

THE

Labour Gazette

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.]

FEBRUARY 1894.

[No. 2.—VOL. II.

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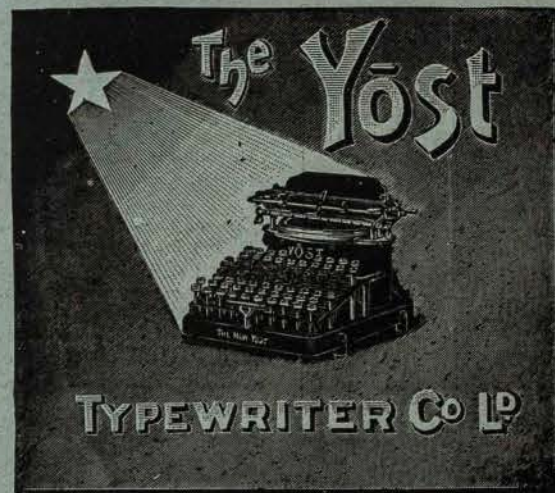
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LABOUR DEPARTMENT,

BOARD OF TRADE,

43, PARLIAMENT STREET, S.W.,

15th February 1894.

The present number of the GAZETTE again consists of 32 pages.

An account is given on p. 44 of the conciliation in the long standing dispute of ship-joiners on the Clyde and of the action of the Board of Trade in relation thereto.

A detailed statement is printed on p. 44 showing the hours of work and the time tables for each of the War Office establishments affected by the introduction of the "eight-hours" system before and after the change.

A summary is given on p. 48 of the Report of the Committee appointed by the Home Secretary to investigate the conditions of work in open quarries.

The recently published statistics showing the operation for the year 1892 of the German Insurance laws relating to accidents, old age and invalidity, are summarised on p. 49, together with a brief explanation of the working of the laws.

The statistics of the operations of certain Labour Bureaux which were given in the January GAZETTE are continued for last month in a more complete form in the present number.

An article on p. 50 on Women's employment in 1881 and 1891, based on the Census figures for those years, shows the distribution of women among various groups of trades, and the proportionate increase and decrease of women employed in those trades during the decennial period.

The Labour Department would be glad to receive from Trade Unions, Employers' Associations and others, duplicate copies of lists of piece prices mutually agreed upon between employers and employed, and in operation in various trades and localities, with a view to the annual volume which is in preparation dealing with wages. Various piece rate lists have already been received, and it is desired to make the collection as complete as possible. Communications addressed to the Commissioner for Labour, 43 Parliament Street, need not be prepaid.

The Labour Department would also be glad to receive from those Friendly Societies that have not already furnished the information, full particulars of any superannuation benefits granted by them to members, and the amount of the contributions and other conditions. It is desired to publish the results on the plan adopted in the tables that have already appeared from time to time in the LABOUR GAZETTE, entitled "Provision for Old Age by Trade Societies," and correspondents should as far as possible adopt the same form of return. For specimen, see p. 24 of January issue.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY.*

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

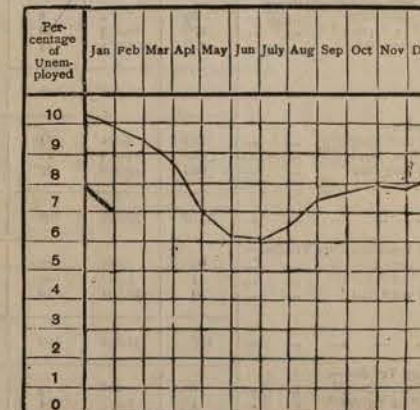
(a) **General Statistics of Employment.**—The Returns received by the Labour Department for January point to an appreciable improvement in the state of employment during the month, and the general outlook is more hopeful than for some time past. The returns from trade societies show a diminution in the proportion of unemployed members at the end of January, as compared both with the previous month and with the corresponding period of last year.

Of the 37 trade societies, with an aggregate membership of 353,764, making returns, 24,803 (or 7.0 per cent.) are reported as in receipt of unemployed benefit at the close of January, compared with 7.9 per cent. in the 32 societies making returns for December 1893. In the 23 societies from which the returns were also received in January, 1893, the percentage of unemployed was 7.7 last month, compared with 9.9 at the corresponding date of last year.

As in previous numbers, a chart is inserted, which enables the percentages of unemployed shown in the monthly returns to be compared with those for last year.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1893 and of each month yet completed of 1894. [Owing to the increase of the number of societies making returns, the chart for the year 1894 refers to 37 societies, with a membership of about 353,000, while that for 1893 does not include more than 26 societies, with a membership of about 307,000. The comparison of the two curves is slightly affected by this difference.]

The thick line applies to 1894, the thin line to 1893.



(b) **Employment in various Industries.**—The Ship-building Industry has continued to improve in most ports, with the exception of Belfast, and the percentage of unemployed in members of unions connected with this trade has fallen from 17.0 to 13.8. The Iron and Steel Trades are reported to be exceptionally depressed in South Wales, while on the other hand a marked improvement has taken place in these trades in the Midland and

* The Reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of January, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between January 31st and February 15th.

Northern Counties and the West of Scotland. On the whole, except in a few districts, the *Engineering Trades* has improved during the month, and the percentage of unemployed in unions connected with this trade has dropped from 12.4 to 9.2.

The fairly open weather has enabled most branches of the *Building Trades* to continue at work, though the painters (as usual at this season) are very slack. The percentage of unemployed returned by unions connected with these trades has risen from 5.8 to 6.7. The *Furnishing and Wood-working Trades* continue to decline, the percentage of unemployed returned by the unions having risen from 6.8 to 7.2.

The *Printing and kindred Trades* continue depressed, the percentage of unemployed in unions connected with these trades remaining the same as last month, viz., 6.1.

In the Ready-made *Clothing Trade* some improvement is perceptible, but the *Bespoke Trade* remains quiet. In the wholesale *Boot and Shoe Trade* some change for the better took place during the latter half of the month. The *Cotton Trade* still continues brisk, but the *Woollen, Linen, Silk and Lace Trades* are as a rule quiet.

With the exception of the Bristol District, the *Miners* in the "Federation" districts are well employed, as well as in Wales, Scotland, and Northumberland. In Durham some collieries are reported to be working short time. The proportion of miners entirely out of work in Northumberland and Durham is returned as 0.9 per cent.

The number of *Seamen* shipped during the month at the principal ports was 17 per cent. more than in January 1893. Notwithstanding this increase of employment the supply of seamen is reported from most centres to have been fully equal to the demand. At all the principal fishing ports on the East Coast, except Yarmouth, the *Fishing Industry* has been above the average for the time of year, but at Plymouth there has been a considerable falling off. *Dock and riverside* work has been active in London, Liverpool and Cardiff.

(c) **Reports of Trade Societies and Branches.**—Of the 37 societies making returns, 7 describe trade as "good," 2 as "moderate," and 28 as "bad." From the monthly reports published by many societies and from materials specially furnished, the following additional particulars of the state of employment in the industries named are collected:—

Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns.	January.		Per-centage of Members for Jan. 1894.	Per-centage of Members for Dec. 1893.
	Branches	Members		
Engineering and Shipbuilding—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	89	7,084	5	3
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	276	26,133	20	17
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	726	102,985	75	80
Total ...	1,091	136,202	100	100
Building Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	203	9,404	13	17
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	267	14,413	20	21
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	649	49,576	67	62
Total ...	1,119	73,393	100	100
Printing and Bookbinding Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	65	3,084	10	23
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	44	6,327	20	25
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	40	22,391	70	52
Total ...	147	31,802	100	100
Boot and Shoe Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	1	298	13	3
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	4	5,433	34	19
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	13	7,327	53	78
Total ...	18	13,058	100	100
Furnishing & Woodworking Trades				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	26	1,842	12	20
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	64	5,085	35	19
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	79	7,751	53	61
Total ...	159	14,678	100	100

(d) **Trade Disputes.**—The number of fresh disputes occurring during the month was 50, compared with 23 in December, and 38 in January 1893. Of these, 10

arose in the *Textile Trades*, 9 in the *Building Trades*, 8 in *Mining*, 7 in the *Clothing Trades*, 6 in *Shipbuilding*, 3 in connection with *Dock Labour* and *Seafaring Employment*, 2 in the *Metal Trades*, and the remaining 5 in miscellaneous industries. With few exceptions these disputes were on a small scale and unimportant. Particulars obtained with regard to 42 of them show that the number involved was 4,665. Ten of these disputes affecting 1,348 persons, besides 17 old disputes affecting about 1,500 persons, were known to be still in progress at the end of the month. On the other hand, 9 disputes, involving 3,673 persons, which began before January, were settled during the month.

(e) **Changes of Wages and Hours of Labour.**—During the month about 110,000 miners have received a rise in wages, viz., 90,000 Welsh miners, whose wages have been raised 6½ per cent. under the sliding scale (being now 26½ per cent. above the "standard" of 1879); and 20,000 Northumberland miners, who have received an additional 2½ per cent. In the Midlands, the puddlers, millmen and blast furnacemen have had reductions of 3d. per ton and 2½ per cent. respectively, to come into force on February 5th.

Reports have been received during the month of reductions of hours to 48 per week in four private establishments employing 600 or more persons, besides the War Office establishments, where about 14,000 will be affected. The weekly hours of 1,500 chemical workers have also been reduced from 56 to 50.

(f) **Pauperism.**—The statistics of pauperism for the selected districts of the United Kingdom show a very slight increase for January as compared with December, the numbers relieved on a given day in the middle of each three months being 342,680 (or 234 per 10,000 of population), and 339,038 (or 232 per 10,000) respectively. The corresponding figures for January 1893 were 325,800 (or 222 per 10,000).

The following table summarises the detailed table on p. 46, and will be found useful for purposes of comparison.

Comparative Table showing the number of Paupers per 10,000 of Population in selected industrial districts on a given day in November and December in 1893 and 1892, and January 1893 and 1894 respectively.

District.	Winter 1893-4.			Winter 1892-3.		
	November.	December.	January.	November.	December.	January.
Metropolis ...	243	253	260	224	231	246
West Ham ...	281	284	287	198	217	244
Other Districts (England & Wales) ...	221	221	219	191	201	210
Scotland ...	192	194	201	184	185	190
Ireland ...	258	266	272	249	257	263
TOTAL (Selected Districts)	228	232	234	204	212	222

In drawing any inferences from the figures it is to be observed that changes in pauperism tend naturally to follow and not to coincide with changes in the state of the labour market, and that pauperism usually rises towards the end of a period of trade depression.

(g) **Emigration.**—The number of British passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during the month was 7,556, as compared with 9,808 during January 1893.

II.—EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—A considerable improvement has taken place in the *Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades* during the month, 76 branches of 8 unions, with an aggregate membership of 13,229 returning 906 (or 6.8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 9.7 per cent. last month, and 8.7 per cent. in November 1893. Only one branch, however, with 172 members describes trade as "good," 11 with 1,379 members describing it as "moderate," and 64 with 11,678 members as "bad." No great change has taken place in the condition of the *Building Trades* during the month; 127 branches of four unions with an aggregate membership of 8,678, return 523 (or 6.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 6.6 per cent. last month and 4.6 per cent.

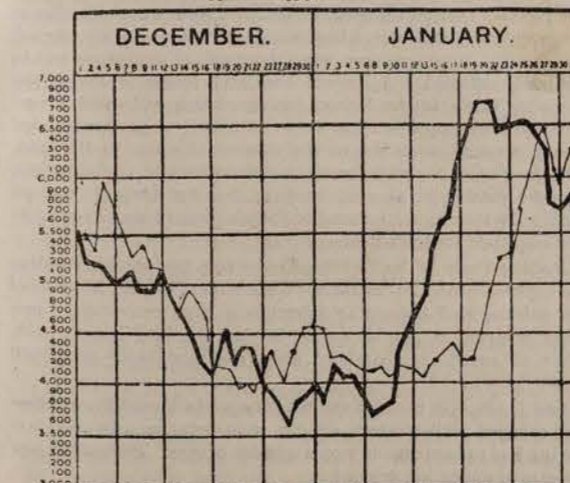
in November. In 8 societies, 19 branches with 1,305 members describe trade as "good," 32 branches with 2,514 members as "moderate," and 113 branches with 9,963 members as "bad." A further decline is shown in the condition of the *Furnishing and Wood-working Trades*, 21 branches of 4 societies with an aggregate membership of 3,524, returning 314 (or 8.9 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 7.6 per cent. in December and 8.6 per cent. in November. Two branches with 1,089 members describe trade as "good," one with 400 members as "moderate," and 18 branches with 2,035 members as "bad." Only a very slight improvement has taken place in the condition of the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* during the month, nearly every branch both in the letterpress and lithographic departments, remarking on the long-continued depression, while in the *Binding Trade* considerable want of employment exists. Ten unions with an aggregate membership of 17,311 return 1,023 (or 5.9 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 6.1 per cent. in December, and 4.1 per cent. in November. Although several of the unions in these trades have extended the period during which unemployed benefit is allowed, a considerable number of members are reported as having received all that they are entitled to, and though still unemployed are not included in these returns. A marked improvement is reported in the condition of the *Boot and Shoe Trade* during the latter half of the month.

Dock Employment in London.—During the last three weeks of January a very marked increase took place in the number of dock labourers employed in the port of London.

The daily fluctuations of employment at the London and India group of docks are shown as usual in the following chart:—

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of December 1893 and January 1894. The corresponding curve for December 1892 and January 1893 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the Chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.

[The thick curve applies to 1893-94, and the thin curve to 1892-93.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for January 1894 is based.

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	3,800	11	4,386	23	6,483
2	4,198	12	4,970	24	6,325
3	4,044	13	5,212	25	6,302
4	4,068	14	5,575	26	6,414
5	3,897	15	5,628	27	6,394
6	3,692	16	6,266	28	5,719
7	3,724	17	6,748	29	5,702
8	3,839	18	6,759	30	5,824
9	4,992	19	6,721	31	5,470

Sundays and Holidays are omitted.
[During the corresponding period of two months in 1892-93, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 3,016 (on December 27th) to 4,428 (on January 27th).]
Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during December 1893 and January 1894 varied from 2,713 on December and, to 1,779 on January 1st, rising again to 4,105 on January 18th.
Wool sales from 12th January.

The total estimated number of dock labourers employed by the dock companies in the port of London for each week, together with the corresponding numbers for January 1893, were as follows:—

	Estimated average number of Dock Labourers employed by the Dock Companies.*		
	1894.	1893.	Increase.
1st week in January ...	6,326	6,323	3
2nd	6,923	6,002	921
3rd	8,441	5,780	2,661
4th	8,272	7,162	1,110
Average for January ...	7,491	6,317	1,174
Ditto for December ...	7,144	7,376	...

The great increase (amounting on the average of the month to more than 18½ per cent.) is shared by the three Dock Companies, and is said to be due to the concurrence of exceptionally active wool sales, with activity in the tea, indigo and other departments, and increased arrivals of grain and nitrate of soda. For a long time past the dock gates have not been so deserted, owing to the great demand for labour, and shipping has been so busy in consequence that there have been very few spare barges on the river. As regards the wharves, the trade in Thames Street and at the fruit wharves has been active, and the wharves at Wapping and on the south side of the Thames have been fairly busy.

Disputes.—Two disputes are reported to have occurred in the *Building Trades*, both in the City, one affecting stonemasons and the other bricklayers. There were also two disputes affecting carmen and carmen's lads respectively in South London. In each of these four disputes only one firm was concerned. For particulars see p. 56.

Employment and Distress.—From the information received with regard to the state of various London districts during January, it appears that the distress (though still above the level of January in an ordinary year) cannot in most districts be described as "exceptional," especially towards the end of the month. So far as can be judged from the reports, there was a decrease of distress during the latter half of the month, doubtless due in part to the change of the weather, and, in riverside districts, to the increased demand for dock labour, to which attention is called above. The principal occupations in which special distress has been reported from various districts include, in addition to general labourers, painters, builders' labourers, laundresses and charwomen, and (in the earlier part of the month), tailors and bootmakers.

The three permanent Labour Bureaux at Chelsea, Battersea, and St. Pancras report fresh applications from 1,043 workpeople and 242 employers during the month. Work was found for 256 persons through the bureaux during the month, compared with 254 in December.

Pauperism.—The proportion of paupers in London per 10,000 of the population in the middle of January was 263, compared with 253 for December, and 246 for January 1893. In West Ham, the proportion was 287, compared with 284 in December, and 244 in January 1893. The changes in the different districts of London, compared with the previous month, are shown in the following table:

	In-door.		Out-door.		Total.	
	Jan. 1894.	Dec. 1893.	Jan. 1893.	Dec. 1893.	Jan. 1894.	Dec. 1893.
West District ...	146	145	33	34	179	179
North	141	140	102	103	243	243
Central	323	316	150	148	475	464
East	191	188	83	71	274	259
South	136	134	133	125	269	259
West Ham	48	...	236	...	284

The following chart has been prepared in order to facilitate the comparison of the monthly volume of Metropolitan pauperism with that for the corresponding period of the two previous years. The chart brings out

* Viz., London and India Docks Joint Committee (excluding Tilbury), Millwall and Surrey Commercial. The figures include labourers employed through contractors.