

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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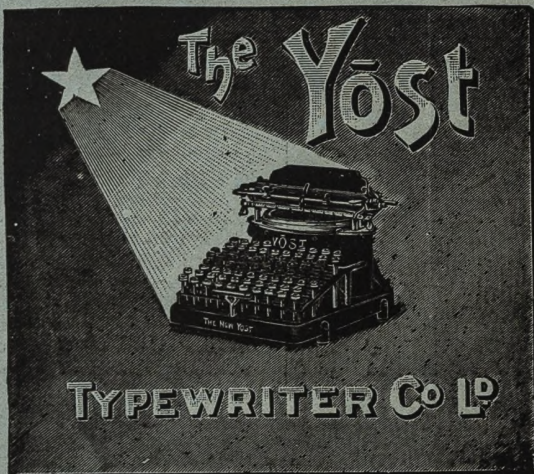
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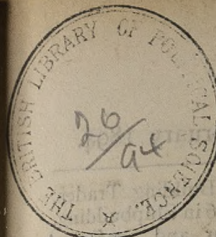
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LABOUR DEPARTMENT,

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.

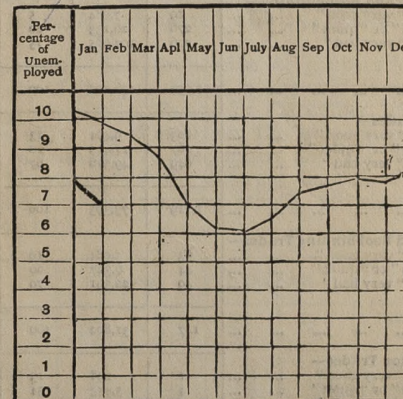
(a) **General Statistics of Employment.**—The Returns received by the Labour Department for January point to an appreciable improvement in the state of employment during the month, and the general outlook is more hopeful than for some time past. The returns from trade societies show a diminution in the 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 Trade* 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.		Percentage of Members for Jan. 1894.	Percentage of Members for Dec. 1893.
	Branches	Members		
Engineering and Shipbuilding—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	89	7,084	5	3
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	276	25,133	20	17
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	726	102,985	75	80
Total ...	1,091	135,202	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" ...	619	49,576	67	62
Total ...	1,119	73,393	100	100
Printing and Bookbinding Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	63	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	5,453	34	19
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	13	7,357	53	78
Total ...	18	13,078	100	100
Furnishing & Woodworking Trades				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	16	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	234	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.

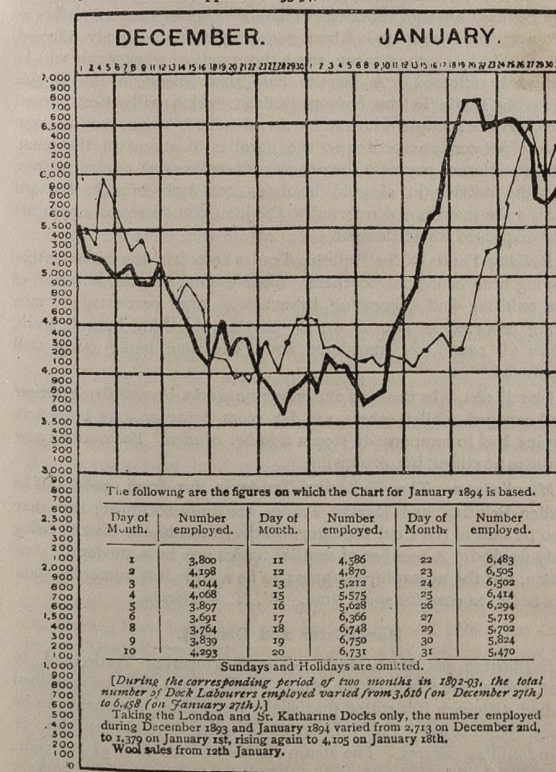
in November. In 8 societies, 19 branches with 1,305 members describe trade as "good," 32 branches with 2,514 members as "moderate," and 113 branches with 9,963 members as "bad." A further decline is shown in the condition of the *Furnishing and Wood-working Trades*, 21 branches of 4 societies with an 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 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.

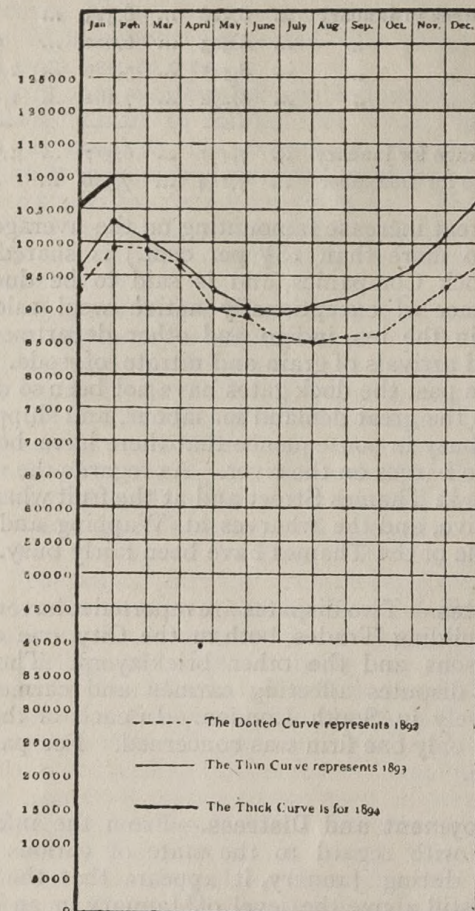
Pauperism.—The proportion of paupers in London per 10,000 of the population in the middle of January was 263, compared with 253 for December, and 246 for January 1893. In West Ham, the proportion was 287, compared with 284 in December, and 244 in January 1893. The changes in the different districts of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

	In-door.		Out-door.		Total.	
	Jan. 1894.	Dec. 1893.	Jan. 1894.	Dec. 1893.	Jan. 1894.	Dec. 1893.
West District ...	146	145	33	34	179	179
North " ...	141	140	102	100	243	240
Central " ...	325	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.

strongly the seasonal fluctuations in the numbers relieved:—



III.—PROVINCIAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.
ENGLAND AND WALES.
Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining—Durham.—The Coal Industry throughout Durham continues good; night shifts—not considered customary—are still resorted to in many collieries, but there is a lessened pressure of demand. A few pits are working less than full time, being well abreast of orders. The average number of working days is calculated at 10½ per fortnight. The number of out-of-work miners is about 700, or 1 per cent. **Northumberland.**—The Northumberland Coal Trade presents no new feature. Pits are producing regularly, with two or three exceptions; the average number of working days per fortnight being close upon 11. The number of unemployed miners is 30, or less than 1 per cent. A further advance of 2½ per cent. to underground, and 2 per cent. to surface men, in addition to the 5 per cent. already obtained, has been offered by the Coal Owners' Association, and accepted by the men's representatives.

Shipbuilding and Engineering on the Tyne.—These trades have manifested a decidedly healthier tone. A large number of orders are reported as having been placed. Three or four of the principal firms have work in hand which will last well into the year. Repairing yards, especially in the lower reaches of the river, are well employed. The number of unemployed iron-shipbuilders is 1,127, or 21·4 per cent., and of unemployed engineers 987, or 21·8 per cent., showing a slight decrease, as compared with 23·3 and 23·8 per cent. respectively in December.

On the Wear.—The shipbuilders maintain a steady improvement, one or two firms being engaged on special work, and having on hand a considerable amount of repairs, and prospects upon the whole are brighter. There are 410 shipbuilders and boiler-makers out of work, or a percentage of 15·8, as against 19·1 in December. Engineering establishments are better employed. Pressure of work in some cases has made night shifts now and again requisite. The engineers with 131, or 9·3 per cent. unemployed, show a marked decrease, as against 14 per cent. in December.

Shipyard joiners continue depressed, with a rising percentage of 11·5, as against 4·4 of unemployed members on both rivers. The pattern-makers are busy, with 1·6 per cent. unemployed, as against 10 per cent. in December. Moulders, shipwrights, and copper-smiths show little change. The electrical engineers are very busy. The local angle iron and steel plate mills are well employed.

Building Trades.—For the time of year all branches are well employed, except the masons, who report trade dull. The bricklayers' dispute in the South Shields district still continues, but many of the men have started work elsewhere.

Miscellaneous.—The chemical, bottle and glass, rope, and paper-making works are moderately employed. The Bookbinding and Printing Trades—especially the former—show much improvement. The unemployed amongst the latter are close upon 6 per cent. Shipping is rather quiet, and employment for seagoing men is not over good. The coal-porters are fairly well employed. Farm work, especially ploughing and hedging, is said to be well advanced, the present winter, so far, being considered very favourable for all kinds of operations.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Oldham, Bolton and District.

Textile Trades.—The various sections of the Cotton Industry continue to be fully employed, the demand for cloths from the majority of the distributing markets being good, especially from those of India. Cotton has fluctuated very little in price, and the quotations at the opening and close of the month remain unchanged. Spinners of medium yarns complain of the unsatisfactory state of the margin between cotton and yarn, yet on every hand the maximum production is maintained. Complaints by the operative spinners respecting bad work, and other matters, have been numerous during the month, but, so far, satisfactory terms have been arranged without a cessation of work. As all the mills are working full time the demand for labour is at its maximum, still, the number of unemployed is considerable.

The Engineering, Machine, Iron and Steel Trades maintain the improvement reported last month, and have made some advance thereon. Machine makers are once more fairly well employed, the orders for textile machinery from abroad being sufficient to keep them well engaged for some months to come. The few iron and steel works in the district have regained their wonted activity, and are now working full time.

Miscellaneous.—In the Building Trades work is satisfactory for the time of year. The Bolton Town Council have appointed a committee to consider and report upon the best means of dealing with the unemployed.—*J. T. Fielding.*

Burnley, Accrington and District.

Textile Trades.—So far as the Cotton Trade is concerned the past month will compare favourably with many of the preceding ones. Very few operatives are out of work, and practically all the looms in the district are fully occupied, which has not been the case for some time back. The disputes in the Harwood and Croston Districts have been settled favourably to the workpeople, but the beamers' dispute in the Burnley District threatens to assume a serious aspect, unless an arrangement is come to. About 700 persons are directly affected, but should a stoppage ensue, some thousands of workpeople will be indirectly affected. A dispute has also arisen in the Dobbie Weaving Trade in the Nelson District, which will affect several hundred workpeople, who ask for an advance in wages varying from 2 to 12 per cent., according to the number of staves in the loom. The question of payment for weaving dhooties and corded stripes, and the putting in of gold headings, has been brought forward during the month, and referred to the joint committee of employers and employed for settlement.

Building Trades.—The Building Trades keep fair, the open weather having been beneficial to them. This cannot be said, however, of the painting and decorating branches, a large percentage of men being reported as out of work. In the plumbing branch, work, taken all round, is considered good, the men being fairly well employed.

Iron Trades.—In the iron and machine works several firms appear well engaged, whilst others are far from being so, one large firm having had to temporarily stop a number of men. The outlook now appears anything but promising.

Miscellaneous.—The Tailoring Trade is far from good. The Calico Printing and Dyeing Trades are fully occupied; this may also be said of the Coal Industry, all the mines in the district being fully worked. A number of smaller trades are in a moderate condition, but the unemployed appear to be a trifle less numerous than has been the case for some time.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The Engineering Trade, and, in fact, almost the whole of the Metal Trades, must again be described as bad, although it is stated that slight signs of improvement can be discerned in some. The proportion of unemployed is less than in ship-building centres. The steam engine-makers have 5½ per cent. of their members unemployed in this district. The machine workers report an increase of one-third in the number out of work. The boiler-makers also report an increase, and describe trade as bad. The brassfounders and finishers are better employed, trade being moderate and the number of unemployed reduced one-half.

Building Trades.—These trades remain depressed. The joiners report trade as moderate, with another increase in the number out of work. Amongst the Bricklayers trade is bad. The plasterers are fairly well employed, and several men from other places have been successful in obtaining work. The Building Trades in Macclesfield and district are bad.

Textile Trades.—There is no change to report in connection with the Cotton Trade: the mills are running full time. The same applies to Macclesfield so far as cotton is concerned, but the Silk Trade remains in a depressed condition, a number of mills running eight hours per day for five days a week. Silk dressers and silk dyers are only working three days per week; at one silk mill, however, employment has increased. The fustian cutters have been rather better employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The improvement in the Letterpress Printing Trades has not been maintained, for though trade is moderate the number of unemployed has somewhat increased. The Lithographic and Bookbinding Trades are still bad, with but little prospect of improvement.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors report trade as decidedly bad, and the percentage of unemployed has increased. The Dressing, Dyeing and Finishing Trade remains very bad. The hat-makers are pretty well employed.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—There has been great activity in dock employment. Towards the close of the month the difficulty in accommodating ships with berths was removed, and work has been exceptionally brisk, only a small percentage of dock labour being unemployed. Seamen have been better employed, and wages remain the same. The Mersey flatmen also report a slight improvement. Upper Mersey watermen and canal bargemen are fairly busy owing to the opening up of the Manchester Ship Canal. The Railway Carrying Trade from Liverpool is also moderately brisk, owing to large imports of cotton.

Mining.—The activity of the previous month still continues in the colliery districts, there being very few, if any, colliers unemployed.

Chemical, Copper and Glass Industries.—The workers in these trades in St. Helens, Widnes and district are only fairly employed, with a tendency towards the close of the month to improvement. In Widnes the eight-hour shifts have been conceded to about 300 salt cake workers.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—In these trades there has been a decided improvement, except with the ship painters, who are exceptionally slack, a large number being unemployed. The boiler-makers and riveters, the engineers, metal planers, slotters and brass moulders show a marked improvement, though not yet fully employed. Towards the close of the month the position was further relieved by the migration of workmen in the Shipbuilding Trades to Barrow.

Building Trades.—The Building Trades occupy much the same position as in December. Carpenters and joiners may be described as moderate, the house painters as very quiet, the bricklayers and plasterers as very fair, the slaters as quiet the first part of the month, with an improvement towards the close. Plumbers have been very brisk, especially in the early part of the month. The whitesmiths are fully employed.—*J. Sexton.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—There is a considerable change for the better in marine engineering, the proportion of unemployed being reduced to 10 per cent., although some are still working short time. In shipbuilding good orders have been received, and a large number of hands have been taken on during the last three weeks; the prospects for the year are now good. The pattern-makers and moulders are busy, neither having any idle members here. The negotiations for the re-opening of the engineering works, reported last month, have fallen through, but part of it will be opened by March as an engineering repair shop.

Iron Ore Mines.—A number of iron miners are still unemployed, the demand for ore being limited and prices rather low.

Pig Iron.—One blast furnace has been blown in during the month, but the Pig Iron Trade improves but slowly. All along the Cumberland District the same depression still exists, both in the pig iron and steel production. In the Whitehaven District the Coal Trade maintained its briskness.

Steel Trade.—The steel workers are again stopped this week. They started on January 8th instead of the 15th, as the notice at first stated, but as the orders in hand were not large, they were soon finished. Advantage is being taken of the opportunity to make extensive alterations to the rolling mills, which are expected to take about six weeks, and, if the experiment be successful, will be a decided advantage to the firm.

Shipping and Railways.—Shipping remains in a quiet condition, and there is very little demand for labour at the docks. The railway employees are still on short time, but with the improved prospects of the other industries full time is expected to be shortly resorted to.

Building Trades.—These trades are rather slack, but the joiners are improving, their number of unemployed being on the decrease. The painters, plumbers, plasterers and slaters are still dull, but all expect to improve as the season advances.

Flax and Jute Works.—The flax and jute works are progressing slowly, but apparently no push is being made to have everything in full operation, owing to the high prices of the raw material.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and kindred Trades are only in a moderate condition. The paper and pulp works are still busy. The wagon works have not made a start yet. The bakers and confectioners are not so busy.—*J. D. Cowper.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—There is a marked improvement in the Steel Trade, especially in plates. Most of the mills are now well employed, and several good orders have been booked. A heavy plate mill has lately been put into operation at Eston, and a start has been made with the alteration of another mill for light plates. There is also a slight improvement in the Finished Iron Trade, one mill, which has been standing for some time, being reported as about to start and others as busier than hitherto. The sliding scale question has also been settled for the next two years on the old basis. Wages will remain as at present for February and March. Bridge works are still slack, but the foundries are brisker, some being well employed. In pig iron there is also an improvement, two more furnaces having been blown in, and this has improved the demand for labour. The Cleveland ironstone miners are working more regularly, as more ore is wanted for the furnaces newly started.

Shipbuilding.—During January there has been a decided improvement in this trade. Every yard in the district is now at work, and most of the berths are occupied, except at Whitby, where the yard is still closed. Although the full complement of men is not yet at work in all cases, it is expected it will be so shortly, as the principal yard on the Tees has nine months' work in hand, and most of the others have sufficient to last for some time to come.

Engineering.—There is an improvement in engineering, especially in the marine engineering; one firm at Hartlepool, which has been on short time for some months, has now resumed full time. There is a considerable reduction in the number of unemployed, the percentage being 7 per cent., as against 10 per cent. in December, but as a large number are employed on repairs the whole of this decrease may not be permanent.

Miscellaneous.—The salt works are reported as fully employed. The Building Trades are brisk at the Hartlepoons, but only quiet in other parts of the district. The sailors and firemen report a good many out of employment at present, but with a much better prospect in the immediate future; the same applies to riverside and dock labour generally, though some firms are busy. Printing and other Trades are but moderately employed.—*A. Main.*

Leeds and District.

Iron Trades.—In engineering there is as yet no appreciable improvement, although some firms making textile machinery have been fairly busy. The percentage of unemployed is still high. The ironfounders report some improvement; and one firm, after a stoppage of six weeks, is re-starting. Steelworkers have been somewhat fully employed, and the improvement in the trade indicated last month has been well maintained. The stove-grate workers are moderately employed.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made branch has been rather better and a few firms have been fairly brisk, but there are still a large number of men and girls out of work. Bespoke tailoring has been very slack, but improved towards the end of the month. The Boot and Shoe Trade has been dull. A special fund has been raised by the Operatives' Society for relieving exceptional cases of distress among the members arising from want of employment.

Building Trades.—Some improvement has been shown in these trades, a large proportion of the work being on repairs. The bricklayers report only a few out of work. The painters and plasterers are slack. The joiners have had a rather larger number unemployed—about 9 per cent.—than at the same period last year; but employers have been putting men on recently. A large number of builders' labourers have been idle.

Textile Trades.—The depression in this industry has continued, but there are indications of an improvement. One large mill is re-starting a night staff. The willeys and fettlers report about the

same number out of work, and the total unemployed in the Textile Industry is approximately estimated at 500, of whom the majority are females.

Leather Trades.—For the first time for six months the Tanners' Society have no claim for out-of-work payment. The leather shavers report that the improvement in the trade has been maintained, and only about 2 per cent. are unemployed.

Glass Bottle Trade.—This trade has been fairly good for the time of year, with few men out of work. The medical bottle branch has also been brisk.

Miscellaneous.—The brushmakers still continue very slack, and coachmaking has fallen off considerably since last report. Printing has been rather dull, and there are a considerable number of compositors unemployed. The cabinet-makers are slack, with upwards of 10 per cent. unemployed. The Dyeing Trade has not shown any very decided improvement, and employment has been of an intermittent character.—O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Textile Trades.—The Woollen Trade in and around Huddersfield is still depressed; in fact, worse than in the closing days of last year. In a few cases overtime is being made, but the number on short time is reported to be much larger, some only working 30 to 40 hours a week, or even less, while pieceworkers, such as weavers, have frequently to stand still for days. Trade in the heavy woollen districts of Batley and Dewsbury remains the same; few places are working full time, though there are one or two exceptions. One mill has gone on night and day, and as women cannot work at night, a number of men who have been out for some time have thus obtained employment. The Worsted Trade in Huddersfield, Bradford and Halifax is still in a depressed condition. Weavers are either working short time or, if they work the regular time when at the mill, have to wait for warps for days, and in one or two instances for weeks. The Worsted Coating Trade is still quiet, the largest firm in the Harworth District being very slack. The Silk Trade throughout the district is still quiet, nearly 50 per cent. being reported as unemployed in Brighouse. The Cotton Trade continues moderate, though there are exceptions, some working overtime and some short time.

Miscellaneous.—The Iron Trade is still quiet in the engineering and other departments. The Building and Printing Trades are also quiet.

Unemployed.—In Halifax the Corporation are finding employment for about 50 unemployed persons. In Huddersfield the Corporation have opened a labour bureau, and during the first week about 470 males and 76 females registered themselves as unemployed. A circular, calling attention to the bureau, has been issued to employers in the district.—A. Gee.

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—There are about 1,000 men in Yorkshire who have not yet been able to find employment. Taking the county as a whole the men have now got fairly well to work, as 1,000 men out of 80,000 is only a very small proportion. The pits continue to turn out very large outputs where they have the facilities. At some of the collieries a few men are on the funds of the union as "victims," owing to ill-feeling between them and their managers, which may possibly lead to a dispute at these particular collieries. Some collieries during the month have "played" as much as one and two days in a week, on account, it is alleged, of an insufficient supply of wagons. There are a few disputes at some of the collieries, but none of very great importance. There are a few men "out" at Scholes, near Leeds, and two other pits near Leeds are still troubled with grievances. The men at a colliery near Barnsley have received 14 days' notice to terminate their contract of service. It is understood that if the men work on after the expiration of the notices it will be on a contract from day to day. Another colliery near Barnsley has only partially resumed work, there being about 200 men who have not yet been able to re-start. The Yorkshire miners are collecting pay notes at the various collieries with the object of ascertaining the average wages of colliers, trammers, packers, rippers, roadmen, byeworkmen and different descriptions of underground labour. Generally speaking, the Yorkshire coalowners and the miners are on friendly terms, considering the recent severe struggle.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Trade generally is no worse. In the Steel Trade in some instances advances have been made of 2s. 6d. per ton. The heavy Tool Trades are fairly well off for orders. The demand for local pig iron remains steady. Most of the local foundries are fairly full up with work, both for home and export. There appears to be an increase of business in the Iron Trade, good orders being placed for material for colliery purposes, boiler-plates and girders.—J. Wadsworth.

A report from Castleford states that the Glass Bottle Trade is very brisk, all hands being employed. The majority of potteries are not doing much; some employers are introducing steam power, and this may help to revive the trade. There is a slackness in the Building Trades.

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—In this section of Sheffield trade a much more cheerful tone prevails than for some time past. The armour-plate makers, although not working full time, have made a start with the new Harvey plates. In boiler plates and tubes there is a fair amount of trade; the demand for ship plates is also improving. Some very good orders for special steel bars have found a considerable amount of employment for the hammermen and tilters. The railway tyre, axle and spring makers have been fairly well employed during the month. Orders during the past fortnight have been coming in more freely than before, some very good ones being booked for all kinds of railway material for India. The Australian market is also showing signs of improvement. The Bessemer and Siemens steel-makers are moderately well employed, there being good demands for the higher qualities, especially for railway spring manufacture. There are good orders in hand for steel wire of various kinds. The steel casting makers have been doing fairly well up to now, but some complain that new orders are not being placed in sufficient quantities to keep them going, and unless a speedy change takes place they will have to reduce their hands. There is not much change in the iron-founding; the only branch which is really busy is the Iron Pipe Trade, for which there is a fair demand for gas, water and telephone purposes. The rolling mills have been fairly well employed, especially in the heavier sections. Crucible steel-makers are doing a fair amount of trade, especially in the higher grades. The stove-grate, baths, and builders' ironmongery makers generally, are quieter than they have been for some time past. The Engineers have still a considerable number of members on donation benefit, but those who are in situations are making fuller time.

Cutlery and Tools.—The Table Knife Trade is anything but satisfactory, the Fork and Spoon Trade is also very quiet. The spring knife cutlers are as a rule very short of work from various causes, mainly connected with foreign trade. In tools there is a slight improvement. Sheep shear makers are fairly busy. There is a slight improvement among the makers of the better class of razors, but makers of commoner qualities are very slack. There is a better tone in the Scissors Trade, and the workmen employed in the hand forging department are in fuller employment. In Files there is a decided improvement, and this is generally one of the first trades to revive.

Miscellaneous.—There is a marked slackness in the Building Trades, several men being either wholly or partially unemployed. In some of the best houses in the Silver Trade the workmen are on short time, and the Electro and Britannia Metal Trades are very quiet. The Corporation relief works still continue.—S. Utley.

Hull and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment for those dependent on these trades has been fair. The building yards employed a few additional men to complete some of the vessels required as soon as possible. A steady flow of repair work has given employment for a good number of men during the past month. This district depends more upon repair work than building. The unemployed in these industries may be roughly estimated at from 7 to about 12 per cent. The fluctuations in repair work make it difficult to arrive at an exact estimate. The number of shipwrights unemployed during the month has averaged 8½ per cent. Grimsby and Goole are, if anything, worse off than Hull.

Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks has been moderately good, especially in connection with the vessels trading between the Mediterranean, East Indian, and American ports. A great number of men are out of work through the stoppage of the Timber and other trades with the North Europe and Baltic ports, although the fine weather has kept some of the ports open well into the winter. At Grimsby and Goole docks there is great depression.

Seamen.—Seamen are affected by the same causes as the dock labourers. Those thrown out by the stoppage of the Baltic and Norwegian traffic go on the fishing vessels if they have the chance, while others endeavour to get work at the dock side or in the various local industries.

Fishing Industry.—Owing to the high winds, the supply of fish in the market was at times very scarce, which affected the employment of those on shore engaged in the landing, packing, transporting and curing of the cargoes delivered and sold. Many vessels were obliged to return to port for necessary repairs, after unremunerative voyages. Cargoes of herrings are being imported from the Northern Europe fishing ports. The pontoon labourers are feeling the lack of employment.

Seed Crushing, Oil, Varnish and Colour Works.—The seed crushing mills have been fairly well employed. The demand for oil cake has been fairly good. The paint and colour works are busier; most of the firms are now working full time, and a few are setting on additional hands.

Building Trade.—Employment for bricklayers, masons, slaters and plasterers is not so brisk as it was. The prospects for the summer season are good. About 5 to 7 per cent. of the men in these trades are unemployed; of the masons about 25 per cent. The carpenters and joiners report 5 per cent. unemployed, an improvement on December, and the painters also are improving. Saw mill and wood-cutting machine workers have no men unemployed, but many of the mills are running short time.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and allied Trades do not give a good report; many printers and others are unemployed, the introduction of type-setting machines at one house throwing several compositors on the unemployed books. On the whole, employment, considering the time of the year and effects left by the Dock and Coal Disputes, is better than was anticipated.—W. G. Millington.

Wolverhampton and District.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—There was a marked decline in the Iron Trade at the beginning of the year, but the prospect is now more favourable. The Wages Board have announced a reduction of 2½ per cent. in wages, to come into force on February 3rd. In the Walsall and Bloxwich District a large number of ironworkers are reported to be out of employment through the closing of works. The Finished Iron Trade is now fairly steady. The puddlers, mill rollers and steel workers are reported fair. The engineers and constructive machinists show a slight increase in the number of unemployed, although work at the railway works is reported to be steady. The bridge and girder constructors, boiler and tank makers, colliery air-tube makers and gasometer erectors are fairly busy. The heavy ironfounders have maintained their improved position. The tool makers and machinists report no change.

Hardware Trades.—The long depression in the Nut and Bolt Trade still continues, but there are indications of an improvement in this and in the Heavy Chain and Cable Trade. The Lock Trade shows none, and the Wrought Nail Trade is very bad. The spring trap makers are unsettled, and the Metallic Bedstead Trade has fluctuated during the month. Some branches of the Brass and Copper Trade are very slack. In the Tinsplate and Ironplate Industries the number of unemployed has increased. The gun lock fliers of Darlaston are still "out" against a reduction. Trade is reported as fair amongst the enamellers, japanners and galvanisers, and has somewhat declined amongst the light ironfounders and hollow-ware casters, but the iron safe makers have maintained their improved position. In the Steam and Gas Tube Trade there is a decline, but there is an increased demand for cycle tubes. The Electrical Trades are not so busy; the cycle makers are better employed. The edge tool and agricultural implement makers, wire workers and iron hurdle makers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Work is above the average at this season. A few men are unemployed in all branches for short periods, except the plumbers, who are very busy. The carpenters and bricklayers report trade as fair, the plasterers as moderate, and amongst the masons work is declining. A large percentage of painters and decorators are unemployed, but they are busier than usual at this time of year. The mill sawyers and machinists are still busy, and the brickmakers are moderately employed; work is also fair amongst the general and bricklayers' labourers either on building or gas stoking.

Miscellaneous.—The Boot and Shoe Trade continues to improve. In the Printing Trades there is no material alteration. The Clothing Trades are still very depressed, but showed an advance at the end of the month. The bakers and confectioners were very busy at the beginning, and very slack at the end. The coachbuilders, wheelwrights and smiths are still fairly well off for work, and there is a slight improvement amongst harness-makers and saddlers for cycle work, but the brown saddlers continue depressed. The improvement amongst cabinet and furniture makers still continues, and the oil, colour and varnish makers are fully employed. Boatmen, carriers and railway men are now steadily engaged.

The Unemployed.—Work is still being provided by the Wolverhampton Corporation for a number of the unemployed in the formation of a park, and West Bromwich has opened a stoneyard, paying piecework rates. When employed cleaning the streets, men are paid at the rate of 4d. per hour for not more than nine hours per day. A relief fund has been opened at Walsall.—W. F. Mea.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—There is no change for the better since last report. The manufacturers who secure large orders from America are affected by the diminution of the transatlantic trade. The hollow-ware pressers report trade as very bad, fully 2 per cent. being altogether out of work, while the others are not working on an average more than three or four days per week. The Sanitary Trade, however, is in a good condition, and there is only one sanitary presser on the unemployed list throughout the district. The flat pressers report that trade is bad, and that many working potters are in a state of poverty through crippled earnings. The printers and transferrers report trade as very bad, only three days per week being worked on an average. The women's society reports trade to be slightly worse. Several works are partially closed during the week, and great depression prevails throughout. The cratemakers report that short time prevails, and fully 12 per cent. are out of work. Disputes in single factories are frequent both among the hollow-ware pressers and the flat pressers, arising out of changes in the shape and size of the ware, which raise questions as to classification and the rates of payment due for the various sizes. Where, however, the officials of the unions do not succeed in effecting an amicable arrangement these disputes are referred to a Committee of Conciliation, composed of employers and workmen, whose decision is generally accepted. A firm in the trade has informed that if they will make suggestions as to the way it is to be worked. The workpeople, however, have made no response. The potters themselves do not on an average work eight hours a day.

Iron and Coal Trades.—The Iron Trade in this district is improving. Another blast furnace has been blown in, and some large orders have been secured. Colliers are well employed, and a brisk demand exists for all kinds of coal.

Engineering and Ironfounding.—The engineers report trade as bad, fully 10 per cent. being out of work and short time prevailing in most of the shops. The ironfounders report a similar condition of things. The men employed on railway works in North Staffordshire have been on short time, viz., five days per week, since last September.

Miscellaneous.—The Building Trade is dull, with a large percentage out of work. The wood sawyers report trade fair, with improving prospects. Letterpress printers are fairly well employed, about 4 per cent. signing the out-of-work book. Lithographic artists and printers report trade as very bad. The Trades Council is about to discuss a scheme of conciliation and arbitration submitted by the President of the North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce.—I. S. Harvey.

Birmingham and District.

January began badly, and trade has remained dull. The sharp frost in the early part of the month put a stop for the time to builders' and other outdoor work. There have not, however, been the public signs of acute distress seen in former years.

Brassworkers, Coppersmiths, and Lampmakers.—The Brass Trade has been below the average. The demand for cheap chandelier and gas-fitting work has been the most brisk, but was also below the average of the season. For electric light fittings there is a slowly growing demand. The lampmakers are fairly busy on the season trade. The coppersmiths report no improvement.

Bedstead-Making.—This trade has further contracted during the month, it is believed temporarily, in consequence of the advance in prices and wages as ruled by the new federation of employers and workmen (already reported on), which is now in full operation.

Engineers, Toolmakers, Machinists, Metal Rollers, &c.—Trade is not quite so good on the whole, but as large orders are the rule in these industries, some factories keep going and employ all their men. Of nearly 1,000 engineers in Unions in this district, 80 (or 8 per cent.) are reported to be out of work. The metal rollers are fairly well employed. Safe making is not so good, no firm working full time, but three or four days a week being the average. The Cycle Trade is becoming more active every week. The Tinsplate Trade has fallen off.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—The Jewellery Trade is slowly reviving. The Silversmiths' Trade is quiet. In electro-plating there is no change.

Tube and Wire Drawing.—There is a general depression in both these trades, though the demand for seamless tube is said to be increasing. The wire-working and weaving branches are not so good as last month.

Glass Trade.—Makers of the best qualities of flint table ware are still very badly off. Glass-blowers are partially kept on, but their work is mostly for stock. On the other hand, men are fully employed in the Common Lamp Chimney and Globe Trade. Sheet

glass workers are better employed. In stained glass work there is a growing demand.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The Building Trades are not so busy. Of 1,183 carpenters in Unions in the district, 109 (or 9·2 per cent.) are unemployed. The plumbers were very busy during the frost, but have been slack since. In leather work and saddlery, cycle work is the most active; brown saddlery is reported bad. The Boot and Shoe Trade, though not worse than last month, is unsettled by the prospect of a serious trade dispute, originating in Northampton. Fender-making is very bad, men working three or four days per week. Some of the large concerns making railway wagons and rolling-stock are busy.

Iron Trade in South Staffordshire.—The condition of this trade as a whole has not changed for the better. Many mills and forges did not start till the 10th, but now some are running full time, although the makers of best qualities are producing little more than half their normal output. Wages have been reduced 2½ per cent., neutralising the rise of two months ago.

Coal Mining.—The collieries under the Wages Board have settled down to their normal condition. The pressure upon them has now ceased, and some men are on short time. There has been no change in the rate of wages.

Other Trades in South Staffordshire.—On the whole, these continue to be fairly good. Heavy iron-working is still the best; the Anchor, Heavy Chain, Vice, and Anvil Trades are even better than the late average, but still there is not full employment for all. Galvanised work has fallen off a little. The Lock Trade is rather brisk. Hurdle fencing is in pretty good request. The Hand-made Wrought Nail Trade is suffering great depression.—*W. J. Davis.*

A report from Coventry states that the Watch Trade is in a very depressed condition, and a number of skilled workmen are wholly unemployed. The Cycle Industry has improved, and several firms are working overtime. The Silk Trade is very depressed, with a number of looms idle.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Every branch of the trade remains as depressed as in December; quite 20 per cent. of the workers are estimated to be out of work, and short time is universal. The levers branch is especially affected. This branch obtained a 5 per cent. advance in June, but in September received notice of a 5 per cent. reduction. The question has, however, been referred to arbitration, with the result that further consideration of the proposed reduction is postponed until April 20th, by which time the effect of the spring trade can be ascertained. The bleachers report trade as moderate, with a few unemployed, through one of the largest firms closing a few months ago. The dyers are working short time, with a few men out of work.

Hosiery Trade.—The trade continues very slack, short time being general. There has been one serious dispute during the month, which has resulted in the men securing trade union rates. The circular hosiery branch is slack, none working full time. The shirt and pant branch is in a very depressed condition, having failed to secure the army contracts. Female workers are only moderately busy.

Iron Trade.—The engineers show no improvement, and have about 10 per cent. unemployed. The cycle trade, however, is fairly busy, full time generally being worked. The lace-machine builders continue fairly busy, but the hosiery machinists are very slack. The boiler-makers report trade dull, with a few men unemployed. The brass workers report trade on the decline, with about 9 per cent. unemployed. The ironfounders report a slight improvement. The tool machinists return 13 per cent. unemployed. The bobbin and carriage makers have slightly improved, with about 4 per cent. unemployed. The iron-dressers are fairly busy, with no unemployed. The sinker makers are not so busy; a few are working short time, and several are unemployed.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners have about 7 per cent. idle; the bricklayers are on short time and a few are out of work. A very large percentage of painters are unemployed. The plumbers have been very slack the latter half of the month. Labourers are not busy, but the outlook for the trade is considered good.

Mining.—Miners are well employed. In consequence of the refusal of the men to work on Saturdays, one company has obtained a number of summonses against their workmen.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report trade as bad, with about 15 per cent. unemployed. The lithographic printers return about 5 per cent. unemployed, with trade moderate. The bookbinders are fairly busy, with no men out of work. The Boot and Shoe Finishing Trade is very quiet; several men have

been discharged this month through the introduction of machinery. The cabinet-makers report trade as quiet, but have no unemployed. The box-makers are very slack. The elastic bandage-makers report trade as declining, with about 5 per cent. unemployed. The hosiery trimmers are short of work, and about 10 per cent. are unemployed. The coach builders report trade as quiet, with 9 per cent. unemployed. The wheelwrights and blacksmiths are moderately busy, with about 6 per cent. unemployed. The railway men are fairly busy and regularly employed.—*W. L. Harstaff.*

Derbyshire District.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—A large trade was done in coal in January, all the pits being fully employed. The stocks of house coal on hand at railway and private traders are rather below the average at this season of the year. A heavy traffic is reported on the railway. Steam coal is coming in well, and railway companies are stocking largely. Quarrymen in Wirksworth, Little Eaton and Bakewell Districts are very slack indeed, many being unemployed.

Iron Trade.—The demand for pig iron has slightly improved, but only about three-fifths of the furnaces are in blast in the county; in Clay Cross and Wingerworth every furnace is standing idle, and at Sheepbridge two out of eight furnaces are blowing. The Malleable Iron Trade is good.

Engineering and Machinery.—In Derby, engineering and machinery works are slack, about 6 per cent. being unemployed; the iron-moulders report a slight improvement, but over 20 per cent. are still unemployed. The brass-moulders and finishers are somewhat better employed. The Stove-grate Trade is slack, over 10 per cent. being idle. In the Belper District the same trade has fallen off considerably, many working short time. Bridge, girder and boiler yards are slack; about 5 per cent. of the boiler-makers are unemployed. The Rivet Trade is good. In the district of New Mills all engineering firms are fairly well employed. In the Chesterfield District about 5 per cent. are idle; trade is reported as bad in Ripley. In the Long Eaton District the lace machine builders are quiet.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers report trade as rather quiet, the carpenters, joiners and stonemasons as moderate, the cement and plaster workers as fairly busy. Most timber yards are fairly well employed; the sawyers and wood working machinists are slack, many working short time with small prospect of improvement. The house painters and decorators are very slack, with about 40 per cent. unemployed; the plasterers are in a similar condition. The plumbers are busy. The Building Trade in the Long Eaton and Belper Districts continues to improve; in Bakewell the trade is brisk.

Textile Trades.—The slight improvement in the Lace and Silk Trades has scarcely been maintained in Derby, many workpeople being on short time. The Lace Trade in Long Eaton District is depressed, 10 to 15 per cent. being unemployed, and 40 to 50 per cent. partially employed only. In the Belper District the cotton mills are fairly brisk.

Clothing Trades.—In the Wholesale Clothing Trade workpeople are all fairly well employed. The bespoke department is slack. The Boot and Shoe trade is dull, all piece workers are on short time and many day workers, very few, however, being totally unemployed. In the Belper District the framework knitters are only working four days per week.

Printing Trades.—The lithographic printers report trade as bad; the letterpress printers as rather dull. The bookbinders are slack, many working short time, and about 7 per cent. being totally unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The paper-makers, paper-stainers, and colour-mixers are brisk, and also the bakers and confectioners. The hide and skin workers and mineral water operatives are fairly well employed. The chemical and colour workers and basket-makers are slack. The cabinet-makers and the jewellers and silver-smiths are moderately employed. The elastic-web weavers report trade as bad, half of the men working short time, about 20 per cent. being totally unemployed. The brushmakers, the organ-builders, and all branches of the China Trade are quiet. The gas-workers and brickmakers are moderately employed. The railway carriage builders are slack, still working five days per week. Coachbuilders in private shops are improving. In the Long Eaton District wagon builders and repairers are busy. The dyers and bleachers in the Belper District are slack. Many unskilled labourers are totally unemployed.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Business opened well in January, and throughout the Leicester district orders are now more plentiful and employment more general. In Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough, Daventry, Desborough and Rushden, the seat of the men's

and boys' branch of the trade, a general revival of business is taking place, and clickers, riveters, finishers and machinists are more fully employed. The shoe merchants, curriers and leather merchants all report an improvement in the demand for material.

Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Trades.—Taken as a whole, the Hosiery Trade in this district maintains a fairly healthy tone. Transactions in the Wool Trade are large, and good prices are being realised for all kinds of material used in local productions.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Some of the general engineering firms report a slight falling off, and a few more men are reported out of employment. On the other hand, all the firms who make boot and shoe machinery are busy, and some of the workpeople are working overtime. Cycle makers are better employed. Many of the ironfounders are working short time, and about 10 per cent. are wholly unemployed. Trade is also bad with the casters.

Building Trades.—In most branches of the Building Trade business is slack. More than the average number of bricklayers, carpenters and joiners and builders' labourers are out of work. The plasterers and masons are not so fully employed as in December. The brick and tile-makers are rather better off for work.

Mining and Quarrying.—The miners in this district are working full time. The output at most of the stone quarries is kept well up to the average, and the men generally are well employed. Iron-stone workers are also more regularly employed.

Miscellaneous.—A slight improvement is reported in the production of elastic fabrics, but employment among the artisans engaged in the manufacture of shoe webs is still short and irregular. The wholesale houses engaged in the Tailoring Trade are rather busier, but with the retail firms trade does not improve rapidly. Both the letterpress and lithographic branches of the Printing Trade report business as moderate, with several men out of work. Trade is fairly good with cabinet-makers, brush-makers and wool-sorters. Navvies and general out-door labourers are moderately engaged, but a number that were on the unemployed list are gradually obtaining work.

Trade Organisation.—A special committee appointed by the Leicester Branch of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives to inquire into the conditions under which its members work in connection with machinery, have made the following recommendations:—1, That all men working under the minimum wage be stopped forthwith; 2, That all racing be done away with; 3, That all overtime be abolished; 4, That all female labour be employed under the same conditions, and receive the same rates of wages as males.—*T. Smith.*

Eastern Counties.

A report from Norwich states that the Building Trades are in a very fair state, few men being unemployed. The Engineering and Iron Trades are fairly busy, and the printers are well employed at present. The Boot and Shoe Trade is depressed, and the Tailoring Trade is dull. The number of unemployed in Norwich has been diminished. The Corporation have employed a considerable number of extra men, chiefly at stone-breaking and repairing, and cleaning roads and streets; extra men have also been put on to the new sewerage works in course of construction. An electric light company is now in full swing and employing a large number of skilled and unskilled workmen. In Yarmouth trade generally is bad; the Corporation have been able to employ a large number of those out of work, the majority of whom belong to the Fishing Industry. Agricultural employment in the county of Norfolk is very dull.

Bristol, Somerset and Gloucestershire District.

Building Trades.—All branches are depressed. About 40 per cent. of the stonemasons are out of work, and the unemployed carpenters and joiners have increased to 8 per cent. The plasterers, painters, and bricklayers report no change. The wood-cutting machinists, wood turners and shop and bar fitters are also slack. The lath-renders report trade as slack at Bristol, and as fair at Cardiff, Gloucester, Newport and Bridgewater.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—The improvement in the Bristol trade has been fully maintained. Little friction has been met with in establishing the "indoor" system of labour. In Kingswood trade has been rather quiet. At Street (Somerset) it is very slack.

Clothing Trades.—The Ready-made Clothing Trade continues to improve, and all hands expect to be shortly in full employment. The Bespoke Trade remains stagnant.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The import trade during the month has been brisk, and dock employment fairly regular. Sailors and firemen have been able to secure berths easily. The shipwrights report no improvement, except at Gloucester, where trade is said to be very fair. Sailmakers in Bristol are slack, but at Newport they are busy.

Mining.—The Coal Trade in the Bristol District has been very dull; 517 miners were unemployed at the end of the month. In the Radstock District trade has been good. At one of the pits 153 men have been unable to resume work since the close of the dispute. The Dean Forest trade continues very fair.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—There is a marked improvement in some of these trades. The engineers have about 3 per cent. out of employment, as against 7 per cent. in December. The boiler-makers are better employed, and the toolmakers and machinists and those engaged in the Cycle Trade report an improvement. The Galvanising Trade is also very brisk. In the Ironplate and Agricultural Implement Trade short time is being worked in most cases. The ironfounders have 18 per cent. out of employment.

Harness and Leather Trades.—The Brown Saddle Trade is reported as very bad, but dulness prevails in the black saddle, harness and collar making. The Leather Trade has improved, and tanners generally are fully employed. The Mat, Rug and Leather Board Trades are also fairly busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report 10 per cent. out of employment. The Lithographic printing is extremely bad, and the bookbinding, paper bag and envelope making branches are very slack.

Miscellaneous.—All departments at the cotton mills are running full time. The railway wagon and carriage building is reported as fair; basket-making as very bad; brush-making as dull, 8 per cent. being unemployed. The Tobacco and Cigar Trade is brisk. Cabinet-makers are very slack, 16 per cent. unemployed. Farm labourers have difficulty in finding employment.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South Western District.

Engineering and Ship-repairing.—Trade in these branches is reported as moderate.

Shipping.—Although the trade is still depressed, there has been a fair import of coal, causing it to be a little brisker than it has been for some of the dock labourers, but far from giving employment to all hands. Many seamen still remain idle, unable to obtain berths, and report trade as bad.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—The masons, bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers and stonecutters show a decline, and many are idle. The plumbers are fairly well employed. The painters are very slack indeed. Cabinet-makers and upholsterers are reported as slack.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot Trade is still very depressed. The tailors report trade as bad, both in the bespoke and ready-made departments.

Mining.—Employment in the tin mines in Cornwall is reported as still very slack.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers are fairly well employed. Unskilled labour continues depressed. The Labour Shed Committee, a voluntary organisation for dealing with urgent cases, give employment to as many as they can, having regard to funds and accommodation in the shed, by sawing, chopping and delivering wood. The Plymouth County Council established from the 1st of the month a labour registry (for particulars respecting the working of which see p. 46).—*J. Welland.*

Cardiff and District.

Ship Repairing and Engineering Trades.—These trades have been very busy, and in Cardiff and the immediate district work has been so good that one of the local branches of the Union, numbering over 300 members, for part of the month had no unemployed engineers on its books for the first time since 1885. All the skilled trades have shared in the rush of work, and the unskilled labourers appear also to have participated in the exceptionally good time. This somewhat sudden, and perhaps temporary, improvement, was created by the recent severe gales.

Building Trades.—The masons, carpenters, plasterers, plumbers and bricklayers, who have undoubtedly had an excellent run of work for upwards of two years in this district, state that trade is not so good and so certain as previously, and report it as moderate.

Iron, Steel, Copper and Tinplate Industries.—There has been a slight change for the better, and a very general feeling obtains amongst the employees that they have experienced the worst. The dispute at the Pontymister steel works cannot yet be regarded as at an end. The works are again partially closed. The dispute has had a disastrous effect on the district. The Tin Trade is in an even more deplorable state than in December. Several works are preparing to close.

Shipping Trade.—Shipments have been exceedingly good during the month, and the dock hoppers have had a very fair run of work.

There have, however, been a large number of seamen and firemen out of employment, owing to unusual importation rather than to any other cause.—*T. Davies.*

South Wales Mining Districts.

Coal Mining.—A large business continues to be transacted in the Coal Trade, although the shipment of coal has been hampered by the non-arrival of ships, which with more favourable weather would have been ready for loading; in consequence of this, the coal market for foreign purposes was temporarily checked in the early part of the last week of the month. The steam freight market is looking up, while the outward sea market continues quiet. The pitwood market is weak, without any indication of an early improvement. The wages of the miners have, through the operation of the sliding scale, been advanced 6½ per cent., thus placing them 26½ per cent. above the rates of December 1879. This will affect about 90,000 workmen. One colliery, closed since August, has resumed operations.

Tinplate Trade.—The state of this trade is very bad. Prices are said to be so low as to be in many cases unremunerative, and certain makers would, for a time, welcome any reasonable excuse for closing their works. There is no prospect of immediate improvement, although much is hoped from American tariff changes.

Disputes.—A rather serious dispute at one colliery, with regard to a seam newly opened, has been referred by the Sliding Scale Committee to two arbitrators. Another dispute before the Committee relates to an alleged change of prices for timbering and driving headings at a colliery which has recently changed owners.—*W. Evans.*

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining and Mineral Oil Trades.—The Coal Trade in the Lothians continues brisk. In West Lothian the restrictive policy of working only five days per week is being generally followed. The Mineral Oil Industry also continues prosperous.

Iron, Engineering and Metal Trades.—The iron moulders report trade as very bad; the pattern-makers, engineers, hammermen and blacksmiths as bad, though there is a slight falling-off in the number out of work; the tinsmiths and gas meter makers have none idle, but a considerable number are on short time; the brass-founders are about the same as last month; the coppersmiths are not well employed; returns from 13 branches show 7·8 per cent. idle.

Shipbuilding Trades.—The shipyards are fairly busy at present, principally with repairing work; the boiler-makers return 6·1 per cent. out of work, and the shipwrights 1·2 per cent.; the ship-joiners have none idle.

Building Trades.—The number out of work is smaller than in December. The masons, bricklayers and plumbers report trade as good, joiners as fair, plasterers as quiet, lathsplitters and glaziers as bad; 8 branches in this group return 3 per cent. unemployed. The painters report an improvement, but there are still about 25 per cent. out of work.

Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.—The cabinet-makers report an improvement. Several shops which were working short time are now on full time. The French polishers and upholsterers report no change, returns from 5 branches show 5·8 per cent. on the idle roll.

Printing and allied Trades.—The compositors were quiet for the first three weeks of the month, but improved towards the end; press and machine men report trade as fair, lithographic printers as bad, while bookbinders show an improvement. Lithographic artists report trade as quiet, typefounders are only working four days per week, stereotypers are well employed. Returns from 7 branches show 1·7 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The Clothing Trades are still bad, although the boot and shoe branch shows a slight improvement; tailors, however, report trade as worse. The stoneware throwers and the skimmers report an improvement. The sett-makers, sawmill operatives, horseshoers, and gilders report trade as fair. The tanners, curriers, saddlers, coachbuilders, bakers and coopers report trade as bad, the two latter showing a considerable falling off. The India-rubber and Paper-making Trades are much the same. The flint-glass makers and glass-cutters report trade as quiet. The glass-bottle makers at Portobello have not yet resumed work, though the strike has been settled for over a month. Eight branches making returns show 10 per cent. unemployed. The seamen and firemen report employment and wages as steady. Dock labourers are moderately well employed, but a considerable number of general labourers are idle.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Mining.—The Coal Trade is in a prosperous condition at present; the increased activity in the Iron Trade has resulted in a great demand for furnace coal for home consumption. The miners are demanding an increase of wages from the coal owners of the West of Scotland. In the Kilsyth and Maryhill Districts the iron ore miners under one firm are "out" against a proposed reduction of 1s. per day in wages; and the wages of one section of coal miners at a mine in the Falkirk District have been reduced. Reductions have also been made at a coal mine in the Maryhill District.

Shipbuilding.—A great improvement has taken place in the trade, and now that the joiners' dispute has been settled, it is expected that trade will be better than it has been for several years. The shipwrights report that many of their men have found employment in Govan and on the lower reaches of the Clyde. The boiler-makers and iron ship builders state that trade has been slack, and that although good orders have come in it will be some time before the men will be able to start on them. The locomotive shops are also very slack.

Steel and Iron Trades.—The steel smelters report that work generally is better, and that there are fewer idle men than during any month in the past two years. The millmen report very promising prospects in the Finished Steel Trade, and all the steel works are very busy. The blast furnacemen report that eight more furnaces have been re-lit in the Coatbridge District, and that prospects are good. The blacksmiths report a considerable increase in the number out of work during the month, and the position of the iron-moulders has not improved. The tinplaters and the filemakers report improving trade. The irondressers have been slack during the month, but improvement was shown towards the end. The irongrinders have been busy. The scale, beam and weighing-machine makers have no unemployed. The general toolmakers and machinists report that machinists are fairly busy, toolmakers improving, but with several members idle, and the Cycle Trade very bad. The sewing-machine makers are still very slack. The enginemen, cranemen and firemen, the horse-shoers and the hammermen all report great slackness. The engineers have had 10 per cent. idle, but see indications of revival. The ornamental and range stovefitters report trade as very dull.

Building Trades.—The plumbers, masons and joiners report trade as fairly good, the bricklayers, the paviors and the slaters as dull, and the sett-makers and plasterers as good. The painters report trade as very dull, with improving prospects.

Woodworking Trades.—The sawmill operatives report a great improvement. The coopers are much depressed. The coach-makers have still 4 per cent. out of work, but report a change for the better. The cork cutters and the lathsplitters are remarkably busy. The cabinet-makers have suffered through the joiners' dispute.

Textile Trades.—All departments complain of slackness. The beamers report trade as very bad, the warpers as showing no improvement, with an average of 20 hours' work per week, but with a diminution of numbers unemployed. The calender-men have not known trade so good for many years. The dyers are only working half time. The spindle and flyer makers are busy, and also the carpet weavers.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers are very slack, with about 12 per cent. idle. The lithographic printers, bookbinders, stationers' warehousemen and cutters report trade as dull.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report no improvement, the boot and shoe riveters, that a number of shops are on short time, but few men are idle. The shoemakers have been fairly busy, but are becoming slack as usual at this season.

Shipping Trades.—The seamen and firemen, as well as the dock labourers, report trade as dull.

Miscellaneous.—The stoneware-throwers, plate-glass bevellers, flint-glass cutters, wire weavers, upholsterers, bakers, and hackney-carriage drivers, all report depression of trade. The railway servants have been steadily employed, and the general labourers report work to be plentiful.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Jute and Linen Trades.—The condition of these industries has not changed since the last report. No further additions have been made to the list of firms who have extended the working hours to the maximum, and there are still a large number of workers unemployed.

Shipbuilding and Iron Trades.—In one of the largest shipbuilding yards work has been almost entirely suspended since the New Year holidays, and in all branches of the Engineering Trades there are a very large number out of regular employment.

Building Trades.—These trades remain fairly busy, masons, bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers being, but for the weather, in almost full employment. About 5 per cent. of the unskilled labourers connected with these trades are at present out of employment. House joiners are quiet in consequence of the influx of ship joiners out of employment in the shipbuilding department of the trade. A large amount of work for slaters is to hand, but, owing to a dispute on the question of employment of labourers, it is not being proceeded with, and the dispute, if protracted, may lead to slackness in other branches of the Building Trades.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing Trade remains good. An effort is being made to reduce the apprentices in the jobbing department of the trade, so as to bring the number into conformity with the rule of the trade, viz., one for each firm, and one for every three journeymen regularly employed. The tailors and shoemakers are still very dull. The carpet and tapestry weavers are almost at a standstill. At least 60 per cent. of the shipwrights are unemployed.

Coal Mining.—The Fife and Kinross Coal Trade still remains firm, full employment at the various collieries being the rule.—*R. D. B. Ritchie.*

Aberdeen and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—There is a great improvement since last month. All the shipwrights are employed. A good deal of repairing work is in hand, and new orders have been secured. Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders are better employed, only 5 per cent. being on the idle roll. Work in the shipyards is more readily obtainable than it has been for the past 12 months. Iron-moulders are still dull, and report no change. The engineers report a slight improvement. The blacksmiths and tinplate workers show no improvement.

Building Trades.—House building is nearly at a standstill on account of the dispute with the carpenters and joiners, which has lasted seven weeks. Masons, plasterers, plumbers, house painters and slaters are now feeling the effects of its prolongation, and a large number are idle. The house painters average 40 per cent. unemployed. There is a large amount of work in hand, and if this dispute were settled house building would be exceptionally busy.

Quarrying.—The demand for granite for monumental purposes is good, and there is a slight improvement in the demand for monumental work. Several American orders have been obtained, but there are still a considerable number of stonecutters idle. The granite polishers are better employed. The sett-makers are very dull. The outlook in the Granite Trade is more hopeful.

Fishing.—The catch of fish was less than in the previous month, the sum realised being about £21,000, as compared with over £26,000 in December. Small line boats have not been very successful. The weather has affected the catch, and fish were small.

Miscellaneous.—The jute mills are still running short time. The letterpress printers are again very dull. Comb-making shows no improvement. The Boot and Shoe Trade is slack, and the Tailoring Trade very dull. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are not busy. General labourers are far in excess of the demand, and work at the docks shows no improvement.

Unemployed.—A new water reservoir has been commenced by the Corporation, who are employing directly about 60 men, preference being given to taxpayers who have been residents for at least six months. The wages are 3d. to 4½d per hour, according to capability.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building, Woodwork and Iron Trades.—The depression still continues in the Building and allied Trades, and with the exception of the plasterers, who are fairly well employed, a large number of men are on the unemployed rolls of the various societies. Trade with the mill-sawyers and the packing-case makers is, however, middling. A serious depression exists amongst the cabinet-makers, and work is also very dull with the upholsterers. The coopers keep steadily employed. In the Engineering and Boiler-making Industries work is described as bad, but with the whitesmiths as fair. In the Coach-building and kindred Trades work has been steady, but dullness has been prevalent among the saddlers.

Food and Clothing Trades.—Employment was steady in all departments of the Food Trades during the month. The grocers' assistants, hotel and club assistants, and mineral-water operatives were also fairly employed. In Tailoring and Shoemaking there has been great depression, especially in the latter.

Printing and allied Trades.—The state of the Printing Trade is not so good as in previous years, the number entitled to the weekly allowance being 62 out of 850 members. The Lithographic Trade is also very quiet; 20 members of the society being unemployed; but the bookbinders report trade as fair. The stereotypers and the paper-cutters are still fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The Cork-cutting and Basket-making Trades have been dull. The fishermen are still feeling the effects of the recent severe weather and storms, employment being precarious. In the Bottle-making Industry work keeps good, while the re-opening of a bottle factory has given employment to a large number of men out of work. The members of the Tram-men's Union and those of the Railway Servants' Society have been fully employed. There is no improvement so far as the seamen and firemen are concerned, or in the case of the labourers, who find employment very scarce. The hairdressers' assistants are fairly well employed, but have still a number idle or only partly employed. The seamstresses and dress-makers are very dull. Among the societies sending in reports for the month, trade is reported in 16 cases as bad, in 12 as fair, in 7 as good, in 7 as dull, and in 4 as middling.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

General.—There has been a great increase in the number of unemployed in this district during the month. In the Building, Linen, and many of the miscellaneous Trades, the slackness is seasonal, aggravated to some extent by the serious depression which appears to have set in in the Shipbuilding and Engineering Industry of the port. This, too, is made more noticeable by the riveters' dispute with respect to a proposed reduction of 5 per cent. on the prices paid for steel rivets, about 500 men being affected by it, while another dispute is taking place amongst the platers' helpers and labourers, who claim an increase of about 3s. per week in their wages. The employers have given notice to the riveters, caulkers, holders up, drillers, boiler-makers, and platers, of a reduction of 5 per cent. on piece-work, to take effect on and after February 15th. The returns received from 76 branches of trade societies, with a membership of 18,297, show 2,060, or 11·2 per cent. to have been unemployed at the end of the past month. Two societies report trade as good, nine as fair, one as very fair, one as steady, one as moderate, six as quiet, three as very quiet, eight as dull, four as very dull, three as bad, and five as very bad.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of the 8,832 members in these industries, 1,329, or 15 per cent., are signing the out-of-work books, as against 1,094, or 12·3 per cent., in December.

Building Trades.—Out of 2,508 organised workers in this industry, 217, or 8·6 per cent., are in search of work, as against 161, or 6·4 per cent., in last report, house painters being responsible for 150.

Linen Trades.—The returns from nine societies connected with these trades show that out of 3,107 members, 363, or 11·7 per cent., were unemployed at the end of January, as against 351, or 11·3 per cent., in December. Though the town reports are bad, those from the outlying districts are worse. In the Lurgan District it is stated that hand loom weaving is at its lowest ebb, the Damask Industry is also stagnant, and the sewing business is so bad that several factories have reduced their hands, hundreds are only partially employed, and many more are out of work.

Miscellaneous.—Twenty-one branches of trade societies forming this group return 151 out of 3,850 members, or 3·9 per cent., as unemployed, against 72, or 1·8 per cent., last month.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—The shipjoiners in Cork report trade as bad, while in Passage-West and Queenstown trade is very good, the demand exceeding the supply in both places. In Waterford and Limerick no change in these trades is reported. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders' report trade as very good, the demand in Passage for men being so great that several had to be brought from the Tyne District to execute the orders on hand. Waterford shows an improvement, but there are some members unemployed in Limerick. The brass moulders, brass finishers and coppersmiths are reported as fairly well employed. The smiths' helpers report trade as good, and in Passage West they have had their wages increased from 2s. 10d. to 3s. 6d. per day. The enginemen and cranemen also report trade as good.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—The Building Trades, including masons, plasterers, stonecutters, painters and glaziers show a slight improvement. The plumbers and gasfitters report trade as very good. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are also fairly busy.

Clothing and Food Trades.—During the month there has been a great improvement in the flax and clothing factories in Millfield, Blarney and Douglas. The bootmakers and boot riveters maintain the improvement reported last month. The beef and pork butchers also show a slight improvement. The grocers and wine merchants' assistants are not quite so busy as in December.

Fishing.—The Fishing Industry, especially in Blackrock, Youghal, Queenstown, Skibbereen and Baltimore is extremely dull.—*P. O'Shea.*

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

In continuation of the tables published in the previous number of the LABOUR GAZETTE, the subjoined particulars have been collected from Labour Bureaux organised as more or less permanent employment agencies, including that at Plymouth, which has been started since the last return was published. At these bureaux there were, during January, altogether 1,934 new applicants for work; work was found for 497 persons, and the number remaining on the register at the end of the month was 1,809, consisting of 1,361 men, 214 lads and boys, and 234 women and girls; 354 out of the 1,361 men were general labourers, 320 belonged to the Building Trades, 154 were porters and messengers, 127 were carmen and stablemen, and 103 were connected with the Engineering and Metal Trades. Nearly all of the females described themselves as charwomen or domestic servants. The number of employers who applied to the bureaux for workpeople was 351.

(1) Work Done in January.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Workpeople on Register.		No. of Applicants during January.		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux.	
	At end of Jan. 1894.	At end of Dec. 1893.	Fresh Applicants.	Re-newals.	During Jan. 1894.	During Dec. 1893.
Chelsea ...	247	147	485	468	158	136
St. Pancras ...	534	346	213	69	32	57
Battersea ...	188	116	345	249	52	77
Salford ...	312	271	147	...	17	72
Ipswich ...	97	41	90	...	32	34
Egham ...	32	40	34	...	25	23
Plymouth ...	399	...	620	...	35	110

* The figures in this column do not show the number of persons.
† This large number is accounted for by the fact that previous to January no system of cancelling names for non-renewal of application was in force in 1893.
‡ Plymouth Labour Registry opened January 1st 1894.

(2) Occupations of Applicants on Registers at End of January.

Occupations.	Chelsea	St. Pancras	Battersea	Salford	Ipswich	Egham	Plymouth
Men.							
Building Trades ...	8	55	27	35	2	8	185
Engineering and Metal Trades	5	25	9	41	7	2	14
Woodworking and Furniture Trades	12	26	9	3	1	...	8
Printing and Book-binding Trades	2	11	...	2	...	...	5
Clothing Trades ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	9
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c.	4	21	13	29	14	7	39
Clerks and Warehousemen	9	7	10	14	3	...	21
Porters and Messengers	38	76	7	3	10	3	17
General Labourers	13	39	55	145	29	9	64
Other Occupations...	21	42	21	32	14	1	19
Total Men ...	113	302	151	304	80	30	381
Lads and Boys ...	36	118	17	8	15	2	18
Women and Girls.							
Laundresses ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Dressmakers and Seamstresses	11	8	...	...	...	...	...
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	54	32	12	...	...	...	...
Servants ...	25	72	6	...	...	...	...
Others ...	6	...	2	...	2	...	...
Total Women and Girls ...	98	114	20	...	2	...	...
Grand Total ...	247	534	188	312	97	32	399

Pauperism in November.—The total number of paupers relieved in England and Wales on the last day of each week in November 1893, and the proportion of paupers per 10,000 of population, are shown in the last published monthly return of the Local Government Board. They were as follows:—

	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
Indoor ...	199,356	201,981	204,793	206,459
Outdoor ...	519,335	513,933	518,584	520,492
Total ...	708,701	715,914	723,377	726,951
Ditto, Nov. 1892 ...	659,355	662,644	667,045	672,722

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

(Based on information supplied by the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, of the Board of Supervision in Scotland, and of the Scotch Office.)

The returns for the selected districts in January 1894 compared with those for the same date last year show an increase of 12 per 10,000. The largest increase was at Stockton, viz., 113 per 10,000—a district in which the number of paupers in relation to population was only exceeded by the Central District of London. In West Ham the increase was 43, and in Barnsley 31 per 10,000. In these three districts (Stockton, West Ham, and Barnsley), the number of outdoor paupers was over 80 per cent. of the total number of paupers. The percentage of out-door paupers varied from 79 (Belfast) to 84 (Stockton)—the general average being 58 per cent.

Although, as stated above, the volume of pauperism this winter is somewhat greater than in the winter of 1892-3, it is satisfactory to note that it is not now increasing so fast as at this time last year. On the whole, since the last (December) return, there has been an increase in the rate per 10,000 of 2 only, as compared with an increase of 10 in the same period of 1892-3. This increase does not apply equally to all the 35 districts. In the Metropolis it was 7; in Stockton, 15; in Edinburgh, 13; in Dundee, 18; and in Dublin, 10. On the other hand, in many of the most important provincial centres, there has been a slight decrease; and in one district, Wigan, the decrease has been especially marked (72 per 10,000).

Table showing the number of paupers in certain selected districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of January 1894, and on the corresponding date in 1893.

District.	Population in 1891.	Paupers on one day in second week of January 1894.			Total No. of Paupers on corresponding date in 1893.
		In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	
ENGLAND & WALES.					
Metropolis.					
West District ...	740,735	10,832	8,448	19,280	12,489
North District ...	993,884	14,040	10,149	24,189	23,285
Central District ...	247,538	8,052	3,714	11,766	11,458
East District ...	705,114	13,454	5,844	19,298	17,836
South District ...	1,524,472	20,639	20,314	40,953	36,659
Total Metropolis ...	4,211,743	67,047	42,459	109,516	260
West Ham ...	365,134	1,768	8,708	10,476	8,892
Other Districts.					
Newcastle District ...	330,005	1,545	4,914	6,459	7,380
Stockton & Tees District ...	182,909	1,215	6,412	7,627	5,569
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	689,210	3,300	7,968	11,268	12,393
Wigan District ...	350,206	1,460	7,219	8,679	8,194
Manchester District ...	799,024	8,466	6,265	14,731	15,494
Liverpool District ...	860,362	9,959	8,437	18,396	17,301
Bradford District ...	341,881	1,180	4,295	5,475	5,405
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	353,681	1,111	4,636	5,747	5,362
Leeds District ...	387,044	1,799	5,745	7,544	7,169
Barnsley District ...	287,233	758	3,403	4,166	3,589
Sheffield District ...	342,332	2,333	4,246	6,579	6,057
Hull District ...	213,680	1,208	4,932	6,140	5,814
North Staffordshire ...	307,803	1,853	6,176	8,029	7,306
Nottingham District ...	331,458	1,505	5,165	6,670	6,278
Leicester District ...	174,624	1,214	2,674	3,888	3,513
Wolverhampton District ...	522,906	3,459	14,361	17,820	17,476
Birmingham District ...	504,408	4,425	2,022	6,447	6,155
Bristol District ...	326,217	2,500	8,944	11,444	10,574
Cardiff & Swansea ...	288,122	1,650	5,471	7,121	6,911
Total "Other Districts" ...	7,493,364	51,000	113,341	164,341	157,439
SCOTLAND.					
Glasgow District ...	772,917	3,593	13,024	16,617	15,691
Paisley & Greenock Distr't ...	150,216	774	2,060	2,834	2,719
Edinburgh & Leith Distr't ...	332,653	1,327	4,791	6,118	5,836
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	186,026	1,014	2,514	3,528	191
Aberdeen ...	123,327	499	2,344	2,843	2,674
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	78,476	244	909	1,153	1,076
Total for the above Scot-tish Districts ...	1,643,617	7,401	25,642	33,043	201
IRELAND.					
Dublin District ...	349,705	6,122	2,902	9,024	8,552
Belfast District ...	289,860	3,657	313	3,970	3,679
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick Districts ...	252,092	4,948	6,600	11,548	458
Galway District ...	38,719	400	362	762	723
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	930,376	15,127	10,177	25,304	272
Total for above 35 districts ...	14,644,234	142,343	200,337	342,680	234

* These figures represent the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas.

† 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. Vagrants in the Metropolis numbered 1,024 on one day in January 1894, and 814 on the corresponding date in January 1893.

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

PAUPERISM IN SCOTLAND 1884-94.

Statement of total number of poor relieved in Scotland on 14th January in each year since 1884.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Poor of all Classes on 14th January.			Ratio per 10,000 of Paupers to Population.
		Adults.	Dependents.	Total.	
1884	3,822,594	62,096	34,559	96,655	252
1885	3,851,601	61,972	34,958	96,930	251
1886	3,886,608	63,200	35,303	98,503	256
1887	3,909,615	63,405	36,321	99,726	255
1888	3,938,622	63,081	35,672	98,753	250
1889	3,967,629	62,242	34,747	96,989	244
1890	3,996,636	61,577	33,463	95,040	237
1891	4,025,647	60,844	32,578	93,422	232
1892	4,054,654	60,533	32,651	93,184	230
1893	4,083,661	60,734	32,762	93,496	228
1894	4,112,668	61,978	33,218	95,196	231
Total Decrease since 14th January 1884 ...		118	1,341	1,459	21

THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN JANUARY.

England.—The total quantity of fish (excluding shellfish) landed on the English and Welsh coasts from the fishing grounds during January was 414,474 cwt., or 4,289 cwt. less than in January 1893. The value for January (inclusive of £17,159 for shellfish) was returned as £396,524, or £5,578 more than in December 1893.

Fishermen are in many cases paid by receiving a share of the catch, and some indication of their state of prosperity is therefore afforded by the returns of the total value of fish landed during the month. From the following table it will be seen that, on the whole, at the undermentioned ports, the fish landed in January was valued at £331,005, or £48,574 more than the average January catch in the four years, 1890-3. The increases were mainly at North Shields, Hull, Grimsby and Lowestoft. At Plymouth and St. Ives there were decreases of some importance.

As compared with December 1893, the January figures show an increase, at these ten ports, of £12,848.

Table showing the value of fish landed from the fishing grounds at the principal Ports in January 1894, and the average for January 1890-1893.

Ports.	Jan. 1894.	Average for Jan. 1890-1893.	Ports.	Jan. 1894.	Average for Jan. 1890-1893.
EAST COAST.			SOUTH AND WEST COASTS.		
N. Shields ...	£ 13,144	£ 8,250	Plymouth ...	£ 4,727	£ 14,951
Hull ...	56,927	34,314	St. Ives ...	1,926	4,791
Grimsby ...	123,895	107,236	Millford ...	8,760	8,919
Yarmouth ...	12,662	13,084			
Lowestoft ...	39,086	37,534			
Ramsgate ...	9,748	9,545	Total for these ten Ports ...	331,005	282,431
London ...	60,130	50,407	Ditto in December ...	318,157	282,087

Scotland.—The total quantity of white fish landed in Scotland last month was 158,641 cwt., which, when compared with 231,244 cwt. landed in January 1893, shows a decrease of 72,603 cwt.

Ireland.—The quantity of fish (exclusive of shellfish) landed in Ireland last month was 21,142 cwt., an increase of 2,204 cwt., when compared with 18,938 cwt. landed in January 1893. This increase was entirely on the North and East Coasts, the South and West showing decreases.

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON.

The return issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association for January 1894, shows that, as compared with the same period last year, there has been a considerable drop in the make of Cleveland pig (20,000 tons, or over 16 per cent.), while the make of other kinds of pig has increased by 13,000 tons, or 12 per cent. The net result is a fall of nearly 7,000 tons. The number of furnaces in blast was three less, and the output per furnace remained about the same as last year, viz., 2,600 tons. Compared with the previous month (December), the figures show a small increase (705 tons or 0.3 per cent.), made up of an increase (5,651 tons) in the make of "other kinds of pig iron," less a decrease (4,946 tons) in Cleveland pig.

The stocks of pig iron were 15,700 tons, or 10 per cent. more than in January 1893, and 8,670 tons, or 5 per cent. more than in December. The shipments from Middlesbrough were 14,400 tons, or nearly 31 per cent. more than in January 1893, and 2,096 tons, or 3.6 per cent. more than in December.

Table showing the production of pig iron and number of furnaces in blast in the Cleveland district in January 1894 and 1893:—

Kind of Pig Iron.	Production in January.		Increase + or Decrease— in January 1894.	No. of Furnaces in Blast in January.	
	1894.	1893.		1894.	1893.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		
Cleveland Pig Iron ...	102,636	122,670	-20,034	44	52
Other Kinds of Pig ...	121,691	108,649	+13,042	42	37
Total ...	224,327	231,319	-6,992	86	89

* Including Hematite, Spiegel and Basic Pig Iron.

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month of January it is reported that 32 mines, including 28 collieries, were opened or re-opened, or 3 less than in December, and that 32 mines, including 18 collieries, were discontinued or abandoned, or 15 more than in December. Of the new collieries, 7 are in Lancashire, 4 in Glamorganshire, 3 each in Yorkshire and Gloucestershire, and 2 in Breconshire.

New Mines.

COAL:—
Northumberland.—East Woodburn, Ballingham.
Yorkshire.—Mill Moor (Thin Seam), near Sheffield; Bradley Mills (Thin Seam), near Huddersfield; Handsworth (High Hazels Seam), near Sheffield. (3).
Lancashire.—Higher House, Rivington; Derplay Hill, Bacup; Wicken Hall (Three-quarter Yard Seam), New Hey, Rochdale; Salmonfield (Little Seam), Royton; Brushers Clough (Little Seam), Shaw, Oldham; Lostock, Bolton (Sinking Shaft); Bamfurlong (Two Feet Seam), near Wigan. (7).
Derbyshire.—Measham (Main Seam), Measham.
Worcestershire.—Baptist End (Thick Seam), Dudley.
Gloucestershire.—Worgreens, Forest of Dean; True Blue, Forest of Dean; Starkey, Forest of Dean. (3).
Monmouthshire.—Panner, Pontllanfraith.
Breconshire.—Cwmnantgam; Scurfa. (2).
Glamorganshire.—Dunraven, Treherbert; Mynydd-bach-y-glo (Four Feet Seam), near Swansea; Cilfynydd (Landsale Seam), near Pontypridd; Dinbath Valley, near Blackmill. (4).
Lanarkshire.—Calderwood, East Kilbride; Blair, Lesmahagow. (2).
Fife.—Fordell (No. 4 Pit), Dunfermline (Lochgelly Seam 5 ft.).
Renfrewshire.—Auchenbach, Barrhead.
Tyrone.—Derry, Coalisland (Sinking Shaft).
Tipperary.—Lisnamrock, Thurles.
FIRECLAY.—Yorkshire—May Royd, near Halifax.
IRONSTONE.—Renfrewshire—Walkinshaw (No. 2 Pit), Paisley.
SLATE.—Merionethshire—Croes-y-ddwy-afon, Festiniog.
SALT.—Antrim—Eden, Carrickfergus (Sinking Shaft).

Mines Abandoned.

Durham.—Deckham Hall (Yard and Bursham Seams), Gateshead; Trindon Coal Co. (West Langdale Royalty). (2).
Yorkshire.—Merchant Fields (Top Seam), near Bradford; Vernon Silkstone (Barnsley Seam), near Sheffield. (2).
Lancashire.—Hathershaw (Cunning Green Seam), Oldham; Lane Foot (Lower Foot Seam), Littleboro; Belle Isle, Rochdale; Bent Hill (Mountain Mine); Pewfall (Wigan Four-feet, Five-feet, and Nine-feet Seams), near St. Helens. (5).
Derbyshire.—Lightwood (Silkstone Seam), Marsh Lane, near Chesterfield.
Worcestershire.—Gybhouse (Five-feet Seam), Bewdley.
Glamorgan.—Ely Llantwit (Tydu Seam), near Pontypridd.
Stirlingshire.—Drumclair, Trial Pit, Slamannan; Drumclair, Airdrie. (2).
Lanarkshire.—Bellsdyke, No. 4 Pit (Lower Drumgray Seam), Airdrie.
Linlithgowshire.—Boghead, No. 10 Pit (Main and Colburn Seams), Bathgate.
Fife.—Fordell (Lady Ann Pit), Dunfermline; Lathallan, No. 1 Pit (Black or Cherry Seam), Largo. (2).
STONE.—Lancashire.—Doffcocker, Bolton; Slate, Britannia, Bacup. (2).
Dorset.—Galscove Quarry, Worth Maltravers.
GOLD.—Merionethshire.—Llanaber, Barmouth.
LEAD ORE.—Flintshire.—†Bryn-yr-heublas, Holywell.
Merionethshire.—†Gamalt, Festiniog.
Cardiganshire.—†Court Grange, Aberystwith; †Bwlchgwyn, Devil's Bridge; †Powell, Aberystwith. (3).
IRONSTONE.—Staffordshire.—New Consall, Chesterton Colliery Forge Pits, (temporarily).
TIN, COPPER AND ARSENIC.—Cornwall.—Callington United.
LIMESTONE.—Lanarkshire.—Netherton Mine, Lesmahagow.
FIRECLAY.—Fife.—Lilliehill, Dunfermline.

DANGEROUS AND UNHEALTHY TRADES.

OPEN QUARRIES.

THE Committee appointed by the Home Secretary to inquire into the dangers attending employment in open quarries have issued their Report. An open quarry is defined as "any place not being a mine in which persons work in getting clay, stone, coprolites, or other minerals." The Committee visited quarries worked for building-stone, road-stone, slate, limestone, clay, gypsum, or ironstone, in no less than 25 counties in England, Wales and Scotland, and also took evidence from owners, managers, doctors and working quarrymen. The Report quotes the evidence of Dr. Ogle, lately Superintendent of Statistics at the General Register Office, to the effect that the death-rate of slate and stone quarrymen, though above the average, is lower than that of persons engaged in several other trades enumerated; that the mortality from accidents among quarrymen approximates to that of coal-miners, and is almost the same as of fishermen; and further, that the quarryman's life is threatened to a remarkable degree by phthisis and other diseases of the respiratory organ, owing, in his opinion, mainly to the inhalation of dust. The Committee recommend the adoption of the following special rules:—

1. Safety of Quarries.

- The working of the sides, tops, or overburden of quarries shall be carried on so as to prevent dangerous falls.
- The overburden or "tops" of quarries, and all loose ground or material shall be cleared far enough back from the edge of the quarries to prevent danger to the persons employed.
- Where a quarry is worked in steps or "galleries," these shall be of sufficient breadth in comparison with their height to ensure safety as far as possible. When a quarry is worked in pits, sufficient support to the sides shall be left to ensure safety to those employed.
- There shall be, as far as practicable, a clear space between the outside rails of tramways and the edges of galleries, sufficient to prevent both the falling of stones from the wagons and the falling of the men themselves to galleries below. Where such a space is impracticable the edges shall be securely fenced.
- The top of every quarry, if dangerous, and the top of every shaft, shall be securely fenced.
- All bridges shall, if dangerous, be securely fenced.
- In addition to the accidents which have already to be reported under the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 and 1891, all accidents causing serious personal injury to any person employed in or about the quarry from any cause whatever shall be reported to the inspector and to the certifying surgeon of the district by the occupier or agent within 48 hours of their occurrence.
- If work is carried on at night, it shall be under special supervision, and sufficient light shall be provided.

2. Blasting.

- All explosives shall be conveyed from the magazine to the quarry, and kept till used in secure packages so made and closed as to prevent any escape of the explosives and any danger from sparks. Every workman or gang of workmen possessing explosives unused shall keep them in his or their own locked box provided for that purpose exclusively. The interior of the box shall be kept clean and free from grit. Detonators shall be kept in separate and suitable boxes. No person shall smoke while carrying, handling, or using explosives, or when in proximity of any person so doing.
- No iron or steel rammer, pricker or charger, or scraper, shall be used for charging a hole with any explosive. Wooden rammers only shall be used for pushing in or ramming down explosives. No straw fuses shall be used. After firing a charge of any explosive, no further charge shall be introduced into the hole or into any rent made until after the lapse of twenty minutes.
- Due warning shall be given by an efficient system of signals before blasting may be commenced, and when it is finished. In quarries where blasting occurs daily, it shall as far as possible take place only at fixed stated intervals. Where danger from blasting may arise to the public, efficient means shall be taken to give them due warning.
- A sufficient number of proper shelters shall be provided (which must be used by the persons employed) except where all leave the quarry during blasting.
- If a shot has apparently missed fire, no person shall be allowed to go near it until after the lapse of half an hour. The person or persons, whose shot has apparently missed fire, shall immediately give warning of the same. A shot that has missed fire shall not be unrammed, bored, or picked out.
- Each quarry shall frame further regulations as to intervals and signals for blasting, copies of which shall be kept constantly affixed in the quarry office, and in a sufficient number of places in and adjacent to the quarry.
- Copies of such other regulations concerning explosives and blasting as may be framed shall be posted up in the quarry office and the quarry.

3. Access to Quarries.

- Secure means of access shall be provided by which workmen can go to and from their working places.

(b) A ladder permanently used for the ascent and descent of persons in the quarry shall not be fixed in a vertical or overhanging position, and shall be inclined at the most convenient angle, and every such ladder shall have substantial platforms at intervals of not more than 10 yards.

(c) All tunnels used as a regular means of access to working places shall be kept sufficiently lighted and drained, and where the space between the side of the wagon and the side of the tunnel is less than three feet, places of refuge shall be provided at intervals not exceeding 100 yards.

(d) Persons shall not be raised or lowered in cages, tubs, buckets, or wagons unprovided with guides, except in sinking shafts.

(e) Where machinery is used for raising or lowering persons, further regulations shall be made to suit the special circumstances of the case.

4. Machinery and Plant.

(a) Each steam boiler, whether separate or one of a range, shall have attached to it a proper safety valve and also a proper steam gauge and water gauge, to show respectively the pressure of steam and the height of water in each boiler.

(b) Every steam boiler shall be cleaned out and examined internally at least once in every twelve months, and a record of its condition shall be kept at the office of the quarry.

(c) No person shall remain under the rope or chain of an aerial incline whilst a wagon or load is ascending. Whilst a load is being moved on the landing table no person shall remain immediately underneath it; and no person shall be allowed, without special permission from the manager or other official, to ascend or descend by means of an aerial incline.

(d) The person or persons in charge of plant, machinery, or appliances, shall daily inspect the same, and forthwith report any defects with a view to their being remedied. Once a month at least all plant, machinery, or appliances shall be thoroughly examined, and a record of their condition shall be kept at the office of the quarry.

(e) The rails on the tops of all inclines and on all landing tables shall be provided with proper stops.

(f) Every crane shall be provided with an efficient catch.

(g) The permanent ways shall be kept in an efficient state of repair.

5. Duties of Officials and Workmen.

(a) It is the duty of all officials to see the provisions of the Acts and these special rules carried out.

(b) An official or officials shall daily inspect every working place and travelling road and all adjacent places from which danger might arise, and should danger appear steps shall at once be taken to remove it. They shall satisfy themselves as to the safety of any rope and other appliances used by the workmen.

(c) The proper official or officials shall record and report all dangers notified to them by the workmen.

(d) It is the duty of all workmen to comply, so far as is reasonably practicable, with the provisions of the Acts and these special rules, and with such directions concerning safety and discipline as may be given to them by the officials.

(e) Each workman working on the face of a rock, or standing on a narrow ledge, shall, when requisite, use a rope or other appliance, and every workman shall, before commencing work, satisfy himself as to the safety of any rope and other appliances in his personal use, and shall not use anything that he finds unsafe.

(f) Each workman shall, before commencing work, and during the course of it, and especially after blasting, make a careful examination of his working place, and remove any loose rock, stones, or ground which might be dangerous.

(g) No workman shall throw down rock, stones, ground, or other material, which might endanger other persons, without giving them warning and seeing that they have retired to a safe place.

(h) Every workman who notices anything that appears unsafe, or likely to produce danger, shall forthwith report it to an official.

6. Ambulance.

At quarries where more than 25 persons are employed, ambulances or stretchers with splints or bandages shall be provided at convenient places ready for immediate use in case of accident.

The Committee further report that the Quarry (Fencing) Act 1887, is not duly enforced in many districts, and that sanitary arrangements are occasionally insufficient or wanting. They are of opinion, however, that powers existing under present laws are sufficient to deal with both these matters. The Committee make further recommendations based on arrangements which they have noticed at several well-managed quarries. The changes recommended provide for facilities for meals and for drying clothes; for greater cleanliness and other improved arrangements in cases where men live in barracks belonging to the owner of a quarry; for the improvement of the food of quarrymen in Wales; for the extension of instruction in ambulance and nursing (which, they suggest, might be provided under the Technical Education Acts); for the extension of hospital accommodation, and for the use of spectacles, respirators, etc., where persons are exposed to special injury; and for increased facilities for recreation on the part of the workpeople. The Committee advise that a person, before becoming a manager, should have had practical experience in a quarry for at least two years.

Further legislation is considered necessary in order to bring under the law the quarries which otherwise would escape the action of the proposed special rules, owing to the absence of machinery, and to the fact that no women, young persons, or children are employed. Certain members of the Committee make recommendations with respect to the transference of the inspection of quarries, in whole or part, to the inspectors of mines.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE IN GERMANY.*

I.—Accident Insurance.

(a) *Nature of the Accident Insurance Law.*—Under the German Accident Insurance Law, passed in July 1884, and subsequently completed and amended, all employers are bound to insure their workpeople and clerical staff not earning more than £100 a year against accidents sustained while at work. The total number of persons enjoying the benefits of this law in Germany in 1892 was 18,015,286, the only persons outside its scope being domestic servants, messengers, itinerant vendors, fishermen, and petty handicraftsmen. The law does not, however, release the individual employer from personal liability in the case of accidents due to his negligence, or that of his officials. In such cases the employer has to make up to the insured person the excess of the awarded indemnity (if any) above the amounts granted under the Accident Insurance Law, and is held responsible for the full amount to his trade association. The whole of the burden of insurance against accidents is borne, under State guarantee, by the employers collectively, who, for this purpose, are grouped in trade associations. These associations constitute the chief feature of the accident insurance system in Germany. The employers of an industry are obliged to form such an association which may extend throughout the whole Empire like that of the Mining Industry, or be confined to a particular district like the associations of textile manufacturers, of which there are several. Every employer contributes to the burdens of the year in proportion to the risks to which he exposes his association. These risks are determined for each separate establishment according to (1) its magnitude, and (2) the degree of risk attaching to the occupations, as set forth in a table of risks drawn up by the association. In their own interests the associations draw up rules for the prevention of accidents, and appoint inspectors for their enforcement. Through these rules employers can be forced under penalty of higher assessments to adopt necessary measures of safety, and workmen can be fined for neglect of the prescribed precautions.

The amount of compensation payable in case of accident is fixed by the association of the district in which it occurred. Appeal may be made to special arbitration courts, consisting of a magistrate and two representatives of the employers and of the injured person respectively. A final appeal may be made to the Imperial Insurance Department, in which employers and employed are represented in equal numbers. Compensation is paid through the post office, on the order of the directing board of the association.

There were in 1892, 112 associations of this kind, of which 64 were industrial and 48 agricultural (including forestry). The organisation of the latter is territorial.

For persons employed by the State, Province or Commune in performing work subject to insurance, the department, &c., under which they serve discharges the functions of the trade association. Out of the 18,015,286 persons insured in 1892, 646,733 were in the employment of the State, Provinces or Communes.

(b) *Statistics of Accident Insurance in 1892.*—The number of workpeople reported as injured by accident in 1892 was 236,265, as compared with 225,337 in 1891. Of these 55,654 and 51,209 respectively were compensated. In 1892, 5,911 workpeople died through injuries sustained at work, 2,664 suffered total, and 30,992 partial, permanent disablement.

* The statistics for 1892 are taken from the returns just published by the Imperial Insurance Department. The other particulars are based on an account of the laws prepared by Dr. Zacher, of the Imperial Insurance Department, and on information contained in the Report on Germany issued by the Royal Commission on Labour.

The total sums paid each year as compensation for accidents were as follows:—

Years.	£
1886	95,768
1887	296,646
1888	484,072
1889	723,215
1890	1,015,766
1891	1,321,319
1892	1,617,009

The following particulars refer exclusively to the trade associations, as the great bulk of the working classes are insured by them. The 112 associations which existed in 1892 had 914 local sections. The members of their governing boards numbered 5,258. There were 158 paid inspectors for enforcing the rules for the prevention of accidents, 997 Special Arbitration Courts, attended by 3,974 working-class representatives; and the number of separate establishments whose workers were insured was 5,274,953.

The receipts and payments of the trade associations during 1892 are shown under the following heads:—

RECEIPTS.	PAYMENTS.
£	£
Balance at beginning of the year ... 543,609	Compensation for accidents ... 1,450,323
Assessments on Employers ... 2,421,938	Investigations, fixing of compensation ... 50,516
Withdrawals from reserve fund ... 1,144	Arbitration courts ... 25,221
Fines ... 8,608	Prevention of Accidents... 22,293
Interest on invested funds 15,459	Current administration 272,960
Other receipts... 18,474	Placed in reserve funds 629,517
	Other expenses ... 187
	Balance at end of year 558,215
3,009,232	3,009,232

The reserve funds of the associations amounted to £4,271,325 at the end of the year, and the total funds, including the above balance, to £4,829,540.

II.—Old Age and Invalidity Insurance.

(a) *Nature of the Law.*—The Old Age and Invalidity Insurance Law, which was passed in June 1889, and came into force in April 1891, is intended to provide for cases not covered by the Sickness and Accident Insurance Laws. It includes all persons over 16 who work for wages. Small employers and (with a few exceptions) commercial employees and apprentices having less than £100 a year are also included. Persons already in receipt of an accident annuity or a State premium can only receive Invalidity and Old Age Pensions provided their income from all these sources does not exceed £20 15s. a year.

Unlike the Accident Insurance which is organised according to trades, the organisation of the Invalidity and Old Age Insurance is local, the offices corresponding to the divisions of the Empire. The invalid pension is granted to every insured person, irrespective of age, who is unable any longer to earn one-third of his average wages, and after contributions have been paid for five years (not necessarily consecutive) of 47 weeks each. The old age pension is granted to persons who have attained their 70th year, whether able to work or not, after contributions have been paid for 30 years, of 47 weeks each. Military service, or other interruptions (up to four months) in regular work do not disqualify in either class of insurance. For such insured persons as had already attained their 40th year when the law came into force the period of qualification for an old age pension was shortened, provided they could prove that during each of the years 1888, 1889 and 1890 they had been engaged in some occupation subject to insurance for at least 141 weeks. Certain exceptions were also made in the case of persons claiming invalid pensions during the first five years of the law's operation.

The necessary funds are provided by the State, the employers and the employed. The State contributes a fixed sum of £2 10s. per annum to each annuity, the remaining cost being defrayed in equal shares by the employers and employed. The payments are made in full by employers, deduction being made from the wages of workers for their share. Cards provided with spaces for 52 stamps are issued by the various insurance offices, and are

obtainable at all post offices, together with the proper kind of stamp. The latter according to the amount due must be affixed to the cards for every working week of the employee, and when the card is full it is returned to the insurance office by which it was issued, and is retained until required for substantiating a claim. The amounts of pensions vary according to the premiums paid, and the latter according to the wage-class in which an individual is insured, four such classes being distinguished. The first includes persons earning not more than £17 10s. a year, the second and third classes those with wages not exceeding £27 10s. and £42 10s. respectively, and the fourth class those who earn more than £42 10s. The lowest invalid annuity obtainable after five years' contribution is, for Class I. £5 14s. 8d., and for Class IV. £7 0s. 3d. After, say forty years' contribution, the sums would be £7 7s. 7d. and £17 14s. 5d. respectively. The old age annuity for Class I. is £5 6s. 9d., and for Class IV. £9 11s. 5d.

(b) *Statistics for 1892.*—The total number of persons insured under these laws in 1892 was 10,690,000. The total number of fresh pensions granted in 1892 by the 31 insurance establishments was 58,747, of which 42,218 were for old age, and 16,529 for invalidity.

The number of pensions chargeable on the insurance establishments during the year was 183,573, amounting to £662,020.* Of these, 170,168 were old age annuities, involving a charge on the insurance institutions of £620,574. During the year 21,171 annuities lapsed, owing, in 20,299 cases, to death, so that at the end of the year the insurance offices were charged with 162,402 pensions, to which they had to contribute a sum of £587,183. Adding to this the State subvention of £2 10s. on each annuity, we obtain a sum of £993,188, which represents the aggregate value of the invalid and old age pensions in course of being paid at the end of the year.

The total receipts during the year are given as £8,598,628, and the expenses as £5,342,218, leaving a balance of £3,256,410. This, added to a balance of £3,668,691 remaining from the previous year, but excluding the reserve fund, makes accumulated funds to the value of £6,925,101, excluding the reserve fund, which amounts to £643,072.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN 1881 AND 1891. The following summary of some of the principal figures published in the Census Volumes, bearing on Women's Employment, has been prepared with a view of supplementing the information on the subject given on pp. 58-60 of the General Report of the Census.

It appears from the Census returns that the number of women and girls returned as "occupied"† out of every 10,000 females above 10 years of age, in England and Wales, was 3,405 in 1881, and 3,442 in 1891, giving an increase of 37 per 10,000, which compares with a decrease of 10 per 10,000 in the case of males, the number of occupied males out of every 10,000 above 10 years of age being 3,324 in 1881, and 3,314 in 1891.

EMPLOYMENT ACCORDING TO AGE PERIODS.

If we analyse the numbers of occupied persons according to age periods, a falling off is shown since 1881 both of occupied males and females over the age of 45. This is made clear by the following table:—

Statement showing the proportion per 10,000 of the population at certain age periods living in 1881 and 1891 respectively who were returned as occupied—distinguishing males from females.

Groups of Ages.	Females.		Males.		Increase since 1881.		Decrease since 1881.	
	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	Fe-males.	Males.	Fe-males.	Males.
	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	Fe-males.	Males.	Fe-males.	Males.
Of 10 and under 15 ...	1,506	1,666	2,201	2,602	120	312	...	...
" 15 " " 25 ...	6,214	6,336	9,306	9,384	122	78	...	...
" 25 " " 45 ...	2,900	2,960	9,782	9,773	60	...	...	9
" 45 " " 65 ...	2,608	2,497	9,446	9,341	...	111	105	...
" 65 and above ...	1,828	1,598	7,262	6,477	...	230	785	...

* Owing to the lapsing of pensions, the amount actually paid on this account was slightly less—£651,619.

† Excluding students at all ages, and in other respects bringing the Census returns of 1881 into line with those of 1891.

‡ Owing to the form of the returns for 1881 a small number of children under 10 are here included, so that the increase between 10 and 15 appears somewhat less than it really is.

DISTRIBUTION AMONG VARIOUS EMPLOYMENTS.

Notwithstanding the large number of headings in the Census Report, more than four-fifths of the females returned as occupied in 1891 (i.e., 2,775 out of every 10,000 females over the age of 10), are included under 18 headings.

The following table shows the proportions of females engaged in these groups of occupations in 1881 and 1891 respectively, per 10,000 females over the age of 10. The changes in the proportions of males occupied in the same groups of trades are also given for comparison:—

Table showing for 1881 and 1891 the number of males and females per 10,000 of each sex respectively above 10 years of age, engaged in occupations employing upwards of 1 per cent. of occupied females in either 1881 or 1891.

Occupations.	Females per 10,000 above 10 years.				Males per 10,000 above 10 years.			
	1881.	1891.	Increase	Decrease	1881.	1891.	Increase	Decrease
Domestic—Indoor Servant	1,209	1,231	...	22	55	60	...	5
Milliner, Dressmaker, Stay-maker	363	358	5	...	4	3	1	...
Cotton, Cotton Goods Manufacture	290	303	...	13	201	199	2	...
Washing and Bathing Service	162	177	...	15	7	4	3	...
Schoolmaster, Teacher, Professor, Lecturer	126	123	3	...	48	49	...	1
Charwoman ...	92	92	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tailor ...	78	53	25	...	113	116	...	3
Worsted, Stuff, Manufacture	61	64	...	3	38	38	...	...
Woolen Cloth Manufacture	54	59	...	5	58	62	...	4
Sick Nurse, Midwife, Invalid Attendant and Subordinate Medical Service	47	38*	9	...	4	2*	2	...
Shirt Maker, Seamstress ...	46	82	...	36†	2	1	1	...
Shoe, Boot, Patten, Clog-Maker†	40	36	4	...	191	202	...	11
Draper, Linen Draper; Mercer	40	29	11	...	57	58	...	1
Grocer: Tea, Coffee, Chocolate—Maker, Dealer	40	26	14	...	128	111	17	...
Lodging, Boarding House-keeper	39	33	6	...	6	5	1	...
Inn, Hotel-Servant ...	39	26	13	...	44	38	6	...
Silk, Satin, Velvet, Ribbon, Manufacture	28	41	...	13†	15	20	...	5†
Agricultural Labourer, Farm Servant, Cottager, Horse-keeper, Horseman, Teamster, Carter	21	40	...	19†	694	867	...	173†
In occupations employing upwards of 1 per cent. of occupied females	2,475	2,811	...	36	1,665	1,835	...	170
In occupations employing under 1 per cent. of occupied females	667	594	73	...	6,649	6,489	160	...
Total occupied per 10,000 above 10 years	3,442	3,405	37	...	8,314	8,324	...	10

Besides the above main groups of female industries, there are several miscellaneous occupations employing much smaller numbers of women in which the rate of increase in the number of females employed in 1891 as compared with 1881 has been considerable, but as compared with population very slight. For example:—

Statement showing the numbers occupied in certain occupations per 10,000 males and females respectively above 10 years.

Occupation.	Females above 10 years.		Males above 10 years.		Increase since 1881.	
	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	Fe-males.	Males.
Commercial Clerk ...	6'0	15'6	188'4	216'6	9'6	28'2
Paper-Box, Bag-maker ...	8'7	15'0	1'3	2'0	6'3	7
Tobacco Manufacture; Tobaccoist	8'6	13'9	12'0	12'4	5'3	4
Civil Service (Officers and Clerks)	3'2	7'5	24'0	29'8	4'3	5'8
Printing Trades ...	2'2	3'9	63'4	77'4	1'7	14'0
Telegraph and Telephone Service	2'2	3'8	7'7	10'0	1'6	2'3

* Excluding 5,992 males and 64 females, who were described as "Medical Students, Assistants."

† An actual decrease as well as a relative one.

‡ The Dealers are included in the 1881 figures, but not in the 1891.

Labour Commission Glossary.*—The Labour Commission has issued a glossary of the technical terms used in the evidence taken before it. The Glossary has been drawn up principally for the use of the Commission, but the requirements of workmen and of foreign readers have been kept in view. Three independent indexes have been drawn up of the technical terms defined; the first two so that the reader may see at once whether the term he is seeking has been used, the third divided into two parts, of which Part I. is a list of the trades and industries under which the lists of terms forming Part II. have been grouped.

* Indexes, Vol. III. Glossary. 1894. (C.—7,063.—V.C.) Price 10d.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES IN 1893.*

THE number of deaths caused by accidents in and about mines under the Coal Mine Regulation Acts was 1,056 in 1893, or 40 more than in 1892, representing something like a death rate of about 1'5 per 1,000 employed. Deducting from the total (1,056) 119 men killed on the surface, there remain 937 deaths, the causes of which were classed as follows:—

Explosions of fire-damp ...	No. of Deaths.	No. of Separate Accidents.
	158	14
Other accidents:—		
Falling of sides ...	98	98
roof ...	313	302
Accidents in shafts ...	103	82
Miscellaneous ...	265	192
Total other accidents	779	674
Grand total underground	937	688

It will be seen from these figures that most of the deaths were caused not by the explosions of fire-damp, of which there were 14, giving an average of over 11 persons killed per accident, but by the accidents that individually attract but little public attention. Of these latter there were no less than 674, and although each accident resulted in very few deaths, yet in the aggregate these smaller accidents were much more fatal to the miners than the explosions. The returns also show the number of accidents that happened in each hour after the beginning of the shift, the figures for underground being as follows:—

Hour.	No. of Accidents.	Hour.	No. of Accidents.
1st ...	81	8th ...	54
2nd ...	77	9th ...	45
3rd ...	85	10th ...	35
4th ...	70	11th ...	8
5th ...	71		
6th ...	92	Total ...	688
7th ...	70		

In the later hours it is probable the full number of miners was not at work, especially in those districts where short shifts are the rule.

Similar information is given respecting metalliferous mines, in which 65 accidental deaths occurred—23 from falls of ground, 12 from accidents in the shafts, 20 from irruptions of water, and the remainder from miscellaneous causes.

Coal Dust in Mine.†—A Report on Explosions from Coal Dust in Mines by H.M. Inspector of Mines, Mr. Hall, gives the results of a series of experiments made with coal dust collected from the principal seams in various mining districts. It appears that the higher the quality of the coal seam, the more liability there is to explosions of dust. Mr. Hall urges the total abolition of gunpowder from coal mines and the substitution of certain "high explosives."

THE LABOUR QUESTION IN ITALY.‡

THE Report on the Labour Question in Italy, prepared by the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Labour, has just been issued. It describes the effect of the revolution of 1860-70 as having been on the whole favourable to the development of Italian trade, but the general relations between employers and employed are in a state of tension. Of trade association there is remarkably little, but a full account is given of the Printers' Association, which had its origin in the Pious Union of Journeymen Printers, founded in Turin in 1710, and of the Federation of Hatters, of even more ancient origin. The rise and growth of the Italian Labour Party is traced, and the history of the disturbances in Sicily and the particulars of the Sicilian Labour Unions are brought up to November 1893. Of the Labour Chambers (or Exchanges), that of Milan is described as being the most important; others are touched upon. An analysis of strikes shows that they have been most

* Mines (Fatal Accidents). House of Lords Return (pp. 295 of 1894.) Price 14d.

† Report to the Royal Commission on Explosions from Coal Dust in Mines, 1893. (C.—7,185.) Price 10d.

‡ Royal Commission on Labour, Foreign Reports, Vol. VIII., Italy, 1893. (C.—7,063.—XII.) Price 11d.

frequent among the best paid workmen. Italy's position as an agricultural country receives special attention. In the co-operative movement, the formation and rapid increase in the number of people's banks is the most marked feature. In the section dealing with emigration and immigration are given some tables of the causes of emigration, the result of an inquiry instituted by the Italian Government.

THE NEW JOURNAL OF THE FRENCH LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE French Labour Department (Office du Travail), to whose publications frequent reference has been made in these pages, have issued the first number of the *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* which will be issued monthly at 20 centimes (2d.). The plan of the *Bulletin* is somewhat similar to that already adopted in the LABOUR GAZETTE. Monthly reports will be published from local correspondents appointed for the purpose; decisions in the law courts affecting workmen will be noted; the assistance of the French Foreign Office has been secured for the supply of information regarding labour in other countries; reviews of official publications both French and foreign will appear in each number; and articles on industrial and commercial movements affecting workmen will be amongst the features of the *Bulletin*.

The first number contains, among other items, an account of the development of trade associations in France up to the present time, a list of the strikes reported during 1893, and an account of the strikes arising from the law of 1892 restricting female and child labour. Comparative tables are given of the provisions restricting the labour of women and children in European countries. The text of the French law on conciliation and arbitration is accompanied by an article on the subject. A list of the principal laws affecting labour passed since 1889, and an article on savings banks, are also given; and an account is given of the recent mining disputes in the United Kingdom, based chiefly on the reports given in the LABOUR GAZETTE. In the Report on Labour in France (on p. 60) a brief summary is given of the reports on the state of employment and certain other matters, which appear in the first number of the *Bulletin*.

London Statistics.—The London County Council has just issued a volume of London statistics for 1892-3, containing 706 foolscap pages. The range of subjects dealt with is very wide, and includes some which relate to the conditions of labour, e.g., the rates of wages and hours of labour recognised by the Council for certain classes of workmen in their employ (i.e., Building, Electrical Engineering and kindred Trades, watermen and lightermen, and certain classes of crane and engine-drivers).

The Report contains tables showing the number and distribution of "informal markets" in London, the number of stalls, and the articles sold. The total number of stalls is given as 5,292, of which 4,502 were occupied by costermongers and 790 by shopkeepers; 3,471 of the stalls were for the sale of perishable commodities. Other subjects dealt with are education, insanitary dwellings, pauperism, population, workmen's trains, &c.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED DURING JANUARY 1894.

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

I.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

(a) Nineteen New Societies:—

Ordinary Friendly Societies	...	8
Working Men's Clubs	...	4
Specialty Authorised Societies	...	5
Dividing Societies	...	2

(b) Thirty-two New Branches of Existing Societies:—

I.O. Oddfellows, M.U.	...	7
I.O. Rechabites, S.U.	...	6
United A.O. Druids...	...	3
Independent U. O. Mechanics	...	3
A.O. Foresters	...	2
Various others	...	11

II.—NINE SOCIETIES DISSOLVED:—

Friendly Societies	...	7
Branches	...	2

III.—TWO CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES DISSOLVED:—

Glemford Co-op. and Ind. Soc., Ltd. (Suffolk).	
Melbourn (Derby) Co-op. Boot and Shoe Mfg. Soc., Ltd.	

FOREIGN TRADE IN JANUARY.

This is the first month since May last in which there has been an increase in both imports and exports. As in that case, the increase is much more considerable on the import side of the account than in exports. The imports, valued at £38,458,613, show an increase as compared with January last year of £5,332,143, or over 16 per cent. The exports amounted to £18,151,880, an improvement of £125,861, or 7 per cent. only.

The most striking feature of the returns of imports is the large increase in raw material for textile manufactures (£3,038,444, or 34 per cent.), and in raw materials for sundry other industries (£505,213, or 22 per cent.). The former is largely made up of an increase in the imports of raw cotton (£2,615,757, or 71 per cent.), but to a certain extent this comparison is discounted by the fact that the imports of cotton, which vary with the seasons, were exceptionally low in January 1893, when the great dispute in the Lancashire Cotton Trade was in progress. This is shown by the following statement of the imports of cotton in January for the last six years:—

	Cwts.	Value.		Cwts.	Value.
1894	2,828,579	6,282,532	1891	2,069,126	5,552,173
1893	1,424,204	3,666,775	1890	1,945,021	5,288,387
1892	2,493,444	6,208,064	1889	1,997,641	5,385,811

Comparing the imports in January 1894 with the average for January 1889-92, namely 2,126,308 cwts., the excess in 1894 is 702,271 cwts., or 33 per cent. It is to be noted, however, that as is shown below, the increase in the imports of raw cotton was accompanied by an increase, though not such a large increase, in the quantities forwarded to inland towns. There has also been an increase in the imports of flax, £196,832, or 98 per cent.; hemp, £43,783, or 41 per cent.; and jute, £259,869, or 104 per cent.; but in all three cases the comparison is with a month in 1893 in which the imports were much below the average. On the other hand, the imports of sheep and lambs' wool show a decline of £212,622, or 5 per cent. The imports of metals have increased considerably, notably tin, and sundry raw materials used in manufacture, and except in indigo and valonia there has been a general rise in the imports of chemicals.

The total increase in exports is more than accounted for by the increase (£459,235) in the value of the exports of coal. There has also been an increase of £654,458, or 16 per cent., in the exports of cotton piece goods, and of £98,837, or 14 per cent., in cotton yarn. The increase in the cotton piece goods was mainly in the exports to India. On the whole, the increase in the exports of cotton piece goods is more marked in the quantities than in the values, a fact which points to trade being done at lower prices than in January 1893. The most marked fall in exports was in metals and ironwork—a drop of £554,968, or 21 per cent.

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise showed a decline of £438,986, or 9 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Cotton Statistics.—There was a considerable increase in the imports of raw cotton—mainly in American and Brazilian—in January 1894, as compared with January 1893. The figures showing the quantities imported, forwarded to inland towns, and exported in January of the last four years are:—

	Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	Exported.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
1894	683,286	353,741	39,061
1893	307,505	218,059	43,576
1892	572,294	326,430	27,096
1891	498,202	396,243	36,722

That the imports should exceed the figures for January 1891 is noticeable, because that year was, taking the whole twelve months, a maximum year for raw cotton imports. The quantities forwarded to inland towns were much higher than in January 1893, but did not form such a large proportion of the imports as in any of the four years given. The exports were small, so that, for the present, the cotton remains in this country.

Traffic Receipts.—The receipts of 23 of the principal railways in the United Kingdom which had for some months, especially during the coal dispute, shown decreases, varying from about 3 to 11 per cent., as compared with the corresponding months in 1893, rose, as was noted in the last GAZETTE, 11 per cent. (or £73,482) in December. This recovery has been more than maintained in the returns for January, the increase being £153,373, or over 3 per

cent. on a total revenue of about five millions. The greater part of this increase was, as might have been expected, in the receipts from goods and minerals, viz., about £130,000, or 44 per cent. The Scotch railways showed the greatest increase in both goods and passenger receipts, namely, 10 and 3 per cent. respectively. The Irish lines included had a very small increase in goods and minerals (less than 1 per cent.), and an actual decline of nearly 2 per cent. in passenger receipts.

Emigration.—The total number of passengers who left this country for places out of Europe in January 1894 was 7,556, and in the same month last year, 9,808, a decrease of 2,252. As compared with January 1893 the returns for last month show a shrinkage in emigration to the United States of 1,731, or 31 per cent.; to British North America of 476, or 52 per cent.; to Australia of 225, or 22 per cent. On the other hand, the Cape has taken 134 more, or 13 per cent.; and "all other places" 46 more, or 3 per cent. The decline in the number of British passengers was 1,935, or 26 per cent.; and in the number of foreigners 311 less, or 14 per cent.

Immigration.—The number of aliens recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom from the Continent last month was 3,044, of whom 819 were stated to be en route to America. These figures correspond with a total in January 1893, of 3,836, and of 1,800 en route to America.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankrupts gazetted during January was 437, as compared with 409 in January 1893. Of these 437, 34 were publicans, hotel keepers, &c., 28 builders, 25 grocers, 25 farmers, 16 bakers, 14 boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers, 13 tailors, 10 drapers, haberdashers, &c., and 10 butchers.

Prices of British Corn.—At the end of January 1894, the average prices of British corn per quarter were as follows:—Wheat, 25s. 7d.; barley, 28s. 11d.; oats, 18s. 1d.; compared with 26s. 6d., wheat, 29s. 2d., barley, and 17s. 11d. oats, at the end of December 1893. The price of British wheat on the averages of the five weeks ending February 3rd was 26s. 1d., compared with 26s. 3d. in the corresponding period of 1893.

Hay Imports.—The imports of foreign hay continue to show an increase as compared with the figures of a year ago. The figures for January 1894 are 31,967 tons, and in January 1893, 8,368 tons only. More than half (18,366) of the imports last month came from the United States.

CO-OPERATION IN JANUARY.

DURING the past month the work of the central co-operative organisations has been chiefly devoted to questions of internal management.

No new co-operative societies have been registered during the month, but two societies have been dissolved.

An account is given, under the head of "Labour Cases for January" (see p. 55), of a legal decision of importance to co-operative manufacturing societies. The decision in question bears upon the right of a workman, who has left the employ of a co-operative society, to claim the payment of the bonus on wages earned by him up to the time of his leaving, although he was not working for the Society at the time the amount of bonus was declared.

During January a co-operative store has been established in London, in which the profits, if any, instead of being distributed as usual in proportion to purchases, are to be accumulated, with a view to the provision of old age, accident, or death benefits for the customers.

"Agricultural Co-operation" and "Store Management" have been selected as the subjects for special papers to be read at the forthcoming Co-operative Congress to be held at Sunderland.

Sixteen British co-operative manufacturing societies have arranged to send exhibits of their productions to the forthcoming Industrial Exhibition at Milan.

Trade Union Labels.—The Amalgamated Journeymen Felt Hatters, and Trimmers and Wool Formers' Associations, have just adopted a union label. In a circular addressed to Trade Unions, members are urged to use none but hats labelled in this way, and it is added that nearly 80,000,000 similar labels have been used by the hatters in America since 1886 when they introduced it. The idea of a "union label" which originated in America, has been recently adopted by a number of workmen's organisations in Germany in place of strikes; notably by the cigar-workers, hat-makers, tailors, and in certain branches of the Textile Trades.

Trade Unions in 1892.—The Appendix M. to the Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1892 has been issued this month, and gives particulars as to the Trades Unions existing in Great Britain and Ireland on December 31st 1892. The particulars given include the name and address of each union; the year of establishment; the amount of funds at the end of 1891 and 1892; the income and expenditure for the year 1892, and the number of members on December 31st 1892.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JANUARY.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many of the principal Employers' Associations and Trades' Unions.)

THE most important changes in wages reported during January were an increase of 2½ per cent. in the wages of about 20,000 Northumberland Miners, and an increase, under the sliding scale, of 6¼ per cent. in the wages of 90,000 Miners in South Wales. On the other hand the wages of Puddlers, Millmen, and Blast furnacemen in the Midlands, have been reduced, the Puddlers by 3d. per ton, and the others by 2½ per cent.

Employment.	Locality.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, so far as stated.	Particulars of Increase.	Employment.	Locality.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, so far as stated.	Particulars of Decrease.
INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.				DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.			
Building Trades.				Mining.			
Plasterers ...	Blackburn ...	41	1d. per hour from Jan. 21st.	Coal Miners ...	Harthill, Lanarkshire	28	3d. per ton from January 11th.
Bricklayers' Labourers	Gateshead-on-Tyne	50	1d. per hour from February 5th.	Slate Miners ...	Dalmeny, Midlothian	80	2d. per ton at different dates in January. The men were reduced in sections.
Mining, &c.				Metal Trades.			
Coal Miners ...	Northumberland	20,000	2½ per cent. in addition to the 5 per cent. granted in November, from January 15th.	Puddlers ...	Midlands ...	Not stated	Sliding scale. 3d. per ton (7s. 9d. to 7s. 6d.) from February 5th for 2 months.
Deputies, Mechanics, and Enginemen	South Wales and Monmouth	90,000	Sliding scale. 6½ per cent. making wages 26½ per cent. above the standard of 1890. 1d. per day from January 20th.	Millmen and Blastfurnacemen	Ditto ...	Ditto	Sliding scale. 2½ per cent. from February 5th for 2 months.
Firemen ...	Northumberland	About 1,850	2 per cent. from January 29th.	Whitesmiths & Stove and Grate Workers	Newcastle ...	50	Concession by men of 5 per cent. in wages during trial of 8-hour day.
Metal Trades.				Textile Trades.			
Blast Furnacemen ...	Coatbridge ...	50	1d. per ton.	Cloth Weavers ...	Radford, Notts.	3	2s. per week (20s. to 18s.), from January 13th.
Shipbuilding.				Calico Engravers ...	Glasgow ...	120	1s. per week of wages of 27s. and upwards.
Shipwrights ...	Alloa ...	24	1d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.) from January 31st.	Miscellaneous.			
Smiths' Helpers ...	Cork ...	40	8d. per day (7s. to 21s. per week), from January 26th.	Coke Burners ...	Tingley, near Leeds	30	About 5 per cent. from January 17th.
Textile Trades.				Mill Sawyers ...	Bristol ...	7	1½ per cent. off piece rates, in consequence of the introduction of a mechanical feeder, from January 25th.
Reelers ...	Staincliffe, nr. Dewsbury	23	Re-arrangement of prices, causing increase of from 2s. 6d. to 6s. on one class of work.	Stoneware Throwers	Portobello ...	Two firms	2d. and 3d. per 100 off pint and quart bottles respectively, from January 20th.
Weavers ...	Colne, Croston, near Preston	One firm	Increase to standard list.				
Sheeting Weavers ...	Todmorden	One firm	5 per cent. from January 12th.	DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.			
Beetling Enginemen (Linen Trade)	Belfast ...	One firm	About 3s. 2d. per week.	Ordnance Factories—(War Office)*	Woolwich ...	11,100	Grant of average 8-hour day.
Hosiery, Frame-work Knitters	Nottingham	14	20 per cent. from January 29th.	Army Clothing Factory	Enfield ...	1,800	
Miscellaneous.				Whitesmiths and Stove and Grate Workers	Birmingham	450	Ditto from February 1st.
Compositors and Printing Machine Managers	Carnarvon ...	58	2s. 6d. per week on "stab" wages (25s. to 27s. 6d.), and 3d. per 1,000 ens. (book hands, 6½d.; news hands, 6d.) on piece-work. 3s. per week (32s. to 35s.)		Pinlco	Men 535 Women 844	Grant of 8-hour day (53 to 48 per week) as a trial for 6 months, from January 15th, with decrease in wages (see above).
Upholsterers ...	Dublin ...	One firm		Brass Workers, Fillets, and Turners	Birmingham	50	Grant of 8-hour day (53 to 48 per week), with no decrease in wages, from January 20th.
Corporation Work-people:				Ammunition Metal Rollers, Lamp Makers, &c.	Witton, near Birmingham	Some hundreds (one firm)	Grant of 48-hour week (from 51 to 56 to uniform 48) from middle of February.
Asphaltmen ...	Liverpool ...	Not stated	4d. per day.	Chemical Soap Workers (Salt Cake process)	St. Helens and Widnes	About 300	24 hours per week (72 to 48) from December 1st.
Gangers, Barrow-men, Wharfmen, Carters, and Boat-men	Ditto ...	Ditto	2d. per day.	Corporation Work-people, Scavengers, Road Workers, Drivers, &c.	Biblington, Port Sunlight, South Shields	About 1,500	6 hours per week (56 to 50) from January 1st.
Labourers ...	Aberdeen ...	31	17 raised from 19s. 2d. to 20s. 2d.; 3 raised from 18s. 1d. to 20s. 2d.; 11 raised from 17s. to 20s. 2s. per week (21s. to 23s.) for one horse drivers, and 3s. per week (22s. to 25s.) for two horse drivers.			100	1 hour per week. Work stops at 12 o'clock on Saturdays instead of 1, but breakfast time is reduced ½ hour.
Carters and Lurry-men	Rochdale ...	45					

NOTE.—Iron Shipbuilders: An agreement has been entered into by the Ship Repairs' Association and the Society of Boiler Makers and Shipbuilders, by which special rates have been granted for men engaged in the dangerous work of repairing Oil Tank Steamers. These rates will be, platers, 15s.; riveters, 12s. 6d.; and holders-up 10s. per day, and the Society further agrees that for these rates piece-work speed must be worked.

LABOUR COMMISSION REPORTS.*

(See also pp. 50 and 51.)

An Appendix to the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Commission sitting as a whole has been issued. It contains a considerable number of documents handed in and not printed in the evidence. Amongst these may be mentioned the rules of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers' Society and its report for 1892, statistics of the progress of the co-operative wholesale societies, returns relating to productive societies, the reports of various free registries and labour bureaux and memoranda drawn up by Mr. Mann on State and Municipal Control of Industry. There are also tables relating to Sunday labour in various branches of industry, particulars with regard to the collection of labour statistics in the United States, and tables deduced from returns of wages published by the Board of Trade. The

*Appendix to the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Labour Commission (sitting as a whole), 1894. (C.—7,063.—III. A.) Price 3s. 1d.

volume also contains memoranda on the Statute Law as to Arbitration in Trade Disputes, procedure as to the Law of Trade Combinations, the Law of Trade Combinations and Employers' Liability Act.

Index to Evidence before Labour Commission.—The Commission has also published Part II. of the Second Volume of the Index of the Evidence taken before Groups A, B and C. This Index aims at affording a complete review of the labour question under each trade, so far as the oral evidence is concerned; the evidence indexed in this volume is that taken by Group B.

The Agricultural Labourer.—The Royal Commission on Labour has issued an analytical index and a general index to the Reports of the Assistant Agricultural Commissioners on Scottish Districts. The object of the analytical index is to give a synopsis of the information contained in the reports on the main heads of the inquiry set out in the instructions to the Assistant Commissioners. The object of the general index is to show where information upon any particular topic is to be found.

* Indexes. Vol. II. Trades Part II. Group B. (C.—7063.—V. A.) Price 9d. † The Agricultural Labourer. Vol. III.—Scotland, Part III. Indexes 1894. (C.—6,894.—XVII.) Price 4d.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN JANUARY.
The industrial prosecutions in January, as given in the following tables, were 277, as compared with 220 in December last. Those under the *Factory and Workshop Acts* numbered 177, resulting in 164 convictions, with an average penalty, including costs, of £1 18s. 10d. Of the 66 convictions under the *Mines' Acts*, 45 were obtained against workmen, and 21 against the owners or managers, the average penalty, including costs, in the former case being 17s. 1d., and in the latter 12s. 9d. Of the 30 convictions under the *Merchant Shipping Acts*, 18 were against owners or masters of ships, 9 against seamen, and 3 against boarding-house keepers, the average penalties, including costs, being £7 7s. 6d., £1 1s. 7d., and £4 10s. 4d. respectively.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

OFFENCES.	No. of Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.	Total Amount of Penalties.	Total Amount of Costs.
Neglecting to Limewash ...	3	3	£ 3 10 0	£ 1 4 0
Overcrowding Factory or Workshop ...	2	2	9 0 0	0 4 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	11	10	40 7 3	6 11 3
Employing Young Persons under Illegal Conditions ...	14	14	14 12 6	8 17 6
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment.				
Before or after the legal hour ...	20	18	33 5 6	23 7 1
At night ...	4	3	7 0 0	5 0 6
During meal times, or without proper interval for meals ...	10	8	6 6 0	7 18 6
Beyond legal hours on Saturday or day substituted ...	33	32	42 0 6	17 3 6
On Sundays, holidays, or children on successive Saturdays ...	3	2	1 12 6	1 1 6
(Children) Full time or otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. ...	5	5	3 5 0	2 1 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.				
Not keeping registers, or making false entry in register ...	9	9	4 11 0	5 4 3
Not keeping list of outworkers ...	1	1	...	0 6 0
" affixing or properly filling up notices and abstracts ...	40	38	26 4 3	11 2 6
" sending notices required by Act ...	18	16	27 6 0	8 1 0
Prosecution of Parents ...	3	3	0 3 0	1 1 0
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty ...	1	...	...	...
Totals for January 1894 ...	177	164	219 3 6	99 3 4
Totals for December 1893 ...	167	162	162 9 0	125 6 9

II.—Under the Mines Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.
By Owners, Managers, &c.—					
Fencing ...	1	1	...	...	£ 6 0 0
Ventilation ...	...	...	...	...	...
Shafts and Manholes ...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	21	20†	1	...	13 1 9
By Workmen—					
Safety Lamps ...	1	1	...	...	1 0 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	2	1	...	...	2 10 6
Timbering ...	6	6	...	...	6 19 6
Lucifer Matches, &c. ...	6	6	...	...	5 5 6
Special Rules ...	21	21	...	...	11 18 6
Miscellaneous ...	12	10	...	2†	10 16 0
Totals... ..	70	66	1	3	51 17 9
Monthly Average for last 8 months of 1893	35	31	7	3	49 2 7

† The majority of these convictions were for not publishing Abstract of the Coal Mines Regulation Act and Special Rules, and for the infringement of General Rules as to making Reports, &c. † One of these cases was dismissed with a caution.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Offences.	No. of Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:—				
Submerging Disc ...	2	2	£ 5 0 0	£ 7 2
Carrying grain in bulk between decks ...	7	7	85 10 0	20 19 11
Not providing lights or look-out or life-saving appliances ...	5	5	7 0 0	2 7 0
Miscellaneous... ..	4	4	9 0 0	0 11 0
By Seamen:—				
Frauds in connection with discharge notes ...	2	2	2 0 0	0 17 0
Giving false name, or falsely stating last ship ...	4	4	2 10 0	2 7 0
Miscellaneous... ..	3	3	2 0 0	...
By Boarding House Keepers:—				
...	3	3	12 0 0	1 11 0
Total in January ...	30	30	126 0 0	30 0 4
Total in December ...	19	19	90 6 6	33 1 8

* Supplied by the Home Office.

LABOUR CASES IN JANUARY.

The following are among the more important legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour, of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month. Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines Regulation Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, are summarised in the preceding column.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Nottingham County Court, January 4th.—Painter claimed £202 16s. damages for fractured leg and other injuries occasioned by slipping of ladder upon which he was working. He alleged that he had suggested that ladder should be held, but was ridiculed by foreman. Defence, that plaintiff had himself carelessly placed the ladder. Verdict for plaintiff, £25.

Salford County Court, January 9th.—Workman, injured by scaffold falling upon him, sued employers for damages, alleging that scaffold consisted of rotten timber, was erected by incompetent workmen, and insecurely supported. Defence, that all necessary materials for a secure scaffold were furnished, but the men to save time neglected to use them. Judgment for defendants, costs waived on condition that no further proceedings were taken.

Cardiff County Court, January 12th.—Labourer, assisting to raise a propeller from ship's hold, sustained compound fracture of leg, through breakage of pin in shackle of lifting apparatus. Damages claimed, £150. Defence, that pin snapped through an incipient defect which could not have been detected. Judge held that shackle should have been tested. Judgment for plaintiff, £75 with costs.

High Court, Queen's Bench Division, Appeal, January 13th.—Excavator was crushed between skip and side of trench in which he was working. He sued his employers for compensation at the Westminster County Court, alleging negligence against defendants in employing a deaf man as signaller. Defence, plaintiff's own negligence. Judgment for defendants. Plaintiff applied for a new trial. Application refused.

Westminster County Court, January 15th.—Rivetter whilst working on iron framework of new roof held in position by two wire ropes, found it necessary to shift it slightly, and whilst this was being effected one of the ropes broke, and the roof with plaintiff fell to the ground. Evidence was adduced that rope was rotten, but defence denied negligence, and contended that accident was caused by straining one rope without slackening the other. Verdict for plaintiff, £156 (two years' wages) and costs.

Southwark County Court, January 15th.—Mason's labourer whilst raising pail by a pulley was struck in the eye by a wooden "profile," which he alleged had not been properly wedged. Defence, that it had been dislodged by plaintiff in pulling up the pail. Verdict by consent for plaintiff £25 and costs, defendants agreeing to re-employ him.

Bolton County Court, January 15th.—Mineral water bottler lost an eye through the bursting of a soda water bottle, owing to alleged neglect of defendants to provide a face-guard. Damages, £100.

High Court, Queen's Bench Division, January 17th.—Widow sued on behalf of herself and four children to recover damages for death of husband, who, whilst in defendant's employ was fatally injured by slipping of a ladder which he was ascending. Negligence was alleged against defendant in omitting to ensure that ladder was safe. Court held that there was no evidence that deceased was told to go up the ladder, or that defendant had any reason to expect he would go up. Judgment for defendant, without costs.

Bow County Court, January 17th.—Widow of stevedore sued for damages for death of her husband, who was knocked into hold of ship whilst unloading boxes lowered by steam winch. Plaintiff alleged that accident was caused by incompetence of winchman, whose appointment by foreman amounted to negligence. Defence, that winchman was a fellow-servant. Verdict for plaintiff, £125.

Newport County Court, January 18th.—Lad employed in brickworks claimed £150 (reduced to £70 4s. at suggestion of judge) for loss of thumb and three fingers of left hand. Accident alleged to be due to broken crossbar, causing fall of top plate of brick pressing machine at which plaintiff was assisting. Judge held that accident occurred through plaintiff doing carelessly what he ought not to have done at all. Judgment for defendants; costs not asked for.

Portsmouth County Court, January 18th.—Labourer injured by collapse of scaffold upon which he was working. £150 damages claimed. Defence, that plaintiff contributed to accident by removing planks without assistance. Jury found for defendants, but recommended award of some compensation to plaintiff.

Westminster County Court, January 22nd.—Workman claimed damages for injuries caused by alleged defective twine. Whilst sewing a mattress the twine broke, and he struck himself in one eye (already blind), necessitating its removal, and injuriously affecting the other. Judgment for defendants.

Wandsworth County Court, January 22nd.—Carpenter injured by falling 40 feet from scaffold, alleged tilting of plank. Defence, that plaintiff stumbled, also that he was not ordered to go on the scaffold. Jury found for plaintiff, £50 and costs.

Bloomsbury County Court, January 23rd.—Labourer, whose right

arm was cut, and back injured, claimed £30. Defence, that plaintiff was not injured by negligence of person to whose orders he was bound to conform. Judgment for plaintiff for £10 and costs.

Bow County Court, January 31st.—Hemp-worker claimed £65 damages for injury to her hand by hemp-drawing machine, owing to one of the cogwheels being unguarded. Verdict for plaintiff for amount claimed.

Halifax County Court, January 31st.—Quarryman was preparing a charge for blasting, when a crane passed above him discharging hot ashes, which fell upon plaintiff and caused an explosion and injuries to plaintiff's face, for which he claimed £100 damages. Defence, that a lad was kept at the service of plaintiff and the men generally, who should have been warned to keep the crane away. Judgment for defendants, costs not asked for.

(2) EMPLOYERS' AND WORKMEN ACT.

Newcastle Police Court, January 4th.—Ship's runner sued tug-owner for money due, alleging that he was engaged to go in defendant's tug to help in bringing a barque from Sheerness, but tug broke down on way and had to return. Plaintiff claimed the money he should have had for the job. Defence, that shipowner and not tugowner was the actual employer. Order made for plaintiff for 20s. and costs.

Todmorden County Court, January 12th.—Weaver claimed 10s., a week's wages in lieu of notice, alleging that on giving required fortnight's notice to a manager she was told by under-manager to leave that day. Defence, that under-manager was not authorised to discharge weavers. Verdict for defendants.

City of London Court, January 16th.—Boy claimed 10s., one week's wages in lieu of notice, and £1 wages due. He alleged that whilst wheeling a barrow he ran it over a person's toe, and his employer compensated the injured person with £1, subsequently deducting that amount at the rate of 6d. per week from plaintiff's wages. Defence, that plaintiff was discharged for neglect of duty, and that the 6d. per week was deducted with plaintiff's consent. Dismissed, costs not asked for.

Old Hill Police Court, January 17th.—Apprentice to trunk manufacturer sued for 5s., one week's wages. During Christmas week he only worked on Friday and Saturday. He presented himself on Wednesday and Thursday, but there being no one at work in the factory he was sent back. Order made for amount claimed.

High Court, Queen's Bench Division, Appeal.—Plaintiff sued a co-operative manufacturing society at the Todmorden County Court for £2 11s. bonus at 5 per cent. accruing on wages earned before leaving the society's employment, and judgment was given in his favour (see LABOUR GAZETTE for November, page 160). Defendant society appealed, the appeal being supported by the Co-operative Union. Appeal dismissed with costs.

City of London Court, January 24th.—Tailor was sued by his employers for £4 9s. 6d., value of clothes detained by him. Defendant pleaded that he had a lien upon the goods for work done. Plaintiffs asserted that they had tendered amount due, but

it was refused; they had sued the surety for the defendant, but had received nothing from him. Commissioner held that they could not proceed against defendant also, and therefore gave judgment for the latter without costs.

Knarborough Petty Sessions, January 24th.—Farm labourer engaged last November at a yearly hiring, was summoned for improperly leaving his work at Christmas, causing loss to his employer. The Court ordered him to return to his work, and pay £2 10s. compensation and costs.

(3) TRADE UNION ACTS.

Liverpool County Court, January 3rd.—Joiner sued the president of a Trade Society for damages for having maliciously influenced plaintiff's discharge from his employment, alleging that upon plaintiff's refusal to join the Association, defendant informed the foreman that either plaintiff must be discharged or the other men would be withdrawn. The judge held that defendant was merely the mouthpiece of his fellow-workmen, who objected to work in plaintiff's company. Judgment for defendant with costs.

Information has been received of proceedings during the month against six officials of various trade unions, and one official of a friendly society for embezzling or withholding funds belonging to those societies. In each case punishment of fine or imprisonment was inflicted.

(4) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

(See Summary of prosecutions under these Acts on p. 54).

Sheffield Police Court, January 29th.—A firm of steel manufacturers were summoned in a test case by one of H.M. Inspectors of Factories, for employing a male "young person" after 6 p.m. in the turning shop at 7.30 p.m. Defendants contended they were exempted by the 58th section of the Act, which provided special exceptions to "Iron Mills." Prosecutor admitted that defendants' works were "Iron Mills," but maintained that such definition did not include the whole of the premises. The process in the turning shop were all worked on cold metal, and did not therefore, necessitate night-work.

The Court held that the fact that the lad was employed in a department forming a portion of an iron mill was not sufficient to exempt him. Fined 20s. and costs.

(5) MISCELLANEOUS CASES.

Ramsgate County Court, January 10th.—An organ grinder sued his partner for share of earnings. It was stated that plaintiff often earned £1 per day, and never less than 7s., and that a sum of £114 was earned by two men in 38 weeks. Judgment for plaintiff for £20, a share of the earnings, and for defendant for £26 4s. 6d. on a counter-claim for money advanced and food supplied.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, January 20th.—Four miners were charged with assaulting another (who had refused to agree not to work a longer shift than would realise 6s.), and were fined £3 each and costs, or a month's imprisonment. The fines were paid.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

(Summary of Returns for Quarter ending 31st December 1893, supplied by certain Workmen's Co-operative Societies.)

The following table of average retail prices is prepared on exactly the same principle as those published in previous numbers of the GAZETTE. The prices are based on sales during the quarter ended 31st December, though in a few cases the returns furnished do not cover the full period. Of the 76 returns used, 73 are quarterly, and 3 for one month. The table is based on records of actual transactions, the average prices being obtained by dividing the total sum realised by the total quantity of each article. It should be remembered that while the prices given represent the real average prices paid by members of co-operative societies for such qualities of each article as they are accustomed to purchase from the society, the qualities of various articles sold by different societies are not necessarily identical, while the result may be partially affected by the different practice of the societies in regard to the percentage returned to the members.

District.	No. of Societies furnishing Returns.	Flour per stone of 14 lbs.	Bread per 4 lbs.	Fresh Meat per lb.	Bacon per lb.	Sugar per lb.	Tea per lb.	Butter per lb.	Margarine per lb.	Cheese per lb.	Milk per quart.	Potatoes per stone of 14 lbs.	Jams and Marmalades per lb.	District.
ENGLAND & WALES.		s. d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	s. d.	s. d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	ENGLAND & WALES.
Northern Counties ...	7	1 6	6	7½	7½	2½	9 2½	1 4½	9	6½	...	6	5½	Northern Counties.
Lancashire & Cheshire ...	8	1 4½	4½	7½	8½	2½	1 11½	1 3½	9½	6½	...	6	4½	Lancashire & Cheshire.
Yorkshire ...	15	1 8½	4½	8½	8	2½	9 0½	1 9½	8½	8	2½	6½	4½	Yorkshire.
Midland and Eastern Counties ...	10	1 5	3½	7½	7½	2½	1 10½	1 3½	8	7½	...	4½	4	Midland and Eastern Counties.
Home Counties ...	8	1 7½	4½	6½	8	2½	1 10½	1 2½	7	7½	...	7½	4	Home Counties.
South & South Western Counties ...	6	1 6½	4½	7½	8½	2½	1 11½	1 2½	7	6½	...	6	4½	South & South Western Counties.
SCOTLAND ...	20	1 7½	4½	7½	9½	2½	2 1	1 3½	10½	8	3	5	3½	SCOTLAND.
IRELAND ...	2	1 10½	5½	7	8½	1½	1 10½	1 3½	...	9	...	6	5½	IRELAND.
Average prices for the above 76 Societies		1 4½	4½	7½	8½	2½	2 0½	1 3½	10	7½	2½	6½	4½	Average prices for the above 76 Societies.
Quantities on which these prices are based		1066,750 stone of 14 lbs.	3772,461 4 lb. loaves	1702,755 lbs.	910,637 lbs.	6537,495 lbs.	342,870 lbs.	1762,335 lbs.	108,183 lbs.	720,027 lbs.	311,053 qts.	435,775 stone of 14 lbs.	410,233 lbs.	Quantities on which these prices are based.
Corresponding Average prices returned by 88 Societies for quarter ending September 30th 1893.		1 5½	4½	7½	8½	2½	1 11½	1 2½	8½	7½	2½	7	4½	Corresponding Average prices returned by 88 Societies for quarter ending September 30th 1893.

TRADE DISPUTES.

FIFTY new disputes occurred in January, which exceeds by 12 the number recorded in the corresponding month of 1893, but is 13 less than in January 1892.

In the Building Trades 9 disputes occurred, 5 of which were due to differences with respect to trade rules and customs, and 3 to questions of unionism.

Of the 7 disputes in the Clothing Trade, 4 arose in respect of working arrangements, and the remaining 3 referred to wages questions.

In Dock and Waterside Labour 3 disputes of an unimportant character took place.

Of the 10 disputes in the Metal and Mining Trades, 5 were more or less due to disagreements as to trade rules and working arrangements, and in 3 cases the men objected to the proximity of non-unionists.

In the Shipbuilding Trade 5 of the 6 disputes recorded were due to wages questions, as were also 7 of the 10 arising in the Textile Trades.

Of the 5 disputes in Miscellaneous Trades, the most important was the partially successful attempt of 300 chemical workers at Widnes, to abolish Sunday work.

The geographical distribution of the 50 disputes was as follows:—Six Northern Counties 27, Midland Counties 6, Scotland 6, Western Counties and Wales 5, London 4, Ireland 2.

Of disputes which occurred in previous months, 9 were brought to a settlement in January, including that of the Clyde ship-joiners, and the long-standing disputes of coke-burners near Leeds, and plasterers in Blackburn.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY 1894.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons on Strike or locked out.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Building Trades. Bricklayers and stonemasons ...	South Shields London, E.C.	Refusal to accept a new code of working rules put forward by the employers Refusal to work with a non-unionist mason ...	20 1	136 ...	Jan. 1 25	Jan. ... 30	Still unsettled. Work resumed, men having withdrawn their objection.
Bricklayers' Labourers	Gateshead-on-Tyne	For advance in wages of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour. The bricklayers were stopped in consequence	1	50 (20 indirectly affected)	27	Feb. 5	Advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour granted to the labourers.
Slaters ...	Dundee ...	Against employment of labourers upon slating work	9	76	22	...	Still unsettled.
Plasterers and labourers ...	Newcastle-on-Tyne	To compel two foremen plasterers to join the men's union	1	18	27	...	Ditto.
Bricklayers and labourers ...	Ditto ...	Against proposed alteration in the working rules of the district	1	24	29	...	Ditto.
Bricklayers ...	London, E.C.	Employer, having accepted a contract from a firm which forbade work on Saturdays, wished to pay at the ordinary rate for the extra hour per day necessary to make up for loss, but men desired it to be considered and paid for at overtime rate	1	50	29	...	No details of settlement.
Painters, Decorators, &c.	Hull ...	Objection to employment of a unionist in arrears with contributions	1	20	30	Feb. 3	Settled satisfactorily to the men, and a Board of Conciliation formed to deal with disputes in the trade.
Plasterers ...	Leicester ...	Against refusal of the usual walking allowance...	1	11	8	Jan. 17	Walking time allowed.
Clothing Trades. Shoe Operatives ...	Northampton District	To enforce the indoor working system for shoe finishers	...	350	1	13	Indoor system generally adopted.
Framework Knitters (Hosiery Trade)	Nottingham ...	For return of 20 per cent. reduction made in previous year, which had not been sanctioned by union	1	14	1	29	Resumption of work at the Union rate, equal to an advance in wages of 20 per cent.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Newcastle-on-Tyne	Against proposed reduction below local rates upon certain machine work	3	...	Early in month	Feb. 5	Local rate of wages to be adhered to.
Ditto ...	Kingswood, Bristol	Objection to a sub-contractor taking out an excessive share of the work, with the object of working on the "team" system at his own home workshop	1	60	15	Jan. 29	Settled by dismissal of the man objected to.
Tailors' Pressers ...	Leeds ...	Against proposed reduction in piece-work prices of 35 per cent.	1	2	15	18	Proposed reduction withdrawn, and work resumed at an advance of 35 per cent. on one class of garments.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	For advance in wages to union standard of prices.	1	15	30	...	Still unsettled.
Shoe Operatives (Lasters and Finishers)	Northampton	For dismissal of two foremen. Action was not sanctioned by union	1	200	23	26	Work resumed on an agreement to refer the question to the Board of Arbitration. Question finally referred to an umpire, who decided in favour of the operatives.
Dock and Waterside Labour. Canal Boatmen...	Aberdare and Merthyr Valleys	For alteration in conditions of working, and for advance in tonnage prices	1	14	8	18	Advance given for long distances, and a reduction accepted for short trips, which is regarded by the men as equivalent to a slight all-round loss in wages.
Dock Labourers and Quay Porters	Liverpool ...	For increase of gangs by one man ...	1	160	17	18	Increase of one man in each gang conceded.
Quay Porters ...	Ditto ...	Against proposal of foreman that work should be entirely by piece, without the usual extra rate for night-work	1	6	20	20	Demand for night money granted.
Metal Trades. Iron Moulders ...	Todmorden ...	Against proposed introduction of piece-working	1	...	8	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Edinburgh ...	Objection to engagement of men at a lower commencing wage than is customary in the trade	1	14	9	...	Ditto.
Mining. Stone Cutters and Quarrymen	Frenchay, Glos.	Against proposed introduction of working by hour instead of day	1	13	1	3	Proposed change withdrawn and work resumed.
Ironstone Miners ...	Kilsyth ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1s. per day	1	280	4	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Maryhill, Lanarkshire	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1s. per day	1	220	4	...	Ditto.
Coal Miners ...	Near Wakefield	Objection to non-union men, and to alleged defective weighing machine, and other matters	1	72	4	5	Men summoned for absenting themselves without leave, and work resumed.
Ditto ...	Walkden, Bolton	Refusal to descend or ascend pit with a non-union man	1	400	22	22	Employers consented that the non-union man should travel apart from the unionists.
Coal Hewers, &c.	Near Towlaw, Durham	Refusal to work with non-union men	1	80	Last day	1 day	Work resumed on a satisfactory settlement, nature of which is not yet known.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY 1894—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons on Strike or locked out.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Pit Sinkers ...	Pontefract ...	Against employment of bricklayers upon the lining of shaft	1	...	Jan. Last day	Jan. 1 day	Work resumed, nature of settlement not yet known.
Ironstone Miners ...	Chesterston ...	Against proposed change in working, alleged to cause a considerable reduction in wages	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Shipbuilding. Ship Joiners ...	Bristol...	Against increase in working hours without a corresponding advance in wages	1	7	1	...	Places filled by other joiners at the hours and rate paid to house joiners in the district.
Steel Riveters ...	Belfast ...	Against proposed reduction of half the 10 per cent. more paid for steel rivets than for iron	1	500	1	...	Still unsettled.
Platers' Helpers ...	Belfast ...	For advance in wages to a minimum rate of 20s. per week	1	70	18	...	Ditto.
Shipwrights ...	Leith ...	Against employment of a man from another district, union shipwrights in Leith being at the time available	1	69	22	23	Arranged satisfactorily to the men.
Shipjoiners ...	Liverpool ...	For advance in wages when engaged in river work	1	9	28	...	Still unsettled.
Shipwrights ...	Alloa ...	For advance in wages of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour	1	24	30	31	Advance conceded.
Textile Trades. Cloth Weavers ...	Radford, Notts.	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	3	1	...	Places filled by other men at the reduced rate.
Cardroom Tenters ...	Royton, Oldham	For advance in wages...	1	...	5	...	Stated to have been settled in a friendly way. Nature of settlement not yet known.
Cotton Reelers ...	Staincliffe, nr. Dewsbury	For improved arrangement or increased price for certain work	1	23	5	6	Mutual arrangement effected, giving increase of 2s. to 6s. on one piece class of work.
Cotton Weavers ...	Clayton-le-Moors	Against alleged excessive fining ...	1	100	10	16	Work resumed on promise of employer to reduce the fines, the operative undertaking to be more careful in future.
Ditto ...	Rochdale ...	Alleged wrongful dismissal of two weavers by a manager	1	450	12	12	Work resumed on advice of Executive, who afterwards met employers and mutually arranged settlement limiting the power of official complained of.
Ditto ...	Burnley ...	Against alleged excessive fining for missing heading marks in a particular cloth	1	250	15	22	Work resumed on understanding that no more fines should be inflicted on the cloth in question.
Winders and Warpers (Worsted Manufacture)	Huddersfield...	Against reduction in prices consequent upon increase in the speed of the machines	1	16	19	20	Future prices for the "speeded" machines arranged by the employer and the Union Executive.
Cotton Weavers ...	Preston ...	Dispute with reference to certain items of the price list	1	300	22	23	Work resumed, the prices demanded having been granted.
Ditto ...	Blackburn ...	Alleged arbitrary conduct of an official, who had refused to re-employ a weaver who had left his work	1	140	22	25	Settled mutually by employer and operatives, the latter paying compensation for the stoppage.
Piecers ...	Hyde ...	Dissatisfaction with alleged favouritism ...	1	...	Last day	1 day	Work resumed, satisfactory explanations being given to the piecers.
Miscellaneous Trades. Carters and Lorrymen	Rochdale ...	For advance in wages to standard rates ...	...	45	13	...	Advance conceded by all but two firms, whose men are still out.
Salt Cake Workers (Chemical Works)	Widnes ...	For abolition of Sunday work ...	1	300	18	21	Work resumed upon a partial concession of the demand.
Carmen ...	London, S.E.	Objection to being held responsible for possible short payments when collecting debts after delivering goods	1	17	25	...	Places filled by other men.
Wagon Builders ...	Gloucester ...	Dispute with piecemasters as to division of "balance" of earnings	1	37	27	29	Work resumed pending a conference, which decided that the piecemasters should receive 20 per cent. of the "balance," and that the remaining 80 per cent. should be divided between them and the men, according to their rates of wages.
Carmen (Lads) ...	London, S.E.	For increased wages and shorter hours ...	1	...	29	...	No details of settlement.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons on Strike or locked out.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Plasterers ...	Blackburn ...	For advance in wages of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour	...	41 (members of union)	1893 1 April	Jan. 21	Advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour granted.
Coke Burners ...	Tingley, near Leeds	Against proposed reduction in wages of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per ton	1	30	8 July	17	Compromised by a reduction of about 5 per cent. in wages.
Tinplate Workers ...	Tintern, near Chepstow	Against "concessions" or required reduction in wages in consequence of depressed trade	1	120	11 Aug.	22	Work resumed at old rate of wages.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Derby ...	Against a new statement of prices involving a reduction in wages	1	50	26 Sep.	5	Employer agreed to pay according to the Leicester price list settled on the basis of the award of Sir H. James.
Shipjoiners ...	River Clyde ...	To enforce rule, that during compulsory short time those required to work longer time shall be paid at overtime rate for the extra hours worked. Dispute occurred in one establishment at Clydebank, and the Employers' Association eventually locked out all their joiners in consequence. (See p. 44.)	20	About 2,000 increasing to 3,000	29 Sep.	31	Work resumed and Conciliation Board formed. (For full details of settlement see p. 44.)
Calico Engravers ...	Glasgow ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 2s., afterwards increased to 3s. per week	4	120	16 Nov.	13	Reduction of 1s. per week accepted on all wages above 26s., to be returned in June. Employers also consented to recognise Union Executive, and to limit number of apprentices to one to three journeymen in all branches of the trade.
Coal Miners ...	Harthill, Lanarkshire	Against reduction in wages of 5d. per ton, in consequence of a shortening of the haulage required	1	28	9 Dec.	11	Reduction of 3d. per ton accepted.
Cotton Weavers ...	Croston, near Preston	Alleged payment at less than weaving "list" prices	1	104	12 Dec.	22	Employer agreed to pay up to "list" prices, meaning an advance of 24 to 5 per cent., according to sort of cloth woven.
Ditto ...	Great Harwood	Against alleged "driving" by two overlookers...	1	180	13 Dec.	15	Overlookers tendered an apology, and undertook to discontinue the practices complained of.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as occurring in December were still unsettled:—Carpenters and joiners, Aberdeen; tinplate workers, near Chepstow; wool sorters, Saltair; bleachers and dyers, Newton Heath (not previously reported). The following which began before December were also still unsettled:—Gun-lock filers, Darlston; boot and shoe operatives in one establishment in Bristol; steel-workers, Pontymister; tailors, London, W.; coal miners, Wortley, Leeds; shuttle-makers, Dudley Hill, Bradford; bakers, Liverpool; cotton spinners and cardroom hands, Darwen; stove-grate workers, Derby; brush-makers, Dundee; carpenters and tailors, Cork; plasterers, Preston; joiners, Ryhope, Sunderland.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

THE number of fatal accidents to the undermentioned classes of workpeople reported in January 1894 was 559, which compares with 579 in December last, distributed as follows:—

	Railway Servants.	Miners.	Factory Operatives.	Seamen.	Total.
January 1894	63	82	55	359	559
December 1893	33	72	56	418	579

On the whole there was a decrease of 20 killed—mainly made up of a decrease of 59 in the number of fatal accidents to seamen, counterbalanced by increases of 10 and 30 respectively in the number of miners and railway servants killed.

Non-fatal accidents reported numbered 699 in factories and workshops, 395 in mines, and 274 to railway servants, as compared with 752, 395, 284 respectively in December. Accidents occurring at sea of a non-fatal character are not reported.

NOTE.—The exact percentage which the number killed in each of these classes of employment bears to the total number employed cannot be stated, the figures, where given, being either for the number employed at a previous date, or for a portion only of those liable to accident, but the following particulars may be useful in forming some idea of the proportion that the numbers employed bear to the persons injured or killed:—

Factories and Workshops.—From a Parliamentary Paper (402 of 1890) it appears that the number of persons actually at work in factories when the returns were furnished to the Home Office was 3,270,835, but there are no figures available as to the number of persons employed in workshops, although the number is very large.

Railways.—The same Parliamentary Paper gives the number of persons employed on 31st December 1889 by railway companies in the United Kingdom as 381,626.

Mines.—The number employed in mines can be given more closely, being 702,466 in 1892, exclusive of 19,342 persons employed on private branch railways and in washing and coking coal.

Seamen.—The returns of the number of seamen employed in British registered vessels in 1892 give 241,735 persons, all grades being included.

I.—Railway Servants.

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

Showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of January 1894.

A.—Distinguishing the various classes of persons and nature of injuries.

Class of Service.	Killed	Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.						Total of Injuries.
		Amputations.	Fractures.	Crushes.	Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.		
Brakemen and Goods Guards	8	4	4	3	20	26		57
Engine Drivers	1	1	2	2	6	22		33
Firemen	5	1	2	1	11	22		37
Guards (Passenger)	...	...	...	...	5	...		5
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	12	1	3	...	2	2		8
Porters	10	...	2	6	7	20		35
Shunters	5	1	2	7	9	17		36
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	22	3	4	5	14	37		63
Total	63	11	19	24	74	146		274

Monthly average for 1893* ... 37 6 12 32 65 96 213

B.—Distinguishing England, Scotland and Ireland; and accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents.

	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, &c.	1	3	1	5	...	...	2	8
By Accidents from other causes†	52	237	5	27	4	2	61	266
Total	53	240	6	32	4	2	63	274
Monthly average for 1893* ...	29	185	5	25	2	2	37	213

* Subject to correction.

† Including Accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct.

II.—In Mines.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in or about mines, during the month of January 1894.

Cause of Accident.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Underground:—								
Explosions of Fire-damp	1	16	...	7	...	...	1	23
Falls of ground	41	136	3	28	...	...	44	164
Miscellaneous in shafts	9	11	1	3	...	...	10	14
Miscellaneous underground	17	136	...	13	...	...	17	149
Surface:—								
Miscellaneous	10	39	...	6	...	...	10	45
Totals	78	338	4	57	...	...	82	395
Monthly Average for last 8 months of 1893	75	243	7	48	...	1	82	292

III.—In Factories and Workshops.*

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of January 1894.

Nature or effect of injury.	Adults (over 18).		Young Persons.		Children.		TOTAL.		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males & Females
Killed ...	40	3	11	1	...	...	51	4	55
Injured:—									
Amputations	66	16	37	13	2	...	105	29	134
Fractures	42	5	26	5	2	...	70	10	80
Injuries to head or face	44	7	5	6	3	1	52	14	66
Loss of sight of one or both eyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lacerations, contusions, or other injuries not enumerated above	224	22	122	42	7	2	353	66	419
Total injured ...	376	50	190	66	14	3	580	119	699
Grand Total ...	416	53	201	67	14	3	631	123	754
Monthly Average in 1893	370	60	192	57	16	6	578	123	701

* The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, p. 66.

IV.—Seamen.

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

Table showing the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of January 1894 as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes.

(Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Class of Vessels.	Number of Deaths.†							
	By Wreck and Casualty.		By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty.		Total.			
	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total	
Vessels registered under Merchant Shipping Act:								
Trading	124	115	29	53	153	168	321	
Fishing	6	16	8	...	14	16	30	
Vessels not so registered:								
Trading	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	
Fishing	5	...	1	...	6	...	6	
Total	136	131	39	53	175	184	359	
Monthly Average for 1893	63	46	33	33	96	79	175	

† Exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide and unknown causes.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly Report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official reports, answers from correspondents, and newspapers, mostly dated December and January last.)

Canada.—Several of the cotton mills in the Eastern Provinces are working short time owing to the depression of trade. The Government of Manitoba are suspending for the present any active efforts to attract immigrants to Manitoba. The dispute, which had arisen at one of the collieries at Nanaimo, British Columbia, has now, it is expected, been arranged. The Allan Line now supplies steerage passengers with bedding, &c., free of charge. A letter has just been received from the Toronto Trades and Labour Council calling attention to alleged distress at Winnipeg.

New South Wales.—Coal has been discovered on the north shore of Sydney Harbour. The proposed reduction in the hewing rates has resulted in a strike at several of the collieries at Newcastle, North of Sydney, and at Wollongong to the South; the trade is very depressed, and it is feared that many mines will be closed if no reduction is accepted. A report from Hay (454 miles south-west of Sydney) states, "A good farm or station hand, industrious and sober, soon gets known, and can always command good wages; a steady gardener may generally find work at 30s. per week and board, and a general labourer at 20s. and board; there is an occasional demand for blacksmiths and farriers, and men in the Building Trades."

Victoria.—The Melbourne Training College for teachers has been closed, there being already a large number of qualified teachers awaiting engagements. The Government has set apart £10,000 for bonuses on the export of cheese and green fruit, and for advances to wine-growing companies to develop their industry. The farmers are proposing to limit harvest pay to 6d. an hour per day of 12 hours. An official Report, dated November 29th last, states that owing to the efforts made by the Government, by municipal bodies and private individuals, it was doubtful whether there were then any first-class labourers out of employment. Harvesting operations were commencing, and those who were not fit for the severer forms of labour would doubtless be able to find occupation immediately. The yield of gold at the mines was increasing, and the new industry of coal-mining was showing good results. A strike occurred last November at the Korumburra coal mine through a dispute as to the quantity of "slack" to be allowed. The men resumed work on an agreement to be paid 3d. more per ton, and to use forks which would not lift the slack. Owing to various complaints against registry and labour offices in Victoria the Government was about to require them to be licensed. One of the gold mines at Ballarat has stopped working, the engine drivers having refused to accept a reduced wage of 45s. instead of 50s. a week.

Queensland.—Reports from Brisbane, dated December, state: (1) That there is no demand for labour, and that a new Act provides for the formation of labour colonies for the unemployed, and the settlement of persons on the land in co-operative groups, the Government advancing money for that purpose; (2) that there is no improvement in the Building Trade. Nominated passages have been resumed to a limited extent. The Government is going to establish a labour colony at Yandina in the South on lines similar to the one in Victoria.

Western Australia.—A report from Pingelly (on the railway between Perth and Albany), dated December, states, "Good demand for farm hands at £1 a week and board; married men with families are preferred as they do not want to be always on the move; no demand for mechanics."

New Zealand.—The following is condensed from the monthly report of the New Zealand Department of Labour, dated December 22nd 1893:—At Auckland the Building and Iron Trades are dull; Boot Trade is fair; tailors and dressmakers are busy; the farm wages offer-

ing are too low for married men. At Gisborne the Building Trade is still very busy; shearers are well employed. At Napier, Masterton, Martinborough, and Pahiatua very few, if any, are unemployed. At Wellington many carpenters are out of employment. Work is plentiful in country districts for unskilled labour, but not in the city. At Nelson trade is improving. At Christchurch the Building, Engineering and Iron Trades are busy, but men in the Boot Trade and unskilled labourers are not fully employed. At Dunedin the flour mills are working day and night to overtake orders. The Building and Timber Trades are fairly busy, but not the Boot Trade nor unskilled labourers. At Invercargill the Building Trade is busy, ironworks fairly busy, painters and paper-hangers very busy, and very few unskilled labourers are unemployed. At Ashburton and Wanganui very few are unemployed in country districts.

Cape Colony.—The following official report as to the state of the European labour market in Cape Town at the end of last year has been received from the Colonial Secretary, Cape Town:—

Aerated Waters Manufacture: Skilled men not required for this trade. No difficulty experienced in procuring hands. As summer is setting in, prospects for next six months are good.

Building Trade: Market well supplied. Prospects good. Openings for limited number of really first-class mechanics, including softstone cutters.

Cart and Wagon Works: Market well supplied, and likely to remain so. A few first-class steady carriage painters might find employment, as well as some Colonial apprentices.

Saddlery and Harness-making: Ample supply of labour. Prospects normal.

Tobacco, Cigar and Snuff Works: Supply greater than demand. Prospects poor.

Boot and Shoe Factories: Openings for a limited number of really good lasters and finishers.

Cooperage: Colonial men employed. No difficulty found in getting them. No openings for others.

Furniture Works: A limited number of first-class cabinet-makers, french-polishers and wood-turners would find employment. Prospects fair. Considerable business done with people in Orange Free State.

Engineering Works: A small number of first-class moulders, turners and fitters would find work. Supply otherwise equal to demand.

Millers and Bakers: No openings; dull time coming on by reason of fruit season. Some few steady young bakers, pastry-cooks, and biscuit-makers could get work.

Boat Building and Shipwrights' Works: No openings. This particular kind of business is stagnant.

Match Factories: No openings. Colonial labour employed and supply thereof ample.

Candle Works: Business dull; prospects duller.

Printing and Bookbinding: No openings. Prospects quiet. Apprentices (white lads) are in request.

Tailoring Works: Openings for really first-class workmen. There is at present a large supply of indifferent hands who have recently arrived from Europe.

Saw Mills: Demand for skilled labour limited. Market well supplied.

Government Railways (1) Engineering Department: No openings, demand will not exceed supply; (2) Locomotive Department: no openings. There are numbers of applicants for whom no employment can be found.

Similar reports from different parts of the Colony show that female servants are wanted in many parts, that there is no general demand for mechanics, and that farm work is nearly all performed by coloured labour. In Albany, however, there is plenty of work for mechanics, especially in all trades connected with building and wagon and cart making. In Carnarvon there is room for carpenters, masons and bricklayers, and in Philipstown there is a demand for masons and stone-cutters for the erection of new public offices. In Port Elizabeth and Willowmore the Building Trades had been very brisk, but building operations were coming to an end, and the great wagon-building industry of Worcester had declined.

Natal.—Free passages for domestic servants are now resumed.

Colonial Statistics.—The Statistical Abstract for the several Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom has just been published. It gives for each year, from 1878 to 1892, particulars of population, revenue, expenditure, loans, customs, public debt, shipping, imports, exports, banks, railways, telegraphs, crown lands, agriculture, live stock, births, deaths, and marriages, meteorology, and tariffs, together with statistics relating to dependent and protected States.

* Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom 1878-1892. (C.-7,144.) Price 9d.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN NEW ZEALAND.

ACCORDING to the Journal of the New Zealand Department of Labour, the total number of persons assisted in November was 298, as compared with 241 in October. Of the 298, no less than 219 were sent to Government Works, the great bulk of them being general labourers.

Occupations.	Number Assisted.	Number sent to Private Employment.	Number sent to Government Works.
General Labourers	248	67	181
Bushmen	2	...	2
Building Trades	29	1	28
Other Occupations	19	11	8
Total, November 1893 ...	298	79	219
Total, October 1893 ...	241	62	179

IMMIGRATION TO BRAZIL.*

A report by Mr. F. Harford, Second Secretary of H.M. Legation at Rio Janeiro, dated November 7th 1893, gives an account of the efforts made by the Brazilian Government to develop the service of immigration and colonisation in the north of the Republic. It appears from the message of the President of Congress (in May 1892) that the Companhia Metropolitana, by an agreement signed August 1892, has contracted to bring to Brazilian ports one million immigrants within the period of 10 years. During the year 1892 there arrived at the ports of Rio and Santos 86,000 immigrants, and in 1891 over 216,000, by far the largest number in both years being Italians. The immigration of Chinese and Japanese has been sanctioned, but none have yet arrived. Since 1891 no British immigration has taken place, and experience seems to show that the climate and conditions of life in Brazil render that country totally unsuited for British colonisation.

Rural Settlements in Victoria.—A description of the various kinds of rural settlements established by the Victoria Government was given in last month's GAZETTE. Up to the end of November 958 persons have applied for village community allotments, and 104 applications, comprising 761 members, have been lodged for home-stead blocks. A number of these persons, with their families, are already on the land, and the remainder are expected to follow shortly. The amount advanced to the settlers as monetary aid has been £553, besides £500 advanced to a village settlement established at Kardella by private effort, and since taken over by the Government. On the labour colony at Leongatha there are about 300 persons employed, and £1,450 has been advanced by the State in aid of its objects.

Prize Essays on Canada.—The Canadian Government is offering prizes for the preparation of papers on the history, geography and resources of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, by scholars of 15 years of age and under, in the schools of the United Kingdom. Two sets of prizes are offered for England, one for Scotland, one for Ireland, and one for Wales. Each set of prizes consists of a first prize of £5, a second prize of £3, and a third prize of £1. The papers are not to contain more than 2,500 words, and must be sent in by May 1st next. A certificate must be placed at the end of each paper by the school-master or school-mistress, stating that it has been composed and written by the scholar whose name and address appears at the top, and that he or she is under 15 years of age. Any further particulars may be obtained from the High Commissioner for Canada, 17 Victoria-street, S.W., or from any of the Canadian Government Agents.

INTERNATIONAL WORKMEN'S EXHIBITION AT MILAN, 1894.

THE Labour Department is informed that the gentlemen whose names are subjoined have consented to act as an honorary committee for the purpose of affording information to British artisans respecting the objects of the International Workmen's Exhibition at Milan. This committee undertakes no financial responsibility.

Sir Julian Goldsmid, Bart, M.P.
Sir James Whitehead, Bart., M.P.
George Jacob Holyoake, Esq., Co-operative Central Board, London.
Count Henry Sergardi.
Cav. L. Allatini, President Italian Chamber of Commerce.
A. Serena, Esq., Vice-President Italian Chamber of Commerce, London, E.C.
P. Miceli, Esq., Treasurer Italian Chamber of Commerce.
J. C. Gray, Esq., General Secretary to the Co-operative Union, Manchester.
B. T. Hall, Esq., Secretary of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union.
Hodgson Pratt, Esq., Vice-President of the Labour Association.
Aneurin Williams, Esq., Hon. Treasurer of the Labour Association.
Henry Vivian, Esq., Secretary of the Labour Association.

* Foreign Office 1894, Annual Series, No. 1,321. Trade and Finances of Brazil (C. 6,855—208.) Price 3d.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

The number of fresh disputes recorded in the schedules for December, received through H.M. Ambassador at Paris from the *Office du Travail*, was 17, as compared with 28 in November. There were fewer disputes in December than in any previous month of the year. Metal workers were engaged in 3, textile workers in 3, the Building Trades in 2, the 9 remaining disputes having taken place in various miscellaneous trades. The most serious difference was that of 1,700 persons engaged in the St. Nazaire shipbuilding yards, due to a reduction of wages entailed by reduced hours. It ended in a compromise after a week's duration. The largest number of persons engaged in any other dispute for which full particulars are given was 200.

The following is a summary of the reports on the state of employment in various districts of France, which appear in the January number of the *Bulletin* of the French Labour Department:—

Department of Seine.—During December considerable scarcity of employment is said to have prevailed in the Printing Trades, particularly in the book printing branch, where piece-work is usual, and in the political newspaper branch. The Printers' Union state that about 25 per cent. of their members were out of work. In the Hat Trade, owing to the slack season, about 35 per cent. of the members of the union are reported to have been out of work during that month.

From the *Lille District* it is reported that the capacity of the cotton spinning mills of this district was increased during 1893 by the addition of 220,000 spindles. Flax spinning, though stationary, was fairly prosperous, but the Wool Industry was unsatisfactory. Difficulties were experienced through the application of the law restricting child labour, as it entailed a reduction of the hours of adults also, from 12 to 10 per day. Manufacturers are in favour of a working day of 11 hours at present.

Charleville.—The Iron Trade in the Ardennes was exceedingly slack, and exports of large or even small castings is becoming difficult. Labour here, too, is dearer than in the Department of Nord, which makes competition with the works of that district severely felt.

Nancy.—Appearances point to probable activity in the Metal Industry of Meurthe-et-Moselle, and the concentration of most of the orders for pig iron in the eastern district. In some of the establishments the works are being extended, and the hot blast system is being everywhere applied.

Reims.—The condition of the Wool-combing and Spinning Industry is described in the report of the Chamber of Commerce, dated December 27 last, as getting more and more disastrous. The hosiery branch is described as satisfactory. The Glass Bottle Trade is in full activity in anticipation of an abundant wine crop. The production of wine in the Department of Marne in 1893 was five times as great as in 1892. There is no scarcity of work in the Building Trade, but it is not well paid, owing to the great competition among contractors.

The following notes are also based on extracts taken from the first number of the *Bulletin*:—

French Trade Disputes, 1893.—Statement showing the number of strikes in France in each of the years 1890, 1891, 1892 and 1893, classed according to the result.

Result of Strike.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Successful... ..	82	91	56	112
Partially Successful or Compromise... ..	64	67	80	193
Failure	161	106	118	223
Result Unknown on January 1st 1894	6	3	7	79
Total	313	267	261	607

Arbitration and Conciliation in 1893.—The number of cases in which the scheme of conciliation provided by the law of December 27th 1892 was called into operation in 1893 was 104, viz.:—Cases in which initiative was taken by workpeople, 53; cases in which initiative was taken by employers, 6; cases in which initiative was taken by both combined, 2; cases in which initiative was taken by county court judges, 43; total, 104. On 41 occasions the employers refused to appear in answer to the summons, viz., on 15 occasions when proceedings were initiated by the county court judges, and

on 26 occasions when initiated by the workpeople. The 104 cases of recourse to the law resulted altogether in the appointment of 53 boards of conciliation, of which 30 brought about a settlement, and 23 resulted in proposals for arbitration, which were adopted, however, only in 8 cases. Out of 61 strikes which it was endeavoured to settle, 40 were brought to an end, and 8 others came to a termination during the preliminary steps for forming boards of conciliation. Of the 40 strikes which were brought to an end, 13 ended in favour of the operatives, 22 in a compromise, and 5 in favour of the employers. Of the other 21 strikes 2 succeeded, 12 ended in a compromise, and 7 were unsuccessful. Among the total 104 cases of recourse to the new law, the Textile Trades were represented 38 times and the Building Trades 36 times.

Strikes in 1893 owing to Reduction of Working Hours of Women and Children.—The law passed in the end of 1892 fixing the maximum working day of women and children respectively at 11 and 10 hours gave rise to 45 strikes during 1893, by which 154 establishments and 13,153 workpeople were affected. All, with one exception took place in the Textile Trades, and nearly all were due to the employers' proposals to make reductions in wages to correspond with the shorter hours. In 18 cases the strikers were successful, in 13 a compromise was effected, and in 14 they failed. The average length of each strike was about 5½ days, and the total days lost about 115,000. The greatest length of a strike was 41 days.

Relief Works.*—In a Report prepared for the Paris Municipal Council by M. Bompard, dated December 2, 1893, a brief account is given of some of the chief voluntary institutions in France providing relief conditionally upon the performance of some labour test.

In the course of the Report it is stated that the ordinary vote of the Paris Municipal Council for public relief has nearly doubled in the last 20 years, being about £834,000 in 1893, as compared with £434,000 in 1873, exclusive of the cost of night shelters, free disinfection, &c., and of subventions to various philanthropic institutions, schools, infant asylums, &c. The budget of the Public Relief Department (*Assistance Publique*) has increased from £800,000 in 1873 to £1,900,000 in 1893, and the total amount spent in public relief of all sorts in Paris is now estimated at no less than £2,200,000. The expenses on account of public relief in Paris are said to amount to 27½ per cent. of those of the whole of France. The Report condemns in general the establishment of relief works by public authorities, and advocates some system of charity organisation such as prevails in England and certain other foreign countries in view of the large proportion of the moneys disbursed in private relief which is at present absorbed by professional mendicants.

GERMANY.

THE following information is based on notes prepared by Mr. T. R. Mulvaney, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, and forwarded under date of February 1st:—

Mining.—Some of the pitmen in the Rhenish-Westphalian District are said to be agitating in secret for the old rights of the so-called "first hewer," referring to the custom whereby the older workman, or master of his trade, should earn more than the younger one. The union members, however, contend that the re-introduction of the old system would give rise to discontent and jealousy among the colliers.

The International Pitmen's Congress is fixed to take place in Berlin in the first week after Whitsuntide.

Disputes.—A strike of the Berlin cab-drivers, in charge of cabs with automatic fare receivers, which broke out on January 1st, owing to a police order enjoining the men to wear white glazed hats, collapsed after lasting three weeks, owing to lack of funds, the men having failed in their efforts to induce the drivers of other cabs to join the movement. The number of men out was 480. The shoemakers' strike, reported in last month's GAZETTE, was declared as terminated at a shoemakers' meeting held on January 31st. The following disputes are reported from the provinces:—At Annaberg 68 turners and 21 painters of porcelain have struck on a question of wages; the tobacco workers of Ludwigsburg are on strike for a similar reason. At a Leipzig brewery the men are on strike for reduced hours, and at a brewery at Duisburg on a question of wages; the moulders, numbering 240, belonging to certain foundries at Nürnberg are out owing to a proposal to introduce

* Rapport présenté par M. R. Bompard au nom de la 5e Commission, sur les demandes de subventions formées par la Maison hospitalière pour les ouvriers sans travail et par les Sociétés d'assistance par le Travail des 11e, 12e, 13e, 14e, 15e, 16e, 17e, 18e, 19e, 20e, 21e, 22e, 23e, 24e, 25e, 26e, 27e, 28e, 29e, 30e, 31e, 32e, 33e, 34e, 35e, 36e, 37e, 38e, 39e, 40e, 41e, 42e, 43e, 44e, 45e, 46e, 47e, 48e, 49e, 50e, 51e, 52e, 53e, 54e, 55e, 56e, 57e, 58e, 59e, 60e, 61e, 62e, 63e, 64e, 65e, 66e, 67e, 68e, 69e, 70e, 71e, 72e, 73e, 74e, 75e, 76e, 77e, 78e, 79e, 80e, 81e, 82e, 83e, 84e, 85e, 86e, 87e, 88e, 89e, 90e, 91e, 92e, 93e, 94e, 95e, 96e, 97e, 98e, 99e, 100e, 101e, 102e, 103e, 104e, 105e, 106e, 107e, 108e, 109e, 110e, 111e, 112e, 113e, 114e, 115e, 116e, 117e, 118e, 119e, 120e, 121e, 122e, 123e, 124e, 125e, 126e, 127e, 128e, 129e, 130e, 131e, 132e, 133e, 134e, 135e, 136e, 137e, 138e, 139e, 140e, 141e, 142e, 143e, 144e, 145e, 146e, 147e, 148e, 149e, 150e, 151e, 152e, 153e, 154e, 155e, 156e, 157e, 158e, 159e, 160e, 161e, 162e, 163e, 164e, 165e, 166e, 167e, 168e, 169e, 170e, 171e, 172e, 173e, 174e, 175e, 176e, 177e, 178e, 179e, 180e, 181e, 182e, 183e, 184e, 185e, 186e, 187e, 188e, 189e, 190e, 191e, 192e, 193e, 194e, 195e, 196e, 197e, 198e, 199e, 200e, 201e, 202e, 203e, 204e, 205e, 206e, 207e, 208e, 209e, 210e, 211e, 212e, 213e, 214e, 215e, 216e, 217e, 218e, 219e, 220e, 221e, 222e, 223e, 224e, 225e, 226e, 227e, 228e, 229e, 230e, 231e, 232e, 233e, 234e, 235e, 236e, 237e, 238e, 239e, 240e, 241e, 242e, 243e, 244e, 245e, 246e, 247e, 248e, 249e, 250e, 251e, 252e, 253e, 254e, 255e, 256e, 257e, 258e, 259e, 260e, 261e, 262e, 263e, 264e, 265e, 266e, 267e, 268e, 269e, 270e, 271e, 272e, 273e, 274e, 275e, 276e, 277e, 278e, 279e, 280e, 281e, 282e, 283e, 284e, 285e, 286e, 287e, 288e, 289e, 290e, 291e, 292e, 293e, 294e, 295e, 296e, 297e, 298e, 299e, 300e, 301e, 302e, 303e, 304e, 305e, 306e, 307e, 308e, 309e, 310e, 311e, 312e, 313e, 314e, 315e, 316e, 317e, 318e, 319e, 320e, 321e, 322e, 323e, 324e, 325e, 326e, 327e, 328e, 329e, 330e, 331e, 332e, 333e, 334e, 335e, 336e, 337e, 338e, 339e, 340e, 341e, 342e, 343e, 344e, 345e, 346e, 347e, 348e, 349e, 350e, 351e, 352e, 353e, 354e, 355e, 356e, 357e, 358e, 359e, 360e, 361e, 362e, 363e, 364e, 365e, 366e, 367e, 368e, 369e, 370e, 371e, 372e, 373e, 374e, 375e, 376e, 377e, 378e, 379e, 380e, 381e, 382e, 383e, 384e, 385e, 386e, 387e, 388e, 389e, 390e, 391e, 392e, 393e, 394e, 395e, 396e, 397e, 398e, 399e, 400e, 401e, 402e, 403e, 404e, 405e, 406e, 407e, 408e, 409e, 410e, 411e, 412e, 413e, 414e, 415e, 416e, 417e, 418e, 419e, 420e, 421e, 422e, 423e, 424e, 425e, 426e, 427e, 428e, 429e, 430e, 431e, 432e, 433e, 434e, 435e, 436e, 437e, 438e, 439e, 440e, 441e, 442e, 443e, 444e, 445e, 446e, 447e, 448e, 449e, 450e, 451e, 452e, 453e, 454e, 455e, 456e, 457e, 458e, 459e, 460e, 461e, 462e, 463e, 464e, 465e, 466e, 467e, 468e, 469e, 470e, 471e, 472e, 473e, 474e, 475e, 476e, 477e, 478e, 479e, 480e, 481e, 482e, 483e, 484e, 485e, 486e, 487e, 488e, 489e, 490e, 491e, 492e, 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825e, 826e, 827e, 828e, 829e, 830e, 831e, 832e, 833e, 834e, 835e, 836e, 837e, 838e, 839e, 840e, 841e, 842e, 843e, 844e, 845e, 846e, 847e, 848e, 849e, 850e, 851e, 852e, 853e, 854e, 855e, 856e, 857e, 858e, 859e, 860e, 861e, 862e, 863e, 864e, 865e, 866e, 867e, 868e, 869e, 870e, 871e, 872e, 873e, 874e, 875e, 876e, 877e, 878e, 879e, 880e, 881e, 882e, 883e, 884e, 885e, 886e, 887e, 888e, 889e, 890e, 891e, 892e, 893e, 894e, 895e, 896e, 897e, 898e, 899e, 900e, 901e, 902e, 903e, 904e, 905e, 906e, 907e, 908e, 909e, 910e, 911e, 912e, 913e, 914e, 915e, 916e, 917e, 918e, 919e, 920e, 921e, 922e, 923e, 924e, 925e, 926e, 927e, 928e, 929e, 930e, 931e, 932e, 933e, 934e, 935e, 936e, 937e, 938e, 939e, 940e, 941e, 942e, 943e, 944e, 945e, 946e, 947e, 948e, 949e, 950e, 951e, 952e, 953e, 954e, 955e, 956e, 957e, 958e, 959e, 960e, 961e, 962e, 963e, 964e, 965e, 966e, 967e, 968e, 969e, 970e, 971e, 972e, 973e, 974e, 975e, 976e, 977e, 978e, 979e, 980e, 981e, 982e, 983e, 984e, 985e, 986e, 987e, 988e, 989e, 990e, 991e, 992e, 993e, 994e, 995e, 996e, 997e, 998e, 999e, 1000e.

piece-work. At Frankfurt-on-Main the building of a church has been stopped through a strike of stone-cutters; at Niederbielau 400 mechanical weavers, who had struck against deductions from wages on December 30th, returned to work on January 2nd at an increased rate of wages; at Griefswald the basket-makers at a factory have been locked out. A strike on a large scale is said to be contemplated in the men's clothing department of the Berlin Tailoring Trade.

The Unemployed.—The Crefeld Chamber of Commerce has granted £50 towards a fund for enabling the unemployed to keep up their premiums for sickness insurance.

Trade Organisations.—The association established some years ago by the employers in the Boot and Shoe Industry in Mainz, Frankfurt-on-Main, Offenbach, Bingen and Alzey has been dissolved.

The Union of Miners and Metal Workers of Saxony, founded in 1878 in Zwickau, is said now to consist of 8,500 members, with 16,000 members of the burial fund.

At a meeting of the Varnishers' and Painters' Union at Nordhausen it was shown that the membership had declined from 6,603 to 5,732, and the number of branches from 103 to 97.

The membership of the Leipzig Association of Binders' and Typecasters' Helpers is still far behind what it was before the great strike, its strength present being stated to be only 1,600 members.

At a meeting of ropemakers at Leipzig it was resolved to dissolve the union and join that of the textile workers.

Relief Works.—At Mannheim on January 3rd and 4th, out of 862 unemployed who could have obtained work at stone-breaking from the town authorities, only 161 actually accepted it. At a meeting of the unemployed it was stated that this was owing to the work being done by collective piece-work, whereby lazy and inexperienced stone-breakers gained, while the more industrious and experienced suffered. Eventually the Town Council divided those engaged in stone-breaking into three groups, of which the first two include diligent and conscientious workers, the third including those who, though able, were unwilling to do a fair share of work. The Town Councils of Magdeburg and Mainz are providing work for the unemployed in street improvements. It is also intended to provide work for the unemployed at stone-breaking in Frankfurt as was done last winter.—*Blätter für Soziale Praxis*.

Poor Relief in Berlin, 1892-3.—The *Blätter für Soziale Praxis*, quoting from the recently published report of the Berlin Poor Relief Administration, states that the total expenditure on poor relief in Berlin in 1892-3 amounted to £635,174, or nearly £22,000 more than in the preceding year. Only £260,000 of this sum was applied in the direct relief of individuals, the remainder being absorbed by lunatic and orphan asylums, hospitals, the workhouse, and municipal shelters. Of 22,546 persons in receipt of relief on March 31st last, 53 per cent. were over 65 years of age, 28 per cent. were chronic invalids, and 18 per cent. were not earning enough to live on. Only a quarter of those relieved were men.

BELGIUM.

The following particulars are based on a report dated January 31st, received from Sir F. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels:—

Disputes.—The spinners and weavers at a cloth works in Verviers struck on January 4th, demanding the abolition of the compulsory insurance fund, to which the employers contributed largely, but of which the men had no control in the management. Nearly 1,100 persons were out on the following day, but work was resumed on the 7th, owing to the employers' consent to give the men a share in the control of the fund.

A dispute in the Shoemaking Trade is in progress in Verviers, and the men have opened a workshop of their own. At Gentbrugge a strike against a reduction

tion of the employers requiring dismissed men desirous of employment to register themselves at the quarries on or before January 25th.

The late strikes have disposed some of the Verviers manufacturers to adopt a system of factory councils of conciliation.

State of Employment.—Owing to the unsatisfactory prospects of industry, the Joint-Stock Glass Works Company of La Louvière has been dissolved. One of the collieries at Bray has also been closed, on account of insufficient production. The number of miners thrown out of work in consequence is estimated at 2,000.

Workmen's Co-operative Bakery.—The net profits of the Workmen's Co-operative Bakery at Verviers for 1893 were £1,480, of which about £480 were distributed among the shareholders, £120 contributed towards the political and weavers' strikes, £80 given in aid of the Socialist Press, and £48 devoted to charitable purposes.

The Conditions of Government Contracts.—The discussion of this question (see last month's GAZETTE), was resumed on January 9th by the Higher Council of Industry and Labour, and concluded on January 16th. The proposals inserting a minimum wage clause in the specifications for Government contracts, and for the prohibition of sub-contracts, except under conditions to be determined by the Government, were rejected. It was finally resolved to recommend the Government:—

To avoid as far as possible all reductions in prices, of a nature calculated to force wages below the rate which may be considered usual for the various classes of workmen in each locality, and each trade.

As a means to this end the Council suggested—

The possibility of State supervision (of wages) whenever an agreement has been arrived at between masters and workmen before the Councils of Industry and Labour, with regard to the usual wages of the various classes of workmen.

They further recommended—

That the standard price (*prix d'unité*) inserted in the specification, measurements, and detailed estimates regulating Government contracts shall be established, as far as possible, in accordance with the information supplied by recognised trade associations, and by the Councils of Industry and Labour.

The Government are invited to verify carefully the accuracy of such information before using it as a basis for standard prices.

If necessary the Higher Council of Industry and Labour shall be called upon to determine the method according to which the information relative to these standard prices shall be obtained, arranged and utilised.

Resolutions were further passed condemning State intervention in fixing rates of wages (an office belonging to trades associations); petitioning for periodical wage statistics, and for an inquiry respecting the fall in wages caused by contracts given to the lowest bidder, and also into the abuses of the sweating system.

ITALY.

Street News-vendors' Strike.—Sir F. Clare Ford, H.M. Ambassador at Rome, transmits under date of January 26, an account of a strike of street news-vendors at Florence, due to the refusal of the publishers of an Italian paper to grant the news hawkers a reduction of 1d. a dozen, and to take back unsold copies. A collision occurred between the strikers and some news-vendors imported from Milan. The strike was concluded on December 31, the employers making concessions which they agreed to extend to the newsmen of other cities as well.

Dissolution of the Fasci dei Lavoratori in Sicily.—One of the consequences of the recent disturbances in Sicily has been the dissolution by the Government, of the powerful organisation of the *Fasci dei Lavoratori* or Workmen's Leagues, and the arrest of their most prominent members. A recent article in the "*Journal des Economistes*" states that there were 130 such unions in Sicily, with a total membership of about 300,000, chiefly workmen and peasants. Each league had its reading room, meeting room, and band. The avowed objects of the "labour leagues" are enumerated in a manifesto issued by them shortly before their dissolution.* They appear to have been partly political and partly economic, including the

abolition of the communal taxes on grain and flour, the improvement of the conditions of labour in the Sulphur mines, the execution of state and communal works by the labour leagues direct without depositing security, the distribution of communal and other lands among co-operative associations, a legal working day, a minimum wage and other measures.

Disputes.—Strikes attended by popular disturbances are reported from Pisa and the surrounding neighbourhood. Besides the journey-men bakers and the cabmen of the town, the workers in other establishments have struck owing, as alleged, to threats expressed at a meeting which declared in favour of a general strike. Additional troops have been drafted from Florence.

The dyers at a large silk works in Como are also on strike.—*Deutscher Reichsanzeiger.*

SWITZERLAND.

The following is a summary of a report by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, dated January 31st, based on notes by Herr Greulich, the Swiss workmen's secretary:

State of Employment.—A census of the unemployed in the Silk Ribbon Industry at Bale, taken by an official commission, has reported their number as 944, of whom 650 are factory workers. About 620 have received relief from a fund formed by the contributions of private persons and unions. In other industries, too, a sad want of employment is observable. The crisis in the Watchmaking Trade still continues, and there is no prospect of its ending. The Embroidery Trade, which a few years ago was so flourishing, is now in a state of great depression. Everywhere projects for insurance against want of work are being devised, all of which, however, may fail, owing to the inability of workmen to pay the premiums.

At the Zürich office for the unemployed, the names of 661 persons had been registered up to the 24th January. Of these, 294 were fathers of families with 565 children, 298 were single men, 45 widowers, and 24 divorced, or living apart from their wives. Of the total number, 374 were labourers who had never learnt a trade. The Commission also gives relief in money and food.

Prevention of Accidents in Building Trades.—The Zürich unions of workmen in the Building Trades have demanded the issue of regulations by the Town Council for protecting the lives and health of workmen belonging to these trades, and the appointment of an inspector by the Town Council from among candidates nominated by the workmen for their enforcement. This step is caused by the frequency of accidents of late, owing to the use of inferior and insufficient materials by speculative builders.

Trade Unions.—The Congress of the Swiss Workmen's Unions will be held on the 25th and 26th of March next. The question of a permanent secretary, among other matters, is to be discussed.

Profit Sharing.—The proprietors of a cloth factory at Wadenswil have introduced a system of profit-sharing with their workmen, to date from July 1st last. According to the profits realised, a sum equal to from 1 to 5 per cent. of the workmen's wages will be invested for them.

HOLLAND.

Conditions of Work for Communal Contracts.—Reporting under date of January 23rd, Sir H. Rumbold, H.M. Minister at the Hague, states that the proposals of the committee appointed to examine the question of imposing on contractors undertaking municipal works a minimum rate of wages and a maximum working day for the labourers in their employ, have been accepted in principle by the Town Council, subject to certain modifications (see last month's GAZETTE). The committee fix the wages of labourers in the service of a contractor for municipal work at 4½d. per hour, and of a bricklayer's assistant at 3½d. per hour, with a maximum working day of 11 hours in summer and 9 hours in winter. Overtime is allowed, and is to be paid for at certain specified rates.

The following minimum rates per hour are to be paid to apprentices, boys and unskilled workmen:—

Apprentices from 14 to 16 years old				1d., labourers 1d.	
"	"	16	"	18	1d.
"	"	18	"	20	3d.
"	"	20	"	23	4d.
"	"	23	"	26	3d.

Piecework is also permitted, under the control, however, of the Director of Public Works, who can forbid it in case he considers that the work to be carried out may suffer in consequence.

In the opinion of many practical men, the probable result of the measure will be to cause contractors to pick their labourers more carefully, so that it is not likely that a larger number will be employed.

One of the great difficulties experienced in laying down these conditions is the absence of any universally adopted standard of wages in the respective trades.

The committee has also proposed regulations for workmen employed by the Commune itself. It recommends that, except in special cases, workmen should not be permanently employed by the Commune until they have been in its service for a year. The number of hours' work per week should not, unless in exceptional cases, exceed 60, exclusive of meal times. Overtime, when worked, should be paid for at certain specified extra rates. In case of sickness (including incapacity resulting from accident sustained through work) three-fourths of the usual wages are to be paid for three months, and after that period half the usual wages for not more than six months.

Proposals are also made for assuring workmen the permanent employ of the Commune against arbitrary discharge.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO DISTRICT.

Employment and Wages.—Colonel J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, reports, under date of January 22nd, that the labour market continues in a depressed condition, hard times having in some cases led to notices of reduction of wages at large establishments. The big packing-houses are scarcely working with the average force of the dull season. The Health Department of Chicago propose collecting statistics relating to the number of persons employed in all the factories, and the few advance reports received show about 30 per cent. less than full force.

The close of the Christmas holiday season was marked by the discharge of a number of retail clerks, many of whom were extra hands, in the retail mercantile establishments of Chicago, including 3,500 women and girls, who were receiving on an average five dollars, or £1 0s. 10d. a week.

The wage scale is lower than it has been for a long time. Bricklayers, who last year received 2s. 6d. or 2s. 8½d. an hour, are glad to get 1s. 8d., and journey-men carpenters, who were getting 1s. 8d., are lucky to get work at 1s. 3d. In view of building contracts being obtainable at a lower figure than formerly, a certain number of constructions are being put in hand which would probably not have been the case had wages remained at their former rate.

Considerable stagnation has ruled for more than six months in the Iron and Steel Industries, and the enforced idleness and distress among the workmen in the Lake Superior mining districts, especially prevalent in the Gogebie range, seem likely to continue the whole winter. The opening of the Messaba district last year has reduced the cost of ore; the ore is soft, and it is said the upper layer can be worked and placed in cars at 4 cents a ton by the aid of new machinery, and should this calculation continue to be realised the number of men employed in extracting harder ores elsewhere will be seriously affected.

The mines at Mendota, Illinois, were shut down a few days ago, throwing 400 men out of employment, and no statement is made as to when they will be re-opened.

Notwithstanding the general depression, there are signs of an improved condition in some industries both

at Chicago and other cities. The Chicago Ship-building Company, which closed down in June last, is resuming operations. From time to time banks, which closed during the financial crisis in July last in different parts of the country, are resuming business, the most notable being the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Bank, which re-opened on the 15th instant, and is one of the oldest and most important institutions in the North-West outside of Chicago. The Commercial Bank, also at Milwaukee, will, it is said, re-open in a few days.

Work has been resumed at the steel works of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company at Pueblo, Colorado, at a reduction of 40 per cent. in wages, with a force of 700 men, to be increased to double that number.

Disputes.—Railroads are in some cases warning their employees that they will have to work for less wages. The Northern Pacific Railroad, now in the hands of receivers, applied to the United States Court at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, last month in view of a possible conflict with their employees on the question of a proposed new schedule implying a reduction of 5 to 10 per cent. in wages. They obtained an order authorising the operation of the new schedule, and an injunction was issued by the judge restraining the employees and their union from—

"Combining and conspiring to quit, with or without notice, the service of the road with the object of crippling or embarrassing its operations and generally from interfering with the officers and agents of the receivers or their employees in any manner by actual violence, intimidation, threat, or otherwise."

Trouble between the breadmakers and the Bakers' Association of Chicago arose three weeks ago on the introduction of a new rule which was objected to by the Unions. The proprietors of shops appear to have no difficulty in obtaining men to fill the place of the strikers, who on their side are using every endeavour to continue the struggle.

Differences also exist at Deadwood, in Dakota, and in the adjoining Lead City and Central City, where reductions in the wages of miners are being proposed.

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT.

Capt. R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, reports as follows, under date of January 29: A slight improvement in trade is apparent in most of the industries of this Consular district. The volume of business is somewhat larger; there is better distribution of manufactured goods and more activity at the factories, although low prices and low wages still prevail. Great suffering, however, is still being endured by numbers of unemployed persons, their distress being alleviated in many instances by employment in public works, in which preference is given to American citizens, and also by direct charitable contributions.

Miners' Disputes.—The great uneasiness which was manifested last month amongst the coal miners has developed, as then appeared probable, into strikes of serious magnitude, both in Pennsylvania and Ohio. These have been caused by an endeavour to enforce a uniform rate of wages in the various districts. Riots are reported to have occurred at the end of the month in Western Pennsylvania, and an armed mob of various nationalities attempted to cripple the mines and intimidate workmen by pillaging and burning property. According to a law passed over forty years ago it is provided that in the counties of Alleghany and Philadelphia the authorities must be accountable for all damage caused by riots. Actions against Alleghany County are therefore to be expected on account of the damage done to property.

Iron and Steel.—Mills and factories are being put into operation from day to day, and a gradual improvement of these industries is confidently anticipated.

Glass.—A fair activity is being maintained in the Glass Industry, although some uneasiness prevails with regard to the future of the trade if the import tariff is reduced. The strike in the Plate Glass Industry continues, and violence is feared. One glass manufacturing firm has borrowed 50,000 dollars from the Window Glass Workers' Association.

Miscellaneous.—Some of the textile mills are at length resuming operations. The expected reduction of wages in the potteries of Ohio has resulted in a strike. Various brick works and stone quarries are resuming in anticipation of spring activity.

Labour Organisations.—Plans for the amalgamation or affiliation of the principal labour unions are again being proposed. The Knights of Labour are still disturbed by dissensions. An important decision has been pronounced by the Supreme Court, according to which, under certain conditions, the members of an Employers' Association may boycott individually, and persuade outside parties to boycott dealers and contractors who have acceded to the demands of strikers against which the Association is contending.

WAGES AND WORKING HOURS IN FRANCE.*

The first volume of reports in connection with the wages inquiry, undertaken by the French Labour Department, has now appeared. It refers to the Department of Seine, and gives information obtained from 475 separate industrial establishments, employing about 68,000 workers, with machinery of more than 30,000 horse-power, and paying about £3,800,000 a year in wages. More than one-fourth of those engaged in the larger and medium industries have come under observation, and the establishments dealt with include almost half the steam power used in the Department. In 30 of the establishments the number of workers exceeded 500, and in 90 it was less than 25. The average number of workers in each establishment visited was 135.

The following table is based on the Summary Tables on pp. 337 and 355 of the volume.

Statement showing, according to groups of industries, the number of private establishments from which information was obtained in the Department of Seine, the number of persons permanently employed therein, the average length of the working day, and the average daily wages, distinguishing men and women:—

Groups of Industries.	No. of Establishments visited.	Average No. of persons permanently employed in those Establishments.	Average length of working day.	Average daily wages.	
				Men.	Women.
Preparation of Foods, &c.	36	5,800	hours. f. c.†	f. c.†	f. c.†
Chemicals	28	2,550	10½	5 75	2 90
Paper, Indiarubber, &c. ...	21	3,200	10½	4 85	2 70
Printing	27	4,900	10	6 30	3 40
Hides and Skins	33	3,700	10½	5 00	3 15
Textile Trades proper ...	21	2,850	10½	5 05	2 70
Working of Tissues, &c.	28	4,350	10½	6 10	3 00
Wood Working (large) ...	22	1,350	10	6 50	2 50
Cabinet-making, Turnery, &c.	39	2,850	10	7 10	3 40
Iron Working (finer) ...	34	3,400	10½	6 25	3 00
Boiler-making, Casting and Engineering	49	8,150	10½	6 60	3 05
Working of various Metals	44	4,250	10½	6 65	2 50
Precious Metals	20	1,550	10	8 85	3 30
Pipe-laying and Building in Stone	19	2,150	9½	6 20	3 00
Working of Stone and Earths (by fire)	18	3,070	10½	5 55	2 80
Management and Transport	7	1,150	9½	5 80	4 00
Total	446	55,270	—	—	—

LABOUR IN RUSSIAN FACTORIES.†

A REVIEW of the contemporary state of trade and industry in Russia, prepared by the Department of Trade and Manufactures for the Chicago Exhibition, and translated by the United States' Consul-General to Russia, gives particulars relating to wages and working hours in Russian Factories, prepared by M. Mikhailovsky, Chief Factory Inspector. In considering the wages of factory workers in Russia, certain peculiarities in their economic condition have to be borne in mind. A very small proportion of the factory workers look to manufacture as their main source of livelihood. The majority own plots of land; and it is only when field work is impossible or unnecessary that they engage in factory work in the towns as a means of supplementing the income derived from agriculture. For this reason the Russian workman seldom tries to perfect himself in any other industry. This explains why, in the manufacturing localities of Russia wages rise and fall regularly at certain seasons every year, being always from 10 to 20 per cent. higher in the spring and summer than in the autumn and winter, owing to the scarcity of hands at the former season, due to their return to the villages. In

* Salaires et Durée du Travail dans l'Industrie Française, Tome I., Département de la Seine. Ministère du Commerce, de l'Industrie et des Colonies, Office du Travail.

† 25 francs equal £1, 1 franc being equal to about 9d.

‡ The Industries of Russia; Manufactures and Trade, St. Petersburg, 1893.

most of the Central Governments half-yearly engagements are the rule, either from 1st October to Easter, or *vice versa*.

The Russian factory workers spend much less on food, clothing, &c., than those of other countries. Their food consists of *shchee*, or cabbage soup with meat, gruel, and linseed oil, for dinner and supper, and black (rye) bread and tea for luncheon. A workman's board in Moscow is said to cost from 4½ to 5 roubles a month, or from 54 to 60 roubles a year, the rouble being equal to about 2s.

The workmen generally board at their own expense, and, in order to reduce the cost, form associations or *artels*, and board together.* In some factories provision stores are kept by societies formed by the workmen themselves, where, in addition to getting their provisions at the market price, they have a dividend of from 3 to 6 per cent. To all the larger factories, which are outside towns, shops are annexed, where the workmen are said to be allowed, but not compelled, to deal.

Most of the large factories have special workmen's dwellings attached, lodging, fuel and light being provided either free or at a low price. The various types of dwellings provided by factory owners are described in the report.

The first law for restricting child labour was enacted in 1882, and was amended in 1884 and 1890. It prohibits the employment at factories of children under 12, fixes a maximum of 8 hours a day for those under 15 not working more than 4 hours at a time, and of 6 hours if performed consecutively. Night work (9 p.m. to 5 a.m.) for children is altogether forbidden. By a law of 1886 night work (in this case from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.) was prohibited for minors from 15 to 17 years old, and to women engaged in cotton, wool, linen and other textile factories. The statute working day for men is 12 hours, but there is no law preventing their employment beyond that time.

In 80 per cent. of the Russian factories the working day is said not to exceed 12 hours. In 37 per cent. of the latter it amounts to 12 hours, in 21 per cent. to 11 hours, in 18 per cent. to 9 hours, and in 2 per cent. to 8 hours.

In the establishments affected by the law prohibiting night work for minors and women there is said to be a tendency to introduce two shifts of 9 hours each, in place of the former working day of 13½ hours, including intervals of 1½ hours.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL FOR FEBRUARY 1894.

Board of Trade Notices. State of the Skilled Labour Market, &c. Imports of Hay into the United Kingdom. The Population of England and Wales. The Trans-Siberian Railway. The Agricultural Machinery Trade in Russia. Development of the Cotton Spinning Industry in Germany. The French Mining Industries. The Petroleum Industry in Galicia. Increased Production of Cotton in Central Asia. The Cotton Spinning Industry in Japan. Pig Iron Production in the United States in 1893. Alterations in Roumanian Import Duties. New Customs Law of the Argentine Republic. Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations. Extracts from Diplomatic and Consular Reports. General Trade Notes. Recent Trade Blue Books. Proceedings of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. Quarantine and Post Office Notices. Statistical Tables and List of Diplomatic, Consular and Colonial Office Reports.

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* For a description of "artels" see page 172 of November GAZETTE.

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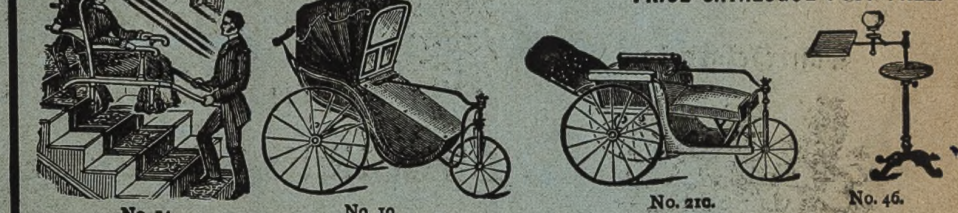
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