slack with fustian-cutters. Moulders at Winsford report employment as moderate.

YORKSHIRE.**Hull and District.**

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—There has been a slight slackness in some departments of these trades. The engineers, machine-workers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, brassfounders and finishers, brassworkers, shipwrights, sailmakers, and general labourers report employment as good; the steam engine-makers, marine engineers, smiths and strikers, pattern-makers, boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, and drillers and hole cutters as moderate. At Beverley, Grimsby, New Holland, and Selby the engineers, smiths, and iron shipbuilders report employment as good; the boiler-makers at Grimsby, and engineers at Doncaster as moderate. At Goole the engineers and smiths report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good throughout the district.

Transport Trades.—Railway-workers report employment as good; seamen and firemen as moderate; dock labourers as moderate at Hull and Goole, bad at Grimsby. Employment with deal and timber carriers is good at Grimsby, has fallen off at Hull; with seed and grain workers it is fair.

Fishing.—Employment with trawl fishermen is good at Grimsby, moderate at Hull; with fish market labourers good at Grimsby, fair at Hull; with steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen, and with curing house workers moderate at both ports.

Seed Crushing, Oil, Paint and Colour Trades.—Employment in the seed crushing mills and paint and colour works is reported as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—At Hull the letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as fair. At Doncaster employment with letterpress printers is good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists, coopers, cabinet-makers, and coach-builders at Hull, and coachbuilders at Doncaster, report employment as moderate.

Leather Trades.—The tanners, leather belt makers, and lacecutters report employment as fair.

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

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,489 members have 298 (or 3·5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 256 (or 3·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Leeds the engineers, boiler-makers, steel workers, ironfounders, patternmakers, machine workers, spindle and flyer makers, stove grate workers, and tinsmith workers report employment as good; brassworkers as good in the engineering trade, but moderate in other departments. At Wakefield employment in the engineering and iron trades has improved. At Stanningley bridge builders continue busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade has been quiet, but has slightly improved; with Jewish operatives it has been bad. Bespoke tailors are slack. Employment in the

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

boot and shoe trade in Leeds has been fair, and the improvement at Heckmondwike has been maintained.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Leeds mills has not been good. Blanket raisers are slack; linen workers are on short time; willeys and fettlers are quiet. Employment in the dyeing trade is bad, not more than three days a week being worked at some establishments. At Wakefield worsted and cloth mills are on short time; at Yeadon there is no improvement.

Building Trades.—Employment shows a slight decline, mainly due to the frost.

Mining.—Regular employment has been maintained at the Leeds, Castleford, and Pontefract pits, full time being generally worked.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the Leeds tanneries is improving; with curriers it is fair. Saddlers and harness makers are slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair; lithographers as moderate; bookbinders and machine rulers as good. Paper mill workers are fairly employed.

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

Miscellaneous.—Brushmakers report employment as moderate; coachmakers, cabinetmakers and mill sawyers as good; terra cotta workers as fair.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment at Bradford in the weaving and woolcombing branches continues bad. Woollsorters are better employed. In the Worth Valley employment is moderate, mills working full time. In Keighley those engaged in mohair and bright wools are busy, others are quiet. In Huddersfield and Halifax employment is about the same.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield is about the same. Overtime is not so common as it was a month or two ago. In the heavy woollen district of Batley and Dewsbury employment is still dull. In Ravensthorpe especially numbers are either working short time or not working at all.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton trade is reported as fair at Huddersfield; quiet at Brighouse; a little better at Halifax. In the silk trade it is reported as fairly good for time of year at Manningham, and busy at Brighouse.

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

Building Trades.—Employment throughout the district continues fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—The dyers at Bradford report employment as moderate; at Huddersfield as bad. Tailors and printers report employment as quiet.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Blast furnace men, armour plate rollers, and ironworkers generally are busy. Employment with steelworkers and in the engineering trade is good. Stove grate workers continue fairly employed. Railway spring makers and tyre and axle makers are quiet. At Barnsley the engineers are slack, owing to the ironfounders' dispute. At Rotherham and Parkgate steel workers are busy. Ironworkers are fairly well employed at Rotherham and Masbro; rather quiet at Parkgate. Bath-makers are busy. Branches with 4,147 members have 54 (or 1·3 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of December.

Cutlery and Tools.—Workmen employed in the table, butcher, pen and pocket knife trades are slack generally. In the engineers' tool and edged tool trades employment is good; with saw and saw handle makers, makers of spades and shovels and miners' tools, and forgers of small files fairly good; with machine forgers moderate; with cutters and hardeners quiet; with haft and scale pressers fair. Employment with all branches of the razor trade has improved.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the silver, electro-plate, Britannia metal and brass trades is moderate, in the spoon and fork trade fair. At Rotherham brass workers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—In Sheffield all branches continue busy, except painters and decorators. Employment in Barnsley is only moderate; at Rotherham, Mexborough and Normanton good.

Glass Trade.—At Mexborough bottle-makers report employment as moderate. At Barnsley bottle-makers and flint glass workers are slack. At Rotherham medicine bottle-makers are well employed.

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

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinetmakers are fairly well employed; coachmakers are quiet; railway carriage and wagon-builders busy. At Barnsley cabinetmakers and bobbin-makers are well employed; boxmakers are quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors in Sheffield continues slack. In Barnsley it is bad with both the bespoke and ready-made branches; in Rotherham quiet. Boot and shoe makers are slack generally.

Linen Trade.—Employment in the linen trade is slack.

Miscellaneous.—Harness-makers and saddlers report employment as good. At Barnsley down quilt makers have many unemployed. In the Normanton district brickmakers, quarrymen and chemical workers are busy.—*S. Uttley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.**Derbyshire District.**

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners), with 7,235 members have 94 (or 1·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 83 (or 1·1 per cent. of their membership), at the end of December.

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

Coal Mining.—Returns from 68 collieries, employing 31,000 men, show an average of 58 days worked per week, as compared with 51 days in December.

Quarrying.—Limestone and chert quarrymen continue busy.

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

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in Derby and Long Eaton continues good with railway-carriage and wagon-builders, and with carriage-builders in private shops. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as improving. Most timber yards are fairly well employed.

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

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives in Derby report employment as slack, in Chesterfield as moderate; corset makers and dress and mantle makers as moderate. Wholesale garment makers are fully employed. Bespoke tailors are dull.

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

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment on the whole has slightly improved. The levers branch report employment as bad; the curtain branch as fair; the plain net branch as good; warp lace workers, correctors and curtain readers, as bad; designers and draughtsmen and warpers as fair; card punchers as good; auxiliary laceworkers as moderate. Bleachers at Basford are fairly well employed; dyers at Nottingham moderately so.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment at Nottingham has improved with the power frame branch; is good with the rib top branch and hand frame branch; and fair with the circular hosiery branch. Elastic bandage makers report employment as good. At Sutton employment is moderate with the hand, fair with the power frame branch. With the wool shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard it has slightly improved. Hosiery trimmers at Basford, Bulwell and Nottingham are moderately employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the general engineering and iron trade is reported as bad; in the lace-machine and hosiery-machine building trade as fair. Tool machinists

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

report employment as improved; cycle makers as steadier; steam-engine makers as moderate; ironfounders, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, brassfounders and brassworkers, as good; bobbin and carriage makers as less satisfactory; carriage straighteners as good. Branches with 2,911 members have 117 (or 4.0 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 166 (or 5.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Coal Mining.—There has been a marked improvement in employment during the month. Returns from 30 collieries employing 16,144 men, show an average of 4½ days per week.

Building Trades.—Painters report employment as slack; otherwise employment continues fair on the whole.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Millsawyers report employment as moderate; coachmakers, coopers, cabinet-makers, French-polishers and upholsterers as good; box makers as fairly good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair; lithographic printers and artists as moderate; bookbinders as good; cutters and general labourers as fairly good.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives report employment as improved at Nottingham, and fairly good at Mansfield; tailors as slack at Grantham, moderate at Mansfield and at Newark, bad at Nottingham. The ready-made tailoring and mantle departments report active employment.

Miscellaneous.—Bakers report employment as improved; the stationary engine drivers, engine and crane men, and gas stokers as good. Female cigar makers are fairly busy.

W. L. Harstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—At Leicester and in the surrounding towns employment is distinctly better, and in the clicking and machinery branches overtime is being worked. At Northampton, Kettering, Higham, and Rushden work is more regular.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment continues fairly good in the wholesale tailoring trade, but slack in the bespoke branch. It is quieter with corset-makers, and still moderate with milliners and dressmakers. Hatters are not fully employed, but employment is improving in the silk hat and capmaking branches.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—In the Leicester hosiery trade employment is fairly regular. At Loughborough it is good with shirt and pantmakers, but quiet with those engaged on hose and the finer goods. It is slack with glovemakers. Work is moderate with dyers and trimmers both at Leicester and Hinckley; improving with woolspinning operatives.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment is reported as slightly better in all branches.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Nearly all departments of the engineering trade report employment as good, being brisk with ironmoulders, boiler-makers and toolmakers, and improving slightly with needlemakers and operatives in the cycle trade.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners in this district continue better employed. Work is likewise good with stone settmakers, millmen, and lime and iron stone miners.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment continues good with letterpress printers at Northampton, Kettering, and Loughborough. It is quiet with lithographic printers, and good with bookbinders at Leicester.

Building Trades.—At Leicester and Kettering employment in most branches continues good; at Northampton and Rugby work is slack.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Cabinetmakers are fully employed, but in the upholstering trades employment continues dull. It is good with coachmakers.

Leather Trades.—Tanners at Northampton and Market Harborough are well employed. Curriers and dressers are slack.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with brick, tile, and terracotta makers, brushmakers and farriers. It is not quite so brisk with railway workers, and is moderate with millsawyers, bakers and cigar-makers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment has been quiet, stocktaking being general. Hollow-ware pressers, although moderately well employed, have a number unemployed. Sanitary pressers are well employed. Flat pressers continue busy. Printers and transferers report a further improvement. Women gilders and decorators, men artists, and throwers and turners in the general trade are fairly busy; electrical turners are brisk. Designers, modellers, mould-makers and encaustic tile-makers are well employed. Packers report a slight decline. Cratemakers and women still and

spur-makers are well employed. Ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggar-makers are fairly busy in most towns, but at Burslem a decline is reported.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Throughout North Staffordshire all classes of iron and steel workers continue well employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, moulders and boiler-makers throughout North Staffordshire continue well employed; at Crewe they are moderately busy; at Stafford a slight decline is reported; copper-workers at Oakmoor and Froghall, brass-finishers and moulders at Longport and Milton, and agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley continue busy.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good throughout the district.

Textile Trades.—At Leek trimming weavers report employment as fairly good; pickers and braiders, winders, doublers, spinners, throwsters and dyers are all fully employed. At Congleton silk dressers are moderately busy; towel weavers continue well employed; fustian cutters report employment as bad. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives continue busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as quiet. Boot and shoemakers at Stafford report an improvement. At Stone the scarcity of employment continues. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne continue busy.

Building Trades.—Employment continued brisk until the frost.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report no change; at Stafford employment continues good. Lithographic artists and printers, bookbinders, and machine rulers continue moderately busy.

Miscellaneous.—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue well employed; bakers are fairly busy; railway workers are moderately employed; gasworkers and brick and tile workers are busy.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues good with steel smelters, and is better in the iron bar, sheet, angle, and hoop trades. In the steel trade it is good. Mills and forges are well employed. In Shropshire the wire mills and forges are in full work.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment with engineers, moulders, and boiler, bridge, girder, and tank makers is good. Electrical shops are working double shifts. Employment in the cycle trade is improving slowly. In the malleable iron trade at Walsall it is quiet. At Madeley and Coalbrook Dale employment continues good.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of nuts and bolts, tubes, wrought iron work, builders' ironmongery, axles, springs and coach iron work, gun locks, electrical castings and malleable nails and protectors, and with galvanizers. Stampers and piercers are busy. Employment is moderate with makers of iron fences and hurdles, light hollow ware, tips and cut nails, hinges and black castings; quiet with makers of locks, keys and latches and with brassworkers. Tinplate workers and edge tool makers are slack. Trapmakers, filesmiths and spectacle-frame makers are working four days per week. At Halesowen employment with the wrought nail makers is slack, and with spikemakers fair. The rivet-makers at Blackheath are well employed. Employment in the Bilston and Lye iron plate trade has fallen off. The chain-makers and strikers at Old Hill and district report employment as good. Anchor-smiths at Cradley and anvil and vice-makers at Dudley are still quiet.

Coal Mining.—At the pits on Cannock Chase employment is reported as good. The Tipton, Oldbury, Dudley, and Netherton pits are working 5½ to 6 days per week. Old Hill district averages 5½ days per week. The Tamworth and Shropshire pits are in full swing.

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

Glass Trades.—At Wordsley and district employment in the flint glass trade is good in all its branches. The glass bottle-makers at Brierley Hill are well employed.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the leather trade at Walsall is dull in all branches.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster employment in the carpet trade is good in both the spinning and the weaving departments. The mills at Bridgnorth and Tamworth are well employed.

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

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

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 20,419 members have 403 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 383 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Engineering.—Seven branches of engineers report employment as moderate, two as good, and one as bad. Toolmakers return employment as moderate; pattern-makers as fair; ironfounders and smiths and strikers as good. At West Bromwich employment continues good; at Redditch and Coventry it is moderate. In the cycle industry it is a little better; in the motor industry it is fair.

Brass and Copper Trades.—With brass workers employment on the whole has been good; with brass and copper wire-drawers moderate. There are a number of metal-rollers, annealers, and casters out of work, partly owing to disputes. Fender-makers and fire-brass workers are well employed. In Dudley fender-workers are fairly well employed.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electroplaters.—Jewellers report employment as brisker; electroplaters are moderately employed; Britannia metal workers and plate-glass bevellers and silverers are fully employed.

Other Metal Trades.—The bedstead workers return employment as bad, with half the men on short time; tinplate workers, file cutters and ironplate workers and cut nail makers as fair. Matchette makers, heavy steel toymakers, wrought iron and steel hinge makers, tube makers for gas, steam, and water, and nail and oddsie casters as good; edge tool grinders and polishers and wire nail makers as bad; cycle tube makers as a little busier. At West Bromwich employment with spring makers is good; with hollow-ware makers fair. At Redditch employment in the needle trade is good; fish hook makers are fully employed; fishing tackle makers fairly so.

Building Trades.—Employment in Birmingham, Coventry and West Bromwich continues fair; in Redditch it is rather quiet.

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

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and machinists report employment as good. Woodworkers in the railway carriage and wagon shops are fully employed. Coachmakers, coopers and cabinet-makers are quiet.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe makers and the tailors continue quiet.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers return employment as moderate, gasworkers as good, brickmakers and general labourers as moderate. At Coventry employment with weavers is quiet, with watchmakers fair.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are not busy. Ready-made tailoring factories in Norwich are on full time. Corsetmakers are making full time at Lynn; at Diss employment is dull. Boot and shoe makers are fairly well employed at Cambridge; at Norwich employment has improved.

Building Trades.—Employment is good throughout the district except with the painters.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers are well employed. Shipwrights and boatbuilders are fairly busy.

Fishing Industry.—Trawling at Lowestoft and Yarmouth has been fairly good. Herring and mackerel boats are laid up. At Wells and Lynn the shell fishing has been slow.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Letterpress printers in Norwich are not busy; at Lynn employment is fair. Lithographic printers are slack. Bookbinders are fairly busy.

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

Miscellaneous.—Horticultural builders at Norwich are busy. Wire weavers are slack. Saw mills, oilcake and flour mills are fully employed. Sweet and jam factories are not busy. Brushmakers are fairly well employed.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—At Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Chelmsford, Halstead and Earl's Colne, employment is reported as good; at Ipswich as fair. Boiler-makers at Ipswich are well employed, shipwrights moderately so.

Clothing Trades.—The operatives in the wholesale branch of the tailoring trade report employment as dull at Ipswich and Colchester; the boot and shoe operatives are also slack. Corset-makers at Ipswich report an improvement; at Sudbury employment is good.

Textile Trades.—The mat weavers at Hadleigh, Long Melford, and Lavenham are well employed; at Glemsford fairly so; at Sudbury they are dull. Silk weavers report employment as good. The factory operatives at Halstead are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and painters at Ipswich, and painters at Chelmsford, report employment as dull; otherwise, employment is fairly good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Beccles and Colchester; fair at Ipswich; moderate at Southend. Bookbinders and lithographers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour has been dull at Ipswich; good at Harwich and Parkeston. Brickmakers at Sudbury and Chelmsford, and general labourers and gasworkers at Ipswich, Colchester and Chelmsford are fairly well employed.

R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Societies and branches with 8,632 members have 304 (or 3.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 240 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Building Trades.—Employment is slack in Bristol and Bath; fair at Gloucester, Cheltenham, and Swindon; and good at Hereford, Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare, Bridgewater, and Taunton. Branches with 3,553 members have 206 (or 5.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 108 (or 3.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Engineering Trades.—Branches with 2,557 members have 28 (or 1.1 per cent.) out of work, as against 51 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The fitters, boiler-makers, pattern-makers, iron and brassfounders, toolmakers, and smiths report employment as good; the brass finishers as fair; the shipwrights as quiet.

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

Clothing Trades.—The wholesale garment-makers and silk hatters report employment as improving; the bespoke tailors as bad. Corset-makers are busy. Employment in the Bristol boot and shoe industry is steadily improving; but the heavy nail branch in the Kingswood district is now quiet.

Mining and Quarrying.—All collieries in the district are working full time. The iron ore and stone quarry workers are also reported as in full swing.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers, upholsterers and coachmakers report employment as fair; the mill sawyers, coopers, lathrenders and French polishers as quiet.

Textile and Silk Trades.—Employment at Twerton-on-Avon is reported as brisk; at Stroud as good on worsted, but dull on heavy woollen goods. Three-quarter time continues at Wellington. The silk net trade at Tiverton is exceptionally busy.

Miscellaneous.—Dock labourers report employment as dull; sailors as brisk; curriers as quiet; brick and tile makers, and oil and colourmen as good; brushmakers as slack.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South Western District.

Tin Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—In the tin mining districts employment continues to improve, mines being restarted. Work in the granite quarries is good; in the limestone and slate quarries moderate. China clay work is reported as rather quieter.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as moderate in Plymouth and Devonport; good at Newton and Redruth; bad in Exeter. Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders have good employment. Shipwrights are busy, especially in the Government yards. Brass and tinplate workers are fairly employed. Branches with 2,183 members have 20 unemployed, as compared with 13 at the end of December.

Building Trades.—Stonemasons continue well employed; bricklayers, plasterers, and plumbers report employment as moderate in Plymouth and Devonport, but fallen off in Exeter; painters are

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

dull; carpenters are fairly employed. Branches with 3,287 members have 69 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 40 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Clothing Trades.—Employment continues dull in the bespoke tailoring trade, but has slightly improved in the ready-made branch; boot and shoe makers report employment as dull.

Printing and kindred Trades.—With letterpress printers in Plymouth, Devonport, and Torquay employment was quiet in the early part of the month, but improved later; in Exeter it is good. Lithographic printers are moderately employed. Bookbinders and paper rulers are busier.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and machinists are steadily employed; cabinetmakers and upholsterers are quiet.

Dock and Quayside Work.—Employment has been bad with quay workers, but at present lumpers are busy.

Fishing Industry.—Owing to gales and storms fishing was impossible in the first two weeks of the month; catches since then have been generally light, prices high.

Miscellaneous.—Government labourers are well employed, gas workers, general labourers, brickyard workers, and excavators fairly so; bakers quiet. There is little doing in market and fruit gardens.—*W. Hedge.*

WALES.

North Wales District.

Mining.—Employment continues brisk throughout the North Wales coalfield and at the lead and blende mines of Flintshire.

Quarrying.—Employment continues good at the slate quarries, brisk at the granite sett quarries. Freestone, limestone and road-stone quarries are fully employed.

Building Trades.—Employment at Wrexham continues slack elsewhere it is fairly good.

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

Clothing and Textile Industries.—Employment in the flannel and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire is quiet. The bespoke tailors at Bangor report employment as quiet; at Wrexham, Oswestry, and Rhyl as slack.

Brick and Terra-cotta Industries.—Employment at brick and terra-cotta works is reported as steady throughout the district.

G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Employment has been exceptionally brisk throughout the district. Where full time has not been worked it has been almost entirely due to the want of empties for clearance. The sliding scale audit brings a reduction in wages of 1/4 per cent.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Returns from 8 large steel works show that mills and furnaces are on full time and busy, except in one case, where the furnaces are working full time, but the mills are running about 4 days per week.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—The engineers, boiler-makers, shipwrights, boiler-makers' helpers, fitters' helpers and general labourers have been busy during the month. Branches of engineers and ironfounders with 2,676 members have 10 (or 0.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 54 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Building Trades.—The plumbers report employment as quiet. With other branches employment generally is moderate. Branches of the carpenters and joiners and plumbers with 1,662 members have 33 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 56 (or 3.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been large; iron ore and pitwood imports good; timber trade moderate. Corn porters have not been so well employed. Ship painters and scruffers and boiler cleaners have had a busy month. There has been considerable activity in the shipment of crews.

Miscellaneous.—Fuel workers and wagon builders, repairers and lifters have been busy; chemical and metallurgical works are quiet, with only partial plant going at several works; lithographers and letterpress printers report employment as dull.—*T. Davies.*

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.—Employment fell off somewhat during the month. At the end 306 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), giving employment to 15,632 workpeople, as compared with 322 mills, employing 16,795 workpeople, at the end of December.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 14,191 members have 209 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 271 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

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

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 37 pits employing 3,810 workpeople (as compared with 3,832 in January, 1898) show that 208 were employed in pits at which full time was worked during the four weeks ending January 21st, 1,332 at pits working 22 and under 24 days, and 2,270 at pits working less than 22 days.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,279 members have 29 (or 1.3 per cent.) idle, as against 38 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Branches in Falkirk with 3,249 members have 12 (or 0.4 per cent.) idle, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of December.

Shipbuilding.—Branches of shipwrights and boiler-makers, with 590 members have 16 (or 2.7 per cent.) idle, as against 61 (or 10.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Textile Trades.—Employment with woollen spinners and weavers is dull in Hawick; in Galashiels there is considerable idleness; in Selkirk they are generally fully employed. Employment in the hosiery trade has improved in Selkirk, but is not so good in Hawick. Employment with the carpet weavers in Midlothian continues good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 3,503 members have 35 (or 1.0 per cent.) idle, as against 21 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,096 members have 29 (or 2.6 per cent.) idle, as against 43 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as quiet. The dock labourers and coal porters have not been so well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,346 members have 47 (or 2.0 per cent.) idle, as against 62 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership), at the end of December.

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

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment has continued good. Branches with 13,247 members return 278 (or 2.1 per cent.) as idle, as against 151 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in all branches continues good. Branches with 27,753 members return 465 (or 1.7 per cent.) as idle, as against 455 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Building Trades.—Employment has been good during the month in all branches except with painters.

Mining.—Employment in the coal mines in Stirlingshire, Lanarkshire, and Dumfriesshire has been good; in Ayrshire, in both coal and ironstone mines the men are working full time; coal and ironstone miners in Renfrewshire are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring trade is reported as dull; in the ready-made branch as fair in some shops, dull in others; with mantle makers as fair. Boot and shoe operatives and slipper makers report employment as dull; knee boot and shoemakers and carriers as fair.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow employment with silk weavers continues dull; with cotton weavers, pattern weavers, rope spinners, calendermen, beamers and warpers, it is fair; with dyers bad. Carpet weavers are busy. In Kilbirnie thread mills and net and rope works are working full time. In Paisley some thread-mill operatives are working short time; carpet weavers are busy. In Port Glasgow textile workers are busy. In Greenock wool-mill workers are quiet. Rope spinners are busy.

Transport Trades.—Dock labourers in Glasgow and Greenock were dull at the end of the month; carters, hackney carriage drivers, railway and tramway men are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers have not been so busy. Bookbinders report employment as dull; electrotypers and stereotypers as not so good.

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

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

Miscellaneous.—Sett makers, marquee and sheetmakers, spindle and flyer makers, brush makers, hairdressers' assistants, scale beam makers, corkcutters, and labourers report employment as good; paviors as quiet; potters, tobacco pipe makers and finishers as fair; gilders, saddlers, and calico engravers as dull.

A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry continues fairly good. In the linen trade machinery is still well employed.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the collieries in Fifeshire has continued brisk. Reports from pits employing 11,107 workpeople, show an average of 4.4 days per week worked during the four weeks ending January 21st, this period including the New Year holidays.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in all departments of the engineering and shipbuilding industries continues good. Branches of societies with 2,371 members return 55 (or 2.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 60 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—In the building trades employment generally continues good, although slightly interfered with by frost. Branches with 1,487 members have 17 (or 1.1 per cent.) idle, as against 26 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The dispute in the furniture trades having terminated, the men are gradually being taken on.

Fishing Industry.—In the first fortnight takes were poor owing to stormy weather. A considerable improvement in the takes was reported towards the end of the month.

Dock Labour.—Employment was dull during the first three weeks of the month, but improved towards the end.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and allied trades has continued good. It is reported as still quiet with the tailors, moderate with the boot and shoe makers, and brisk with floorcloth and linoleum makers.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,477 members have 86 (or 1.3 per cent.) idle, as compared with 33 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Quarrying.—Quarrymen, sett makers, and masons report employment as good; granite polishers as fair.

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

Transport Trades.—Railway workers, general labourers, and carters report employment as good; dock labourers as moderate.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,426 members have 21 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 9 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The boiler-makers, iron and steel shipbuilders, shipwrights, blacksmiths, ironmoulders, brassfinishers, pattern makers and horse shoers report employment as good; the engineers and tinplate workers as fair.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as quiet; carpet weavers as fair; boot and shoe makers (hand-sewn) as bad; mill and factory workers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment as good; lithographic printers as fair.

Fishing.—In January, at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 61,242 cwts., with a value of £44,168, an increase in quantity and a decrease in value as compared with December.

Miscellaneous.—Comb makers, saddlers, sawmillers, and cabinet-makers report employment as good; upholsterers and bakers as quiet.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Plasterers, bricklayers, and glaziers report employment as good; plumbers, slaters, painters, whiteners, and sawmill machinists as fair.

Metal Trades.—Employment is returned as good with the ironfounders, boiler-makers, and silver plate workers; as fair with the brassfinishers, tinsmiths, and whitesmiths; as moderate with the engineers, and slack with the gasfitters.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Work is returned as fair with the coachmakers, cart and wagon-builders; as dull with the saddlers and upholsterers.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers report em-

ployment as good; bookbinders, stereotypers, machine-minders and newspaper packers as fair; lithographers as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—One branch of bootmakers returns employment as good; the other as quiet. The ropemakers, coal labourers, engine-drivers, and cork cutters return employment as fair; brush makers and paviors as good; lathe splitters as dull.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Societies connected with these industries, with 8,185 members, have 219 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 216 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The furnishing trades, steam engine makers, smiths' helpers and strikers, enginemen, cranesmen and firemen report employment as fair; engineers, carpenters and joiners and machine workers as quiet; pattern-makers as steady; blacksmiths, boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights, drillers, sheet metal workers, brassfounders, ironfounders, and general labourers as good.

Linen Trades.—Branches of societies with 4,022 members have 102 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 91 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The powerloom tenters report employment as bad; flax roughers as dull; beetlers, flax-dressers, beamers, bundlers, women workers as fair; hackle and gill makers, linen lappers and yarn dressers as good.

Building Trades.—Societies with 2,804 members have 262 (or 9.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 155 (or 5.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Employment is reported as bad in almost every branch.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches of societies with 762 members return 63 (or 8.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 53 (or 6.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Employment in all sections is reported to be quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 931 members have 63 (or 6.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 44 (or 4.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The letterpress printers report employment as dull; lithographic printers as moderate; lithographic artists, bookbinders, and machine rulers as fair.

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

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,798 members have 55 (or 3.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 47 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The carters report employment as dull; bakers, butchers, railway-workers, and municipal employees as fair; locomotive engine drivers and paviors as good.

R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as good in Cork, Passage West, and Haulbowline; fair in Limerick; engineers, shipwrights, riggers, and sailmakers as good.

Building Trades.—Employment is dull throughout the district.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as dull; stationary engine men, railway workers, coal porters, and quay labourers as fair; gas workers and corporation labourers as quiet; coopers as dull.—*P. O'Shea.*

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES.

The annual report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies* (Part B) for the year 1897, has just been issued, and shows that at the end of 1897 there were 2,204 societies on the register for the United Kingdom (compared with 2,119 at the end of 1896), comprising 1,917 societies "for carrying on industries and trades"; 155 societies "for carrying on businesses," which includes workmen's clubs, trading banks, and loan societies; and 132 land and building societies.

Of the 1,917 societies for carrying on industries and trades, 1,730 made returns; of these, 1,311, with a total membership of 1,256,666, and sales amounting to £48,056,961, were in England Wales; 318, with a membership of 253,578, and £13,086,379 of sales, were in Scotland; and 107, with 10,616 members, and £493,854 of sales, were in Ireland.

It is stated that 1,167 of the societies making returns give credit, and that 478 do not, no particulars being given as to the remaining 85 societies.

Of the 1,730 societies, 152 stated that they were societies for production, 813 were societies for distribution, and 725 stated that they carried on both production and distribution. The remaining 40 societies are not classified.

* Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending December 31st, 1897, Part B, Appendix L, Industrial and Provident Societies, H.C. 150-1, 1898. [Price, 1s. 6d.]

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY, 1899.

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

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during January affected about 168,700 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected was an increase of about 1½d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those of 2½ per cent. and 3d. per ton, arranged under the respective sliding scales to 29,350 ironworkers in the North of England, Midlands and West of Scotland, and the increase in time and piece rates to upwards of 7,000 ironfounders in Scotland.

Decreases.—The principal decrease was that of 1¼ per cent., under the sliding scale, to 120,000 Welsh miners.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 200 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 152,100 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales. The other changes, affecting about 16,400 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between the employers and representatives of the workpeople, or conceded voluntarily by the employers.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

* Exclusive of overtime.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JANUARY, 1899.

The changes reported in January affected 505 workpeople, whose recognised working time was reduced on the average 1.55 hours per week. The changes were all decreases, and were brought about without cessation of work.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Extent of decrease per week.

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. † Where the winter and the summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are the result of averaging the hours for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES OF SEAMEN.

DURING January increases in rates of wages as compared with those prevailing in December have been granted to 307 A.B.'s and 406 firemen and trimmers shipped on foreign going vessels from London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Grangemouth and Grimsby. These advances have been of 5s. and 10s. per month, and of 1s. and 1s. 6d. per week. On the other hand, the advanced rates which were paid during December on the Tyne and Wear have not been generally maintained, 90s. and 95s. per month having been paid in many cases in place of 100s. in December. These reductions affected 360 A.B.'s and 384 firemen during January. The following table gives details as to the numbers affected and the rates paid :-

Table showing changes in rates of wages for seamen across various ports (Liverpool, London, Grangemouth, Glasgow, Grimsby, Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields, Sunderland) categorized by A.B.'s and Firemen and Trimmers, with columns for Rates of Wages (Before Change, After Change) and sub-sections for INCREASES and DECREASES.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during January show a considerable increase as compared with both January, 1898, and 1897, the increase being most marked in the case of American cotton. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was about the same as in the corresponding month of 1898, but shows an increase as compared with January, 1897. The following are the figures for the different periods :-

Table showing Cotton Statistics: Imports to Inland Towns and Exports from Ports for January 1899, 1898, and 1897.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended February 4th, amounted to £7,298,122, an increase of £251,065 (or 3·6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1898. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,944,605, an increase of £77,911, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,353,517, an increase of £173,154.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during January numbered 384, being 62 more than in January, 1898, 60 more than in January, 1897, and the same number as in January, 1896.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during January amounted to £593,066, an increase of £6,158 as compared with January, 1898. In England and Wales and Ireland there were decreases of £4,469 and £758 respectively, while in Scotland there was an increase of £11,385.

* Sailing vessels. † Trimmers. ‡ Includes 10 trimmers.

DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

RETURNS showing the rates of dividend paid to members on purchases for the third quarter of 1898 have been received from 952 co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom with a total membership of 1,353,552. For the corresponding period of 1897, the returns received related to 882 societies only with a total membership of 1,217,160.

The returns from the 952 societies in 1898, as grouped in Table I. below, show that over 56 per cent. of the total members received dividends on their purchases ranging from 2s. 1d. to 3s. in the £, the average dividend for the United Kingdom being 2s. 7·21d., as compared with 2s. 7·58d., the average paid by the 882 societies which made returns for the corresponding period of 1897.

In Table II. the average dividend paid in the several districts is shown separately. From this it will be seen that in England and Wales the highest average dividend (3s. 0·50d.) was paid in the northern counties, the bulk of the societies being in the mining districts of Durham and Northumberland, and the lowest average dividend (1s. 4·54d.) in the London district, the average for the 742 societies in England and Wales being 2s. 6·68d., compared with 2s. 6·99d. the average returned by 690 societies for the corresponding period of 1897.

In Scotland the highest dividend was paid also in the northern counties, being 2s. 11·28d., compared with 2s. 9·20d. in the southern counties, the average for 210 societies in Scotland and Ireland being 2s. 9·87d. compared with 2s. 10·52d., the average returned by 192 societies for the corresponding period of 1897.

The rates of dividend shown are those paid upon the main volume of trade. In a few cases higher or lower dividends were paid upon purchases from minor departments, such as butchery, drapery, etc.

TABLE I.—Number and membership of Co-operative Distributive Societies paying the undermentioned rates of dividend per £1 of purchases in the third quarter of the year 1898 :-

Table I: Rates of dividend per £1 of purchases. Columns include Rates of dividend per £1, Number of Societies (England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, Total), Membership of Societies making returns for 3rd quarter of 1898, and Percentage for corresponding period of 1897.

TABLE II.—Number and membership of Co-operative Distributive Societies included in Table I., classified by districts; with average dividend per £1 of purchases paid for the third quarter of 1898 in each district :-

Table II: Districts. Columns include Districts, No. of Societies, Membership (Number, Percentage of total), and Average Dividend (s. d.).

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during January was 416, or 64 less than in December, and 63 more than in January, 1898.

In the first group of industries shown in the following table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,291,998 persons (according to the latest available figures), 402 persons were killed, and 6,709 reported injured by accidents in January, as compared with 334 killed and 4,706 reported injured in January, 1898. These figures give one death in January, 1899, for every 13,164 persons employed in those industries.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 14 persons were reported killed, and 881 injured, in January, as compared with 19 reported killed and 533 injured in January, 1898.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Summary Table: Industrial Accidents Reported in January. Columns include Killed (Jan. 1899, Jan. 1898), Injured (Jan. 1899, Jan. 1898), and Number Employed according to latest Returns. Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, Workshops, and Under Factory Act, 1895.

DETAILED TABLE.

Detailed Table: Industrial Accidents Reported in January. Columns include Killed, Injured, and Total. Rows include Railway Service, Explosions of Firedamp, Quarries over 20 feet deep, and Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

Table: Shipping Accidents. Columns include Killed, Injured, Total. Rows include On Trading Vessels (Sailing, Steam), On Fishing Vessels (Sailing, Steam), and Totals for January 1899 and comparisons with 1898.

Table: Factories and Workshops. Columns include Males, Females, Total. Rows include Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons (Adults, Young Persons, Children) and Other Accidents (Adults, Young Persons, Children).

Table: Factories & Workshops (classified by trades). Columns include Males, Females, Total. Rows include Textiles (Cotton, Wool and Worsted, Other Textiles) and Non-Textiles (Extraction of Metals, Founding and Conversion of Metals, etc.).

Table: Under Factory Act, 1895. Columns include Males, Females, Total. Rows include Docks, Wharves and Quays, Warehouses, Buildings to which Act applies, and Laundries.

Table: Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894. Columns include Construction or repair, Use or Working, Total. Rows include Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, Tunnel, and Other Works.

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month (if have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1897, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year. † Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894. ‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. § Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-six fresh disputes were reported as beginning in January, 1899, compared with 29 in December, and 28 in January, 1898. In these 26 disputes, 1,874 workpeople were directly, and 320 indirectly affected, a total of 2,194, which compares with 6,319 in December, and 6,795 in January, 1898.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 8 disputes took place, involving 673 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 8 disputes, involving 472 workpeople; textile trades, 5 disputes, involving 640 workpeople; and in other industries, 5 disputes, involving 409 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 26 new disputes, 15 were chiefly on wages questions, 6 in connection with working arrangements, and 5 on other matters.

Results.—Fifteen new disputes, involving 1,391 workpeople, and 11 old disputes, involving 2,780 workpeople, were reported as settled. In the 26 new and old disputes terminated, 6, involving 913 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 11, involving 412 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 9, involving 2,846 persons, resulted in a compromise. At the end of January, 22 old disputes were known to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 4,360 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—No dispute of any great magnitude was in progress in January, and the total duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, was only about 157,000 working days, compared with 160,000 in the preceding month of December, and 1,392,000 in January, 1898, during the greater part of which month the dispute in the engineering trade was in progress.

Table with 5 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY, 1899.

Table for Building Trades. 8 Disputes. 673 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for Halifax, Leigh, London, Edmonton, Bristol, Kilmarnock, Musselburgh, and Rothesay.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. 8 Disputes. 472 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for Salford, Wednesbury, Willenhall, Ammanford, Morriston, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Belfast.

Table for Textile Trades. 5 Disputes. 640 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for Dewsbury, Burnley, Haslingden, Hyde, and Leicester.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades. 5 Disputes. 409 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for Birmingham, Goole, Tunstall, River Thames (London, E.), and London.

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

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Table with 7 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

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

Table for Coal and Iron Mining. Includes entries for Egremont, Burnley, and Motherwell.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades. Includes entries for Newcastle-on-Tyne, Whitehaven, Aston, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kirkcaldy, and Dublin.

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

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

The following 22 disputes, 20 of which have been previously reported in the monthly statement of disputes, were still unsettled at the end of January. The number of workpeople then involved was about 4,360. The month in which each dispute commenced is stated in brackets.

- Building Trades:—Bricklayers, Chelmsford (May); plasterers, Stockport (Oct.); bricklayers, Norwich (Dec.) (since settled—Feb.)
Mining:—Coal miners, Castleford (July, 1897); Normanton (Sep., 1897); coal miners, Pontefract (April, 1898); coal miners, Sherburn (July); lead miners and smelters, Leadhills (Aug.); coal miners, Burnley (Sep.); coal miners, East Kirkby, Notts (Nov.); coal miners, Barnsley (Nov.)
Metal Trades:—Ironfounders, Barnsley (Oct.); steel tyre makers, Glasgow (Oct.); brass-casters, Doncaster (Nov.); tin case makers, Aberdeen (Dec.); wire-drawers, etc., Birmingham (Dec.); tinsplate makers, Llanelly (Dec.)
Textile Trades:—Dyers, Honley (Sept.); woollen weavers, Marsden (Nov.); woollen dyers, Halifax (Dec.)
Other Trades:—Cabinet-makers, Halifax (Nov.); salt-workers, near Middlesbrough (Oct.)

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during January, was 8,658, as compared with 9,598 in January, 1898.

British and Irish.—Of the 8,658 passengers, 5,969 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 670 as compared with a year ago. The most marked decreases were in the numbers bound to the United States and South Africa.

The table below gives the figures for January, 1899 and 1898:—

Table with 3 columns: Destination, January, 1899, January, 1898. Includes entries for United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, and Total.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 8,658 passengers, viz., 2,689, were foreigners or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 270 less than in January, 1898.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during January was 4,730. Of these, 1,069 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 971 so stated in January, 1898. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, numbered 3,661

(including 1,185 sailors), the corresponding figure for January, 1898, being 2,974 (including 907 sailors). The figures for January, 1899 and 1898, are as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Destination, January, 1899, January, 1898. Includes entries for Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, and Total.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,185 in January, 1899; and 907 in January, 1898.

NEW ORDER UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

THE Home Secretary has issued an order, dated January 19th, 1899, allowing, under certain conditions, warehouses in factories or workshops in which the manufacture of edge tools is carried on, to be treated as separate factories or workshops, so far as regards the period of employment of children, young persons and women. The places to which this order applies, are warehouses not used for any manufacturing process or handicraft, and in which persons are solely employed in polishing, cleaning, wrapping or packing up goods. The occupier must hold a certificate by the Inspector that the separation of the warehouse from the rest of the factory or workshop, and the arrangements for carrying out the conditions laid down are satisfactory. The order came into force on February 1st, 1899.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

DURING January 1,976 fresh applications for work were registered by the 10 bureaux furnishing returns, as compared with 2,203 in January, 1898. Work was found by these bureaux for 1,099 persons, an increase of 108 as compared with a year ago. A table is now given for the first time showing the kind of work procured for workpeople by the bureaux in addition to the table showing the occupations under which applicants for work are registered.

The bureaux of the Young Women's Christian Association which have hitherto appeared in these tables are now included in the article on Women's Employment Registries on page 36 while the Salford Bureau is reported closed.

(I.) Work done in January.

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 Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities), Jan. 1899, Jan. 1898.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during January, 1899.

Table with columns: Engaged by Private Employers (Men, Lads and Boys), Engaged by Local Authorities (Men, Lads and Boys), Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities (Men), Total engaged by Private Employers, Total engaged by Local Authorities, Total engaged by Salvation Army Authorities, Grand Total.

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

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of (January, 1899, January, 1898), Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls.

Includes 39 Temporary Engagements which cannot be separately distinguished.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland. THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of January was 337,265. This corresponds to a rate of 211 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1899.

Compared with December, 1898, there is an increase of 1,398 in the number of relieved, and of 1 in the rate per 10,000. Nineteen of the 35 districts show increased rates, the largest increases being in the Leicester district (7 per 10,000), Paisley and Greenock, Dublin, and Galway districts (6 each). In 8 districts the rate is unaltered, while in the remaining 8 districts decreases are shown.

Compared with January, 1898, the number relieved shows a decrease of 3,169 and the rate per 10,000 of population a decrease of 4. The rate has decreased in the 21 districts, the most marked falling off being in the Bristol district (36 per 10,000), Coatbridge and Airdrie district (30), Bolton, Oldham &c. district (20), Hull (19), Stockton and Tees district (17) and Newcastle (16). In 3 districts the rate shows no change, while the rates have increased in the remaining 11 districts. In the Dublin district the increase amounts to 13 and in West Ham to 11 per 10,000.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of January, 1899 (In-door, Out-door, Total), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Increase (+ or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with January, 1898 (Month ago, Year ago).

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES +, Metropolitan Districts (West, North, Central, East, South), West Ham, Other Districts (Newcastle, Stockton & Tees, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan, Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Hull, North Staffordshire, Nottingham, Leicester, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff & Swansea), Total "Other Districts".

Table with columns: SCOTLAND +, Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock District, Edinburgh & Leith District, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie, Total for the above Scottish Districts.

Table with columns: IRELAND +, Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, Galway District, Total for the above Irish Districts, Total for above 35 districts in January, 1899.

* Computed throughout on the basis of the estimated population in 1899. + 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.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following table shows the number of cases of Lead and Phosphorus poisoning and Anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during January, classified by industries. It will be seen that of the 95 cases of lead poisoning reported, 25 occurred in lead works and 21 in the china and earthenware trade. Of the 95 cases, 19 were among female operatives. The 102 cases of lead and phosphorus poisoning and anthrax reported include 5 deaths, 3 resulting from lead poisoning and 2 from anthrax. It should be understood that the fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, Adults (M, F), Young Persons (M, F), Children (M, F), Total (M, F), Grand Total, Corresponding Total for January, 1898.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to THE LABOUR GAZETTE by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade:-- The Trade Returns for the month of January last show an increase as compared with the corresponding month of 1898 in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British Possessions, in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for January, 1899, were valued at £41,216,606, an increase of £1,287,315 as compared with January, 1898, or 3 1/2 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £25,467,494, as against £23,914,065 in 1898, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures alone amounted to £20,347,234, an increase of £1,115,830, or 5 1/2 per cent. The latter increase, however, it should be observed, includes the value of new ships, viz., £545,190, this being the first month for which these exports are shown. Foreign and colonial merchandise exported amounted in value to £5,120,260, an increase of £437,599, or 9 1/3 per cent., as compared with January, 1898.

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

Table with columns: Month ended Jan. 31st (1898, 1899), Increase, Decrease, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances, Oils, Raw Materials for Manufactures, Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles.

With regard to the imports of articles of food, etc., wheat shows an increase in quantity of 460,060 cwts., but a decrease in the value of £187,804; wheatmeal and flour also an increase in quantity of 237,623 cwts., with a decreased value of £18,151; but barley has increased in quantity by 452,720 cwts., and in value by £155,153; oats, 372,100 cwts., and £116,594; peas, 94,792 cwts., and £43,312; Indian corn and maize, 658,358 cwts., and £300,015; Indian corn meal, 48,600 cwts., and £14,997; and other kinds of corn and meal, 95,583 cwts., and £26,359. On the other hand, beans and oatmeal have

* No cases of phosphorus poisoning were reported in January, 1898.

both fallen off in quantities and values. Among other articles of food and drink, the imports of bacon, beef, hams, meat unenumerated, salted or fresh, fresh mutton, pork, butter and margarine, cheese, eggs, fresh fish, fruit, onions, rice, sugar (refined and candy), and molasses, all show increased quantities and values, while the most notable decreases are found in the case of fish cured or salted, hops, potatoes, pepper, and unrefined sugar, the imports of which are valued respectively at £96,906, £55,247, £129,901, £45,075, and £321,254 less than in January, 1898. Cocoa has decreased in quantity by 4,620,536 lbs., and in value by £95,256; and tea also shows a falling off to the extent of 5,620,783 lbs. in quantity, and £263,836 in value. Brandy and rum have fallen off, and wine, though showing an increased quantity of 7,830 gallons, has decreased in value by £41,369.

In the imports of metals, copper, iron, zinc, and lead have all increased, in the case of the latter to the extent of 7,733 tons in quantity and £111,804 in value; quicksilver shows a falling off of £37,226, pyrites of iron or copper £8,307, and silver ore £5,956. Tin, though decreased in quantity, has increased in value to the extent of £1,609. In the class of raw materials cotton has increased by £1,837,284, hemp by £66,618, silk by £27,674, and goat's wool by £56,245, but flax has diminished by £16,633, jute by £343,054, and sheep or lamb's wool by £277,454. Caoutchouc, hides, manures, and paper making materials have all fallen off, but bristles and wood and timber have increased in quantity and value. Amongst manufactured articles, cotton, iron and steel, and silk manufactures have all increased in value, but woollen manufactures have fallen off to the extent of £87,512.

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

Table with columns: Month ended Jan. 31st (1898, 1899), Increase, Decrease, Animals living, Articles of Food and Drink, Raw Materials, Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, Yarns and Textile Fabrics, Metals and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery and ships), Machinery and Millwork, Ships, new (not registered as British), Miscellaneous.

Amongst articles of food there is an increase in the values of beer and ale, cheese, biscuit and bread, hops, pickles, and spirits (British and Irish), all other articles showing a falling off. In the class of raw materials, coal, coke, and fuel show an increase in quantity of 122,534 tons and in value of £206,428, while the increase of coal shipped for steamers' use amounts to 121,245 tons, and sheep and lambs' wool, though it shows a falling off of 216,000 pounds, has increased in value to the extent of £2,244. Amongst yarns and textile fabrics, cotton, woollen, worsted and alpaca and mohair yarns have all fallen off in quantity and value (in the case of cotton yarn to the extent of 3,383,000 lbs. and £151,357) jute and silk yarns show an increase both in quantity and value, but linen yarn, though showing an increased quantity, has fallen off in value. In the case of piece goods, cottons show an increase in quantity of nearly 3 1/2 million yards and in value of £69,889, and jute piece goods show an increase of over 4 1/2 million yards in quantity and £36,431 in value. Silk and woollen tissues have decreased, but worsted tissues have increased.

Machinery has increased by £356,496, due principally to the large shipments of locomotives and textile machinery, and telegraphic wires and apparatus show an increased value of £273,537. Copper, unwrought and wrought, increased by £54,851, but iron, unwrought and wrought, fell off by £371,829.

Tonnage of vessels entered and cleared with cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions during January, 1899, amounted to 2,797,205 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,305,107 tons, as compared with 2,743,615 tons entered and 3,150,075 tons cleared in January, 1898. As regards the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during January last was 2,493,381 tons and the tonnage cleared to 2,504,828 tons, as against 2,662,036 tons and 2,606,972 tons respectively in January, 1898.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN JANUARY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.		Amount of Costs.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-						
Neglecting to Limewash ...	4	4	2 5 0	2 0 0		
Allowing Factory or Workshop to be over-crowded ...	1	1	1 0 0	0 4 0		
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	7	7	67 4 2	11 12 4		
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	19	18	11 1 0	10 19 0		
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—						
Before or after the legal hour ...	5†	5†	27 16 8	14 8 8		
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	83	83	38 15 0	52 17 0		
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	7	7	5 1 6	2 4 6		
At night ...	27	26	10 10 0	8 15 6		
In Factory or Workshop and in shop beyond total legal period ...	6	6	10 10 0	0 18 4		
Allowing persons to remain in prohibited room during meal hours ...	1	1	1 10 0	0 11 6		
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—						
Not keeping Registers ...	7	7	5 18 6	2 16 6		
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	2	2	0 12 6	0 15 0		
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	4	4	2 16 0	2 16 6		
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ...	2	2	1 2 6	0 19 6		
Prosecutions under Truck Acts ...	2	2	4 0 0	0 14 0		
Other Offences ...	5	4	1 0 0	2 13 0		
By Workmen :-						
Employment during meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	6	6	3 0 0	5 2 6		
Employment at night ...	6	6	6 0 0	2 17 0		
Other Offences ...	3	3	0 10 0	1 0 0		
Total for January, 1899 ...	245	242	201 12 10	125 5 10		
Total for January, 1898 ...	268	253	264 9 6			

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.	
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.						
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-						
Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c. ...	4	4	—	—	1 15 6	
Fencing ...	2	2	—	—	1 5 3	
Shafts and Man-holes ...	3	3	—	—	24 17 9	
By Workmen for offences relating to :-						
Safety Lamps ...	3	3	—	—	4 14 6	
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	2	2	—	—	2 0 0	
Timbering ...	2	2	—	—	3 16 0	
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c	5	5	—	—	8 2 0	
Riding on Trams ...	2	2	—	—	0 18 0	
Miscellaneous ...	19	18	—	1	15 18 6	
Total for January, 1899 ...	42	41	—	1	63 7 6	
Total for January, 1898 ...	49	49	—	—	106 19 6	
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.						
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-						
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c. ...	6	6	—	—	3 17 0	
Other Special Rules ...	4	4	—	—	8 4 0	
Total for January, 1899 ...	10	10	—	—	12 1 0	
Total for January, 1898 ...	2	2	—	—	2 7 0	

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships :-				
Carrying excessive Deck Cargoes	2	2	25 0 0	0 18 6
Not providing Life Saving Appliances ...	2	2	7 0 0	7 1 2
Infringement of Board of Trade Regulations in Conveyance of Fish from Trawlers ...	1	1	1 0 0†	—
Total for January, 1899 ...	5	5	33 0 0	7 19 8
Total for January, 1898 ...	7	7	64 10 0	22 5 2

IV.—Under the Friendly Societies Act.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prose- cutions.	Withdrawn on compliance with Act.	Convic- tions.	Fines and Costs.
Failure to send Annual Returns ...	18	6	12	£ s. d. 19 2 6
Making False Return ...	1	—	1	3 11 6
Total for January, 1899†	19	6	13	22 14 0
Total for January, 1898‡	2	7	7	4 14 0

* Supplied by the Home Office.
† Friendly Societies Act.

‡ Including costs.
§ Building Societies Acts.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JANUARY.

(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 January, it will be seen that 7 Trade Unions and 1 Trades Federation, 2 Co-operative Societies for Distribution, 12 Co-operative Societies for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Societies, 24 new Friendly Societies, and 39 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register for the United Kingdom during January. One Trade Union, 5 Industrial and Provident Societies, 19 Building Societies, and 28 Friendly Societies (including 12 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Operative Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers' Soc., Liverpool, 19, Virgil-street, Scotland-road, Liverpool; Ledbury Builders' Labourers Soc., Swan Inn, Ledbury; London Soc. of Woodworking Machinists, Windmill Tavern, Tabernacle-street, E.C.; Bolton Builders' Labourers' Trade Soc. Royal George Hotel, Blackburn-road, Bolton; Amal. Soc. of Shuttlemakers, 37 Henrietta-street, Blackburn; Newcastle-on-Tyne and District Operative Whitesmiths and Heating Engineers' Soc., 19, Clayton-street, E., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Derby and District Building Trades Federation, Bull's Head Inn, Queen's-street, Derby. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Carpet Planners of the City of Dublin, 10, Upper Abbey-street, Dublin.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—England and Wales.—Willesden Junction Railway Servants Refreshment Soc., Ltd., Coffee Tavern, Willesden Junction Station, N.W.; Esperance Co-op. Stores, Ltd., 45, Grafton-street, Fitzroy-square, N.W. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None. (B) *Associations for Production.*—England and Wales.—Manchester Portmanteau Manufacturers, Ltd., 15A, Greenwood-street, Corporation-street, Manchester. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Societies at Drum, co. Roscommon; New Inn, co. Tipperary; Belleek, co. Fermanagh; Labardane, co. Mayo; Kilfian, co. Mayo; Augher, co. Tyrone; Garvagh, Killyrally, Londonderry; Whealt, Tiermagher, co. Fermanagh; Claregalway, co. Galway; Lackan, co. Mayo; Dungannon Co-op. Agric. and Dairy and Milling Soc., Ltd., Tempenroe, Killyman, Moy, co. Tyrone. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—England and Wales.—Grimsby Social Reform Club, Ltd., Alexandra Rooms, 266, Cleethorpe-road, Grimsby; Mossley Socialists Land and Builders' Soc., Ltd., 4, Stamford-road, Mossley, Manchester.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 9; Dividing, 5; Collecting, 1; Specially authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 4; New Order, 1. **Scotland.**—Ordinary Friendly, 1. **Ireland.**—Specially authorised, 2. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—England and Wales, 28; **Scotland**, 10; **Ireland**, 1.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Bridlington and District Builders' Labourers Trade Society, 4, Fletcher's-yard, Bridlington. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Dissolved by instrument; South London Mutual Aid Assoc., Ltd., 12, Kennington-road, S.E.; Portsmouth Secular and Radical Hall Building Soc., Ltd., Wellington-street, Southsea; Central Finsbury Radical Club Assoc., Ltd., 241, Goswell-road, E.C.; Wakefield Working Men's Coal Club, Ltd., Market Cocoa and Coffee Tavern Kirkgate, Wakefield. **Scotland.**—Blanchfield and District Soc., Stirling. **Ireland.**—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 10; Branches, 1. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Ordinary Friendly, 1, Registration cancelled. **England and Wales.**—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Collecting, 1; Specially authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 1. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None. Dissolved otherwise. **England and Wales.**—Juvenile, 1; Branches, 11. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—Instrument of dissolution, 4; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 9; notice of termination of winding-up, 1. **Scotland.**—Instrument of dissolution, 2. **Ireland.**—None.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

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

H.M. Inspectors of Factories.—New Appointment.—Mr. A. F. J. Dunolly, of Holly Lodge, Forest-road, Walthamstow, has been appointed an Inspector of Factories and Workshops.

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