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## CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

|  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| <b>Summary of the State of Employment in January</b> ... ..                | 33   |
| <b>Special Articles and Reports—</b>                                       |      |
| EMPLOYMENT IN 1897 ... ..  | 35   |
| INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN 1897 ... ..  | 36   |
| CLOSE OF THE ENGINEERING DISPUTE ... ..                                    | 37   |
| ACCIDENT, OLD AGE, AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN GERMANY, 1896 ... ..        | 38   |
| MINERS' PROVIDENT FUNDS IN AUSTRIA ... ..                                  | 39   |
| WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS IN DENMARK... ..                      | 41   |
| PRICES OF COAL AND IRON ... ..   | 42   |
| RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS ... .. | 40   |
| CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN ENGINEERING TRADE IN WESTERN AMERICA ... ..        | 36   |
| <b>Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—</b>                     |      |
| REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.   |      |
| COAL MINING ... ..   | 44   |
| IRON MINING ... ..   | 45   |
| PIG IRON MANUFACTURE ... ..  | 45   |
| STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS ... ..      | 46   |
| AGRICULTURAL LABOUR ... ..   | 46   |
| SEAMEN ... ..  | 48   |
| LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR ... ..  | 48   |
| WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES ... ..   | 47   |
| DISTRICT REPORTS.  |      |
| LONDON ... ..  | 49   |
| ENGLAND: Northern Counties ... ..  | 49   |
| Lancashire ... ..  | 50   |
| Yorkshire ... ..   | 51   |
| Midland Counties ... ..  | 52   |
| Eastern Counties ... ..  | 54   |
| South Western Counties ... ..  | 54   |
| WALES ... ..   | 55   |
| SCOTLAND ... ..  | 55   |
| IRELAND ... ..   | 56   |
| <b>Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—</b>                                  |      |
| COLONIES... .. 42 SWITZERLAND ... ..                                       | 44   |
| FRANCE ... .. 43 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ... ..                                    | 44   |
| GERMANY... .. 43 RUSSIA ... ..   | 44   |
| <b>Miscellaneous Reports for January—</b>                                  |      |
| LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR ... ..  | 40   |
| RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION... ..                                      | 61   |
| INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS ... ..  | 59   |
| FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ... ..                                 | 62   |
| MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..  | 62   |
| EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION ... ..  | 62   |
| <b>Statistical Tables for January—</b>                                     |      |
| TRADE DISPUTES ... ..  | 60   |
| CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES ... ..   | 58   |
| CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR... ..   | 59   |
| INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ... ..  | 57   |
| INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS ... ..   | 64   |
| LABOUR BUREAUX... ..   | 63   |
| PAUPERISM ... ..   | 63   |
| DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS ... ..   | 59   |
| <b>Notes and Reviews—</b>  |      |
| MUNICIPAL LABOUR BUREAU CONFERENCE ... ..                                  | 64   |
| EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES ... ..                      | 34   |
| WAGES AND HOURS IN FRANCE ... ..   | 62   |
| REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS IN 1896 ... ..                                     | 61   |
| BUILDING SOCIETIES IN 1896 ... ..  | 64   |
| FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ... ..  | 62   |
| CO-OPERATIVE UNION OF AMERICA ... ..                                       | 61   |

## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY.

[Based on 2,259 returns, viz.: 1,681 from Employers, 466 from Trade Unions, and 112 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT at the end of January was not so good as a year ago. Compared with a month ago the returns show some improvement, but it is to be remembered that the previous month's figures were somewhat affected by suspension of work at Christmas.

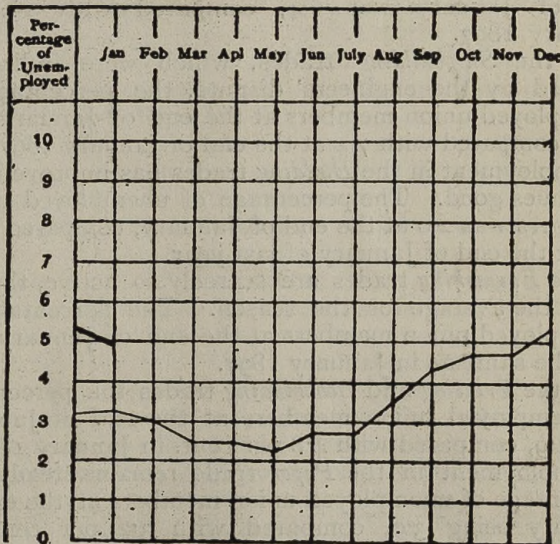
The January returns apply to a period before the recent resumption of work in the engineering trade, and employment in the shipbuilding and kindred trades still shows the adverse effects of the stoppage.

In the following figures persons directly on strike or locked out have been omitted, but the indirect effect of the stoppage is very marked.

In the 116 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 461,544, 22,870 (or 4.96 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of January, compared with 5.34 per cent. at the end of December 1897, and with 3.3 per cent. in the 115 unions, with a membership of 454,342, from which returns were received for January 1897.

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

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



The table below classifies the membership of the 116 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

| Percentage of members unemployed. | At end of January 1898.          |                                  | Corresponding Percentages for |              |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
|                                   | Number of Unions making Returns. | Total Membership of such Unions. | A Month ago.                  | A Year ago.  |
|                                   |                                  | Number.                          |                               |              |
| Under 1 per cent.                 | 17                               | 85,259                           | 18.5                          | 6.1          |
| 1 and under 2 per cent.           | 23                               | 79,292                           | 17.2                          | 18.7         |
| 2 " 3 " "                         | 12                               | 44,262                           | 9.6                           | 8.8          |
| 3 " 5 " "                         | 27                               | 30,672                           | 6.6                           | 15.1         |
| 5 " 7 " "                         | 12                               | 120,971                          | 26.2                          | 20.0         |
| 7 " 10 " "                        | 10                               | 22,865                           | 5.0                           | 10.0         |
| 10 per cent. and upwards          | 15                               | 78,223                           | 16.9                          | 1.5          |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>116</b>                       | <b>461,544</b>                   | <b>100.0</b>                  | <b>100.0</b> |

POLITICAL



**Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment continued good upon the whole. At pits at which 440,018 persons were employed, 5.06 days per week were worked on the average in the four weeks ended January 22nd. The average number of days worked per week in the previous four weeks was 5.31,\* and in the corresponding period a year ago 5.15.\* (For further details see page 44.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continued good. At mines at which 17,409 persons were employed an average of 5.59 days per week were worked during the four weeks ended January 22nd. The average for the previous four weeks was 5.58,\* and for the corresponding period a year ago 5.72.\* (For further details see page 45.)

**Pig Iron Industry.**—The ironworks to which the returns relate had 354 furnaces in blast at the end of January, or three more than at the end of the previous month, and six more than a year ago. The number employed (viz., 22,730) was 204 more than a month ago, and about 560 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 45.)

Employment at **Steel Works** improved during the month and continues better than a year ago. At the 138 works covered by the returns, 38,608 persons were employed at the end of January, as compared with 38,294 at the end of December and 37,546 at the end of January 1897. (For further details see page 46.)

At **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** employment has improved, though as compared with a year ago there is a trifling falling off in the number employed. At 97 works 19,662 persons were employed at the end of January, 19,528 at the end of December and 19,722 at the end of January 1897. (For further details see page 46.)

In the **Timplate** trade employment continues to improve. At 86 works 335 mills were in operation at the end of January, as compared with 326 at the end of December and 332 (at 88 works) a year ago. (For further details see page 46.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades at the close of the month was still affected by the dispute. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 6.4, compared with 1.9 for January 1897.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades, which were indirectly affected by the engineers' dispute, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 10.9, compared with 7.4 at the end of January 1897.

Employment in the **Building** trades has improved and continues good. The percentage of unemployed union members was 2.0 at the end of January, compared with 2.4 at the end of January of last year.

The **Furnishing** trades are scarcely so active, though up to the average for the season. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 5.1, the same as in January 1897.

In the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 4.9, compared with 4.8 per cent. in January 1897.

Employment in the **Paper** trade remains steady, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January being 3.0, compared with 3.2 per cent. in January of last year.

In the **Glass** trade but little change is observable, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January being 11.5, compared with 12.1 in January 1897.

In the **Leather** trade the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 4.2, compared with 2.7 in January 1897.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade, although not good, has improved; in the bespoke branch there is no improvement.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade shows a slight improvement; in the bespoke branch it continues quiet.

Employment has slightly fallen off in the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade and is moderate; in the **Weaving** branch it has improved.

\* The figures are not strictly comparable owing to the holidays.

Employment in the **Woollen and Worsted** trades has improved, but is still slack. Employment in the **Hosiery** trade continues slack.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 508 mills employing 84,000 women and girls, shows that 64 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 62 per cent. in December and 75 per cent. in January 1897. (For further details see page 47.)

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—At the docks and principal wharves, the average daily number of labourers employed in January was 16,175, as compared with 16,172 in December and 16,383 in January 1897. (For further details see page 48.)

**Agricultural Labourers** are said to have been generally well employed throughout the country in January. The season was fine and open and very favourable for outdoor employment, and the root crop, which was heavy in many districts, was the means of giving a good deal of employment. Spring work has been pushed forward, and all reports state that farm work is in an exceptionally forward state for the time of year. (For further details see page 46.)

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty-eight fresh disputes began in January 1898, involving 6,795 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for December was 28, involving 1,879 workpeople, and for January 1897, 48 disputes, involving 16,615 workpeople. One dispute took place in the building trades, 6 in mining and quarrying, 5 in metal, engineering and shipbuilding, 7 in textile trades, 3 in clothing trades, 2 in the transport group, and 4 in other industries. Of the 30 new and old disputes, involving 56,004 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 7, involving 3,149 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 10, involving 50,854 persons, in favour of the employers, while 13, involving 2,001 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 60.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in the rates of wages of 110,300 workpeople were reported during January, of which number 109,400 received advances and 900 sustained decreases. The net result was an increase estimated at about 5d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. Changes affecting about 900 workpeople, or less than 1 per cent. of the total number affected, were preceded by strikes; and changes affecting about 106,500 were arranged under sliding scales. The remaining changes affecting about 2,900 workpeople were obtained after negotiation between the employers and their workpeople, or their representatives. (For further details see page 58.)

**Pauperism.**—In the 35 selected urban districts 340,434 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of January. This corresponds to a rate of 215 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, being the same rate as that of a year ago. (For further details see page 63.)

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during January was 6,643, as compared with 6,990 in January 1897. (For further details see page 62.)

**EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.**

**North Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire District.**—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Joseph Knight, Newcastle, Staffs.

**South Wales Mining District.**—An examination for Second Class Certificates of Competency as Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on May 10th and 11th, and an examination for First Class Certificates of Competency as Manager of a Mine will be held on May 12th and 13th, 1898. Intending candidates should communicate on or before April 30th with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Robert T. Rees, Glandare, Aberdare.

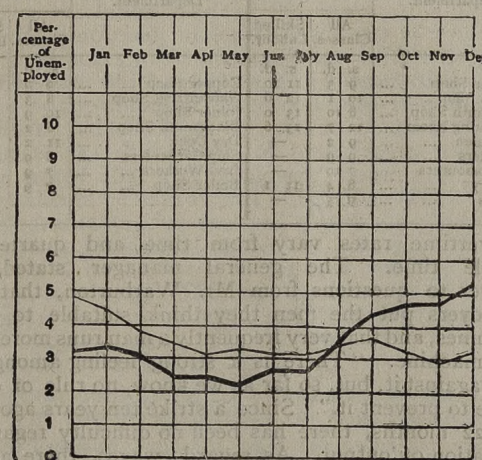
**EMPLOYMENT IN 1897.**

In the last number of the **LABOUR GAZETTE** figures were published regarding the trade disputes and the changes of wages and hours reported in 1897. The following statement summarises the more important of the figures in the possession of the Department relating to the state of employment during the year. It is based on monthly returns, including about 1,500 furnished by employers of labour and about 500 by Trade Unions.

Throughout 1897 employment was above the average, and on the whole it was better than in 1896, the upward movement in the labour market which began in 1894 having continued, at all events until the middle of the year. During the latter half of the year, however, the normal tendency of the labour market was to some extent disguised by the indirect effects of the long-continued engineering dispute, to which must be ascribed much of the falling off shown by the returns.\* For the whole year the mean percentage of unemployed members of trade unions (with a mean membership of 460,267) making returns was 3.5, compared with 3.4 in 1896. If, however, the two halves of 1897 be separately considered, the percentage of unemployed for the first half was only 2.7, while for the last half it was 4.2. The mean for the 10 years 1887—1896 was 5.1.

The course of employment during the two past years can be clearly compared by reference to the following chart:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1896 and 1897. [The thick line applies to 1897, the thin line to 1896.]



The following table gives particulars of employment in each month as shown by these returns, together with similar particulars for certain groups of trades separately. Comparative figures are given for 1896 and for the mean of 10 years, 1887—1896.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED IN TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS AT END OF EACH MONTH.

| Month.        | 1897.—Principal groups of Trades. |               |           |             |                           | All Unions. |       |                               |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------------------------|
|               | Engineering and Metal.            | Shipbuilding. | Building. | Furnishing. | Printing and Bookbinding. | 1897.       | 1896. | Mean for 10 Years, 1887-1896. |
| January ...   | 1.9                               | 7.4           | 2.4       | 5.1         | 4.5                       | 3.3         | 4.5   | 6.1                           |
| February ...  | 2.0                               | 5.8           | 2.0       | 3.0         | 4.4                       | 3.0         | 3.8   | 5.6                           |
| March ...     | 2.0                               | 5.0           | 1.2       | 0.7         | 3.6                       | 2.5         | 3.5   | 5.1                           |
| April ...     | 2.1                               | 4.9           | 1.0       | 0.5         | 3.7                       | 2.5         | 3.2   | 4.7                           |
| May ...       | 1.8                               | 4.1           | 0.8       | 1.1         | 3.4                       | 2.3         | 3.3   | 4.8                           |
| June ...      | 2.3                               | 4.5           | 1.5       | 1.5         | 4.4                       | 2.7         | 3.2   | 4.5                           |
| July ...      | 3.0                               | 4.4           | 1.3       | 1.9         | 3.1                       | 2.7         | 3.1   | 4.7                           |
| August ...    | 4.2                               | 6.3           | 1.2       | 1.7         | 5.3                       | 3.5         | 3.4   | 5.1                           |
| September ... | 5.5                               | 9.5           | 1.4       | 1.4         | 5.4                       | 4.4         | 3.6   | 5.1                           |
| October ...   | 6.2                               | 12.2          | 1.7       | 2.2         | 3.5                       | 4.7         | 3.3   | 5.2                           |
| November ...  | 5.9                               | 13.2          | 1.6       | 2.4         | 2.5                       | 4.8         | 2.9   | 4.9                           |
| December ...  | 6.5                               | 14.1          | 2.8       | 4.7         | 3.1                       | 5.3         | 3.2   | 5.3                           |
| Mean for Year | 3.6                               | 7.6           | 1.6       | 2.2         | 3.9                       | 3.5         | 3.4   | 5.1                           |

It will be seen that for the whole of the Unions making returns the percentage of unemployed varied during 1897 from 2.3 in May to 4.8 at the end of

\* Persons directly on strike or locked out are not included in the returns.

November (neglecting the figure for December, which is liable to be affected by Christmas holidays).

As is to be expected, the falling off in employment during the last half of the year is most marked in the engineering and metal, and shipbuilding groups. During the first six months (i.e. before the dispute) employment in the engineering and kindred trades was extremely good, the mean percentage of unemployed returned by these trades being only 2.0, and falling to 1.8 in May. By the end of October, however, the percentage (not counting those directly on strike or locked out) had risen to 6.2, and the mean for the last half of the year was 5.2.

The figures for Shipbuilding show similar variations. The mean percentage unemployed for the Shipbuilding trade during the months January to June was 5.3, and it fell to 4.1 in May. By the end of November, however, it had risen to 13.2, and the mean for the last half of the year was 10 per cent.

The disturbance in employment in the Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding trades by the prolonged dispute more than balanced the increased activity in the earlier part of the year, so that the mean percentage of unemployed for the whole year rose to 4.8, compared with 4.2 in 1896.

Other branches of the Iron and Steel trades show less trace of the effect of the dispute. During the year employment in Iron mines was slightly better than in 1896, the mean number of days worked per week being 5.76, compared with 5.72. Returns from 109 Ironmasters owning about five-sixths of the whole number of blast furnaces in the United Kingdom, show that the mean number of their furnaces in blast in 1897 was 349, or 4 more than in 1896. The excess was greatest at the end of January (i.e., 15), but at the end of December, 5 more furnaces were in blast than at the end of the previous year. Again, returns from employers employing a mean number of 38,339 steelworkers in 1897 show a mean increase of 5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed by them, compared with 1896. Every month of the year shared in the improvement, which, however, was greater in the early than in the later months.

Employment at puddling furnaces was also somewhat better in 1897 than in 1896, returns from employers employing a mean number of 18,917 persons in this industry showing a mean increase of 2 per cent. in the numbers employed.

The Tin-plate trade has undergone great vicissitudes during the year, and employment was worse than in 1896. Returns from employers with a mean number of 11,645 tinplate workers show a decrease of 5 per cent. in the number employed. The falling off was greatest in the months May—October, when the mean decrease compared with the corresponding period of the previous year was as much as 13 per cent.

Employment for Coal miners was good in 1897, and showed a material improvement compared with the two previous years. The average number of days worked per week (so far as shown by returns covering a mean number of 418,022 workpeople) was 5.13, compared with 4.92 in 1896, and 4.74 in 1895. The average for the first six months was 5.08 (compared with 4.80 in 1896), and for the last six months 5.19 (compared with 5.04 in 1896).

Throughout the year employment in the Building trades maintained (and even slightly increased) the great activity of the previous year. The returns as to employment for this group of trades relate chiefly to carpenters, though plumbers are also represented. The mean percentage of unemployed for 1897 was only 1.6 compared with 1.8 in 1896. In May, 1897, it had sunk to 0.8, the lowest recorded. Employment in the Furnishing trades, which is subject to somewhat similar influences to those affecting the Building trades, was also very good during the past year, the percentage of unemployed returned being 2.2, as compared with 2.1 in 1896.

Printing and Bookbinding trades showed a slight improvement, the percentage unemployed falling from 4.3 to 3.9.



On the whole employment in the Textile trades in 1897 showed a falling off. The only statistical returns of employment published by the Department are those relating to the employment of women, and thus refer more to the weaving than the spinning branches. It appears from returns relating to mills employing about 80,000 women that in 1897 the mean percentage of these women employed in mills working full time was 68, compared with 84 in the previous year. Employment as shown by these returns was worst in August, when the percentage on full time was only 58, and best in April, when it rose to 81. In every month, however, it was worse than a year before.

The returns with regard to employment of Agricultural labourers show a marked improvement on the previous year, and in many parts of the country there has been an actual scarcity of labour.

**INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN 1897.**

The following table which summarises the industrial accidents reported in 1897, only includes accidents in those branches of industry in which the number of persons employed can also be approximately stated for purposes of comparison. Thus accidents in workshops of which 85 (3 fatal and 82 non-fatal) were reported in 1897 are excluded, and also 62 fatal and 1,154 non-fatal accidents reported under the Notice of Accidents Act, there being no means of ascertaining the total number of employees with which these figures should be compared.

Altogether the table covers industries employing 5,093,394 persons, according to the latest returns. Of these 3,828 were reported as killed and 58,285 as injured in 1897, compared with 4,003 killed and 52,733 injured in 1896.

Though the totals of persons reported as injured are fairly comparable as between year and year, it would be unsafe to compare the rates of non-fatal accidents as between trade and trade, owing to the variety in the regulations under which such accidents are reported, and in the degree of gravity of the accidents themselves.

The statistics of fatal accidents, however, are free from this ambiguity, and accordingly a column is added to the table showing the approximate death rates from accidents per 100,000 employed.

| Industry.   | Number Killed in |              | Number employed according to latest returns. | Death rate in 1897 per 100,000 employed | Number Injured in |               |
|---|------------------|--------------|--|---|-------------------|---------------|
|   | 1896.            | 1897.        |  |   | 1896.             | 1897.         |
| Factories ...   | 490*             | 516          | 3,555,870                                    | 15                                      | 29,251*           | 35,521        |
| Mines:—   |                  |              |  |   |                   |               |
| Underground { Coal  | 902              | 826          | 557,026                                      | 148                                     | 5,200             | —             |
| { Metal   | 33               | 41           | 19,299                                       | 212                                     | 226               | —             |
| Total, underground  | 935              | 867          | 576,325                                      | 150                                     | 5,426             | 4,123         |
| Surface { Coal...   | 123              | 97           | 135,658                                      | 71                                      | 546               | —             |
| { Metal   | 11               | 13           | 13,820                                       | 94                                      | 128               | —             |
| Total, surface  | 134              | 110          | 149,478                                      | 74                                      | 674               | 627           |
| Quarries over 20 feet deep                                |                  |              |  |   |                   |               |
| Inside quarries ...                                       | 90               | 93           | 56,123                                       | 166                                     | 615               | —             |
| Outside quarries ...                                      | 46               | 45           | 56,706                                       | 79                                      | 399               | —             |
| Total, quarries ...                                       | 136              | 138          | 112,829                                      | 122                                     | 1,014             | 847           |
| Shipping:—  |                  |              |  |   |                   |               |
| Registered Trading & Fishing Vessels†                     | 1,818            | 1,642        | 233,780†                                     | 702                                     | 2,258             | 2,643         |
| Railway Service:—   |                  |              |  |   |                   |               |
| Accidents connected with the movement of Railway Vehicles | 447              | 502          | 465,112                                      | 119                                     | 3,986             | 4,136         |
| Other Accidents on Company's Premises                     | 43               | 53           |  |   |                   |               |
| Total, Railway Service                                    | 490              | 555          | 465,112                                      | 119                                     | 14,110            | 14,524        |
| <b>Grand Totals</b> ...                                   | <b>4,003</b>     | <b>3,828</b> | <b>5,093,394</b>                             | <b>75</b>                               | <b>82,733</b>     | <b>58,285</b> |

\* Including a few persons in workshops.  
 † The figures relate to seamen who were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels, and about a half, say 9,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards, who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours. Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1896, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

As compared with 1896, there has been a decrease from 1,069 to 977 in the number of deaths from accidents in and about mines, and from 1,818 to 1,642 in the number of deaths of seamen included in the tables. On the other hand, the fatal accidents to factory operatives have risen from 490 to 516, and those to railway servants from 490 to 555.

If we compare industry with industry the death rate from accident among seamen is the highest, the next in order being—inside quarries, underground miners, and railway servants. Factory operatives as a whole show a death rate from accident of only 15, but it is to be remembered that this is the result of averaging a large number of death rates, some higher and some lower, in different factory industries. The average death rate for all the trades and industries included in the table is 75 per 100,000 employed.

**CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN ENGINEERING TRADE IN WESTERN AMERICA.**

MR. WARBURTON, H. M. Consul-General at San Francisco, has furnished through the Foreign Office an account of the conditions of labour prevailing in the Union Iron Works, the largest engineering and ship-building establishment in the Western States and Territories of the United States, employing 3,000 men.

The working day is ten hours, making 60 hours per week, there being no half holiday on Saturday. The average wages (including men, apprentices and boys) of those employed in each department are as follows:—

| Department.         | Average Rate per day of 10 hours. |                 | Department.          | Average rate per day of 10 hours. |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
|                     | All Classes.                      | Skilled Labour. |                      | All Classes.                      | Skilled Labour. |
| Machine Shop ...    | s. d.                             | s. d.           | Copper Shop ...      | s. d.                             | s. d.           |
| Pattern Shop ...    | 9 3                               | 11 10           | Galvanizing Shop ... | 9 0                               | 12 6            |
| Blacksmith Shop ... | 10 1                              | 12 6            | Joiner Shop ...      | 10 9                              | 13 0            |
| Draughting Room ... | 8 10                              | 13 0            | Blacksmith Shop ...  | 8 2                               | 13 1            |
| Watchmen ...        | 9 2                               | —               | Dry Dock ...         | 11 2                              | —               |
| Teamsters ...       | 9 9                               | —               | Ship Carpenters ...  | 8 9                               | 12 9            |
| Yard Labourers ...  | 7 10                              | —               | Iron Workers ...     | 7 9                               | 11 10           |
| Foundry ...         | 8 4                               | 11 1            | Boiler Shop ...      | 7 9                               | 11 7            |
| Riggers ...         | 9 5                               | —               |                      |                                   |                 |

Overtime rates vary from time and quarter to double time. The general manager stated, in answer to questions from Mr. Warburton, that the employers put the men they think suitable to work machines, and that very frequently a man runs more than one machine. "There is a strong feeling among the men against it, but, so far as we know, no rule or effort made to prevent it." Since a strike ten years ago lasting 22 months, there has been no difficulty regarding limitation of output. As regards wages, there are at least three classes of workmen, though the men endeavour to prevent classification. Workmen are employed without regard to their being union or non-union men. There is no restriction on the number of apprentices. Piecework is carried on when the work can be satisfactorily classified for the purpose. The company deal with complaints from individual workmen or committees of their own workmen, but recognise no outside interference in management.

In comparing the rates of wages given above with those prevailing in the United Kingdom, allowance should be made for a considerable difference in cost of living. The rent of a workman's cottage of 4 or 5 rooms in San Francisco is stated to be from about 32s. to 48s. per month, the cost of water being 4s. a month, and gas 7d. per 1,000 feet. Very inferior coal costs from 32s. to 40s. per ton. Bread is about the same price as at home; meat cheaper than British, but dearer than Australian; potatoes from 3d. to 1d. per pound; vegetables and fruit plentiful, and the commoner sorts cheap; tea from 1s. 8d. to 4s. for qualities which at home cost from 1s. to 2s. per pound; coffee from 1s. to 1s. 8d. per pound, cocoa 2s. per pound, sugar 3d. to 3½d. per pound, butter from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 11d., eggs 1s. 3d. to 1s. 8d. per dozen, jams (inferior to British) about 1s. per pound. A ready-made suit of clothes for ordinary wear costs about £2; for Sunday wear from £4 to £10 is paid.

**CLOSE OF THE ENGINEERING DISPUTE.**

In previous numbers of the LABOUR GAZETTE an account has been given of the various stages of the engineering dispute and the negotiations for its settlement up to the close of the proceedings of the Conference held at Westminster between the parties in pursuance of the invitation addressed to them by the Board of Trade. It will be remembered that at the adjourned sittings of that Conference certain amended conditions respecting freedom of management of works were provisionally arranged, but subsequently rejected by a vote of the men. The Conference, therefore, ceased to meet, the truce arranged during its continuance came to an end, and additional lock-out notices were posted.

Early in January the employers issued certain notes and explanations to the management conditions, the terms of which are given below.

On January 13th the London Joint Committee (which had originally ordered strike notices to be given in certain London shops) passed a resolution to the following effect:—

That we intimate to the Employers' Federation that the demand for an eight-hours day, or forty-eight hours week, be withdrawn.

That before such intimation is given the above resolution to be sent to the executive councils of the societies represented on the Joint Committee, for their approval or otherwise, the replies to reach the Joint Trades Committee, the Nelson Inn, Blackfriars, London, not later than the first post on Saturday, January 15th.

That the consideration of whatever steps are necessary for an organised return to work on the part of our members stand adjourned until Saturday.

This resolution received the approval of the Trade Unions concerned, and the withdrawal of the demand for a 48 hours week was intimated to the Employers' Federation, which, however, still insisted on the acceptance by the unions of the "conditions of management mutually adjusted at the recent Westminster Conference" as a condition of returning to work. The men asked that the employers' notes and explanations should be read as part of the proposed agreement, and eventually, after renewed negotiations between the parties, a provisional agreement was arrived at and submitted to the votes of the men, who ratified it by 28,588 to 13,727. The final agreement was signed in London on January 28th, and work was resumed in the following week. The following is a copy of the full terms of settlement:—

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM TO EMPLOYERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR WORKS.**

The Federated Employers, while disavowing any intention of interfering with the proper functions of Trade Unions, will admit no interference with the management of their business, and reserve to themselves the right to introduce into any federated workshop, at the option of the Employer concerned, any condition of labour under which any members of the Trade Unions here represented were working at the commencement of the dispute in any of the workshops of the Federated Employers; but, in the event of any Trade Union desiring to raise any question arising therefrom, a meeting can be arranged by application to the Secretary of the Employers' Local Association to discuss the matter.

Nothing in the foregoing shall be construed as applying to the normal hours of work, or to general rises and falls of wages, or to rates of remuneration.

NOTE.—No new condition of labour is introduced or covered by this clause. It simply provides for equality of treatment between the Unions and the Federation by reserving for all the Members of all the Trade Unions, as well as for all the Federated Employers, the same liberty which many Trade Unionists and many Employers have always had.

Special provision is made in the clause and in the subsequent "Provisions for avoiding future Disputes," to secure to workmen, or their representatives, the right of bringing forward for discussion any grievance or supposed grievance.

**I.—FREEDOM OF EMPLOYMENT.**

Every workman shall be free to belong to a Trade Union or not as he may think fit.

Every employer shall be free to employ any man, whether he belong or not to a Trade Union.

Every workman who elects to work in a Federated Workshop shall work peaceably and harmoniously with all fellow employees, whether he or they belong to a Trade Union or not. He shall also be free to leave such employment, but no collective action shall be taken until the matter has been dealt with under the provisions for avoiding disputes.

The Federation do not advise their members to object to union workmen or give preference to non-union workmen.

NOTE.—The right of a man to join a Trade Union if he pleases involves the right of a man to abstain from joining a Trade Union if he pleases. This clause merely protects both rights. The Federation sincerely hope that a better understanding will prevent any question of preference arising in the future, and advise the members not to object to Union workmen.

**2.—PIECEWORK.**

The right to work piecework at present exercised by many of the Federated Employers shall be extended to all members of the Federation and to all their Union workmen.

The prices to be paid for piecework shall be fixed by mutual arrangement between the employer and the workman or workmen who perform the work.

The Federation will not countenance any piecework conditions which will not allow a workman of average efficiency to earn at least the wage at which he is rated.\*

The Federation recommend that all wages and balances shall be paid through the office.

NOTE.—These are just the conditions that have been for long in force in various shops. Individual workmen are much benefited by piecework.

A mutual arrangement as to piecework rates between employer and workman in no way interferes with the functions of the Unions in arranging with their own Members the rates and conditions under which they shall work.

\* In reply to an inquiry as to the interpretation of this paragraph the Employers' Secretaries on 21st January, 1898, wrote to the General Secretary of the A.S.E. stating that the general note (appended to the explanations) which disclaims any intention of reducing the wages of skilled men "applies both to time wages, and to piecework earnings,—in the latter case there is no intention of interfering with the usual practice of making extra payment for extra effort."

**3.—OVERTIME.**

When overtime is necessary the Federated Employers recommend the following as a basis and guide:—

That no man shall be required to work more than 40 hours overtime in any four weeks after full shop hours have been worked, allowance being made for time lost through sickness or absence with leave.

In the following cases overtime is not to be restricted, viz:—

- Breakdowns in plant.
- General repairs, including ships.
- Repairs or replace work, whether for the employer or his customers.
- Trial trips.

It is mutually agreed that in cases of urgency and emergency restrictions shall not apply.

This basis is to apply only to members of the Trade Unions who are represented at this Conference.

All other existing restrictions as regards overtime are to be removed.

It is understood that if mutually satisfactory to the Local Association of Employers and the workmen concerned, existing practices regarding overtime may be continued.

NOTE.—These Overtime conditions are precisely the conditions now in operation in various places, though in many Federated Workshops no limitation whatever exists at the present time. In many cases this will be the first attempt to regulate or prevent excess of Overtime.

**4.—RATING OF WORKMEN.**

Employers shall be free to employ workmen at rates of wages mutually satisfactory. They do not object to the Unions or any other body of workmen in their collective capacity arranging amongst themselves rates of wages at which they will accept work, but while admitting this position they decline to enforce a rule of any Society or an agreement between any Society and its members.

The Unions will not interfere in any way with the wages of workmen outside their own Unions.

General alterations in the rate of wages in any district or districts will be negotiated between the Employers' Local Association and the Local Representatives of the Trade Unions or other bodies of workmen concerned.

NOTE.—Collective bargaining between the Unions and the Employers' Associations is here made the subject of distinct agreement.



The other clauses simply mean that as regards the Wages to be paid there shall be (1) Freedom to the Employer; (2) Freedom to the Union Workmen both individually and in their collective capacity—that is to say, collective bargaining in its true sense is fully preserved; and (3) Freedom to Non-Unionists.

These conditions are precisely those in operation at present on the North-East Coast, the Clyde, and elsewhere, where for years past alterations of wages have been amicably arranged at joint meetings of employers and representatives of the Trade Unions.

5.—APPRENTICES.

There shall be no limitation of the number of Apprentices.

NOTE.—This merely puts on record the existing practice, and is to prevent a repetition of misunderstandings which have arisen in some cases.

6.—SELECTION, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT OF OPERATIVES.

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

NOTE.—There is no desire on the part of the Federation to create a specially favoured class of workmen.

PROVISIONS FOR AVOIDING DISPUTES.

With a view to avoid disputes in future, deputations of workmen will be received by their Employers, by appointment, for mutual discussion of questions, in the settlement of which both parties are directly concerned. In case of disagreement, the local Associations of Employers will negotiate with the local officials of the Trade Unions.

In the event of any Trade Union desiring to raise any question with an Employers' Association, a meeting can be arranged by application to the Secretary of the Employers' Local Association to discuss the question.

Failing Settlement by the Local Association and the Trade Union of any question brought before them, the matter shall be forthwith referred to the Executive Board of the Federation and the Central Authority of the Trade Union; and pending the question being dealt with, there shall be no stoppage of work, either of a partial or a general character, but work shall proceed under the current conditions.

NOTE.—A grievance may be brought forward for discussion either by the workman individually concerned, or by him and his fellow-workmen, or by the Representatives of the Union.

In no instance do the Federated Employers propose Conditions which are not at present being worked under by large numbers of the Members of the Allied Trade Unions.

The Federated Employers do not want to introduce any new or untried conditions of work, and they have no intention of reducing the rates of wages of skilled men.

These Conditions, with relative Notes, are to be read and construed together.

It is agreed that there shall be a resumption of work simultaneously in all the Workshops of the Federated Employers on Monday morning 31st January, 1898.

Parties mutually agree that the foregoing shall be the Terms of Settlement.

On behalf of the Federated Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers,

HENRY C. S. DYER, President.  
THOMAS BIGGART, } Secretaries.  
JAMES ROBINSON, }

On behalf of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers,

GEO. N. BARNES,  
JOSEPH HOOSON.

On behalf of the London Joint Committee,

ALBERT BIGEY, who signs for  
United Society of Smiths and Hammermen,  
London and Provincial Society of Coppersmiths,  
London United Society of Drillers,  
London United Society of Brass Finishers,  
London and Provincial Society of Hammermen,  
Amalgamated Society of Tool Makers, Scientific  
Instrument Makers,  
Marine and General Engineers' Society.

LONDON, January 28th, 1898.

ACCIDENT, OLD AGE, AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN GERMANY, 1896.

THE Whitebooks\* containing the figures relating to the insurance of workpeople against accidents, old age and invalidity in 1896 were laid before the Reichstag in December, 1897, and have supplied the material upon which the following particulars are based.

1. **Accident Insurance.**—The mean number of persons insured against accidents in 1896 (exclusive of those employed in the building trades, whose number is not known) is given as 17,605,190, as compared with 18,389,468 in 1895. The difference is, to a certain extent, due to the fact that for persons employed in agriculture use has this time been made of the results of the Industrial Census of June 14th, 1895. It is to be noted that the total, as in previous years, includes from a million to a million and a half persons who are employed both in industry and agriculture, and are, therefore, counted twice over; further, that it includes from four to five millions of persons engaged in agriculture on their own account as farmers, proprietors, &c.

The following table is based upon a summary which appears for the first time in the Whitebook for 1896, showing the number and nature of the new accidents compensated in each year from 1886 to 1896:—

| Year.              | Persons who met with Accidents resulting in |                        |          |                        | Total New Accidents Compensated. |
|--------------------|---|------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                    | Death.                                      | Permanent Disablement. |          | Temporary Disablement. |                                  |
|                    |   | Total.                 | Partial. |                        |                                  |
| NUMBER.            |   |                        |          |                        |                                  |
| 1886               | 2,716                                       | 1,778                  | 3,961    | 2,085                  | 10,540                           |
| 1887               | 3,270                                       | 3,166                  | 8,462    | 2,204                  | 17,102                           |
| 1888               | 3,645                                       | 2,203                  | 11,023   | 4,186                  | 21,057                           |
| 1889               | 5,185                                       | 2,882                  | 16,337   | 6,615                  | 31,019                           |
| 1890               | 5,958                                       | 2,681                  | 22,615   | 10,166                 | 41,420                           |
| 1891               | 6,346                                       | 2,561                  | 27,788   | 13,812                 | 50,507                           |
| 1892               | 6,811                                       | 2,640                  | 30,569   | 15,807                 | 54,827                           |
| 1893               | 6,245                                       | 2,487                  | 36,236   | 16,906                 | 61,874                           |
| 1894               | 6,250                                       | 1,752                  | 38,052   | 21,723                 | 68,077                           |
| 1895               | 6,335                                       | 1,668                  | 40,327   | 25,467                 | 74,467                           |
| 1896               | 6,989                                       | 1,524                  | 44,373   | 32,386                 | 85,272                           |
| PER 1,000 INSURED. |   |                        |          |                        |                                  |
| 1886               | 0.73  | 0.48                   | 1.05     | 0.56                   | 2.83                             |
| 1887               | 0.79  | 0.77                   | 2.05     | 0.54                   | 4.15                             |
| 1888               | 0.35  | 0.21                   | 1.07     | 0.41                   | 2.04                             |
| 1889               | 0.39  | 0.22                   | 1.22     | 0.49                   | 2.32                             |
| 1890               | 0.44  | 0.20                   | 1.66     | 0.74                   | 3.04                             |
| 1891               | 0.35  | 0.14                   | 1.54     | 0.77                   | 2.86                             |
| 1892               | 0.38  | 0.15                   | 1.59     | 0.88                   | 3.41                             |
| 1893               | 0.34  | 0.14                   | 2.00     | 0.93                   | 3.41                             |
| 1894               | 0.34  | 0.10                   | 2.14     | 1.20                   | 3.78                             |
| 1895               | 0.35  | 0.09                   | 2.20     | 1.41                   | 4.05                             |
| 1896               | 0.39  | 0.09                   | 2.52     | 1.84                   | 4.84                             |

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

The total sum expended in 1896 in compensation for new and old accidents under the Accident Insurance Law was £2,857,720. The expenses of the first 13 weeks after the accident have to be borne by the sick funds, and are not included in this figure. The bulk of this sum, viz., £2,030,734, consisted of pensions to disabled workpeople, of whom there were 327,270, so that each received, on an average, £6 4s. 1d.; £535,438 went in paying pensions to the families of deceased workpeople, 32,982 widows receiving £6 13s. 6d., 60,555 children receiving £4 19s. 4d., and 2,141 parents, &c., receiving £6 14s. 2d. each on an average. In addition, 888 widows who re-married, received capital sums amounting on an average to about £23 10s. each.

2. **Old Age and Invalidity Insurance.**—The total number of pensions granted from the coming into operation of the law up to the end of 1896 was 511,020, of which 490,620 were granted by the 31 district insurance offices and 20,400 by the 9 special insurance funds.

The number of new pensions granted by the 31 district offices in 1896 was 85,964 (25,402 for old age and 60,562 for invalidity), but of these not more than 48,782 dated from 1896, the remaining 37,182 being retrospective, in some cases to the year 1891.

\*Whitebooks Nos. 57 and 77, Reichstag, 9 Legislatur-Periode V., Session, 1897—98

The amounts expended upon pensions by the whole of the insurance offices and special funds in each year since the law came into effect were as follows:—

| Year.       | Expenditure on Pensions.                            |   |           |
|-------------|---|---|-----------|
|             | From Money contributed by Employers and Workpeople. | State Subvention (£2 10s. per pension). | Total.    |
| Old Age:    |   |   |           |
| 1891        | £ 462,843   | £ 302,492                               | £ 765,335 |
| 1892        | 633,077   | 440,303                                 | 1,073,380 |
| 1893        | 685,535   | 452,632                                 | 1,138,167 |
| 1894        | 739,613   | 484,109                                 | 1,223,722 |
| 1895        | 804,639   | 524,179                                 | 1,328,818 |
| 1896        | 834,931   | 535,716                                 | 1,370,647 |
| Invalidity: |   |   |           |
| 1891        | 3   | —                                       | 3         |
| 1892        | 39,621  | 28,051                                  | 67,672    |
| 1893        | 153,692   | 110,451                                 | 264,143   |
| 1894        | 300,023   | 208,636                                 | 508,659   |
| 1895        | 459,798   | 316,484                                 | 776,282   |
| 1896        | 634,808   | 420,251                                 | 1,055,059 |
| Total:      |   |   |           |
| 1891        | £ 462,846   | £ 302,492                               | £ 765,338 |
| 1892        | 672,698   | 448,554                                 | 1,121,252 |
| 1893        | 839,227   | 465,083                                 | 1,404,310 |
| 1894        | 1,039,636   | 492,745                                 | 1,532,381 |
| 1895        | 1,264,437   | 540,663                                 | 1,805,100 |
| 1896        | 1,469,739   | 555,967                                 | 2,025,706 |

The above figures do not include the repayments (since 1895), in certain cases, of contributions which have been paid for at least 5 years. The total amount of these repayments in 1896 was £98,768 (compared with £10,968 in 1895), of which £72,905 was returned to women on their marriage, and £25,863 to the families of persons who died before receiving a pension.

The average value of the pensions granted by the 31 district insurance offices, will be seen from the following:—

| Year from which pension dates. | Average-yearly value of pensions. |       |             |       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|
|                                | Old Age.                          |       | Invalidity. |       |
|                                | £                                 | s. d. | £           | s. d. |
| 1891                           | 6                                 | 7     | 5           | 13    |
| 1892                           | 6                                 | 7     | 5           | 14    |
| 1893                           | 6                                 | 9     | 5           | 18    |
| 1894                           | 6                                 | 5     | 6           | 1     |
| 1895                           | 6                                 | 12    | 6           | 4     |
| 1896                           | 6                                 | 15    | 6           | 5     |

The bulk of the insured belong to the district offices, viz.—11,075,000 out of a total of 11,585,000 who were insured against old age and invalidity in 1895.

MINERS' PROVIDENT FUNDS IN AUSTRIA.\*

THE obligation to insure against accidents and sickness which was imposed on certain trades in Austria by the Accident Insurance Law of December 28th, 1887, and the Sickness Insurance Law of March 30th, 1888, was already in existence for the mining industry in virtue of §§ 210-214 of the General Mining Code of May 23rd, 1854. Under this enactment every mine-owner is obliged either to form a special provident society (*Bruderverein*) for his own mine, or to arrange with other mineowners for the formation of a joint society. These societies are now regulated by a special law dated July 28, 1889, and by the ordinances of September 11, 1889, and November 15, 1890, and the laws of December 30, 1891, September 17, 1892 and May 6, 1893. Each society must have two separately administered funds, one for the payment of sick and funeral benefits, and the other for the payment of pensions to members incapacitated through sickness, accident, or old age, as well as to the widows and orphans of deceased members.

Full membership, entailing a claim to all of the above benefits, is compulsory for regular miners only.

Insurance against sickness and accident is obligatory for mining officials (e.g., overseers), receiving not more than £100 per annum, and for workpeople employed in or about the mines on temporary operations not directly connected with mining; while insurance

\* Based on: (1) Gesetz vom 28 Juli, 1889, betreffend die Regelung der Verhältnisse der nach dem Allgemeinen Bergesetze errichteten oder noch zu errichtenden Bruderläden, Reichsgesetzblatt, 127; (2) Allgemeines Oesterreichisches Bergesetz vom 23 Mai, 1854, Reichsgesetzblatt No. 146; and (3) Statistisches Jahrbuch des K.K. Ackerbau-Ministeriums, 1894 and 1895, Zweites Heft.

against sickness is obligatory for all mining officials without exception.

The sick and funeral benefits paid by the sickness branch of the fund must not be less than the benefits provided under the general Sickness Insurance Law in the case of workpeople engaged in other trades (See GAZETTE, January, 1896, p. 20). The annuities granted by the pension branch must not be less than £8 6s. 8d. for male, and £4 3s. 4d. for female members of the society. The widow of a deceased member must receive an annuity, payable until death or re-marriage, of at least one-third, each legitimate child, up to the completion of his or her fourteenth year, an annuity, if the father only is dead, of at least one-sixth, or if both parents are dead, one-third of the pension which the deceased father was receiving, or which he could have claimed had he been permanently invalided. The combined pensions of widow and children must not, however, exceed three-fourths of the pension of the deceased member. The funds needed in order to enable the societies to fulfil their obligations under this law are provided by equal contributions from employers and employed, except in the case of officials receiving over £100 a year, who bear the whole expense themselves. Both the sickness and the pension branch must accumulate reserve funds, the amount of which is regulated according to principles laid down in the law.

Employers must, in addition, contribute annually to a central reserve fund for helping societies to bear extra burdens resulting from accidents through which more than five persons have been killed or disabled. This fund is administered by a commission of 10 members, viz., 4 representatives of Government Departments, 4 mine-owners, and 2 miners, the last 6 members being nominated by the Government. The commission fixes the annual contributions to the central reserve fund, but these must not exceed 0.1 per cent. of the wages bill of an employer for the preceding year.

Each miners' society is managed by a committee, two-thirds of whose members must be workmen, the remaining third, including the chairman, representing the employers. The bye-laws of the Society have to be approved by the Government Authorities for administering the General Mining Code. Each society is bound to furnish annual returns and statistics to the Government, and these form the basis of the reports on Miners' Provident Societies, issued annually by the Ministry of Agriculture. The following particulars are taken from the report recently issued, containing the figures for the year 1894:—

(a) **Pension Funds.**—Two hundred and seventeen out of a total of 239 societies, whose returns could be utilised, had a mean membership of 130,323, of whom 119,069 were entitled to full, and 11,254 to partial benefit; the latter being insured against permanent incapacity resulting from accident only, while the former are insured against permanent incapacity resulting from sickness or old age as well as from accident. The total contributions paid in 1894 by full benefit members amounted to £144,331, and those paid by partial benefit members to £4,342, corresponding roughly to weekly payments per member of 5½d. and 1½d. respectively. The employers' contributions to the pension branch for both benefits amounted to £150,759, or about 5½d. per member per week. The mean number of persons drawing pensions from 239 funds in 1894 was 35,321, and the total sum expended in pensions £163,727. Of these 35,321 pensioners, 11,844 were ex-miners and received pensions of an average yearly value of £8 11s. 9½d.; 14,367 were widows, receiving on an average £3 9s. 9½d., and 9,110 orphans, receiving on an average £1 6s. 1½d. per annum.

(b) **Sick Funds.**—The number of sick funds whose returns for 1894 could be utilised was 208, of which 8 were connected with State mines. These 208 funds had a mean membership of 142,559, viz., 134,700 men and 7,859 women. Confinements are paid for as sicknesses. Exclusive of these, the cases of sickness numbered 111,752 and entailed 1,444,235 days of sickness. There were 152 confinements, entailing 4,339 days of sickness. The average number of



days of sickness during the year was 10.31 for men and 6.98 for women, not counting confinements, or, if these be counted, 7.53.

In the case of persons employed in State mines, the whole cost of insurance against sickness is borne by the State. Of the total receipts of the 200 private sick funds in 1894, amounting to £134,571, £57,764 consisted of contributions from employers, and £68,408 of contributions from workpeople, the average amount contributed by each member for the year being 10s. 2d., or, roughly, 2½d. per week.

The total expenditure of the 200 private sick funds in 1894 amounted to £117,375, of which £106,622 consisted of sick and funeral benefits, and £7,966 of costs of administration. On an average each member received benefits amounting to 15s. 10d. during the year, in return for contributions amounting to 10s. 2d.

## RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

### (a) UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

#### Carpenters and Joiners at St. Helens.

In the last number of the GAZETTE a summary was given of the award of Sir THOMAS WRIGHT, the arbitrator appointed in this case by the Board of Trade. Since the award, at the request of the parties, Sir Thomas Wright has again met them, and an addition to the working rules has been agreed on providing for the constitution of a Court of Arbitration, with the Mayor of St. Helens for the time being, or his nominee, as sole referee in case of difference.

### (b) OTHER CASES.

#### Arbitration in Liverpool Plasterers' Dispute.

Notices expiring on May 1st, 1897, were sent in to the employers by the operative plasterers of Liverpool asking for an advance in wages from 9d. to 9½d. per hour, and for a new code of working rules. These demands were refused, and a strike, affecting directly about 150 persons, commenced on May 1st. The employers offered to concede the advance asked for with the rules worked to by the other trades, together with an undertaking that only plasterers should be employed to do plasterers' work, and that all apprentices should be bound for not less than 5 years. This offer, which did not provide for the limitation of apprentices asked for by the men, was refused by them, together with an alternative offer to submit all questions to arbitration.

On December 20th the Lord Mayor of Liverpool presided at a meeting of the parties, and at this and other meetings an agreement was arrived at on all points, except the rules bearing on the binding and limitation of apprentices, on the notice of alteration of rules, and on country work. These points were left to the arbitration of the Lord Mayor, and the arbitration was held on January 13th. The award, which has since been issued, provides that all boys should be apprenticed before the age of 16 for 5 years; unbound apprentices who have worked since they were 16 being bound until 21. After July 1st, 1898, bound apprentices are to be limited to 10; but up to July 1st, 1899, unbound older boys to a number not exceeding 5 may also be employed. Six months' notice of alteration of rules is to be given, to expire on March 1st. Men working above 3 miles from the boundary and under 20 miles from town, are to have 3s. for lodgings per week, and expenses in and out once a fortnight. Those living between 20 and 35 miles out to have 3s. per week for lodgings and expenses in and out once a month. Men working in the country are to leave by the train or other conveyance after starting time and to return by that nearest to leaving off time.

#### Arbitration at an Iron and Steel Works at Workington.

Notices having been sent in by the steel workers and by the enginemen, cranimen, boilermen and firemen employed at an iron and steel works at Workington for an advance in wages, a strike took place on October 11th, 1897, affecting directly and indirectly over 2,000

workpeople. On October 13th an agreement was entered into by which work was resumed and the question of wages referred to arbitration. Dr. Spence Watson was agreed upon by the parties as arbitrator and his award was signed on January 20th. In the award Dr. Spence Watson states that the cases of the two Unions were heard separately, the steelworkers having demanded a 10 per cent. advance in wages, and the enginemen, cranimen, boilermen and firemen having asked simply for an advance. Certain workmen, who shortly before the arbitration received an advance of 1s. 6d. by agreement, did not come into the arbitration at all. The award concludes:—

The great number of arguments, tables of figures and statements which I had to consider have required a large amount of time. I have endeavoured fully to weigh everything which was brought before me by either party, and I DECIDE that there shall in both of the cases submitted to me be a five per cent. advance in wages to take effect from the first day of January of this year.

As Witness my hand the twentieth day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight,

ROBERT SPENCE WATSON,  
Arbitrator.

With reference to the date mentioned in the award, it should be stated that, by the agreement entered into between the parties, October 16th, 1897, was fixed as the date from which any change in wages awarded should take effect, and the advance has accordingly been paid from that date.

#### Demarcation Disputes in the Shipbuilding Trade.

An agreement has been entered into between representatives of the Associated Shipwrights' Society, the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society, and the Blacksmiths' Society for the settlement of demarcation disputes in Tyne and Blyth shipyards. The following is the text of the agreement:—

In the event of any demarcation disputes arising between two or more trades in Tyne and Blyth shipyards, the job or jobs shall be suspended pending settlement. The disputants shall in the first instance endeavour to settle such dispute in the yard in which such dispute arises, either through the shop stewards or the district delegates of the societies affected and a representative of the firm.

Failing a settlement by this means, the firm shall notify the secretary of the Employers' Association, and the disputed jobs shall be referred to a joint committee composed of five representatives from each of the societies affected, the said committee to be called together by the secretary of the Employers' Association within eight days from the time when the dispute first arose.

In the event of this joint committee failing to effect a settlement, the disputes shall be referred then to a board of referees, who may inspect the work in dispute, and shall hear evidence from the parties involved. The board shall consist of any three of the following gentlemen—viz.: Messrs. W. J. Bone, G. J. Carter, W. H. Duggall, James Readhead and W. Matheson—it being understood that these gentlemen serve for six months.

In all cases other than the jobs in dispute work shall go on without stoppage pending the decision. The above arrangement to continue in force for a period of six months, after which either party can give one month's notice to terminate same.—(Signed) ALEX. WILKIE, ROBERT WHITE, R. KNIGHT, B. PLUMMER.

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

### (1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.\*

**Defective Plant.—Gang employed by Agent of Defendants.**—This was an appeal from the County Court. Damages of £100 were agreed on if the defendants were held liable. The plaintiff was injured while unloading steam coal in the hold of a ship by an explosion of gas, which took place owing to a lamp being taken into the hold which was improperly ventilated. The defendants were coal contractors, and they unload coal at a certain port from vessels belonging to a steam navigation company, who were joined as defendants, and engage agents to employ a gang to carry out the work. One of their agents had a gang unloading the vessel when the explosion took place and injured the plaintiff. The plaintiff's case was that there was negligence, and also that the ventilation of the hold being insufficient, the plant was defective. Held that the

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

injury was caused by the defective "plant" of the coal contractors, and that there was negligence on the part of the agent, but no case against the other defendants.—*Queen's Bench Division, January 20th.*

**Defective Plant.**—A brassfinisher sued his employers for damages for injuries sustained to his thumb while grinding a tool on a grindstone. Plaintiff was engaged by defendants with other new men in consequence of the dispute in the engineering trade. Plaintiff had to grind his tools in use, and while so engaged the tool dug into a soft place in the grindstone, with the result that his thumb was pinned and partly ground away. The contention of the plaintiff was that since the dispute the stones were not kept in proper repair, and were not attended to by the man who was specially employed for that purpose. For the defence it was urged that there was a small emery wheel for sharpening small tools, and the plaintiff should have used that instead of the large grindstone. The judge held that there was a defect in the stone which could have been remedied had the defendants exercised proper supervision. Judgment for plaintiff, damages £200 and costs.—*Oldham County Court, January 6th.*

### (2) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

**Failure to Supply Particulars.**—A firm of woollen manufacturers were fined £6 and £2 1s. 6d. costs for failure to supply particulars of work to three employees, and a firm of cotton doublers were fined 5s. and 17s. 6d. costs for failure to supply sufficient particulars of work to two employees.—*West Riding Police-court, Dewsbury, January 14th.—County Borough Police-court, Oldham, January 26th.*

### (3) MISCELLANEOUS.

**Picketing.—Watching or besetting for purposes other than to obtain or communicate information.**—This was an action brought by a firm of leather bag and portmanteau manufacturers against the secretary of a trade union, one of the executive officers, and three other defendants, who were trustees of a trade union, for an injunction and damages for libel. The action arose in consequence of what took place at a strike which occurred on plaintiffs' premises in 1896. The union had ordered a strike against the plaintiffs, partly for an increase of wages, and partly with the object of putting an end to the system of paying some persons by piece-work and some by time. The union had picketed the plaintiffs' premises, and had also ordered a strike against a maker who made only for the plaintiffs. An injunction had been obtained by the plaintiffs to restrain the secretary and executive officer, their servants or agents, from watching or besetting the plaintiffs' works for the purpose of persuading, or otherwise preventing, persons from working for them, or for any purpose except merely to obtain or communicate information, and also from preventing certain persons from undertaking work for the plaintiffs by withdrawing their workmen or workwomen from their employment. (See LABOUR GAZETTE, April, 1896.) The judge found that the plaintiffs were entitled to have the first part of the injunction made perpetual, it being proved that three defendants watched and beset the plaintiffs' works or place of business, and the approaches thereto, for the purpose of persuading or otherwise preventing persons from working for the plaintiffs, and for purposes other than that of merely obtaining or communicating information. As regards the second part of the injunction the judge found that the same defendants had illegally watched and beset the premises of a certain person for the purpose of preventing him from undertaking work for the plaintiffs. The judge expressed the opinion that he thought it probable that the Court of Appeal would have framed the second part of the injunction in a different manner had the case of *Allen v. Flood* then been decided by the House of Lords, but that the point had not been specifically argued whether or not, apart from the question of malice, it was unlawful to call out the workman of the person in question in order to prevent him from working for the plaintiffs. The injunction was made perpetual, the latter part being varied as follows: "And also from watching or besetting the premises of A. S. for the purpose of persuading or otherwise preventing him from working for the plaintiffs, or for any purpose except merely to obtain or communicate information." The acts in question being unlawful, the judge held that the other defendants, if they conspired to induce the commission of such acts, were equally liable to an injunction, and by their defence they made common cause and accepted common responsibility in respect of the matters referred to. The plaintiff also asked for an injunction to restrain the defendants from maliciously inducing, or conspiring to induce persons not to enter into contracts with the plaintiffs. The judge held that in accordance with the decision of *Allen v. Flood*, the plaintiffs were not entitled to this injunction, it being now decided that the existence of a malicious motive cannot in such a case render unlawful an act or acts otherwise lawful. An injunction was also asked for to restrain the three defendants, who were trustees of the society, from applying the funds of the society in furtherance of the wrongful acts complained of, but this was refused with costs.

With reference to the claim for an injunction or damages in respect of the alleged libels, the libels were embodied in letters written by the secretary of the union and sent in one case to a youth in the employment of the plaintiffs, but addressed in such a way that it was received by his father, and in the other case to the father of another youth in their employment, but the father being dead it was received by the son. The letters were to the effect that the youths in question were being grossly underpaid. The defendants all joined in the plea that the letters were true in substance and fact. The judge found that the letters contained statements distinctly calculated to injure the plaintiffs in their trade, and to hold them up to hatred and contempt in the eyes, not only of workmen and of fair employers of labour, but also of customers and persons who

might intend to become customers; that the letters meant that the rate of wages was unfair, unusual, and such as a decent employer of labour would not pay. As a matter of fact, the judge found that the youths in question were not grossly, or at all, underpaid. Taking into consideration the fact that the libels were not repeated; that they were contained in letters which did not remain long in the hands of the recipients, and that the recipients were not induced by them to leave their employment, the judge awarded £5 as damages for the libels. The plaintiffs did not press for an injunction, as the strike was over. Costs of the action were given against the defendants, except in certain particulars.—*High Court of Justice. Reported February 4th.*

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS IN DENMARK.\*

UNDER a law passed on January 4th, 1898, and coming into operation in January, 1899, conditions are fixed for compensating workpeople engaged in certain trades for loss of working capacity resulting from accidents, and for compensating the families of workpeople killed thereby. Accidents caused by the workman himself wilfully, or through gross carelessness, do not give rise to any claim for compensation under the law.

The law applies generally to factories, workshops, and other places using machinery, establishments producing or regularly using explosive substances, quarrying, lime burning, stone cutting, well sinking, and ice getting, building operations, chimney sweeping, the construction of railways, tramways, roads, bridges, canals, &c., dockyards and waterworks construction, excavating, draining and dredging works, the laying down of sewers and gas and water pipes, the erection, maintenance, and removal of telegraphic, telephonic, and electrical connections, railway, tramway, and omnibus services, the loading, unloading, and storing of merchandise, diving and salvage operations, and the milling industry.

The compensation payable under the law is as follows. If uncertainty exists as to the ultimate effect of the accident, the injured person receives a daily allowance from the end of the 13th week after the accident until medical treatment has been completed, or disablement resulting from the accident may be pronounced to be permanent, or until death takes place. The amount of this sick pay shall, during complete disablement, amount to three-fifths of the daily wages of the injured person, but to not more than 2 kroner (about 2s. 3d.), or to less than 1 krone (about 1s. 1½d.) per day. Should the accident entail, from the outset, or after a time, partial disablement only, the daily allowance is less according to the degree of disablement.

When the disablement has been declared to be permanent, the injured person receives, if the disablement be complete, a capital sum equal to six times his or her yearly wages (but not more than £266 13s. 4d. or less than £100), and less in proportion if the disablement be partial only. In addition, the injured person receives for a period of 13 weeks a daily allowance calculated on the basis mentioned above. From the capital sum payable as aforesaid will be deducted the amount of any daily allowance paid pending uncertainty as to the character of the disablement caused by the accident.

In the case of death, the family of a deceased workman receives, besides burial money amounting to about £2 15s., capital sums as follows:—The widow or any one other dependent receives a sum amounting to four times the yearly wages of the deceased, but not more than £177 6s. 8d., or less than £66 13s. 4d. If the deceased leaves more than one dependent, the "Insurance Council," established by the present law, decides as to the division of the money.

The amount payable in respect of any daily allowance is to be fixed by agreement between the parties, either party having the right to refer the matter to the decision of the Council; but the amount payable in respect of any capital sum receivable as compensation cannot be the subject of agreement between the parties, but must be decided by the Council. The headquarters of the Council are in Copenhagen, but its jurisdiction extends over the whole country. It is to consist of a chairman nominated by the King, two members (one of whom shall be a medical man) also nominated by the

\* Lov om Arbejderes Forsikring mod Følger af Ulykestilfælde i visse Virksomheder. "Lovtidenden" for 1898, Nr. 2.



King, two employers and two workmen belonging to the trades subject to the law. The Minister of the Interior may appoint inspectors of factories and inspectors of recognised sick funds to serve on the Council as assessors. The two employers are to be chosen by the Minister of the Interior, and the two workmen by the committee of delegates of recognised sick funds, referred to in Section 24 of the law of April 12th, 1892, relating to recognised sick funds. Substitutes for the two employers and two workmen are to be chosen. The term of office for all seven members of the Council is 6 years, but, of the employers and workmen appointed to begin with, one of each (as decided by lot), must retire at the end of 3 years. Members and assessors receive fixed salaries and their travelling expenses. Substitutes receive an allowance for each day on which they attend a meeting of the Council (meetings being convened by the chairman). The expenses of the Council are paid by the State.

The employer is held liable in respect of claims for compensation under this law, unless he has insured himself against such claims in a mutual insurance association, or an insurance company with limited liability, but such association or company must have been accorded recognition by the Ministry of the Interior. Claims against an employer under this law take priority in bankruptcy.

Agreements between workpeople and employers, by which it is intended to evade, or which would lead to the evasion of, the provisions of this law, or which would impose upon the workman the payment of the whole or of any part of the insurance premium, are void. But where arrangements conferring on a workman or his family a right to compensation in case of accident may exist, he or they shall, in the absence of an explicit agreement to the contrary, have a right to so much only of such compensation as shall represent the excess thereof over the benefits conferred by the present law.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

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

As the result of the ascertainment, the rates of wages of the miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, of the blastfurnacemen in Cumberland and Cleveland, and of the puddlers and millmen in the North of England have been increased under sliding scale agreements in operation in each of these districts.

| Product and District.   | Number of work-people. | Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit. | Date from which last audit affects wages. | Average ascertained selling price per ton. |                              |  |
|---|------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|--|
|   |                        |  |   | According to last audit.                   | According to previous audit. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton. |
| <b>Coal.</b>  |                        |  |   | s. d.                                      | s. d.                        | s. d.  |
| Northumberland:—<br>(Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)        | 30,000                 | Sep., Oct. Nov.  | —   | 5 4'33                                     | 5 5'08                       | - 0 0'75                                       |
| South Wales and Monmouth:—<br>(Average for certain classes of coal, f.o.b.) | 100,000                | Nov. Dec.  | Feb. 1                                    | 9 3½*                                      | 9 1½*                        | +  |
| <b>Pig Iron.</b>  |                        |  |   |  |                              |  |
| Cumberland ...  | 1,350                  | Oct., Nov. Dec.  | Jan. 1                                    | 48 0'815                                   | 47 2'126                     | + 0 10'689                                     |
| Cleveland ...   | 5,500                  | Oct., Nov. Dec.  | Jan. 1                                    | 40 9'93                                    | —                            | —  |
| <b>Manufactured Iron.</b>   |                        |  |   |  |                              |  |
| North of England:—<br>(Rails, plates, bars and angles)                      | 6,000                  | Nov. Dec.  | Jan. 31                                   | 102 8'96                                   | 102 5'15                     | + 0 3'81                                       |
| Midlands:—<br>(Bars, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips)                     | 20,000                 | Nov. Dec.  | Feb.                                      | 120 6'78                                   | 120 9'20                     | - 0 2'42                                       |

**Friendly Societies.**—An Index to the Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Friendly Societies Acts, for the twenty-one years 1875-1895 inclusive, has been issued during the past month as a Parliamentary Paper. P.P. 78, 1897. (Price 3d.)

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

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

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

**Canada.**—There is no demand for more labour at this season of the year. Persons going to Klondike should reach Vancouver or Victoria not later than the end of March: no one should go there with less than £300 for outfit, journey and food, and this sum does not cover the return journey; the general size of mining claims has been recently fixed at 250 feet. A report from Toronto states that the cost of provisions is lower than it was, and that house rent has materially declined: that the rate of wages is also lower, and that "there is positively no demand for any kind of labour," "many able-bodied men being out of employment and seeking relief." A report from Montreal states: "There is always a good demand for competent respectable women or girls of the domestic servant class."

**New South Wales.**—Coalminers have been busy, but there is no demand for more men in this or any other industry. Farmers and others with a little capital are likely to do well. In the report of the Government Labour Bureau for the year ending June, 1897, it is stated that there had been a very marked improvement in the number and condition of the unemployed generally as compared with the previous year: the building trade, however, had been for some time, and still was, very much depressed.

**Victoria.**—Goldminers were busy throughout last year, and the aggregate yield is estimated at 800,000 ounces, which is more than it has been for many years; the principal increases were at Sandhurst, Ballarat, and Beechworth. The estimated yield of wheat for the harvest of 1897-8 is under 5 bushels an acre.

**Western Australia.**—There continues to be a good demand for mechanics and labourers, especially for those in the building trades. Female domestic servants are also in demand, and may obtain free passages to the Colony on application to the Agent-General at 15, Victoria Street, London.

**New Zealand.**—At the end of last year labourers were very well employed in shearing and other country work. There was also plenty of work in most parts for local mechanics; at Wellington the building, engineering and clothing trades were all very busy, and at Christchurch these trades were busy; at Dunedin the engineering, clothing and building trades were busy, carpenters being especially in demand, and the sash and door factories, printing offices, &c., were very busy; at Invercargill also there was a very fair amount of employment.

**Cape Colony.**—A large number of official returns dated the end of last year, and coming from all parts of the colony, have been received. Most of them point out that the prices of several articles of food had risen owing to the drought and rinderpest. There was, as a rule, both in towns and in country districts an ample supply of mechanics. But a good demand existed for them—and especially for those in the building trades—in Mossel Bay, Humansdorp, Albany, Queenstown (except for sawyers and tanners), Wodehouse, and Beaufort West. Coloured labour was almost entirely employed on farms.

**Rhodesia.**—According to statements in the Press there is no opening for miners or prospectors, for agriculturists without considerable capital, or for educated persons without a trade. There are plenty of carpenters and other mechanics in the building trades, and there is no room for more. The cost of living is very high.

**Transvaal.**—The prospects of trade in the Transvaal and of the demand for labour have slightly improved; but, notwithstanding the large increase in the output of gold, there is at present no demand whatever for more hands. A great amount of illness is prevalent at Johannesburg and Pretoria.

\* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).  
† Handbooks (with maps) on the different colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office at a penny each, post free.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

**Employment in January.**—Employment continued good in the mining, engineering, silk printing, bookbinding, and allied trades. There was a falling off in the leather-working trades, more especially in boot and shoe and glove making. The cotton, woollen, and flax trades continued slack. The clothing, millinery, hat-making, and building and allied trades were in their slack season. On the whole the annual falling off of work due to stock-taking time has been more extensive and prolonged than it was last year. The length of the working day, which had been reduced in a certain number of trades, more especially the building trades, has been extended by one hour, as is the case every year at this time. On January 15th, 450 trade unions with 120,000 members reported a little over 8 per cent. unemployed, the same proportion being reported unemployed on December 15th by 430 trade unions, having 118,000 members.

**Coal Mining in December.**—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in December was 5'74, as compared with 5'96 in the previous month. In December full time (6 days and over) was worked by 6 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 93 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 93 and 6 respectively. It is stated that there was really no difference in the proportion of miners working full time in December as compared with November, the transposition of the percentages being due to the fact that most of the miners had a holiday on a saint's day in December. The pits making these returns employ three-fourths of the coal miners in France.

**Labour Disputes in January.**—Thirty-seven new disputes were reported to the Office du Travail in January, the number of workpeople directly involved in 36 of these disputes being 3,765. Fourteen disputes occurred in the textile trades, 5 in the boot and shoe trades, 4 in mines or quarries, 3 each in the building, metal-smelting and the brick and tile, &c. making trades, 2 in the printing trades, and 3 in unclassified trades. In 16 disputes, the workpeople were opposing a reduction, and in 9 demanding an increase of wages. In regard to the disputes of which the results are stated, the workpeople succeeded in 2, failed in 15, and agreed to compromises in 7.

GERMANY.

**Conditions of Work in Admiralty Establishments.**—Sir F. C. Lascelles, H.M. Ambassador at Berlin, under date of January 18th, has forwarded, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a return recently laid before the Reichstag, relating to the conditions of work in Admiralty establishments in Germany. The following particulars are based upon information contained in that return, which refers to 13,580 workpeople.

The regular duration of the working day for practically the whole of this number is over 9 but not more than 10 hours, excluding the midday interval, but including the morning interval (of 15 minutes) allowed in most, and the afternoon interval allowed in some, of the establishments. Overtime and Sunday work are said to be avoided on principle as far as possible. Nearly three-fourths of the workpeople covered by the return were employed in the workshops attached to the dockyards at Danzig, Kiel and Wilhelmshaven.

The statement given below shows the average earnings (piecework and overtime included) for a day's work for certain groups of workpeople employed in Admiralty establishments in the first half of the official year 1897-8, the average earnings being arrived at by dividing the total number of days worked during the six months covered by the inquiry into the total sum aid in wages. No account has been taken either of

the sick benefit paid to workpeople or of the payments which they have to make for insurance against sickness, invalidity and old age.

| Groups of Trades.   | Average earnings for a day's work. |
|---|------------------------------------|
|   | s. d.                              |
| Naval Equipment and Dock Construction—<br>Riggers, Sailmakers, Carpenters, Masons, Seamen and Sluicemen ... ..        | 3 6                                |
| Shipbuilding—<br>Shipbuilders, Ship Carpenters, Smiths, Fitters, Joiners, Painters, &c. ... ..                        | 4 3                                |
| Machinery and Torpedo Making—<br>Machinery Erectors, Moulders, Boilermakers, Copper-smiths, Metal Turners, &c. ... .. | 4 7½                               |
| Enginemen, Boiler Attendants and Stokers ... ..   | 3 6½                               |
| Caretakers, Messengers, Office Attendants, &c. ... ..   | 3 4½                               |
| Labourers ... ..  | 2 10½                              |
| Apprentices and Boys ... ..   | 1 3½                               |
| Women (Laundresses, Sempstresses, &c.) ... ..   | 2 2                                |

**Labour Disputes in January.**—Der Arbeitsmarkt gives a summary of labour disputes in January, based upon reports contained in the German labour press. The information collected in this way related to 45 new disputes. In 20 of these, 1,483 workpeople were stated to have taken part. The 45 disputes included 10 in the woodworking and carving trades, 8 in the metal-working and engineering trades, 6 in the clothing trades, 5 in trades connected with work in stone and earth (including quarrying, pottery, glass, brickmaking, &c.) and 4 each in the building trades, and in the trades connected with the preparation of foods, drinks, tobacco, &c.

The most important of the January disputes appears to have been a strike in the boot and shoe trade in Berlin in which, according to the Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger, 600 operatives belonging to 20 factories were engaged. The operatives struck in order to obtain amended factory rules, and were opposed by the Berlin Federation of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers. Terms of settlement (stated to be favourable to the workpeople) were arrived at before the Berlin Industrial Court, and work was resumed on February 1st, the strike having lasted since January 26th.

In Soziale Praxis of February 3rd, it was, however, reported that fresh differences had arisen, this time in connection with the employers' labour registry.

The operatives at a large boot and shoe factory in Munich, where a new lasting machine had been introduced, fearing that the proposed scale of wages would diminish their earnings, went on strike. Four other large boot and shoe making firms thereupon posted lock-out notices, to take effect on January 22nd, unless the strikers had returned to work by that date. According to the Münchener Neueste Nachrichten the dispute was settled on January 15th through the mediation of the factory inspector.

**Operations of Public Labour Registries in January.**—The total number of situations offered by employers in January at 46 of the municipal and other public labour registries which have sent returns to Der Arbeitsmarkt, was 19,473, as compared with 14,158 in the preceding month, and 17,025 in January 1897.

The number of situations sought during the month was 30,769, compared with 21,974 in the previous month, and 26,956 in January 1897. The number of situations found was 13,648, compared with 11,519 in the previous month, and 12,416 in January, 1897.

**Factory Unemployed Insurance Fund.**—The factory inspector for the district of Schleswig, in his report for 1896,\* mentions the establishment, at the end of that year, of an unemployed insurance fund for the operatives at a margarine factory in Altona-Behrenfeld. Operatives who have been employed in the factory for not less than three months, and who have contributed to the unemployed fund (2d. per week each for men and 1½d. for women) receive, during the time when there is no work for them at the factory (but for not more than three months), a daily allowance amounting to about 1s. 7d. in the case of married men, 1s. for married women and widows, and about 10d. for the unmarried operatives of either sex.

The contributions of the operatives are said to be far from sufficient to meet the expenses of the fund, the difference being made up by the firm, who find it to their interest to keep their workpeople together, owing to the seasonal fluctuations of production which occur regularly in the margarine trade.

**Agreement in Leipsic Building Trade.**—At a meeting of masons and bricklayers in Leipsic on February 1, it was announced that the Association of Leipsic Master Builders, with whom negotiations had for some time been in progress, had conceded the following among other conditions:—From March 14, 1898, until March 14, 1899, the length of the working day will be 9½ hours, and the minimum wage per hour 6'2d. From March 15, 1899, until March

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.  
† Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, January, 1898.  
‡ Reichstag—9 Legislatur-Periode V. Session 1897-8. No. 55.

\* Jahres-Berichte der Königlich Preussischen Regierungs- und Gewerbeämter und Bergbehörden für 1896. Berlin. Verlag von W. T. Bruer, 1897.



31, 1902, the daily working hours will be 9 and the minimum rate per hour 6d. Up till March 14, 1898, unmarried men of under 19 years of age will receive minimum wages of 5d. per hour during the first, and 5.4d. during the second year after finishing their apprenticeship. After March 14, 1898, the rates will be 5.6d. and 6d. respectively.—*Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger*.

**German Compositors and the Composing-Machine.**—As the result of negotiations between the Federation of German Printers and the Typograph Company, Ltd., of Berlin, an arrangement has been made, under which, in future, members of that Federation shall exclusively, as a rule, or, at any rate, preferentially, be received as learners in the school which the Company has established for teaching the use of the Typograph composing-machine. The company undertakes to thoroughly instruct its pupils, and to give them employment until it shall send them to a situation with one of its customers, and promises to secure for them a higher rate of pay than the existing scale of compositors' wages. On its part, the Federation agrees to see that its members conscientiously fulfil their obligations, and should any dispute arise, shall avail themselves of its mediation. This agreement is to be in force until March 1, 1899.

**Employment in the Boot and Shoe trade in January.**—In summing up the results of special inquiries made in January by *Der Arbeitsmarkt* as to the state of employment in the chief centres of the boot and shoe trade, that journal concludes that the state of the labour market in Germany was favourable for operatives desiring employment in large factories, and unfavourable as regards employment in small establishments working by hand. As regards smaller and medium-sized establishments in the machine-made branch, the conditions varied in the different centres.—*Soziale Praxis*.

SWITZERLAND.

**Relief Stations for Unemployed.**—According to a summary of the report for 1896-97 of the executive committee of the Inter-cantonal Union for the Relief of the Unemployed at Relief Stations, which is given in *Soziale Praxis*, 11 cantons with an aggregate population of 1,386,460 belong to this union. In 4 cantons the relief stations have been taken over by the cantonal authorities. In 1896, 129,234 wayfarers were received at relief stations, of whom 35,000 obtained a dinner and 94,234 stayed the night. The total cost of the maintenance of these institutions amounted to £4,496, of which £943 was expended in costs of administration. Of this total cost, about one-half (£2,741) was borne by the public authorities. It is stated that the number of wayfarers exhibits a striking decrease, attributed partly to the mild winter and improved industrial situation, but partly to the better organisation of the relief stations, which has resulted from their having been taken over by the public authorities. The average price charged for a dinner was about 3.3d., for a night's stay rather less than 8d.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

**Increased Premiums for Accident Insurance.**—*Die Industrie* of January 12th states that, by order of the Ministry of the Interior, the rates of premium payable by employers for the insurance of their workpeople against accidents have been increased by 10 per cent., from the beginning of the new year, by the Insurance Institutions of the provinces of Bohemia, Galicia and the Bukovina.

**Central Executive Committee of Hungarian Trade Unions.**—The *Arbeiter-Zeitung* states that at a conference of members of Hungarian Trade Unions, held in Buda-Pesth on January 2nd, a scheme was adopted for the establishment of a central committee of trade unions for Hungary similar to the Austrian *Gewerkschafts-Kommission* and the German *General-Kommission der Gewerkschaften Deutschlands*.

**Hours and Wages on Austrian State Railways.**—The Austrian Government has issued an Order to the State Railways directing that all persons employed in engine-sheds on daily wages shall receive in respect of all time worked in excess of their normal hours (10 per day—7 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.) overtime pay at the rate of 25 per cent. above their regular ratings. All time worked on Sundays or holidays is to count as overtime. Workmen may no longer be on duty for 24 hours continuously, but every 12 hours worked must be followed by a 12 hours' interval and in the case of a 12 hour shift there must be an interval of 1 hour at midday and another hour's interval at midnight.—*Soziale Praxis*.

RUSSIA.

**The Cutlery Industry of Zlatoust in the Province of Ufa.**—According to the *Viestnik Financoff* of January 16, some 3,000 people are employed in the town of Zlatoust in the manufacture of knives and forks from iron and steel produced in the State mines and blast furnaces of the district. Some 30,000 dozens of knives and forks are stated to be produced in the course of the year. Each of the various processes, from the forging of the blades and prongs to the nickeling, is carried on as a special handicraft by small masters in

their own workshops. The Government has sanctioned the rules of an artel of small makers, formed for the purpose of executing orders for the manufacture of cutlery, &c. The artel has its own workshop and sale-depot, and consists at present of 26 members.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN JANUARY.

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

RETURNS from collieries employing 440,018 men show that during the four weeks ending January 22nd an average of 5.06 days per week was worked, compared with 5.31 in the previous four weeks and 5.15 in the corresponding period of 1897.

In considering these figures and the following tables two facts should be borne in mind: (1) The New Year is more observed as a holiday period in Scotland than in England, whilst as regards Christmas the reverse is the case. This largely accounts for the fact that whilst in December, 1897, more days were worked in Scotland than in England, in January of both 1898 and 1897 the reverse was the case. (2) The period of four weeks ending January 22nd, 1898, includes Bank Holiday, but the period ending January 23rd, 1897, with which it is compared, does not. For these reasons no minute comparison of the figures for January with those for the previous month or those for January, 1897, is possible. The best comparison is between the months of December and January taken together and the corresponding months a year ago. This comparison shows that employment was slightly better (by about .03 of a day per week) than a year ago. The following table gives the actual average number of days worked in the three periods for each of the divisions of the United Kingdom:—

| District.                    | No. employed in Jan., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table. | Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended |                 |                 |
|------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|
|                              |  | 22nd Jan. 1898.  | 23rd Jan. 1897. | 25th Dec. 1897. |
| England and Wales ... ..     | 403,009  | 5.08   | 5.17            | 5.29            |
| Scotland ... ..              | 36,401   | 4.82   | 4.89            | 5.33            |
| Ireland ... ..               | 608  | 4.31   | 5.04            | 4.90            |
| <b>United Kingdom ... ..</b> | <b>440,018</b>   | <b>5.06</b>  | <b>5.15</b>     | <b>5.31</b>     |

In the next table the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced. The number of days worked in January shows, as compared with the previous month, a relatively larger falling-off in the case of pits chiefly producing manufacturing coal than in that of other classes of pits.

| Description of Coal.              | No. employed in Jan., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table. | Number of days worked per week. |                 | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan. 1898. |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|
|                                   |  | January, 1898.                  | December, 1897. |  |
| Coking Coal ... ..                | 24,173   | 5.43                            | 5.62            | -.19                                       |
| Gas ... ..                        | 35,364   | 5.22                            | 5.47            | -.25                                       |
| House " ... ..                    | 79,786   | 4.84                            | 5.20            | -.36                                       |
| Manufacturing Coal ... ..         | 18,933   | 4.88                            | 5.45            | -.57                                       |
| Steam " ... ..                    | 139,595  | 5.14                            | 5.24            | -.10                                       |
| Mixed " ... ..                    | 142,257  | 5.01                            | 5.33            | -.32                                       |
| <b>All Classes of Coal ... ..</b> | <b>440,018</b>   | <b>5.06</b>                     | <b>5.31</b>     | <b>-.25</b>                                |

The table following shows the workpeople grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed:—

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

| Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks. | January, 1898.              |                                 | Corresponding percentages in— |                 |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | No. of Workpeople employed. | Percentage proportion to total. | January, 1897.                | December, 1897. |
| 24 days (full time) ... ..                                     | 8,774                       | 2.0                             | 6.5                           | 4.1             |
| 20 and under 24 days ... ..                                    | 283,745                     | 64.5                            | 68.4                          | 76.6            |
| 16 " " 20 " ... ..   | 112,828                     | 25.6                            | 25.2                          | 16.9            |
| 12 " " 16 " ... ..   | 27,932                      | 6.3                             | 2.1                           | 2.7             |
| 8 " " 12 " ... ..  | 4,424                       | 1.0                             | 0.7                           | 0.5             |
| Under 8 days ... ..  | 2,515                       | 0.6                             | 0.1                           | 0.2             |
| <b>Total ... ..</b>  | <b>440,018</b>              | <b>100.0</b>                    | <b>100.0</b>                  | <b>100.0</b>    |

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—COAL AND IRON MINING.—PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

The number of workpeople employed at the 1,355 pits included in the returns is greater by 10,187 in England and 346 in Scotland, than a year ago.

**Comparison by Districts.**—The highest average number of days was worked in Cumberland, viz., 5.51 days per week. In this district about a quarter of a day per week more was worked during the period dealt with than in the previous month or a year ago. An average of 5.40 days per week was worked in South Wales and Monmouth, and 5.39 days in Durham. An average of over 5 days per week was also worked in North Wales, Salop, Worcester and Warwick, Northumberland, and Gloucester and Somerset. In Nottingham and Leicester the average was only 4.00 days per week, and in Ireland 4.31 days. In the remaining districts the average was between 4.4 and 5 days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN JAN., 1898 AND 1897, AND IN DEC., 1897.

| District.                         | No. employed in Jan., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table. | Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended |                 |                 | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan. 1898 as compared with |              |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|--------------|
|                                   |  | 22nd Jan. 1898.   | 23rd Jan. 1897. | 25th Dec. 1897. | A year ago.  | A month ago. |
| <b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>       |  |   |                 |                 |  |              |
| Northumberland ... ..             | 32,154   | 5.10  | 4.96            | 5.19            | + .14  | -.09         |
| Durham ... ..                     | 87,335   | 5.39  | 5.22            | 5.46            | + .17  | -.07         |
| Cumberland ... ..                 | 5,769  | 5.51  | 5.25            | 5.29            | + .26  | + .22        |
| Yorkshire ... ..                  | 50,283   | 4.86  | 5.19            | 5.27            | -.33   | -.41         |
| Lancashire and Cheshire           | 48,481   | 4.91  | 5.06            | 5.33            | -.15   | -.42         |
| Nottingham and Leicester          | 24,312   | 4.00  | 4.41            | 4.69            | -.41   | -.69         |
| Derbyshire ... ..                 | 36,932   | 4.86  | 5.04            | 5.35            | -.18   | -.49         |
| Staffordshire ... ..              | 23,663   | 4.99  | 5.22            | 5.36            | -.23   | -.37         |
| Salop, Worcester and Warwick      | 7,831  | 5.17  | 5.24            | 5.48            | -.07   | -.31         |
| Gloucester and Somerset           | 8,141  | 5.08  | 5.17            | 5.51            | -.09   | -.43         |
| North Wales ... ..                | 11,123   | 5.29  | 5.30            | 5.06            | -.01   | + .23        |
| South Wales & Monmouth            | 66,985   | 5.40  | 5.39            | 5.24            | -.19   | + .16        |
| <b>SCOTLAND.</b>                  |  |   |                 |                 |  |              |
| West Scotland ... ..              | 21,732   | 4.94  | 4.91            | 5.54            | + .03  | -.60         |
| The Lothians ... ..               | 3,667  | 4.62  | 4.92            | 5.96            | -.30   | -1.34        |
| Fife ... ..                       | 11,102   | 4.64  | 4.85            | 5.36            | -.21   | -.72         |
| <b>IRELAND.</b>                   |  |   |                 |                 |  |              |
| ... ..                            | 608  | 4.31  | 5.04            | 4.90            | -.73   | -.59         |
| <b>Grand Total &amp; Averages</b> | <b>440,018</b>   | <b>5.06</b>   | <b>5.15</b>     | <b>5.31</b>     | <b>-.09</b>  | <b>-.25</b>  |

**Percentage of Unemployed.**—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0.7 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of January, as compared with 0.8 per cent. in December, and 1.4 per cent. in January, 1897.

**Exports of Coal.**—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during January amounted to 2,909,809 tons, as compared with 2,980,092 tons in December and 2,763,954 tons in January, 1897.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN JANUARY.

The observations with regard to holidays in the article on coal mining apply also to the following tables dealing with the iron mining industry.

The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended January 22nd, by the 17,409 workpeople included in the returns received, was 5.59 per week, compared with 5.58 per week in the previous four weeks and 5.72 in the corresponding four weeks a year ago. This exactly corresponds with the average in the Cleveland district, the highest average (5.75 days) being worked in the Cumberland and Lancashire district. Of the total number employed, 73.8 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks. The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns is greater by about 1.6 per cent. than a year ago.

If we take December and January together it will be seen that employment was not so good (by about 0.1 day per week) as in the corresponding period a year ago.

The following tables summarise the returns received:—

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

| District.                              | No. employed in Jan., 1898, at the Mines included in the Table. | Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended |                 |                 | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in January, 1898, as compared with |              |
|--|---|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|--------------|
|  |   | 22nd Jan. 1898.  | 23rd Jan. 1897. | 25th Dec. 1897. | A year ago.   | A month ago. |
| <b>ENGLAND—</b>                        |   |  |                 |                 |   |              |
| Cumberland and Lancashire ... ..       | 6,374   | 5.75   | 5.81            | 5.70            | -.06  | + .05        |
| Cleveland ... ..                       | 6,644   | 5.59   | 5.78            | 5.40            | -.19  | + .19        |
| Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ... .. | 636   | 5.74   | 5.92            | 5.56            | -.18  | + .18        |
| Northamptonshire                       | 656   | 5.52   | 5.47            | 5.49            | + .05   | + .03        |
| Staffordshire and Shropshire ... ..    | 1,492   | 5.10   | 5.50            | 5.57            | -.40  | -.47         |
| <b>Other places in</b>                 |   |  |                 |                 |   |              |
| England ... ..                         | 332   | 5.70   | 5.65            | 5.30            | + .05   | + .40        |
| Scotland ... ..                        | 1,098   | 5.15   | 5.02            | 5.99            | + .13   | -.84         |
| IRELAND ... ..                         | 179   | 5.95   | 5.96            | 5.88            | -.01  | + .07        |
| <b>Total ... ..</b>                    | <b>17,409</b>   | <b>5.59</b>  | <b>5.72</b>     | <b>5.58</b>     | <b>-.13</b>   | <b>+ .01</b> |

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

| Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks. | January, 1898.              |                                 | Corresponding percentages in— |                 |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | No. of Workpeople employed. | Percentage proportion to total. | January, 1897.                | December, 1897. |
| 24 days (full time) ... ..   | 3,725                       | 21.4                            | 33.2                          | 7.4             |
| 22 and under 24 days ... ..  | 9,118                       | 52.4                            | 63.2                          | 74.1            |
| 20 " " 22 " ... ..   | 2,935                       | 16.8                            | 7.6                           | 11.4            |
| Under 20 days ... ..   | 1,631                       | 9.4                             | 6.9                           | 7.1             |
| <b>Total ... ..</b>  | <b>17,409</b>               | <b>100.0</b>                    | <b>100.0</b>                  | <b>100.0</b>    |

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN JANUARY.

DURING the month employment improved, and at the end the 110 ironmasters to whose works the returns relate had 354 furnaces in blast, or three more than at the end of December, and six more than a year ago. In England and Wales five furnaces were re-lit and three blown out during the month, and in Scotland one was re-lit. The number of persons employed at the end of January was 22,730, or about 200 more than at the end of December, and about 560 more than a year ago. The ironworks to which the returns relate represent about 90 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom.

The subjoined table gives in detail the number of furnaces in blast in each district so far as covered by the returns received:—

| Districts.                                       | Present time compared with a year ago. |            | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan. 1898. | Present time compared with a month ago. |             | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan. 1898. |
|--|--|------------|--|---|-------------|--|
|  | Jan. 1898.                             | Jan. 1897. |  | Jan., 1898.                             | Dec., 1897. |  |
| <b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>                      |  |            |  |   |             |  |
| Cleveland ... ..                                 | 95                                     | 93         | + 2  | 95                                      | 93          | + 2  |
| Cumberland & Lancs.                              | 48                                     | 44         | + 4  | 48                                      | 49          | - 1  |
| S. and S.W. Yorks...                             | 14                                     | 16         | - 2  | 14                                      | 14          | ...  |
| Lincolnshire ... ..                              | 15                                     | 14         | + 1  | 15                                      | 15          | ...  |
| Midlands ... ..                                  | 91                                     | 93         | - 2  | 91                                      | 90          | + 1  |
| Glamorgan and Mon.                               | 17                                     | 18         | - 1  | 17                                      | 17          | ...  |
| Other districts ... ..                           | 9                                      | 7          | + 2  | 9                                       | 9           | ...  |
| <b>Total England and Wales...</b>                | <b>289</b>                             | <b>285</b> | <b>+ 4</b>                                 | <b>289</b>                              | <b>287</b>  | <b>+ 2</b>                                 |
| <b>SCOTLAND ... ..</b>                           | <b>65</b>                              | <b>63</b>  | <b>+ 2</b>                                 | <b>65</b>                               | <b>64</b>   | <b>+ 1</b>                                 |
| <b>Total furnaces included in returns ... ..</b> | <b>354</b>                             | <b>348</b> | <b>+ 6</b>                                 | <b>354</b>                              | <b>351</b>  | <b>+ 3</b>                                 |

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during January amounted to 62,910 tons, as compared with 80,228 tons in December, and 61,016 tons in January, 1897.



EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—IRON AND STEEL TRADES; AGRICULTURE.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES AND ROLLING MILLS.

EMPLOYMENT in these industries continues on the whole better than a year ago. As compared with the previous month there was an increase in the number employed more than covering the decrease noticed in the last number of the GAZETTE.

Returns received from 267 employers show that they had 85,947 workpeople employed at the end of January, as compared with 85,076 at the end of December and 84,131 a year ago.

Of the 85,947 workpeople, 38,608 were at 138 Steel Works, being 314 more than at the end of December, and 1,062 more than a year ago.

At 97 Iron Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills the number employed at the end of January was 19,662, or 134 more than at the end of December, but 60 less than a year ago.

The following table shows the number of workpeople employed\* in the occupations named at the end of January, 1898 and 1897, and December, 1897, respectively, by the 267 employers making returns:—

| Occupation.  | Number Employed. |               |               | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan., 1898, as compared with |              |
|--|------------------|---------------|---------------|--|--------------|
|  | Jan., 1898.      | Jan., 1897.   | Dec., 1897.   | A year ago.  | A month ago. |
| <b>Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling and Forging.</b>            |                  |               |               |  |              |
| England and Wales ... ..   | 32,959           | 31,926        | 32,918        | + 1,033  | + 41         |
| Scotland ... ..  | 5,649            | 5,620         | 5,376         | + 29   | + 273        |
| Total ... ..   | 38,608           | 37,546        | 38,294        | + 1,062  | + 314        |
| <b>Iron Puddling and Rolling.</b>                                      |                  |               |               |  |              |
| England and Wales ... ..   | 15,420           | 15,687        | 15,321        | - 267  | + 99         |
| Scotland ... ..  | 4,242            | 4,035         | 4,207         | + 207  | + 35         |
| Total ... ..   | 19,662           | 19,722        | 19,528        | - 60   | + 134        |
| <b>Tinplate Manufacture.</b>   |                  |               |               |  |              |
| England and Wales† ... ..  | 13,038           | 13,298        | 12,834        | - 260  | + 204        |
| <b>Other Workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above.*</b> |                  |               |               |  |              |
| England and Wales ... ..   | 13,198           | 12,281        | 13,097        | + 917  | + 101        |
| Scotland ... ..  | 1,441            | 1,284         | 1,323         | + 157  | + 118        |
| Total ... ..   | 14,639           | 13,565        | 14,420        | + 1,074  | + 219        |
| <b>Grand Total ... ..</b>  | <b>85,947</b>    | <b>84,131</b> | <b>88,076</b> | <b>+ 1,816</b>   | <b>+ 871</b> |

Returns relating to 86 Tinplate Works show that employment continued to improve during the month. At the end of the month 43 works, with 223 mills, were giving full employment, and 21 works, with 158 mills, were giving partial employment (112 of the mills being at work) while 22 works, with 105 mills, were idle. Thus in all 335 mills were working as compared with 326 at the end of December and 332 a year ago.

Table showing number of tinplate works and mills in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire fully or partially employed, or wholly idle, at the end of January so far as stated in the returns received by the Department:—

|   | No. of Works. | No. of Mills in such Works. |              |        |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------|
|   |               | Working.                    | Not Working. | Total. |
| Works giving full employment ... ..       | 43            | 223                         | —            | 223    |
| Works giving partial employment ... ..    | 21            | 112                         | 46           | 158    |
| Works idle ... ..                         | 22            | —                           | 105          | 105    |
| Total at end of January, 1898 ... ..      | 86            | 335                         | 151          | 486    |
| Corresponding Total for Dec., 1897 ... .. | 86            | 326                         | 159          | 485    |
| Corresponding Total for Jan., 1897 ... .. | 88            | 332                         | 165          | 497    |

Returns received from the owners of 66 Tinplate Works with 364 mills, show that they were employing

\* This table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.  
† The figures on this line relate to only 364 of the 486 mills referred to in the next table.

13,038 workpeople at the end of January, or 204 more than at the end of December, but 260 less than a year ago.

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during January amounted to 29,823 tons, as compared with 21,173 tons during December, and 24,496 tons during January, 1897. Of these quantities, the United States took 8,883 tons in January, 10,123 tons in December and 8,810 tons in January, 1897.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN JANUARY.

THE agricultural correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 250 returns from all parts of the country, reports as follows:—Generally speaking, agricultural labourers were fully employed during the month of January, and reports state that employment was more regular than at the corresponding period last year. The weather during the month was fine and open, and very favourable for outdoor employment. Spring work has been pushed forward, and the root crop, which was heavy in a good many districts, has been the means of giving a good deal of employment. Farm work is said to be in an exceptionally forward state for the period of the year. Reports from certain districts in the following counties say that extra labour has been difficult to obtain for threshing and other casual work:—Berkshire, Devonshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire.

**Northern Counties.**—Reports from *Cumberland* state that employment was generally regular in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, and Whitehaven. At the Candlemas hirings held at Cockermouth no appreciable change took place in the rates of wages for men, but women for service in farmhouses were much in demand, and the rates paid to them were generally higher. In *Lancashire* reports from the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, and Ulverston, and from *Westmorland*, from the Kendal Union, state that employment has been good throughout the month, and that work is in a very forward state. At the yearly hirings for farm servants, held at Garstang (*North Lancashire*), on February 3rd, all labour was in good demand. Men were scarce, and best men and women were quickly engaged. Best men obtained £20 to £23; second-class men £17 to £19; youths £15 to £16 ros.; boys £9 ros. to £14; best women £18 to £20; second-class women £15 to £17; girls £10 to £12. In addition to these rates of wages, board and lodging are provided in the farmhouses. In other districts in *North Lancashire* where farm servants are engaged at hiring fairs, the term of engagement is half-yearly at Whitsuntide and Martinmas. From *Durham*, favourable reports come from the Chester-le-Street Union. In *Yorkshire* employment is said to have been generally very regular, the weather having been dry and open, and favourable for out-door work. Reports to this effect have been received from the Unions of Beverley, Driffield, Easingwold, Guisborough, Knaresborough, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. A report from the Guisborough Union states that all spare men are being employed at the mines.

**Midland Counties.**—In *Cheshire* work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Nantwich, and Tarvin, and in several districts in the Macclesfield Union. In *Derbyshire*, in the Ashbourne Union, the state of employment is said to be very favourable, partly owing to open weather, and partly to the making of a new railway line. In the Mansfield Union a report states that there is some slight irregularity of employment owing to farm work being in such a forward state. Favourable reports come from the Hayfield, and Worksop Unions, and from the *Derbyshire* portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs. and Derby*). All reports from *Shropshire* say that employment has been regular and the weather very favourable for outdoor work. Reports to this effect have been received from the Unions of Bridgnorth, Market Drayton (both *Salop and Stafford* portions), Owesbury, Wellington, and Wem, and certain parishes in the *Flintshire* portion of the Ellesmere Union (*Flintshire and Salop*). In *Staffordshire* favourable reports come from the Unions of Leek, Lichfield, Stafford, and Tamworth (*Staffs. and Warwick*). In *Warwickshire* work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, Stratford-on-

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—AGRICULTURE; TEXTILE.

Avon, and Warwick Unions. In the Foleshill Union extra labour is said to be difficult to obtain. Favourable reports come from *Leicestershire* from districts in the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough, Market Bosworth, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, and from the Lutterworth Union (*Leicester and Warwick*). In the Market Bosworth Union there is said to be a demand for skilled labour. Reports from *Nottinghamshire* state that employment was generally regular in the Unions of Bingham, Southwell, and Retford; from *Rutland* in the Oakham Union; and from *Worcestershire* in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, and Tenbury, and in certain parishes in the *Worcester and Warwick* portions of the Shipston-on-Stour Union. In *Oxfordshire* work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Thame, Witney, and Woodstock, and in the *Oxfordshire* portions of the Abingdon, and Wallingford Unions (*Oxon and Berks*); also in *Northamptonshire* in the Unions of Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspurty, Wellingborough, and Towcester, and in the *Northamptonshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon, Northants, and Warwick*). Favourable reports also come from *Huntingdonshire* from the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots (both *Hunts and Beds* portions), and from *Bedfordshire* from the Unions of Biggleswade, Luton, and Leighton Buzzard. A report from the Biggleswade Union states that owing to the mild and open weather labourers have been doing work which is not generally done before March. A report from the Bedford Union states that all the regular farm labourers were employed, but that there was not much work for odd men owing to farm work being in such a forward state.

**Eastern Counties.**—Reports from *Essex* state that employment was generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett, and Tendring. Reports from the Unions of Maldon, and Orsett say that a number of men have been employed repairing the damages to the sea walls caused by the high tide of November 29th, and that in consequence labour is scarce and difficult to obtain in some parishes. Some men also went from the Ongar Union to obtain this work. The wages paid for work connected with the repairs of the sea walls round the Dengie Hundred coast are 4s. a day, and this is said to have induced a number of agricultural labourers to throw up their farm work in the uplands. In *Norfolk* satisfactory reports come from the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Gaultcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, Walsingham, and Wayland. Reports from the Unions of Henstead, and Loddon and Clavering say that extra labour is difficult to obtain for threshing and other work. A report from the latter Union dated February 3rd states that all farm work is in a forward state, and that a good many beans and peas have been sown, and also some barley. In the East and West Flegg Union an epidemic of influenza has made labour scarce in some parishes. A report from the Thetford Union refers to a rise in the weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers of 1s. (ros. to 1rs.). In *Suffolk* reports of a satisfactory character come from the Unions of Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. A large employer in the Bosmere and Claydon Union writes that some of the smaller employers find it difficult to get odd men for threshing work. Reports of a favourable character with few exceptions come from *Cambridgeshire* from the Unions of Chesterton, North Witchford, Wisbech, and Whittlesea, and from the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Northants, Cambs, Hunts and Lincoln*); and from *Lincolnshire* from the Unions of Brigg, Gainsborough, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and from the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Lincoln and Notts*). A report from the Sleaford Union states that extra hands for threshing and other work are difficult to obtain.

**Home Counties.**—In *Buckinghamshire* work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow; in *Berkshire* in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage, and in the *Berkshire* portions of the Abingdon and Wallingford Unions (*Berks and Oxon*); in *Surrey* in the Unions of Farnham (*Surrey and Hants*), Hambledon, and Godstone. A report from the Hambledon Union states that extra hands are difficult to obtain. This is chiefly attributed to some building operations in the neighbourhood. In *Kent* employment is said to be of a satisfactory character in the Unions of Blean, Bridge, Elham, Cranbrook, Faversham, Hoo, and Hollingbourne. Reports from the Faversham and Hollingbourne Unions refer to a difficulty in

getting extra men. In the Hoo Union all spare men are said to be employed repairing the sea walls. Reports of a favourable character come from *Hertfordshire* from the Unions of Barnet, Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, and Hitchin. In some districts in the Unions of Buntingford and Hitchin a scarcity of labour is reported.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Employment in *Sussex* is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Battle, Chaley, Hailsham, Horsham, Petworth and Rye; in *Hampshire* in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Droxford, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants and Surrey*). Reports of a favourable character come from *Dorsetshire* from the Unions of Bridport, Dorchester, Wimborne and Cranborne, and Wareham and Purbeck, and from certain districts in the Beaminstor and Sherborne Unions; from *Wiltshire* from the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Pewsey, Warminster, and Wilton, and also from a district in the Mere Union. Reports from the Unions of Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, and Pewsey refer to the difficulty of getting labour. In *Gloucestershire* work is said to be generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, Thornbury, and Tewkesbury. Some slight irregularity is reported in a district in the Dursley Union. In a district in the Stow-on-the-Wold Union, scarcity of labour for threshing and casual work is reported. The state of employment in *Herefordshire* is said to be of a satisfactory character in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (both *Hereford and Monmouth* portions), Ledbury and Ross; in *Somersetshire* in the Unions of Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, and Wincanton, and in certain districts in the Bridgwater and Yeovil unions. Reports from *Devonshire* state that the weather has been very favourable for outdoor work, and that labourers have been generally well employed in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, South Molton, Tavistock, Totnes, and Torrington, and in a district in the Kingsbridge Union. Employment is also said to be regular in *Cornwall* in the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women showed an improvement in the cotton trade, and a very slight improvement in the woollen and worsted trades. Employment in the silk trade was slack. Information has been received with regard to 508 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, employing about 83,790 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago.

| Trade and Month.                  | Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were |                          |                     |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
|                                   | Working full Time.                                 |                          | Working Short Time. | Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes. |
|                                   | With Full Employment.                              | With Partial Employment. |                     |   |
| <b>Cotton Trade—</b>              |  |                          |                     |   |
| January, 1898 ... ..              | 71   | 24                       | 3                   | 2   |
| December, 1897 ... ..             | 66   | 27                       | 6                   | 1   |
| January, 1897 ... ..              | 78   | 13                       | 9                   | —   |
| <b>Woollen and Worsted Trade—</b> |  |                          |                     |   |
| January, 1898 ... ..              | 53   | 16                       | 29                  | 2   |
| December, 1897 ... ..             | 51   | 17                       | 30                  | 2   |
| January, 1897 ... ..              | 64   | 10                       | 26                  | —   |
| <b>Silk Trade—</b>                |  |                          |                     |   |
| January, 1898 ... ..              | 15   | 53                       | 32                  | —   |
| December, 1897 ... ..             | 59   | 12                       | 29                  | —   |
| <b>Total of above Trades—</b>     |  |                          |                     |   |
| January, 1898 ... ..              | 64   | 24                       | 10                  | 2   |
| December, 1897 ... ..             | 62   | 24                       | 13                  | 1   |
| January, 1897 ... ..              | 75   | 13                       | 12                  | —   |

*Cotton Trade.*—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on, is

\* Exclusive of silk trade.



EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—SEAMEN; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

59,780; of these, 71 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 66 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in December, and with 78 per cent. in January, 1897); 24 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; 3 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

**Woolen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woolen and worsted mills reported on is 19,280; of these 53 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 51 per cent. in December and 64 per cent. in January, 1897); 16 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; 29 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN JANUARY.

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

The number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 35,568 in January, being 169 more than in January, 1897. The supply of seamen and firemen during January was reported as equal to or greater than the demand at nearly all ports. At Leith the supply was considerably in excess of the demand, owing to a number of Baltic traders being "laid-up."

Particulars of changes in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen at Glasgow will be found on page 59.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in January 1898 and 1897 respectively:—

| Principal Ports.                                | Number of Men, &c., shipped in January, 1898. |                   |                     | Total in Jan. 1897. |
|---|---|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | In Sailing Vessels.                           | In Steam Vessels. | Total in Jan. 1898. |                     |
| <b>ENGLAND.</b>                                 |   |                   |                     |                     |
| <b>East Coast.</b>                              |   |                   |                     |                     |
| Tyne Ports ... ..                               | 54  | 3,460             | 3,514               | 3,629               |
| Sunderland ... ..                               | —   | 682               | 682                 | 751                 |
| Middlesbrough ... ..                            | —   | 485               | 485                 | 639                 |
| Hull ... ..                                     | 20  | 1,328             | 1,348               | 1,205               |
| Grimsby ... ..                                  | 9   | 111               | 120                 | 77                  |
| <b>Bristol Channel.</b>                         |   |                   |                     |                     |
| Bristol ... ..                                  | —   | 252               | 252                 | 222                 |
| Newport, Mon. ... ..                            | 17  | 1,670             | 1,687               | 1,479               |
| Cardiff ... ..                                  | 207   | 6,131             | 6,338               | 6,773               |
| Swansea ... ..                                  | 33  | 840               | 873                 | 983                 |
| <b>Other Ports.</b>                             |   |                   |                     |                     |
| Liverpool ... ..                                | 234   | 9,176             | 9,410               | 9,098               |
| London ... ..                                   | 270   | 5,600             | 5,870               | 5,963               |
| Southampton ... ..                              | —   | 1,199             | 1,199               | 1,243               |
| <b>SCOTLAND.</b>                                |   |                   |                     |                     |
| Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ... .. | —   | 967               | 967                 | 841                 |
| Glasgow ... ..                                  | 78  | 2,266             | 2,344               | 2,123               |
| <b>IRELAND.</b>                                 |   |                   |                     |                     |
| Dublin ... ..                                   | —   | 125               | 125                 | 134                 |
| Belfast ... ..                                  | —   | 354               | 354                 | 242                 |
| <b>Total, Jan., 1898</b> ... ..                 | <b>922</b>                                    | <b>34,646</b>     | <b>35,568</b>       | —                   |
| <b>Ditto, Jan., 1897</b> ... ..                 | <b>1,130</b>                                  | <b>34,269</b>     | —                   | <b>35,399</b>       |

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

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN JANUARY.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves has been good generally, the average number employed being about the same as in December, though less than a year ago.

At all the docks, and at 115 of the principal wharves, an average daily number of 16,175 labourers were employed during the five weeks ended January 29th, as compared with 16,172 during December, and 16,383 a year ago. The estimated number employed on any one

day ranged from 14,607 on January 5th, to 17,493 on January 22nd.

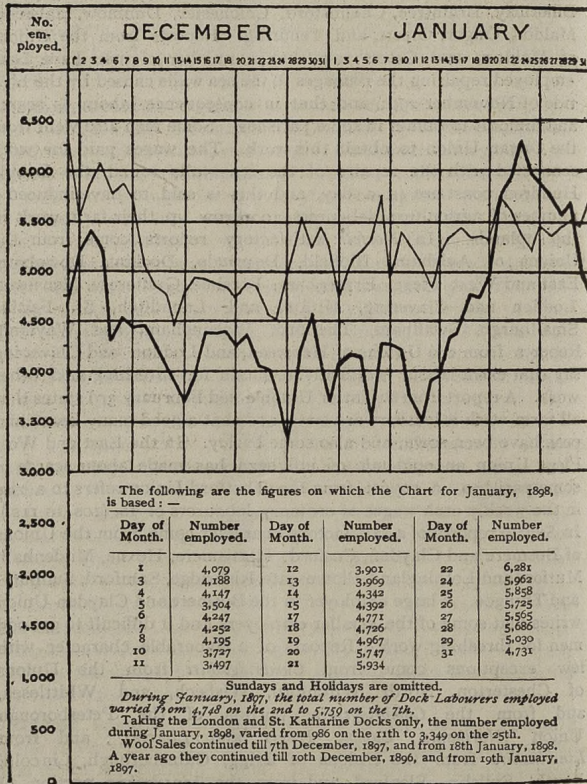
**Detailed Figures.**—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

| Period.                                    | Labourers employed in Docks.             |                     |         | Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns. | Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns. |
|--|--|---------------------|---------|---|---|
|  | By Dock Companies or through Contractors | By Ship-owners, &c. | Total.  |   |   |
| 1st week of January...                     | 6,524                                    | 3,098               | 9,622   | 5,938   | 15,560  |
| 2nd " " ...                                | 6,622                                    | 2,679               | 9,301   | 6,264   | 15,565  |
| 3rd " " ...                                | 6,828                                    | 3,019               | 9,847   | 6,178   | 16,025  |
| 4th " " ...                                | 8,233                                    | 2,495               | 10,728  | 6,266   | 16,995  |
| 5th " " ...                                | 7,932                                    | 2,304               | 10,236  | 6,393   | 16,629  |
| Average for 5 weeks ending Jan. 29th, 1898 | 7,452                                    | 2,706               | 9,958   | 6,217   | 16,175  |
| Average for Jan., 1897                     | 7,928*                                   | 2,584               | 10,512* | 5,871*  | 16,383*   |
| Average for Dec., 1897                     | 7,426                                    | 2,393               | 9,819   | 6,363   | 16,172  |

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during December and January is shown on the chart below. The numbers in January ranged from 3,497 on the 11th to 6,281 on the 22nd.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of December, 1897, and January, 1898. The corresponding curve for December, 1896, and January, 1897, is also given for comparison.

(The thick curve applies to 1897-8, and the thin curve to 1896-7.)



Employment in mid-stream has been fair and steady during the month. Corn porters have been well employed at the Victoria and Albert Docks, moderately employed at the Millwall Docks, and slack at the Surrey Docks. With deal porters employment was fair at first, but declined during the month. Lightermen have been busy, stevedores, lumpers and coal porters fairly and steadily employed.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have had fairly good employment except in the third week, when on the average only 178 were employed. For the other four weeks the average was 383, and for the whole period 342, as compared with 396 for December.

\* Amended figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON AND NORTHERN COUNTIES.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in Various Industries.**—The general state of employment is scarcely so good, when compared with either December or January 1897. The dispute in the engineering and kindred trades still had an important bearing upon the state of employment at the close of the month, though work has to some extent been since resumed. Returns from 405 branches of 109 trade unions, having an aggregate membership of 72,270, show that 3,267 (or 4.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 3.7 in December, and 3.3 per cent. in January 1897.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding* trades remained stationary, being still affected by the dispute at the close of the month. Reports from 121 branches of 26 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,070, show that, exclusive of those involved in the dispute, 943 (or 4.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.7 in December. The percentage for January 1897 was 2.1.

The *Building* trades (painters and decorators excepted) continue busy. Returns from 169 branches of 5 trade unions paying unemployed benefit, with an aggregate membership of 10,384, show that 124 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.9 in December, and 1.8 per cent. in January 1897. The bricklayers, stonemasons, stonecarvers, and millwrights describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as fair; the painters and decorators as dull.

The *Furnishing* trades are scarcely so busy. Reports from 41 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 7,201, show that 498 (or 6.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.1 in December and 5.5 per cent. in January 1897.

*Coopers* are still well employed, two societies with a membership of 980 having less than 1 per cent. unemployed, the same percentage as in December and also as in January of last year.

*Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights* remain steadily employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,320, show that 35 (or 2.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 2.4 in December, and 3.0 per cent. in January 1897.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades continue to show a falling off in most branches, and are not quite so well employed as usual at this season. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 22,002, show that 1,255 (or 5.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 3.0 in December, and 4.3 per cent. in January of last year.

Owing to seasonal causes, the *Clothing* trades remain quiet. The West End bespoke branch of the tailoring trade is quiet; the East End bespoke branch dull; the wholesale trade fair; the contract trade good. The ladies' tailoring and mantle trade has slightly improved. Employment with hatters is gradually improving; it is slack with cap makers; with fur skin dressers it is quiet; with furriers bad; with silk weavers also bad.

*Boot and Shoe Trades.*—No improvement has taken place in the West End hand-sewn branch, which is still slack, and only partially employed. Employment in the East End shoe trade is quiet, having fallen off much earlier than usual. The machine branch is still bad, but improving.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has improved. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,700, show that 48 (or 2.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.2 in December. The percentage for January 1897 was 2.1.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,426, show that 77 (or 5.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.1 in December and 6.8 per cent. in January 1897.

*Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.*—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 907, show that 48 (or 5.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.2 in December, and 5.2 per cent. in January of last year.

*Gold and Silver Workers* are scarcely so well employed, 8 unions, with a membership of 1,128, reporting 15 (or 1.3 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 1.0 in December, and 1.6 per cent. in January 1897.

In the *Tobacco* trades, returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,441, show that 93 (or 3.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.9 in December, and 3.7 per cent. in January of last year.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—At the docks and principal wharves the average daily number employed in January was 16,175, as compared with 16,172 in December, and 16,383 a year ago.

Employment has been fair and steady with workers in mid-stream during the month. With corn porters it has been good at the Victoria and Albert Docks, moderate at the Millwall Docks, and slack at the Surrey Docks; with deal porters, fair at first, but declining during the month; with fruit porters, fairly good on the whole; with stevedores, lumpers, and coal porters, fair and steady. Lightermen have been busy. (For further details see page 48.)

**Disputes and Trade Movements.**—Three fresh disputes, involving in all 132 persons, are reported as having arisen during the month, viz., two in the furnishing trades, and one in a gasworks (see page 61). The employees of two public authorities, to the number of 153, received advances in their wages, ranging from 1s. to 4s. per week (see page 58). No changes in hours of labour have been reported.

**Labour Bureaux.**—Returns received from eight labour bureaux show that 1,980 fresh applications for work were registered during January 1898, as compared with 2,391 in January 1897. Work was found for 909 persons by these bureaux during January, compared with 721 (exclusive of 3,543 temporary engagements for snow clearing, &c.) in the corresponding period of 1897. The number of persons on the registers at the end of January 1898 was 2,232, or 621 less than a year ago. The number of fresh applications for work by women and girls in January 1898 was 651, as compared with 573 in January 1897. Work was found for 191 women and girls in January 1898, or 7 more than a year ago. (For further details, see page 63.)

**Pauperism.**—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of January was 104,899, or 280 more than on the corresponding day in December. As compared with January 1897 there was on the whole a decrease of 395, decreases of 174 in the Central and 717 in the Southern district being partly balanced by increases in the Western, Northern, and Eastern districts.

On the same day in January 1,148 vagrants were relieved, as against 1,207 on the corresponding day in December, and 1,210 in January 1897.

In the West Ham district the number of persons relieved on one day in the second week was 8,872 in January 1898, 8,711 in December 1897 and 8,635 in January 1897.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—*Northumberland.*—The pits have worked much better during the 4 weeks ending 22nd January, steam coal collieries averaging 5.11 days, and house coalpits 5.27 days per week, as against 5.06 and 5.18 in December, and 4.94 and 5.1 a year ago, respectively. Of the 20,854 union members none are unemployed. *Durham.*—Employment at the pits continues good, coking, gas, and house coal collieries averaging respectively 5.50, 5.26, and 5.32 days per week. Pits producing a mixed class of coal have averaged 5.41 days, as against 5.37 days in December. Returns from pits employing over 87,000 men and boys show an average of 5.39 days per week, as against 5.46 in December. Of the union miners 553 (or 0.91 per cent.) are off work owing to depression (in addition to 65 from other causes), as against 635 (or 1.4 per cent.) in December.

**Metal Mining.**—Ironstone miners continue slack; lead miners quiet, although working full time.

**Quarrying.**—At one or two whinstone quarries several men have been discharged owing to slackness. Limestone quarries are brisker. At Gateshead and Blyth work in the quarries is fairly good.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—*On the Tyne.*—A large number of men re-started work on January 31st. Branches of these trades with 12,572 members had, on January 31st, 1,350 (or 10.7 per cent.) unemployed, in addition to 32.6 per cent. of the engineers, directly affected by the dispute. Riveters, platers, and caulkers continue slack in many of the yards. Boiler shops are fairly employed. Joiners have 11.1 per cent. unemployed. *On the Wear.*—Out of 4,565 members of iron ship building and engineering trades 554 (or 12.1 per cent.) are unemployed, in addition to 18.2 per cent. of the engineers, affected by the dispute. Work in the yards is becoming brisker, owing to the settlement of the engineering dispute. Sixty shipwrights are idle.

Iron moulders on both rivers with a membership of 1,375 have 168 (or 12.2 per cent.) idle, largely owing to the engineering dispute. Brassfinishers have 6.5 per cent. out of work; plumbers 7.4 per cent. Employment of ship painters remains unchanged. Drillers and hole cutters continue slack on new work. Employment of sail makers has largely fallen off. Steel smelting works, plate and angle mills at Consett and Newburn have worked full time; iron mills 5 shifts per week.



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

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Of the 600 Tyne watermen, 2 per cent. are wholly unemployed; the remainder have averaged 3 days per week. Coal porters on both rivers have averaged 5 days per week. Employment of quayside labourers fell off in the latter part of the month. The demand for sailors and firemen continues good.

**Building Trades.**—Slaters and tilers are all employed. Plasterers and bricklayers on both rivers are fairly busy. Painters and plumbers are in fair demand. Employment continues good with masons.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Of 767 letterpress printers and bookbinders on the Tyne and at Sunderland 11, or 1.4 per cent., are unemployed. Five Tyne paper mills have worked an average of 109 shifts per week out of a possible 235; three mills on the Wear have been fully employed.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Branches of coopers, mill-sawyers, cabinet-makers, and upholsterers, with a membership of 730, return as unemployed 34, or 4.6 per cent.

**Other Metal, Glass, and Chemical Trades.**—Copper, lead, and cement works are fairly well employed. Chemical factories in one or two departments continue quiet. Bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour have been fully employed. Pressed glass makers are slack.

**Fishing.**—Trawl boats have landed good catches of fish; line boats have done little.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

**Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.**

**Ironstone Mining.**—The Cleveland miners continue fairly employed.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The mills and forges have been fairly employed. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Conciliation and Arbitration Board the wages of puddlers have been advanced 3d. per ton, and of other classes of workmen 2½ per cent. The steel works have, on the whole, been well employed; under the sliding scale at one works there has been a slight reduction of ¼ per cent. from January 1st. Blastfurnacemen have been fairly well employed. Bridge works and foundries have gone fairly well.

**Engineering.**—Since the dispute terminated practically the whole of the men at Middlesbrough have been started. A considerable number have been started in the rest of the district, varying from 30 to 60 per cent. At the end of January branches of engineers, ironfounders, and patternmakers, with 3,485 members, had 304 unemployed in addition to about 900 directly affected by the dispute.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment in this trade is generally unchanged; one yard however in Middlesbrough has started full time, and others are expected to follow.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good in all branches.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as quiet at both Middlesbrough and the Hartlepoons during the month. Dock labour has been good at Middlesbrough; quiet at the Hartlepoons. Riverside labour has been quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—Tailors report employment as slack; printers as moderate.—*A. Main.*

**Cumberland and Barrow District.**

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

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 22nd January at pits from which returns have been received was 5.51 per week, as compared with 5.29 in December, and 5.25 in January, 1897. The number of men employed was 5,761, as compared with 5,488 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 273.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 22nd January at the 49 mines from which returns have been received was 5.75 per week, as compared with 5.70 in December, and 5.81 in January, 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 6,374, as compared with 6,246 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 128.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast at the end of January was 48, as compared with 49 in December and 44 in January, 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 3,649, a decrease of 17 compared with December, and an increase of 396 as compared with January, 1897.

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

**Oldham and District.**

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—A slight check has been experienced in the spinning branch. The state of employment is reported as moderate in Oldham and the surrounding districts, as well as in Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton, and Dukinfield districts; employment at Stockport is good. The cardroom workers in Oldham and Mossley report employment as moderate; ring frame spinners are fairly well employed; twiners are moderately employed. **Weaving.**—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as moderate in velvets, and slack in calicoes and ball warping, moderate in reeling and sectional warping, and fair in winding.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment is reported as being slack in Stockport, Rochdale, and Milnrow districts.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Societies affected by the dispute report employment as good in shops which are working, but there are 2,288 out of employment through the dispute. Brassfounders report employment as fair; tinplate-workers and boiler-makers as moderate; gas-meter makers and ironfounders as slack.

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

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from five of the collieries show that six days per week have been worked at three of the pits, and five days and four days per week respectively at the other two pits.—*T. Ashton.*

**Bolton and District.**

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—Employment in Bolton and immediate districts is slightly less steady; though all mills in the town are working full time, in the adjacent districts a few are on short time. In Bury no change is reported. Employment in Chorley continues moderately active, and in Wigan remains fair. Cardroom operatives continue fairly well employed in Bolton, Farnworth, and district; in Bury, Chorley, Heywood, Ramsbottom, and Wigan they report employment as moderate. **Weaving.**—Employment is reported as rather better in Bolton and the surrounding district; as improved in Chorley; and as more regular in Bury.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—In Bolton employment with engineers and in the iron and metal trades has been seriously affected by the dispute. Machine-making firms have been slightly more active than at the end of December. In Bury and Chorley no change is reported; Wigan shows a decline in most branches, one large firm closing, and employment generally being irregular.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported as improved in Bolton; slack in Chorley, Bury, and Wigan.

**Coal Mining.**—In Bolton, Darcy Lever, Little Hulton, Walkden, and Radcliffe colliers are moderately busy at the best pits, averaging five days per week; in the Wigan district colliers are fairly brisk, working five days per week.

**Miscellaneous.**—Carters, tailors, shoemakers, leather workers, and printers are moderately active.—*R. Tootill.*

**Blackburn, Burnley, and District.**

**Cotton Trade.—Weaving.**—Employment shows a slight further improvement in most of the weaving centres. In Burnley some 500 looms are now on short time; in Blackburn there is a marked improvement; in Colne one firm is still on short time, but employment generally is reported as better; improvement is also reported in Preston; in Darwen few looms are now waiting for warps; in Nelson employment is reported as slightly worse. Coloured goods weavers in the Colne district are better employed. Employment in the hardwaste trade is showing a decline; with twisters and drawers, winders and warpers, employment is moderate. **Spinning.**—Employment is reported as good in Blackburn, Accrington, Preston, and Darwen; fair in Padiham; bad in Burnley. Cardroom workers are fairly well employed in most of the districts. Branches of twisters and drawers, warp-dressers, and spinners, with 3,821 members, have 169 (or 4.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 186 (or 4.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is quiet.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment is still brisk in the machine shops in the Accrington district, but is slack in other works. With moulders in the Blackburn and Todmorden districts, and with engineers in the Colne and Todmorden districts, employment is moderate.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners are fairly well employed throughout the district; stone quarrymen are only moderately busy.

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

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is reported as fair with tailors; moderate with cabinet-makers; good with tinplate-workers; slack with calico printers and dyers. Paper-stainers in the Darwen district are busy.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

**Manchester and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies (excluding the engineering and metal trades), with 11,598 members, return 452 (or 3.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 447 (or 3.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Textile Trades.**—Cotton spinners in Manchester report employment as moderate. In Stockport doublers continue busy. In Macclesfield cotton operatives are in full work. The handloom silk weavers usually employed on the best class of goods have been slack; home workers on hand-loom have been fairly well employed; power loom weavers have only partial employment. Employment with fustian cutters is moderate. With dyers in the velvet trade it is bad, on heavy goods moderate. Bleachers, dyers, and finishers report employment as bad.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers and boiler-makers in Manchester and Northwich report employment as unsatisfactory; ironfounders and smiths and strikers as moderate. Ironworkers at Warrington, including wire-weavers, filesmiths, and tinplate-workers, are fairly well employed, but wire-drawers are slack. Brassfounders and finishers and sheet metal workers in Manchester and Stockport are slack. Employment in iron trades in Macclesfield is fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—In Manchester few bespoke tailors are fully employed; in Macclesfield and Stockport employment is improving. In the wholesale tailoring and mantle industries employment is quiet; in the waterproof garment trade slack; in capmaking fair. Shirtmakers are slack in Manchester; fairly well employed in Macclesfield and Stockport. Employment in the boot and shoe and felt hat trades is reported as moderate and improving; umbrella makers are slack on home orders, moderately busy on shipping work.

**Building Trades.**—Carpenters and joiners in Manchester report employment as fair, in Northwich as bad; painters in Manchester as bad, in Macclesfield as improving; bricklayers' labourers as good; other branches as moderate. In Warrington the building trades are fairly well employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers in Manchester, Stockport, and Warrington, lithographic artists, lithographic printers, and bookbinders report employment as moderate; pattern card makers as bad.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Cabinet-makers in Manchester report employment as good, in Warrington and Stockport as moderate; upholsterers as quiet; French polishers as bad. Coachmakers in Manchester continue busy, and in Warrington are fairly well employed. Employment with coopers is fair.

*G. D. Kelley.*

**Liverpool and District.**

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Boiler-makers and iron ship builders report employment as moderate; engineers as dull; patternmakers as rather better; brassfounders and hammermen as good; ironfounders, whitesmiths, and shipwrights as fair; ship-joiners as moderate; ship-painters as dull. Branches with 3,869 members return 288 (or 7.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 545 (or 13.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—French polishers and upholsterers report employment as dull; cabinet-makers and coachmakers as moderate; mill-sawyers and coopers as fair. Branches with 1,227 members return 75 (or 6.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 62 (or 4.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Transport Trades.**—Dock labourers report employment as fair at North docks and busy at South docks; Mersey flatmen and lightermen as fair; quay and railway carters as steady; coal and salt heavers as moderate; sailors and firemen as fair.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as good; bookbinders as rather quiet; stereotypers and electrotypers as fair. Branches with 1,133 members return 55 (or 4.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 50 (or 4.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors report employment as dull; operatives in the ready-made branches as quiet. Employment in the boot and shoe trade continues moderate.

**Building Trades.**—Plumbers report employment as fair; painters as dull; carpenters and joiners as moderate in Liverpool, fair in Birkenhead; other branches as good.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners in Whiston report employment as good. St. Helens miners continue to average 5 days per week. Work continues dull in Skelmersdale. Quarrymen are busy.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Glass bottle makers and chemical workers report a slight improvement.

**Miscellaneous.**—Bakers and confectioners report employment as dull; saddle and harness makers as fair.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade is worse. Employment is fair with moulders at Winsford, and good in the building trades at Winsford and Middlewich. Fustian cutters at both towns report employment as improved.

## YORKSHIRE.

**Hull and District.\***

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The termination of the dispute in the engineering trades has already led to an improvement in employment in the shipyards. Branches of these trades with 4,838 members return 810 as unemployed directly or indirectly through the dispute. Engineers at Doncaster report employment as moderate; boiler-makers and smiths at Goole as good; shipwrights at Grimsby and Goole as bad; sailmakers as bad.

**Building Trades.**—Lathrenders and painters report employment as bad; plumbers and masons as moderate; other branches as good. At Driffield bricklayers and joiners report employment as good; at Goole employment is good with joiners, moderate with bricklayers and masons. Branches (not including painters) with 2,809 members have 36 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 42 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Transport Trades.**—Employment for seamen and firemen on long voyages is reported as good, on shorter voyages as moderate; at Grimsby and Goole as moderate. Employment for dock labour at Hull and Goole is moderate; at Grimsby bad. Railway workers at Hull report employment as good.

**Fishing Industry.**—The trawl fishermen report employment as scarce at the close of the month; the steam fishing engineers and firemen as fair at Hull, moderate at Grimsby.

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

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

**Woodworking Trades.**—The coopers, cabinet-makers, and coach-builders at Hull and Doncaster report employment as moderate; the brushmakers at Hull as bad.

**Seed Crushing, Paint and Colour Works.**—Employment in the seed-crushing mills is reported as slack for the time of year. In the paint and colour mills employment is fairly good.

*W. G. Millington.*

**Leeds and District.**

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Ironfounders, patternmakers, and spindle and flyer makers have been slack; boiler-makers in Leeds and Stanningley rather better employed; steel-workers and stove-grate workers fairly employed; brassworkers moderately so. At Wakefield employment in the iron trade is moderate.

**Clothing Trades.**—Most boot and shoe factories in Leeds have been working short time. Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade has been slack both in the factories and among the Jewish operatives. Bespoke tailors are quiet.

**Textile Trades.**—In Leeds willeys and fettleers report employment as bad; blanket raisers and linen-workers as quiet; flax-workers as fair; woollen spinners as slack. At Yeadon employment continues bad. At Wakefield worsted and cloth mills are working full time.

**Building Trades.**—Joiners, bricklayers, masons, and plasterers continue well employed in Leeds; plumbers and painters moderately so. At Wakefield and Harrogate employment is fairly good.

**Coal Mining.**—In the Leeds, Wakefield, and Pontefract districts employment at the pits has been good.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanners are only moderately employed; leather shavers are moderately employed in the fancy leather department, slack in other branches; curriers are quiet; saddlers and harness-makers slack.

\* The statement made in the GAZETTE for January, p. 19, that at Selby "in the braid and lace mills about two-thirds of the operatives are on three-quarter time" is reported by a firm of employers to be inaccurate. They state that, owing to the difficulty of procuring female operatives in certain departments, about a quarter of the employees were reduced to 48 hours a week instead of 56.



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

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers, lithographers, and bookbinders and machine rulers are fairly well employed; paper mill workers are busy.

*Glass Trades.*—Employment in the glass bottle trade in Leeds is moderate; at Wakefield and Castleford good. Flint glass makers at Leeds are fairly employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cabinet-makers and coachmakers are well employed; brushmakers are still dull; potters at Castleford are fairly employed.—O. Connellan.

**Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.**

*Worsted Trade.*—Employment is a little better in Bradford. The woollers report employment as good, and the dyers have only a small number unemployed. In the Worth Valley weaving is fairly good, many weaving sheds working overtime. In Halifax and Huddersfield employment is a little better.

*Woollen Trades.*—Employment round Huddersfield shows an improvement. More firms in the Colne Valley have begun overtime again. In the heavy woollen districts of Dewsbury and Batley there seems a slight improvement, but employment is still quiet.

*Other Textile Trades.*—Employment is improving in the silk trade at Manningham, but there seems little change at Halifax and Brighouse. In the cotton trade at Brighouse and Huddersfield employment is reported as fair. In the carpet trade employment has not improved.

*Metal Trades.*—Employment at the end of January was still affected by the dispute in the engineering trade.

*Building Trades.*—Employment continues good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Tailors and printers are quiet; in the rag trade employment is still poor.—A. Gee.

**Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners and of engineers and kindred trades affected by the dispute), with a membership of 9,277, have 149 unemployed (or 1.6 per cent.), as compared with 127 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Iron and Steel Industries.*—Blastfurnacemen, Siemens steel smelters, and hydraulic press workers continue well employed. Apart from the men affected by the dispute, both engineers and ironfounders are quieter; boiler-makers, wire rollers and drawers, and merchant-iron rollers are slack; Bessemer steel workers, core-makers, and iron and steel dressers report work as moderate; railway spring fitters and smiths and strikers as quiet. The stove grate workers throughout the district continue well employed, about 10 per cent. working overtime. At Barnsley both engineers and ironfounders are busy. Steel workers at Rotherham and Parkgate are making full time. Bath-makers are busy.

*Cutlery and Tools.*—Makers of engineers', joiners', miners', garden, and agricultural tools, and edge tool forgers and grinders are fairly well employed; table and butcher blade forgers are quieter. Blade grinders and workmen in the spring knife, saw, and razor trades are slack. In the file trade employment is quiet. Sword and bayonet makers are busy, overtime being worked; haft and scale pressers report an improvement; handle and scale cutters are moderately employed.

*Other Metal Trades.*—Silversmiths, stampers, hollow-ware buffers, and spoon and fork filers report employment as fair; platers and gilders as good; electro-plate and silver-plate finishers as moderate; brass workers as good in Rotherham, moderately so in Sheffield.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 63 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.2 days per week worked.

*Building Trades.*—Painters report employment as quiet; other branches are well employed. In Barnsley employment is slack; in Rotherham good.

*Linen Trade.*—Employment is moderate.

*Glass Trades.*—Bottle makers of all kinds are fairly well employed in the Mexborough district. At Barnsley employment with bottle makers and flint-glass workers is good.

*Clothing Trades.*—In Sheffield employment in the bespoke trade is improving; in Barnsley it is slack. In the ready-made tailoring trade employment is moderate; in the boot and shoe trade bad.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers are a little slacker; lithographers and bookbinders are busy.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—Coach and railway carriage builders and cabinet-makers are fairly busy. Wagon-builders both at Sheffield and Rotherham are quiet. At Barnsley box and bobbin makers are busy.

*Miscellaneous.*—Railway workers, colliery surfacemen, and general labourers are fairly well employed.—S. Utley

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

**Derbyshire District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners), with 7,071 members, have 103 (or 1.5 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 117 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Engineering and kindred Trades.*—Branches with 2,410 members have 74 (or 3.1 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 78 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Employment continues good in the locomotive works; moderate in general engineering. With ironfounders employment is moderate in Derby; good in Butterley, Somercotes, and Chesterfield. With brassmoulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent employment is good. Lace machine builders in Long Eaton and cycle workers in Long Eaton and Draycott are busier. Stove grate workers in Derby, Belper, and Langley Mill are fairly well employed.

*Coal Mining.*—At collieries employing upwards of 36,000 men an average of 4.86 days per week was worked, as compared with 5.35 days in December.

*Quarrying.*—Employment in limestone quarries continues satisfactory; in the fossil marble quarries in Wirksworth it is good; in chert quarries at Bakewell overtime is the rule.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment is good with cotton weavers and spinners in Belper, Borrowash, Glossop, and Hadfield; dull with hosiery workers in Heanor, Belper, and Ilkeston; declining with laceworkers in Long Eaton, and slack in Ilkeston. Calico printers and engravers in Dinting, Hayfield, and New Mills, and surgical bandage makers in Derby report employment as good. With elastic web weavers employment has improved.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in all branches is reported as fair.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment with boot and shoe operatives is reported as fair; with tailors and dress and mantle makers as dull.

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

*Woodworking Trades.*—Employment with coopers at Burton-on-Trent is good on new work; rather slack on repairing work.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment with letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders and machine rulers is reported as fair.

*Miscellaneous.*—Bakers and confectioners are quiet; builders' labourers, railway workers, and gas workers are fairly well employed.—C. White-Deacon.

**Nottingham and District.**

*Lace Trade.*—Employment continues good in the plain net branch, fair in the levers branch, and bad in the curtain branch; warpers and warp lace workers are slack. Curtain readers and designers and draughtsmen report employment as dull; auxiliary workers and female laceworkers as moderate; bleachers are fairly well employed at Basford; dyers report employment as bad at Nottingham and moderate at Basford. In the finishing department at Bulwell and Basford employment is quiet.

*Hosiery Trade.*—Framework knitters and hand ribbed top branches report employment as bad; circular hosiery workers as fair; hand frame workers and elastic bandage makers as busy; shawl-makers at Hucknall Torkard as improving; lace ankle makers as busy at Kirkby and Sutton-in-Ashfield, but slack on common goods. Employments is irregular at Carlton and Arnold; moderate at Mansfield.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Lace machine and hosiery machine builders are well employed; general machine shops are busier; cycle makers are moderately employed. Ironfounders report employment as good at Mansfield and Grantham, declining at Nottingham; tool machinists as fair at Nottingham, slack at Beeston; steam engine makers as moderate; boiler-makers as improving; brass-workers as fair; brassfounders as slack; carriage straighteners, bobbin and carriage makers, and iron and steel dressers as good; wheelwrights and blacksmiths as moderate. Bestwood blast-furnacemen are well employed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment continues fairly good, except with painters and plumbers.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from pits employing over 16,000 men show that an average of 4 days per week was worked during January, as against 4.3 in December.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Lithographic artists are well employed. Employment with lithographic printers and letterpress printers is moderate. Bookbinders are slack.

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

*Clothing Trades.*—Bespoke tailors report employment as slack at rantham, moderate at Nottingham and Mansfield; ready-made tailors and mantle-workers continue fully employed. Employment with boot and shoe operatives is bad at Nottingham, moderate at Mansfield.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, coach makers, brush makers, and basket makers are well employed. Employment with French polishers is fair; with box makers moderate.

*Miscellaneous.*—Gas stokers report employment as fair; cab and hackney carriage drivers as moderate; bakers and confectioners as improving; female cigar-makers as fairly good. Silk dressers are making short time.—W. L. Hardstaff.

**Leicester and Northampton District.**

*Clothing Trades.*—*Boot and Shoe Industry.*—Employment in all branches of the boot and shoe trade throughout the district is improving. *Other Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade is good at Leicester, Northampton, and Kettering. Bespoke tailors are slack at Leicester, Northampton, and Kettering. With silk and felt hatters work is still slack; with cap makers slightly improved; with staymakers fairly good; with milliners and dressmakers moderate; with mantle-makers slack.

*Hosiery, Yarn, and Woolspinning Trades.*—Nearly all branches of the hosiery trade report employment as slack. Dyers, trimmers, and scourers are mostly working short time. Employment has slightly improved in the yarn and woolspinning factories.

*Elastic Web Trade.*—All branches report an improvement.

*Engineering and Cycle Trades.*—Employment in most branches is more regular. Work is moderate with boiler-makers, ironfounders, and toolmakers; slack with patternmakers; and improving with cycle-makers.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment in coal mining is reported as slacker; stone quarrymen and ironstone workers are well employed.

*Printing and Bookbinding Trades.*—Employment is good with letterpress printers at Leicester and Northampton, and fairly good at Rugby; quiet with lithographic printers; good with bookbinders.

*Building Trades.*—Employment continues good with bricklayers and builders' labourers at Leicester, moderate at Hinckley, Kettering and Loughborough, and fair at Northampton; good with stone-masons and plasterers, except at Northampton; fair with carpenters and joiners; moderate with painters at Leicester, Loughborough and Northampton, but bad at Rugby; plumbers are regularly employed.

*Coachbuilding and Furnishing Trades.*—Employment in the upholstering and furnishing trades has declined. Coachmakers, roadcar, tramcar, and wagon builders are in full work.

*Leather Trades.*—All branches report employment as good at Northampton and Market Harborough; moderate at Leicester.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is good with brick and tile makers and railway-workers; fair with brush-makers, farriers, and mill sawyers; slack with bakers and basket-makers.—T. Smith.

**Potteries District.**

*Pottery Trades.*—Hollow-ware pressers report employment as improved, but many are working less than 4 days per week. With sanitary pressers full time is general. Flat pressers are better employed, averaging 4 days per week. Printers and transferers are averaging 3.5 days per week. Throwers and turners are moderately employed in the general trade, busy in the electrical branches. Women gilders and decorators average less than 3 days per week. Men artists and designers, modellers, and mould makers report an improvement. Encaustic tile makers are busy. Ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggard-makers at Burslem and Tunstall have many still out of work.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Puddlers continue busy, and rollers are working better, averaging 4.5 turns per week. Steelworkers are busy. Blastfurnacemen continue well employed.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers, moulders, and boiler-makers are well employed; and with the termination of the dispute in the engineering trade the majority of the men affected at Stoke have resumed work. At Crewe and Stafford all branches of engineers are busy. Copper-workers at Oakamoor and Froghall report employment as improved in the wire trade; good in other branches. Agricultural engineers at Rugeley and Uttoxeter are well employed. Anchor chain makers at Ford Green are busier.

*Coal Mining.*—There has been a general improvement throughout North Staffordshire; miners are working full time at the majority of pits.

*Textile Trades.*—At Leek employment in the silk trade is scarce, a large percentage being on short time. At Congleton employment in the silk trade is slack; fustian cutters report a slight

improvement, those in work averaging five days per week. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives are well employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors throughout the district are moderately employed. Shoemakers at Stafford report a slight improvement, with nearly one-third on short time. At Stone shoemakers report employment as bad.

*Building Trades.*—Employment has declined at Leek, but generally throughout the district it is fair.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a further decline. At Stafford employment is generally good. Bookbinders and machine rulers report a decline.

*Miscellaneous.*—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are well employed. Employment with brushmakers is fair; with railway servants moderate; with gas stokers regular.—I. S. Harvey.

**Wolverhampton and District.**

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues good in the steel-smelting, steel, iron bar, angle, and hoop trades. There is no improvement in the sheet trade. The mills and forges are fully employed. In South Shropshire the mills and forges are working full time, and wire rollers are busy.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Employment is good with engineers, moulders, and boiler, bridge, girder, and tank makers. Cycle-makers are working full time. The malleable ironworkers at Walsall report employment as fair.

*Hardware Trades.*—Stampers and piercers and makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, axles, springs, edge tools, brazing and plantation hoes, hinges, wrought iron odd work, wrought nails, spectacle frames, tips, cut nails, malleable nails, protectors, and cycle castings report employment as good. There is no improvement in the anvil and vice trades. Brassworkers, chainmakers, strikers, tinplate-workers, and makers of spring-traps, gunlocks, light hollow-ware, and tacks are moderately employed. File-smiths are rather slack. Makers of latches and keys, rims, mortices, latches, and cabinet locks, and light black castings report employment as quiet. The edge tool works at Cannock are busy. The Lye iron-plate workers are slack.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in Cannock Chase district has fallen off, and some pits are only working 4 to 5 half days a week. In the Old Hill district 4 to 5.5 days per week are being worked. In Shropshire employment is good.

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

*Glass Trades.*—In Wordsley and district the flint glass workers are reported as rather quiet.

*Leather Trades.*—Gig and brown saddlers and harness makers report employment as slack; buckle chain, cart gear, and case makers as fair.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment with carpet weavers at Kidderminster is not brisk. Spinners are less busy and short time is general. The woolstaplers report employment as bad. In the Bridgnorth carpet mills and the Tamworth tape mills employment continues good.

*Clothing Trades.*—In the tailoring trade employment is quiet. In the boot and shoe trade employment has improved, but short time is still universal.—C. Anthony.

**Birmingham and District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies, with 20,324 members, have 406 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 295 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Engineering.*—Employment with engineers has been steady, no short time being worked; seven branches report employment as moderate, and two as good. The patternmakers and toolmakers report employment as fair; the smiths and strikers as good. In Coventry, West Bromwich, and Redditch employment is fairly good. Employment with cycle-makers in Birmingham and Coventry is improving. In Redditch, cycle and cycle accessory makers are fully employed.

*Brass and Copper Trades.*—Employment in all sections of the brassworking trades continues fairly good; metal rollers are better employed, but large tube makers in both brass and copper have been quiet. The fender and fire-brass makers report employment as quiet.

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

*Other Metal Trades.*—Ironfounders and hand file cutters report employment as moderate; most of the bedstead-makers are on short



## EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—EASTERN AND SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

time. Employment in the ironplate trade is fair. Iron hinge makers are fairly busy.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in the building trades continues good on the whole. The plumbers report employment as moderate; the painters as dull.

**Glass Trades.**—The flint glass makers report employment as quiet; the glass-cutters as good; the glass bevellers and silverers as fair. Employment in the West Bromwich district continues good.

**Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.**—Carriage and railway-wagon workers report employment as good; coachmakers as moderate. Millsawyers are not so busy; coopers are fairly employed on wet work, but continue quiet on dry; employment with cabinet-makers is good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors report employment as bad; boot-makers as slack.

**Miscellaneous.**—In the printing trade employment continues good; in the gun trade fair; in the brush trade slack. The gasworkers continue well employed. With the enginemen and cramenen employment is good. The harness-makers, bridle cutters, and leather workers report employment as fair. In Coventry employment with watchmakers is fair; with weavers quiet. In the Redditch district employment in the needle trade is moderate; in the fishhook trade good.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.  
Norfolk and neighbouring District.

**General.**—Branches of societies, with 3,365 members, have 95 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of December.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors are not busy. The ready-made tailoring factories in Norwich are running full time; with some of the outworkers employment is dull. In the boot and shoe trade many operatives have obtained employment, but about 100 are still idle.

**Building Trades.**—At Cambridge employment is rather dull, and at Lowestoft it has slightly fallen off; elsewhere all branches (except painters) are fairly well employed.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Throughout the district engineers are fairly well employed. Employment with shipwrights is bad at Yarmouth; much better at Lowestoft.

**Textile Trades.**—Mat and matting weavers at Diss are not busy; wool bordered mat makers are on short time; silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth are running full time.

**Printing Trades.**—Letterpress printers throughout the district are not well employed; lithographic printers are fairly well employed.

**Fishing Industry.**—Trawling vessels have done well at Lowestoft and fairly at Yarmouth; the herring and mackerel boats are laid up till the spring.

**Miscellaneous.**—Horticultural builders are still busy. Brush-makers are not very busy.—G. Cleverley.

## Suffolk, Essex, and District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment is reported as good with engineers at Colchester, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; moderate at Ipswich; fair at Chelmsford in shops unaffected by the dispute. Boilermakers report employment as good at Colchester, Harwich, Ipswich, and Leiston; shipwrights as good at Ipswich.

**Clothing Trades.**—In the boot and shoe trade employment is reported as moderate at Ipswich and Colchester. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment is reported as slack at Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds; moderate at Colchester. The corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury report employment as moderate.

**Textile Trades.**—The mat weavers at Lavenham report employment as good, at Glensford, Hadleigh, Sudbury, and Long Mel-ford as moderate; horsehair weavers at Lavenham as good. Employment is good with silk weavers at Sudbury, and with silk and crape operatives at Halstead and Earl's Colne.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is still satisfactory for the time of year, except at Halstead, where it is reported as dull.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as dull at Ipswich, Beccles, and Colchester; lithographers and bookbinders at Ipswich as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is moderate with horticultural builders at Ipswich and Chelmsford; improved in the leather trade at Colchester; general labour is moderate at Ipswich, fair at Colchester and Chelmsford.—R. W. Mather.

## ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

## Bristol and District.

**General.**—Societies and branches (exclusive of the engineering trades) with 4,812 members have 180 (or 3·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 207 (or 4·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is less brisk at Gloucester, Bath, and Taunton, but fair reports come from other centres in the district. Branches with 2,849 members have 114 (or 4·0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 126 (or 4·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in the production of house coal is reported to have slackened a little throughout the district; in the steam coal pits in the Forest of Dean it continues good.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—All branches report employment as steady with the exception of brewers' engineers, and those engaged on ship repairs. Out of 2,906 members 41 (or 1·4 per cent.) are returned as on the unemployed list, in addition to 105 out of work through disputes.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors and hatters report employment as slack; the cutters, pressers, and machinists in the wholesale tailoring industry as improving. Employment in the boot and shoe industry in Kingswood and district remains slack. In Bristol a slight increase in the volume of work is reported, but most of the operatives are not employed above three-quarter time.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in Trowbridge and district is reported as irregular, most of the weavers not making more than from 21 to 28 hours per week. Employment on heavy woollens is reported as fair; on other woollens and worsted goods as slack.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French polishers and coopers are slack; woodcutting machinists are moderately busy.

**Printing Trades.**—Branches of letterpress and lithographic printers with 706 members report 19 (or 2·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 12 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Miscellaneous.**—The curriers and leather dressers report employment as improving; the glass bottle makers as moderate; the brick and tile makers as good; the brushmakers as improved; the quayside and general labourers as dull.—J. Curle.

## Plymouth and South-Western District.

**Mining, Quarrying, and Clay Industries.**—Cornish metal mining continues depressed and a smelting works has been closed. In both limestone and granite quarries work is brisk; china clay workers continue fully employed.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment among engineers is reported as moderate at Plymouth and Exeter, and good at Hayle; brassworkers continue fairly employed; boilermakers and iron and steel ship builders report employment as moderate; ironfounders as good. With the shipwrights employment is good. Brass and tin workers in Exeter are fairly employed. Branches with 1,706 members have 15 (or 0·9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 35 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good at Plymouth, but is slack at Exeter, and dull at Torquay. Branches with 2,109 members have 10 (or 0·5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 32 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailoring is quiet, both in the ready-made and bespoke departments. Among boot and shoe makers work is moderate. The laceworkers at Tiverton continue busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Among the letterpress printers work in Plymouth has been good, in Torquay fair, in Exeter slack. Lithographic work is fairly good; bookbinding a little improved. Paper mills are in full work.

**Dock Labour.**—Work has been slack, but during the latter portion of the month the timber and coal workers have been rather better employed. Government labourers report work as good; general labourers as fair.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Mill sawyers and machinists are regularly employed; cabinet-makers and upholsterers moderately employed; coachbuilders are busy.

**Fishing Industry.**—A slight improvement is reported on last month.

**Miscellaneous.**—Excavators and brickyard labourers continue fairly employed.—W. Hedge.

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

## WALES.

## North Wales District.

**Mining.**—Except at one or two collieries, employment has been good in every mining district of North Wales. Employment is good at the lead mines of Flintshire; fair at the Minera lead mines. Owing to the flooding of a mine 300 lead miners are unemployed.

**Quarrying.**—Employment continues good in the slate quarries; brisk at the granite sett quarries; fair at the freestone, lime, and roadstone quarries.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment is good at the Brymbo steel works, fair at the Mostyn iron works. With engineers it is moderate at Sandycroft and Oswestry; good at Ruabon and Cefn. Employment at the railway wagon works, Johnstown, and the Bagillt spelter works is steady; at the Mold tinplate works good.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers at Wrexham report employment as moderate; the carpenters and joiners at Wrexham as quiet, at Oswestry as moderate, at Llandudno as good; the painters and decorators at Wrexham as bad; the plasterers at Llandudno as good. Employment at Rhos and Mold is reported as steady; at Cefn as slack.

**Brick and Terra Cotta Industries.**—Employment continues good at Wrexham, Ruabon, Rhos, Mold, Buckley, and Penybont.

**Chemical Industries.**—Employment continues good at the Flint and Ruabon chemical works.

**Clothing and Textile Industries.**—Employment in the tweed industry of Montgomeryshire is fair. The tailors at Bangor, Rhyl, and Oswestry are slack.—G. Rowley.

## South Wales District.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment has shown a marked improvement, especially in the Merthyr, Aberdare, and Rhondda districts. In the Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Dowlais, and Cyfarthfa districts collieries are working full time. Returns from pits employing 67,000 men and boys show an average of 5·40 days per week during January, as against 5·24 in December. The sliding scale audit gives an advance in wages of 1½ per cent. from 1st February.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Returns from Briton Ferry, Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Landore, Rogerstone, and Tredegar state that mills and furnaces are going well. The Cardiff Dowlais works have also been busy.

**Ship Repairing and Engineering.**—All branches have had good employment. At the end of January branches of the engineers with 2,736 members had 87 unemployed (or 3·2 per cent.), as against 134 (or 4·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Moulders report employment as good. Boilermakers return 20 per cent. as unemployed, and shipwrights 30 per cent. Fitters' helpers, boilermakers' helpers, and general labourers have been well employed; ship painters and scruffers have been hardly equal to the demand. Engineering firms and foundries in the colliery and inland districts have been busy.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Coal shipments show a great improvement; the pitwood and iron ore trade has been moderate; the timber and corn trade quiet; general hobbler's have had moderate employment. Shipping of crews has been quiet.

**Building Trades.**—All branches report employment as quiet, but not many are unemployed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the fuel trade has been brisk at Swansea; moderate elsewhere. Wagon builders, repairers, and lifters have been busy. Metallurgical and chemical works are still quiet. Letterpress printers are dull.—T. Davies.

**Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.**—Employment shows a further improvement, 335 mills out of 486 at 86 works reported on being at work at the end of January, as against 226 out of 485 at the end of December, and 332 out of 487 at the end of January, 1897. Of the 86 works 43, with 223 mills, were giving full employment, 21 partial employment (112 mills being at work and 46 idle) and 22 works, with 105 mills, were idle.

## SCOTLAND.

## Edinburgh and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies (excluding the engineers), with 15,504 members, have 708 (or 4·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 665 (or 4·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Coal Mining.**—In Mid and East Lothian the miners have been working full time, except at one colliery where 600 men were thrown idle for 6 days [owing to a breakdown of machinery. In West Lothian, with few exceptions, full time has been obtained.

**Shale Miners and Oil Workers.**—Employment in these trades continues good on the whole; a number of shale miners, however,

have been thrown idle in one district owing to a dispute between the employers and the land owner. Returns from 38 pits employing 3,860 workpeople (as compared with 4,378 in January, 1897) show that full time was worked by 560 men, while 1,191 worked 22 days, and 1,917 worked 20 and under 22.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Branches of these trades (not including the engineers) with 1,684 members have 103 (or 6·1 per cent.) idle. Branches in Falkirk with 3,025 members have 81 (or 2·7 per cent.) idle as against 132 (or 4·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment has improved in the shipbuilding yards in Leith. Branches of boilermakers and shipwrights, with 590 members, have 76 (or 12·9 per cent.) idle, as against 157 (or 25·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Textile Trades.**—The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good. In Selkirk the woollen industry has slightly improved; spinners are working nearly full time; weavers, however, are still slack. In Hawick and Galashiels employment continues bad with both spinners and weavers. Employment in the hosiery trade has improved in Selkirk, but continues quiet in Hawick.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 5,917 members have 335 (or 5·7 per cent.) idle, as against 164 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Branches with 1,092 members have 27 (or 2·5 per cent.) idle, as against 21 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The seamen and firemen, dock labourers, and coal porters report employment as fair.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 2,254 members have 55 (or 2·4 per cent.) idle, as against 95 (or 4·2 per cent.) of their membership) at the end of December.

**Miscellaneous.**—The saddlers and settmakers report employment as good; the bakers, glassmakers, glasscutters, and carriers as quiet; the shoe makers and tailors as bad.—J. Mallinson.

## Glasgow and West of Scotland.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment during the month has remained unsettled. Branches with 10,573 members have 708 (or 6·7 per cent.) idle, as against 845 (or 7·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—There has been no improvement during the month. Branches with 27,071 members have (in addition to the 4,000 engineers idle through the dispute) 1,637 (or 6·0 per cent.) idle, as against 1,492 (or 5·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Mining.**—In Stirlingshire employment has been more regular, fully 5 days per week having been obtained. In Dumbartonshire it has continued good. In Lanarkshire it is good, with some idle time but no unemployed. In Renfrewshire employment has been active, though affected by the holidays. The men are now going every day to the pits. With ironstone miners employment is unchanged. In Ayrshire coal and ironstone miners are working full time.

**Building Trades.**—Employment, except with painters, is still good all over the district. Branches with 11,871 members (excluding painters) return 179 (or 1·5 per cent.) as idle, as against 205 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Branches with 3,949 members return 127 (or 3·2 per cent.) as idle, as against 83 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Textile Trades.**—In Glasgow employment is unchanged. In Darvel and Galston employment is fairly good. In Kilbirnie thread and net works are running full time and additions are being made to the thread works. In Paisley carpet-weavers and thread-workers report employment as good. In Greenock merino, woollen, and other mills are working full time. In Port Glasgow all branches are fairly well employed. In Glasgow carpet-weavers and rope-spinners are better employed; calendermen, warpers, and dyers are quiet; power-loom beamers fairly employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors report employment as unchanged; clothiers' operatives as improved, but still dull in the bespoke department; knee shoemakers and boot and shoe riveters are still quiet; slipper-makers report a slight improvement; carriers have been dull.

**Shipping, Dock, and Transport Labour.**—Sailors and firemen are not busy; dock labourers have been dull. In Ardrossan dock labour has been quiet, but is improving; shipping is fairly good. Railway



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

men, hackney carriage drivers, tramwaymen, and carters in Glasgow are busy.

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

**Glass Trades.**—The improvement among flint glass makers and flint glass cutters has been maintained; bottlemakers report employment as not good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Spindle and flyer makers, gilders, potters, sett-makers, and scale beam makers report employment as still good; stoneware throwers, brushmakers, tobacco pipe makers and finishers are dull; saddlers are better employed.—A. J. Hunter.

**Dundee and District.**

**Textile Trades.**—The improvement in the jute industry has been maintained, and employment continues steady. Employment in the linen trade also continues regular.

**Coal Mining.**—Since the new year holidays, during which work was suspended for several days, employment has been steady at the Fifeshire collieries. At pits employing upwards of 11,000 work-people, an average of 4.64 days per week has been worked during the four weeks ending January 22nd, as against 5.36 in December.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—All branches of the engineering trades are well stocked with work, and in some cases night shifts have already been started. Employment in the shipbuilding yards continues steady. In addition to the fitters, turners, and machine workers still directly affected by the dispute, branches with 2,472 members return 217 (or 8.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 275 (or 11.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Building and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in the building trade, except with painters, continues steady. Employment with the cabinet-makers and upholsterers has been fair. Societies with 1,632 members report 36 (or 2.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 13 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Fishing Industry.**—The fishing industry has been regularly prosecuted during the month, with moderate success. The sprat fishing has come to an end through want of demand.

**Dock Labour.**—Employment has been brisk at the docks and jetties, and shore labour has been well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The printing and kindred trades report employment as fairly steady. Employment in the tailoring and boot and shoe trades is quiet; floorcloth and linoleum makers are still busy.—P. Reid.

**Aberdeen and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of the engineering and allied trades), with 5,211 members, have 113 (or 2.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 94 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Quarrying.**—All branches report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Carpenters and joiners, plasterers, and masons, report employment as good; painters, plumbers, and slaters as bad. Branches with 2,455 members have 81 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 66 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The boilermakers and iron ship builders and the shipwrights report employment as moderate; the patternmakers as unsettled; the ironmoulders and engineers as bad; the brassfinishers, toolsmiths, and horseshoers as good; the blacksmiths as improving; the tinplate workers as fair. About 100 of the engineers are now started. Branches with 1,603 members have 80 idle, in addition to 130 engineers affected by the dispute up to the end of the month.

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

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—The tailors report employment as bad; the hand-sewn boot and shoe makers and the boot and shoe riveters and finishers as moderate; textile factory workers as good; carpet weavers as bad.

**Transport Trades.**—Railway workers and seamen and firemen report employment as good; carters and dock labourers as moderate.

**Fishing.**—In January at the Port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 63,679 cwt. of fish, realising £35,468, an increase in quantity but a decrease in value as compared with the previous month.

**Miscellaneous.**—Combmakers report employment as fair; bakers as moderate.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is fair generally, but slack with the painters and lathsplitters.

**Metal Trades.**—The engineers, boilermakers, brassfinishers, and whitesmiths report employment as fair; the smiths as moderate. Branches with 820 members have 60 (or 7.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 30 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in these trades generally is fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors report employment as exceptionally bad; the boot and shoe makers as fair, but with many only partially employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers return employment as good; lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders as fair. Branches with 1,293 members return 51 (or 3.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 23 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Miscellaneous.**—The electrical workers, cork-cutters, bottle-makers, dockers, and labourers report employment as good; the sailors and firemen and ropemakers as fair. The brushmakers report an improvement.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.**—Societies with 10,117 members have 834 unemployed (including those directly affected by the dispute), as against 1,150 at the end of December.

**Linen Trades.**—Branches connected with this industry, with 5,212 members, report 79 (or 2.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 71 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The yardstresses report employment as dull; warehouse workers as slack; flaxdressers, flax roughers, yarn bundlers, and spindle and flyer makers as fair; beetlers, linen lappers, hackle and gill makers, and female operatives as good.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with a membership of 2,523 have 53 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 26 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The millers and plumbers report employment as dull; hodsmen and labourers and carpenters and joiners as fair; bricklayers as good.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Societies, with 658 members return 46 (or 7.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 56 (or 8.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Packing-case makers report employment as dull; coachbuilders as moderate; cabinet-makers and French polishers as quiet; upholsterers as fair; cooperers as good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 920 members report 43 (or 4.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 24 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders, machine rulers, and lithographic artists report employment as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—Societies with 713 members return 10 as unemployed, with a large number only partially employed. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as quiet; tailors as dull.

**Miscellaneous.**—Branches with 1,822 members have 55 (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed, the same number as at the end of December. Bakers and butchers report employment as fair; carters, locomotive engine drivers, railway workers, and tinplate-workers as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Boilermakers and iron ship builders report employment as dull in Cork and Passage West; engineers, shipwrights, ship-joiners, sailmakers, and riggers as moderate throughout the district.

**Building Trades.**—The stonecutters report employment as dull; other branches as fair.

**Textile and Clothing Trades.**—Employment with tailors and boot and shoe operatives continues dull; flax and tweed operatives are fairly busy.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Millsawyers and wood-cutting machinists, cabinet-makers, and coachmakers in all branches report employment as steady; cork cutters and cooperers as dull.

**Miscellaneous.**—Gasworkers, quay labourers, coal porters, corporation labourers, and stationary enginemmen report employment as fair throughout the district.—P. O'Shea.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The following tables of industrial accidents reported during January are arranged on a somewhat different plan from that which has hitherto been customary. The main object of the change has been to make the statistics of accidents in different industries more uniform in shape, and to present them in a form in which it is possible to compare them with the number of persons employed in the various groups of industries. For the purpose of attaining uniformity it has been necessary to omit the distinctions hitherto shown between different classes of non-fatal injuries. In the Summary Table, which stands first, a fresh column has been added, giving for purposes of comparison the approximate number of persons employed in the industries in which the accidents have occurred, according to the latest available returns.

SUMMARY TABLE.

|   | Killed.    |            | Injured.     |              | Number Employed to latest Returns. |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
|   | Jan. 1898  | Jan. 1897  | Jan. 1898    | Jan. 1897    |                                    |
| <b>Railway Service—</b>                       |            |            |              |              |                                    |
| Accidents connected with movement of vehicles | 34         | 53         | 343          | 398          | 465,112                            |
| Other Accidents                               | 2          | 4          | 687          | 1,005        |                                    |
| <b>Total Railway Service</b>                  | <b>36</b>  | <b>57</b>  | <b>1,030</b> | <b>1,403</b> | <b>465,112</b>                     |
| <b>Mines</b>                                  | <b>72</b>  | <b>76</b>  | <b>385</b>   | <b>405</b>   | <b>725,803</b>                     |
| <b>Quarries</b>                               | <b>5</b>   | <b>9</b>   | <b>107</b>   | <b>73</b>    | <b>112,829</b>                     |
| <b>Shipping</b>                               | <b>182</b> | <b>154</b> | <b>329</b>   | <b>396</b>   | <b>233,780*</b>                    |
| <b>Factories</b>                              | <b>39</b>  | <b>54</b>  | <b>2,851</b> | <b>2,788</b> | <b>3,555,870</b>                   |
| <b>Total of above</b>                         | <b>334</b> | <b>380</b> | <b>4,702</b> | <b>5,065</b> | <b>5,093,394</b>                   |
| <b>Workshops</b>                              | —          | 1          | 4            | 16           | Cannot be stated.                  |
| <b>Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23</b>    | 16         | 13         | 431          | 288          |                                    |
| <b>Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b>    | 3          | 9          | 98           | 72           |                                    |

DETAILED TABLE.

|   | Killed  |  | Injured   |  | Total.    |              |
|---|---|--|---|--|-----------|--------------|
|   | By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles. | By other accidents on the Companies' Premises. | By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles. | By other accidents on the Companies' Premises. | Killed    | Injured      |
| <b>Railway Service—</b>                         |   |  |   |  |           |              |
| Brakemen and Goods Guards                       | 4   | 70   | —   | 23   | 4         | 93           |
| Engine Drivers                                  | —   | 38   | —   | 33   | —         | 71           |
| Firemen   | —   | 41   | —   | 59   | —         | 100          |
| Guards (Passenger)                              | 1   | 11   | —   | 4  | 1         | 15           |
| Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)     | 7   | 23   | —   | 49   | 7         | 72           |
| Porters   | 2   | 36   | 1   | 202  | 3         | 238          |
| Shunters  | 4   | 55   | —   | 12   | 4         | 67           |
| Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants) | 16  | 69   | 1   | 305  | 17        | 374          |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1898</b>                     | <b>34</b>   | <b>343</b>                                     | <b>2</b>  | <b>687</b>                                     | <b>36</b> | <b>1,030</b> |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1897</b>                     | <b>53</b>   | <b>398</b>                                     | <b>4</b>  | <b>1,005</b>                                   | <b>57</b> | <b>1,403</b> |
| <b>Mines—</b>                                   |   |  |   |  |           |              |
| Explosions of Firedamp                          | 4   | 19   | —   | —  | 4         | 19           |
| Falls of ground                                 | 35  | 139  | —   | —  | 35        | 139          |
| In shafts                                       | 7   | 16   | —   | —  | 7         | 16           |
| Miscellaneous                                   | 19  | 156  | 7   | 55   | 26        | 211          |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1898</b>                     | <b>65</b>   | <b>330</b>                                     | <b>7</b>  | <b>55</b>                                      | <b>72</b> | <b>385</b>   |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1897</b>                     | <b>68</b>   | <b>353</b>                                     | <b>8</b>  | <b>62</b>                                      | <b>76</b> | <b>405</b>   |
| <b>Quarries over 20 feet deep</b>               |   |  |   |  |           |              |
| Explosives or Blasting                          | —   | 14   | —   | —  | —         | 14           |
| Falls of ground                                 | 1   | 18   | —   | —  | 1         | 18           |
| During ascent or descent                        | —   | —  | 1   | 43   | —         | 43           |
| Miscellaneous                                   | 3   | 32   | —   | —  | 3         | 32           |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1898</b>                     | <b>4</b>  | <b>64</b>                                      | <b>1</b>  | <b>43</b>                                      | <b>5</b>  | <b>107</b>   |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1897</b>                     | <b>6</b>  | <b>67</b>                                      | <b>3</b>  | <b>6</b>                                       | <b>9</b>  | <b>78</b>    |

|   | Killed.               |                     | Injured.              |                     | Total.     |            |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
|   | By Wreck or Casualty. | By other Accidents. | By Wreck or Casualty. | By other Accidents. | Killed.    | Injured.   |
| <b>Shipping—</b>                                    |                       |                     |                       |                     |            |            |
| On Trading Vessels—                                 |                       |                     |                       |                     |            |            |
| Sailing   | 46                    | —                   | 14                    | 43                  | 60         | 43         |
| Steam   | 71                    | 5                   | 41                    | 269                 | 112        | 274        |
| On Fishing Vessels—                                 |                       |                     |                       |                     |            |            |
| Sailing   | 6                     | —                   | 2                     | 6                   | 8          | 6          |
| Steam   | 1                     | —                   | 1                     | 6                   | 2          | 6          |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1898</b>                         | <b>124</b>            | <b>5</b>            | <b>58</b>             | <b>324</b>          | <b>182</b> | <b>329</b> |
| <b>Total for 3 months Nov., 1897, to Jan., 1898</b> | <b>211</b>            | <b>12</b>           | <b>177</b>            | <b>663</b>          | <b>388</b> | <b>675</b> |
| <b>Total for 3 months Nov., 1896, to Jan., 1897</b> | <b>162</b>            | <b>48</b>           | <b>238</b>            | <b>683</b>          | <b>400</b> | <b>731</b> |

|  | Males.    |              | Females. |            | Total.    |              |
|--|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|--------------|
|  | Killed.   | Injured.     | Killed.  | Injured.   | Killed.   | Injured.     |
| <b>Factories—</b>                                |           |              |          |            |           |              |
| (a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons— |           |              |          |            |           |              |
| Adults   | 53        | 642          | —        | 100        | 33        | 742          |
| Young Persons                                    | 6         | 300          | —        | 65         | 6         | 365          |
| Children   | —         | 13           | —        | 1          | —         | 14           |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>59</b> | <b>955</b>   | <b>—</b> | <b>166</b> | <b>59</b> | <b>1,121</b> |
| (b) Other Accidents—                             |           |              |          |            |           |              |
| Adults   | —         | 1,389        | —        | 61         | —         | 1,450        |
| Young Persons                                    | —         | 255          | —        | 14         | —         | 269          |
| Children   | —         | 9            | —        | 2          | —         | 11           |
| <b>Total Factories—</b>                          | <b>59</b> | <b>2,608</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>243</b> | <b>59</b> | <b>2,851</b> |
| <b>Jan., 1898</b>                                | <b>63</b> | <b>2,577</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>211</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>2,788</b> |
| <b>Workshops—</b>                                |           |              |          |            |           |              |
| Adults   | —         | 1            | —        | 3          | —         | 4            |
| Young Persons                                    | —         | —            | —        | —          | —         | —            |
| Children   | —         | —            | —        | —          | —         | —            |
| <b>Total Workshops—</b>                          | <b>—</b>  | <b>1</b>     | <b>—</b> | <b>3</b>   | <b>—</b>  | <b>4</b>     |
| <b>Jan., 1898</b>                                | <b>1</b>  | <b>12</b>    | <b>—</b> | <b>2</b>   | <b>1</b>  | <b>14</b>    |

|  | Males.    |              | Females. |            | Total.    |              |
|--|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|--------------|
|  | Killed.   | Injured.     | Killed.  | Injured.   | Killed.   | Injured.     |
| <b>Factories &amp; Workshops (classified by trades).</b> |           |              |          |            |           |              |
| <b>Textiles—</b>   |           |              |          |            |           |              |
| Cotton   | 2         | 144          | —        | 85         | 2         | 229          |
| Wool and Worsted   | —         | 54           | —        | 32         | —         | 86           |
| Other Textiles   | 1         | 40           | —        | 38         | 1         | 78           |
| <b>Non-Textiles—</b>                                     |           |              |          |            |           |              |
| Extraction of Metals                                     | 7         | 47           | —        | —          | 7         | 47           |
| Pounding and Conversion of Metals                        | 4         | 325          | —        | 6          | 4         | 331          |
| Machines, Engines and Engineering                        | 4         | 572          | —        | 1          | 4         | 573          |
| Ship and Boat Building                                   | 5         | 341          | —        | —          | 5         | 341          |
| Wood   | 2         | 141          | —        | —          | 2         | 141          |
| Chemicals, &c.   | 2         | 101          | —        | 5          | 2         | 106          |
| Other Non-Textile Industries                             | 12        | 844          | —        | 79         | 12        | 923          |
| <b>Total Jan., 1898</b>                                  | <b>39</b> | <b>2,609</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>246</b> | <b>39</b> | <b>2,855</b> |
| <b>Total Jan., 1897</b>                                  | <b>54</b> | <b>2,689</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>213</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>2,808</b> |

|  | Killed.   |  | Injured.  |  | Total.    |            |
|--|---|--|---|--|-----------|------------|
|  | By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles. | By other accidents on the Companies' Premises. | By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles. | By other accidents on the Companies' Premises. | Killed    | Injured    |
| <b>Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23</b> |   |  |   |  |           |            |
| Docks, Wharves and Quays                   | 9   | 265  | —   | —  | 9         | 265        |
| Warehouses                                 | —   | 120  | —   | 1  | —         | 121        |
| Buildings to which Act applies             | 7   | 30   | —   | —  | 7         | 30         |
| Laundries                                  | —   | 1  | —   | 14   | —         | 15         |
| <b>Total for January, 1898</b>             | <b>16</b>   | <b>416</b>                                     | <b>—</b>  | <b>15</b>                                      | <b>16</b> | <b>431</b> |
| <b>Total for January, 1897</b>             | <b>13</b>   | <b>277</b>                                     | <b>—</b>  | <b>11</b>                                      | <b>13</b> | <b>288</b> |

|   | Construction or repair. |           | Use or Working. |           | Total.   |           |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|   | Killed.                 | Injured.  | Killed.         | Injured.  | Killed.  | Injured.  |
| <b>Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894—</b> |                         |           |                 |           |          |           |
| Bridge                                      | —                       | 2         | —               | —         | —        | 2         |
| Canal                                       | —                       | 1         | —               | —         | —        | 1         |
| Railway                                     | 1                       | 48        | —               | —         | 1        | 48        |
| Tramroad                                    | —                       | —         | —               | —         | —        | —         |
| Tramway                                     | —                       | —         | —               | 19        | —        | 19        |
| Tunnel                                      | —                       | 2         | —               | —         | —        | 2         |
| Other Works                                 | 1                       | 24        | —               | 2         | 1        | 26        |
| Traction Engines                            | —                       | —         | —               | 1         | —        | 1         |
| <b>Total for January, 1898</b>              | <b>2</b>                | <b>76</b> | <b>1</b>        | <b>22</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>98</b> |
| <b>Total for January 1897</b>               | <b>7</b>                | <b>63</b> |                 |           |          |           |



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY.

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

Summary.—The changes in wages during January affected 110,300 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these workpeople was an increase of about 5 1/2 d. per head.

Increases.—The increases affecting the largest number of workpeople were one of 1 1/2 per cent. to 100,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and one of 3 d. per ton, or 2 1/2 per cent., to 6,000 ironworkers in the North of England.

Decreases.—The only important decrease was that affecting 500 chemical workers at Northwich.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 109,400 persons, or over 99 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected, were settled without cessation of work; the wages of 106,500 being changed by working scale, and of about 2,900 by negotiation between the parties or their representatives.

NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c. are not recorded here.

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

Table for BUILDING TRADES. Includes Bricklayers, Carpenters and Joiners, Plasterers, etc. with details of wage changes.

Table for COAL MINING. Includes Coal Hewers, Coal Miners, Stokers, etc. with details of wage changes.

Table for METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING. Includes Ironworkers, Millmen, Brass Casters, etc. with details of wage changes.

Table for TEXTILE TRADES. Includes Cotton Tenters, Weavers, &c. with details of wage changes.

Table for EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES. Includes Labourers in Gasworks, Municipal Employees, etc. with details of wage changes.

Table for MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Includes Chemical Workers, Printing Machinemen, etc. with details of wage changes.

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

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

Table for SEAMEN. Includes columns for Port, Voyage, Occupation, No. shipped at new Rate during January, Particulars of Change, Dec., Jan., In-c., De-c.

Bonus Scheme at Engineering Works.—An engineering firm at Rugby has instituted a long-service bonus scheme, conferring weekly additions to wages, ranging from 6d. to 4s., on its workpeople of three years' service and upwards.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JANUARY.

THE changes in hours of labour in January affected 2,027 workpeople, their working hours being reduced on the average by 2.68 hours per week.

The changes were all decreases, the most important being those of 1,500 time workers in iron foundries at Falkirk, whose hours were reduced 3 per week, and of 200 workpeople in a cognate trade at Bonnybridge, who obtained a reduction of 2 hours per week.

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

Table for DECREASES. Includes Building Trades (Carpenters and Joiners), Metal Trades (Brassworkers, Stove-workers), Printing Trades (Lithographic Artists).

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JANUARY.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.) From the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in January it will be seen that 9 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations for Production, 15 Co-operative Associations for Production, 1 Miscellaneous Society, 37 new Friendly Societies, 43 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 7 Building Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—National Amalgamated Iron Plate Trade Society, 1, Burnt Tree, Tipton, Staffs.; International Journeymen Butchers' and Poulterers' Union, The Ship, 140, Hanbury Street, Mile End New Town, E.; Eastern Counties Society of Engineers, Globe Inn, Market Place, Grantham; Manchester Operative Fishmongers' and Poulterers' Association, Crown Inn, Blackfriars Street, Salford; North Metropolitan Railway and General Legal Aid Society, 41, Horsell Road, Highbury Crescent, N.; Brighouse Builders' Labourers' Trade Society, Malt Shovel Inn, Wakefield Road, Brighouse, Scotland.—Port of Leith Grain Carriers' and Lifters' Association (Scottish Federation), 102, Kirkgate, Leith; Associated Horsemen's Union, 17, Brynmor Street, Greenock. Ireland.—Cork Operative Bakers' Trade Union, 47, Grattan Street, Cork.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Sedburgh New Co-operative Soc., Ltd., Main-street, Sedburgh, R.S.O. Yorks.; Senghenith Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Parc Road, Senghenith, Cardiff; Artisans and General Supply Assoc., Ltd., 29, Greyhound Road, Fulham, S.W. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Ballinamona Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Ballinamona, near Mallow, Cork.

\* See also Changes in Rate of Wages.

(b) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—Colne Vale Woollen Manufacturers, Ltd., Head Wall, Green, Golcar, Huddersfield. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Derrygonnelly Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh; Monivea Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Monivea, Co. Galway; Drumlegagh Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Drumlegagh, Co. Tyrone; Kilmactranny Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kilmactranny, Co. Sligo; Toames Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Toames, Co. Cork; Tynagh and Killimore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Tynagh, Co. Galway; New Quay Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., New Quay, Burren, Co. Clare; Boyle Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Boyle, Co. Roscommon; Ardstraw Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ardstraw, Co. Tyrone; Killeter Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Killeter, Co. Tyrone; Gowna Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Gowna, Co. Cavan; Ramelton Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ramelton, Co. Donegal; Moygownagh Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Croghan Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Croghan, Co. Roscommon.

(c) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Blackwater Co-op. Bank, Ltd., Blackwater, Co. Wexford.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 15 (including 2 Female and 1 Juvenile); Working Men's Clubs, 7; Specially Authorised, 8. Dividing, 4. Scotland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1. Ireland.—Ordinary Friendly, 2.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—A.O. Foresters, 3; I.O. Rechabites, S.U., 8; L.U.O. Anglo-Saxons, 2; U.O. Free Gardeners, 2; Hearts of Oak, Y. Dividing, 3; U.J.O.T.A. Sons of the Phoenix, 5; Wales Unity of Odd Fellows, 2; I.O. Odd Fellows, 2; Various, 10. Scotland.—Various, 6. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—Six. Scotland.—One. Ireland.—None.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Ffrwyd Branch of the Denbighshire and Flintshire Miners' Federation, Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Ffrwyd, Denbighshire; Hull and District Labour Union, 39, Hedon-road, Hull; London United Wire Ropemakers' and Fitters' Assn., Union Tavern, Emmett-street, Limehouse, E.; Calico Print-workers' Trade Union, 427, Blackburn-road, Accrington. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—(Dissolved by instrument) Street Co-op. Boot and Shoe Mfg. Soc., Ltd., 176, High-street, Street, S.O., Somerset; (Liquidator's final report received) West Greenwich Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 31 and 33, Blackheath Hill, Greenwich, S.E.; Nottingham Operative Tailors' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 4, Lower Parliament-street, Nottingham. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—By instrument of dissolution, 5; notice of commencement of dissolution, 2; notice of termination of dissolution, 5.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

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

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

\* One terminated fatally. † No cases of Anthrax were reported in January, 1897.



TRADE DISPUTES.

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

**Number and Magnitude.**—Twenty-eight fresh disputes were reported as beginning in January, compared with 28 in December, and 48 in January, 1897. In these 28 disputes 5,261 workpeople were directly, and 1,534 indirectly affected, or a total of 6,795, which compares with 1,879 in December, and 16,615 in January, 1897.

**Trades Affected.**—In the building trades there was 1 dispute, involving 13 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 6 disputes, involving 3,185 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 5 disputes, involving 1,194 workpeople; textile trades, 7 disputes, involving 1,617 workpeople; clothing trades, 3 disputes, involving 64 workpeople; transport, 2 disputes, involving 500 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 4 disputes, involving 222 workpeople.

**Causes.**—Of the 28 new disputes 14 arose on wages questions, 8 on questions of working arrangements, 4 had reference either to defence of or dissatisfaction with fellow-workpeople, 1 was against fines for absence, &c., and 1 was a sympathetic strike.

**Results.**—Twenty new disputes, involving 5,382 workpeople, and 10 old disputes, involving 50,622 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 30 new and old disputes terminated, 7 involving 3,149 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 10, involving 50,854 workpeople, in favour of the employers, and 13, involving 2,001 workpeople, by compromise.

**Number of Working Days Lost.**—The number of working days lost in January owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 1,392,000, as compared with 1,456,000 in December, and 310,000 in January, 1897.

| Employment. | Locality. | Date when Dispute began. | Alleged Cause or Object. | Number of Workpeople affected. |              | Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days. | Result. |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|---------|
|             |           |                          |                          | Di-rectly.                     | Indi-rectly. |  |         |

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY, 1898.

| 1 Dispute. BUILDING TRADES. 13 Workpeople affected.                         |                           |        |  |     |     |    |   |
|---|---------------------------|--------|--|-----|-----|----|---|
| Plumbers  | Chorley                   | Jan. 8 | Plumbers desired a code of local working rules ...   | 13  | —   | 13 | No settlement reported.   |
| 6 Disputes. MINING AND QUARRYING. 3,185 Workpeople affected.                |                           |        |  |     |     |    |   |
| Coal Miners   | South Shields             | 10     | Refusal to pay wages of a sick man to his wife without the authorisation note countersigned by manager, according to custom of the colliery        | 341 | 501 | 2  | Men summoned to Police Court for breach of contract, but magistrates disagreed case was dismissed. Money paid to workman himself on following Tuesday.  |
| Ditto   | Castleford                | 19     | Dispute as to payment for certain "dirt" coal ...  | 750 | —   | —  | Still unsettled.  |
| Coal Miners and Fillers   | Nr. Chesterfield          | 5      | For increase in coal getting prices ...  | 485 | 317 | 7  | Advance of 1d. per ton granted for actual coal getting, and an additional 1d. per ton for lowering coal down inclines over 100 yards in length. Employer agreed to test small coal every day. |
| Coal Miners   | Ruabon                    | 21     | Dispute as to deduction for small coal ...   | 500 | —   | 3  | Modified scale agreed to. Deductions not to be made for less than 30 lbs. of dirt per hutch, miners allowing 1/2 cwt. on tare of hutches.   |
| Coal Miners   | Baillieston               | 17     | Dispute as to deductions for "dirt" in coal ...  | 105 | —   | 7  | Reduction of 3/4d. per ton accepted.  |
| Limestone Quarrymen   | Nr. Abergelle             | 5      | Against reduction of 1d. per ton on introduction of a steam rock drill   | 66  | 120 | 9  | Reduction of 3/4d. per ton accepted.  |
| 5 Disputes. METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING. 1,194 Workpeople affected. |                           |        |  |     |     |    |   |
| Platers' Helpers  | Tees and Hartlepool       | 26     | Men being paid at short time rate of 3s. 11d. per day of 6 1/2 hours, struck against a reduction of such rate                                      | 880 | —   | 6  | Rate of 3s. 11d. per day to be paid until resumption of full time.  |
| Cycle Frame Filers  | Coventry                  | 27     | Employers offered an advance of 3d. per frame. Men demanded 1s.  | 32  | 45  | 4  | Advance of 6d. per frame offered and accepted.  |
| Keysmiths   | Wednesfield               | 10     | Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.  | 11  | —   | 9  | Proposed reduction withdrawn.   |
| Ironfounders  | Near Stroud               | 14     | Employers put forward a scale of deductions from wages for late attendance and absence, and men refusing to accept were locked out                 | 26  | —   | —  | No settlement reported.   |
| Steel Workers   | Glengarnock               | 18     | Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.  | 200 | —   | 14 | Proposed reduction withdrawn.   |
| 7 Disputes. TEXTILE TRADES. 1,617 Workpeople affected.                      |                           |        |  |     |     |    |   |
| Cotton Weavers  | Stalybridge               | 26     | Alleged bad material ...   | 533 | 151 | 2  | Employers promised to provide better material.  |
| Ditto   | Haslingden                | 7      | Alleged bad material ...   | 250 | 50  | 6  | Work resumed on previous conditions. Some weavers who were summoned paid costs.   |
| Plecers   | Mossley                   | 6      | Objection to introduction of outside spinners to fill vacancies instead of plecers being promoted  | 82  | 263 | 4  | Work resumed on previous conditions at orders of Spinners' Society.   |
| Carpet Fillers  | Halifax                   | 7      | Against change in conditions of working, alleged to have the effect of reducing wages  | 24  | 20  | 2  | Changed conditions accepted, no reduction in wages being the result.  |
| Woollen Weavers   | Luddenden Foot            | 11     | Against change in method of warping, alleged by workpeople to mean reduction in wages  | 39  | 20  | 19 | Work resumed on the changed conditions.   |
| Ditto   | Yeadon                    | 19     | In consequence of discharge of a weaver for refusal to accept a warp ticketed at less than the standard rate                                       | 63  | 37  | 2  | Employers agreed to pay standard rate, and to a Shop Committee being appointed. The discharged weaver declined to start again.  |
| Fustian Cutters   | South Reddish             | 13     | Against reduction of a bonus upon output ...   | 75  | 10  | 6  | Operatives agreed to proposed reduction.  |
| 3 Disputes. CLOTHING TRADES. 64 Workpeople affected.                        |                           |        |  |     |     |    |   |
| Boot and Shoe Operatives  | Leicester                 | 21     | Men refused employment owing to dispute as to the quantity of work to be done for a given wage   | 36  | —   | 6  | Employer agreed to resume a former arrangement.   |
| Ditto   | Ditto                     | 24     | Against proposal of employer to increase the number of dozen pairs of work required for the weekly wage paid                                       | 16  | —   | 9  | Employer agreed to prepare materials, and thus allow of men performing the allotted amount of work.   |
| Boot and Shoe Finishers   | Northampton               | 6      | Men left without notice to consult their officials on account of employment of a youth who was said to be underpaid, and were thereupon locked out | 12  | —   | 18 | Action of men not countenanced by union. Employer took back majority of men at request of Arbitration Board.  |
| 2 Disputes. TRANSPORT. 500 Workpeople affected.                             |                           |        |  |     |     |    |   |
| Railway Men   | Cork and South of Ireland | 24     | For remission of punishment on a man removed to inferior station for alleged neglect of duty   | 400 | —   | —  | Still unsettled.  |
| Dock Labourers  | Galway                    | 25     | Demand by labourers to be paid a full day's or night's wages, even if only employed part of the time.  | 100 | —   | —  | No settlement reported.   |

TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY—(continued.)

| Employment.  | Locality. | Date when Dispute began. | Alleged Cause or Object.   | Number of Workpeople Affected. |              | Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days. | Result.  |
|--|-----------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--|--|
|  |           |                          |  | Di-rectly.                     | Indi-rectly. |  |  |
| 4 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 222 Workpeople affected. |           |                          |  |                                |              |  |  |
| Saddlers   | Walsall   | Jan. 29                  | Against a new price list put forward by employers containing reductions in rates.                              | 90                             | —            | —  | No settlement reported.  |
| French Polishers   | London    | 4                        | In sympathy with cabinet-makers who were out on strike   | 22                             | —            | —  | No settlement reported.  |
| Planoforte Makers  | London    | 10                       | Refusal to submit to a reduction of 10 per cent. on piece prices accepted at another shop of the same employer | 12                             | —            | —  | No settlement reported.  |
| Coke Backers (Gas Works)                                   | London    | 12                       | For increase in piece work rates, and a fixed time for starting and leaving off work                           | 98                             | —            | 5  | Work resumed by men after interview between deputation and engineer. |

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

| BUILDING TRADES.       |           |            |   |     |   |     |  |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|---|-----|---|-----|--|
| Plasterers             | Liverpool | 1897 1 May | For advance in wages from 9d. to 9 1/2d. per hour, and for revised working rules                                      | 150 | — | 225 | Referred to arbitration of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool — for terms of award see p. 40.                         |
| Ditto                  | Brighton  | 6 Dec.     | Objection to employment of labourers on plasterers' work, and consequent discharge and withdrawal of plasterers.      | 11  | — | 47  | Men obtained work elsewhere, and job blocked to union men.   |
| Carpenters and Joiners | Tavistock | 1 Apl.     | For increase in wages to 6 1/2d. per hour, reduction in summer hours from 5 1/2 to 5 1/4, and a code of working rules | 17  | — | 249 | Wages increased from 5d. to 6d. per hour, summer hours reduced as desired, and a code of working rules signed. |

| MINING AND QUARRYING. |           |              |  |    |     |    |  |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|--|----|-----|----|--|
| Coal Miners           | Ammanford | 1897 24 Dec. | Against proposed reduction of 5 [per] cent. in wages of day wage men | 93 | 138 | 18 | Reduction of 5 per cent. accepted by the day wage men. |

| METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING. |                          |             |  |        |                  |     |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|--------|------------------|-----|--|
| Engineers                            | United Kingdom generally | 1897 5 July | Circumstances fully detailed in LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1897—February, 1898  | 50,000 | Cannot be stated | 176 | Withdrawal of demand for eight hours day and acceptance of conditions stated on p. 37. |
| Ironfounders                         | Potteries                | 17 May      | For advance in wages of 2s. per week ...   | 90     | —                | 207 | Employers agreed to advance of 1s. per week.   |
| Tinplate Operatives                  | Pentyrch                 | 1 Mar.      | Against required increase in number of plates per box, alleged to be equal to a reduction of 20 per cent. in wages | 36     | —                | 270 | Reduction accepted of 15 to 22 1/2 per cent. from the 1874 list.                       |

| MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.           |              |              |   |    |    |    |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---|----|----|----|--|
| Boot and Shoe Lasters           | London, E.   | 1897 15 Nov. | Men struck against proposed increase of output from machinery   | 12 | 20 | 35 | Men resumed work on previous terms.  |
| Printers' Labourers             | London, N.E. | 20 Dec.      | For advance in wages to a minimum rate of 20s. per week   | 31 | —  | 34 | Places filled by other men.  |
| Lasters, Finishers and Clickers | Arbroath     | 13 Nov.      | Employer issued notice that co-operators must sever their connection with the stores or leave their employment. Men thereupon struck work | 24 | —  | 65 | The question of whether men were co-operators not to be raised, but only 12 of the 24 men were reinstated. |

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

The following 20 disputes which have been previously reported, were still unsettled at the end of January. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was then about 3,900. The month in which the dispute commenced, is stated in each case in brackets. **Building Trades:**—Plasterers, South Shields (Aug.); carpenters and joiners, Blackburn (Aug.); plumbers, Nelson, Colne and Brierfield (Sep.); plumbers, Widnes (Oct.—since settled, Feb.); painters, Kingstown (Dec.); plumbers, Preston (Dec.). **Mining and Quarrying:**—Coal miners, Leeds and Castleford (July); Normanton (Sept.); Barnsley (Oct.); Abernant—two disputes (Oct.); Bredbury (Dec.). **Metal, &c. Trades:**—Boilermakers, Ebbw Vale (July); bedstead mount makers, Birmingham (Dec.). **Textile Trades:**—Cotton weavers, Burnley (Sept.). **Other Trades:**—Bookbinders, Glasgow; printers' warehousemen, London; cabinet makers, London; glass bevellers, London (all in Dec.).

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

**DURING** January four co-operative societies for distribution (three in England and Wales and one in Ireland) and 15 co-operative societies for production (one in England and 14 in Ireland) were registered in addition to a Co-operative Credit Bank in Ireland. In Scotland a new soap works has been opened by the Scottish Wholesale Society. A boot and shoe manufacturing society at Street (Somerset) and a tailors' society at Nottingham have dissolved. The Scottish Co-operative Farming Association has decided to wind up its affairs as a result of heavy losses. A scheme of superannuation for the employees of the wholesale and retail co-operative societies submitted by the directors of the English Wholesale Society to its shareholding societies, has been rejected by a large majority.

Returns published by the co-operative wholesale societies show that in September, 1897, the English society had 8,647 employees, of whom 6,269 were engaged in production and 2,378 in distribution (including 91 employed on the society's steamships). The Scottish Wholesale Society employed 4,605 persons, of whom 3,746 were engaged in production and 859 in distribution.

**Co-operative Union of America.**—The second annual meeting of the Co-operative Union of America was held at Cambridge, Boston, on January 1st, 1898, under the presidency of Prof. R. E. Ely, eleven societies being represented by 20 delegates. The Union consists of 14 societies and 45 individuals. It was reported that a number of the older and larger societies had not yet joined the Union. During 1896 one new society had been organised and four had failed or ceased business. The questions discussed were mainly concerned with the organisation of the movement, and it was resolved to send a delegate to the English Co-operative Congress in May.

**Registered Trade Unions in 1896.**—The report\* of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies on Registered Trade Unions in the United Kingdom at the end of 1896 has recently been issued. Particulars are given of the income, expenditure, membership and funds at the end of December, 1896, of each of the societies registered under the Trade Union Acts, which made returns for that year.

\* Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1896. Part C., Appendix (M)—Trade Unions, P. P. 97-II. (Price )



FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE monthly accounts of trade and navigation show that the value of the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions for the month ended 31st January, 1898, was £39,916,491, as compared with £39,775,668 in January, 1897, an increase of £140,823, or 0.35 per cent.

The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for January, 1898, were valued at £19,231,404, as compared with £19,786,236 for January, 1897, showing a decrease of £554,832, or 2.80 per cent., while the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted in value to £4,682,661, as compared with £4,154,985 for the corresponding month of 1897, an increase of 12.7 per cent.

Imports.—The following table gives the value of the imports for January, 1898, as compared with January, 1897:—

Table with columns: Month ended Jan. 31st (1897, 1898), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco; Metals; Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances; Oils; Raw Materials for Manufactures; Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles; Total.

In the imports of articles of food and drink for January, 1898, as compared with January, 1897, the value of wheat meal and flour shows an increase of £182,201, and Indian corn or maize of £117,365, but wheat, barley and oats have each decreased, the total decline in these three classes being £191,356.

Exports.—With regard to the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for January, 1898, the following table gives the value for that period, as compared with January, 1897:—

Table with columns: Month ended Jan. 31st (1897, 1898), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Animals, living; Articles of Food and Drink; Raw Materials; Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured; Yarns and Textile Fabrics; Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom; Machinery; Machinery and Millwork; Miscellaneous; Total.

The exports of coal, coke and fuel have increased by £97,943, as compared with the value for January, 1897, and the value of the exports of iron, unwrought and wrought, was £223,489 more than in the corresponding month of 1897, but worsted tissues decreased by £195,238 and cotton piece goods show a decrease of £212,718 (although the quantity has increased by 2,522,100 yards), and machinery and millwork a net decrease of £405,997, the decrease in steam engines alone amounting to £146,708.

Turning now to the foreign trade of the United Kingdom for the 12 months ended December 31st, 1897, as compared with the corresponding period of 1896, the most noticeable features may, generally speaking, be said to be the increase in the values of the imports from France, Spain, the United States and Canada, and in the exports to the European countries (with the exception of Germany, France, Portugal and Spain, which all show slight decreases), and the remarkable decline in the trade with Central and South American countries.

The value of the exports to Central and South America fell from £21,962,566 in 1896 to £16,969,726 in 1897, while that of the imports from those countries fell from £19,968,100 to £16,387,407.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered during January at ports of the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions amounted to 2,743,001 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,150,075 tons, as compared with 2,507,480 tons entered, and 2,938,498 tons cleared in January, 1897.

The tonnage entered coastwise amounted to 2,787,547 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,664,648 tons, as compared with amounts of 2,570,879 tons and 2,500,155 tons respectively in January, 1897.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during January show a falling off as compared with a year ago, but a large increase when compared with January, 1896, due almost entirely to increased imports of American cotton. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was greater than in either January, 1897, or 1896.

The following are the figures for the different periods:—

Table with columns: Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns (Imports, Exports), Bales. Rows include January, 1898; 1897; 1896.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended February 5th, amounted to £6,984,957, an increase of £240,264 (or 3.6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1897.

The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,796,987, an increase of £186,794, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,187,970, an increase of £53,470.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during January, 1898, was £586,908, an increase of £74,685, as compared with January, 1897. In England and Wales there was an increase of £65,580, in Scotland of £7,684, and in Ireland of £1,421.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during January was 9,609, as compared with 9,777 in January, 1897.

British and Irish.—Of the 9,609 passengers, 6,643 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 347 as compared with a year ago. Of the destinations named in the table below, which gives the figures for January, 1898 and 1897, British North America was the only one which did not share in this decrease:—

Table with columns: Destination, January, 1898, January, 1897. Rows include United States; British North America; Australasia; South Africa; Other places; Total.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 9,609 passengers, viz., 2,966, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 179 more than in January, 1897.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during January was 3,945. Of these, 971 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom compared with 946 so stated in January 1897. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 2,974 (including 907 sailors), the corresponding figure for January, 1897, being 2,580 (including 716 sailors).

WAGES AND HOURS IN FRANCE.

The French Labour Department has just published a report on Wages and Hours of Labour in French Industries.\* This volume summarises and compares the statistics contained in the three preceding reports on the same subject issued in 1893-95, and also compares the figures arrived at in the present investigation with those published in connection with earlier inquiries. In addition, details with respect to the cost of living in different parts of France are stated, thus enabling the purchasing power of wages throughout the country to be estimated.

\* Salaires et Durée du Travail dans l'Industrie Française, Tome IV., Résultat général. Paris, Imprimerie Nationale.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

DURING January, the 13 bureaux furnishing returns for January, 1898, and also for January, 1897, registered 2,780 fresh applications for work, as compared with 3,083 in January, 1897, a decrease of 303. Work was found for 1,143 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 941 persons in January, 1897. The number remaining on the registers at the end of January, 1898, was 2,971, compared with 3,759 a year ago.

(I.) Work Done in January.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications, No. of Situations offered, No. of Workpeople found. Rows include London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, St. Martin, Hackney, Salvation Army, Y.W.C.A.), Provincial (Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool, Glasgow), Total of 13 bureaux, Reading.

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

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Warehouse-men, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men. Rows include London, Provincial, Total Number.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women and Daily Work, &c., Servants, Dress-makers and Sempstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total. Rows include London, Provincial, Total Number.

ERRATUM.—In the GAZETTE for last December and January the number of workpeople found work through the Glasgow Labour Bureaux in November and December 1897 was stated to have been 54 and 44 respectively. These figures should have been 79 in November (viz., 54 permanently and 25 temporarily), and 77 in December (viz., 44 permanently and 33 temporarily).

New Registers were opened at St. Pancras in January, 1897, and at St. Martin in January, 1897 and 1898. Permanent employment. Temporary employment. In addition, temporary engagements for snow clearing, &c., were made through the bureaux in January, 1897, by the St. Pancras Vestry to the number of 529; by the Islington Vestry, 2,345; and by the Hackney Vestry, 669. These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. New Bureaux. Women and Girls are not registered.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

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

The number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of January was 340,434. This corresponds to a rate of 215 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1898.

Compared with December 1897 there is an increase of 2,426 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000. Twenty-three out of the 35 districts show increased rates, the largest increase being in the Leicester district (11 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees, and Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts (8 each).

Compared with January 1897 the number relieved shows an increase of 3,267, the rate per 10,000 remaining the same. The rate has decreased in 17 districts, the most marked decreases being in the North Staffordshire district (13 per 10,000), Wigan, and Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts (10 each), and Hull, and Aberdeen districts (9 each). In 5 districts the rate was unaltered, while in the remaining 13 districts increases are shown, the largest being in the Galway district (21), Bolton, Oldham, &c. (15), Stockton and Tees (14), Manchester (13), Dublin (10).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of January, 1898 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with 1897 (A month ago, A year ago).

Table for ENGLAND & WALES: Metropolitan (West District, North District, Central District, East District, South District), Total Metropolitan, West Ham.

Table for Other Districts (Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Leicester District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea, Total "Other Districts").

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

Table for IRELAND: Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, Galway District, Total for the above Irish Districts.

Table for Total for above 35 districts in January, 1898.

\* Computed throughout on the basis of the estimated population in 1898. † 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. ‡ Exclusive of Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c. who are classified as not able-bodied.



## INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN JANUARY.

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

| Nature of Offence.  | Informations laid. | Con-<br>victions | Amount<br>of<br>Penalties. | Amount<br>of<br>Costs. |
|---|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:-</b>   |                    |                  |                            |                        |
| Neglecting to Limewash ... ..   | 4                  | 3                | £ 3 10 0                   | £ 1 13 0               |
| Neglecting to Fence Machinery ... ..  | 13                 | 11               | 3 2 9                      | 6 1 0                  |
| Employing Young Persons without necessary<br>Certificates ... ..  | 43                 | 42               | 31 11 6                    | 17 17 3                |
| <b>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</b>  |                    |                  |                            |                        |
| Before or after the legal hour ... ..   | 89                 | 87               | 55 3 5                     | 32 18 5                |
| During meal times, or without proper<br>intervals for meals ... ..  | 3                  | 3                | 1 7 6                      | 0 15 6                 |
| Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day<br>substituted ... ..  | 21                 | 21               | 5 14 6                     | 8 17 10                |
| On Sundays or holidays, or children on<br>successive Saturdays ... ..   | 15                 | 15               | 3 2 0                      | 5 15 6                 |
| At night ... ..   | 21                 | 19               | 19 13 0                    | 8 5 0                  |
| Other offences ... ..   | 6                  | 6                | 3 11 0                     | 1 13 0                 |
| <b>Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts,<br/>Notices, &amp;c.:-</b>  |                    |                  |                            |                        |
| Not keeping Registers ... ..  | 21                 | 19               | 14 4 0                     | 9 14 0                 |
| Not affixing or properly filling up Notices<br>and Abstracts ... ..   | 20                 | 20               | 13 6 3                     | 7 13 3                 |
| Not sending Notices required by Act ... ..  | 8                  | 8                | 9 18 6                     | 4 2 10                 |
| Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars<br>Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing)<br>Special Rules ... .. | 5                  | 5                | 6 5 0                      | 2 19 0                 |
| 1   |                    |                  | 0 5 6                      | 0 7 0                  |
| <b>By Workmen:-</b>   |                    |                  |                            |                        |
| Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules ... ..   | 1                  | 1                | —                          | 0 3 6                  |
| <b>By Parents:-</b>   |                    |                  |                            |                        |
| Allowing children to be illegally employed ... ..   | 1                  | 1                | 0 1 0                      | 0 7 6                  |
| <b>Total for January, 1898 ... ..</b>   | <b>272</b>         | <b>262</b>       | <b>170 15 11</b>           | <b>109 3 7</b>         |
| <b>Total for January, 1897 ... ..</b>   | <b>1 8†</b>        | <b>200</b>       | <b>156 15 6</b>            | <b>89 16 1</b>         |

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

| Nature of Offence.                    | Prosecu-<br>tions. | Con-<br>victions. | Cases<br>with-<br>drawn. | Cases<br>dis-<br>missed. | Amount of<br>Fines<br>and Costs. |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| UNDER THE MINES ACTS.                 |                    |                   |                          |                          |                                  |
| <b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:-</b> |                    |                   |                          |                          |                                  |
| Fencing ... ..                        | 1                  | 1                 | —                        | —                        | £ 10 16 0                        |
| Ventilation ... ..                    | 6                  | 6                 | —                        | —                        | 16 10 0                          |
| Shafts and Manholes ... ..            | 7†                 | 7                 | —                        | —                        | 20 4 0                           |
| Plans ... ..                          | 2                  | 2                 | —                        | —                        | 13 0 0                           |
| Miscellaneous ... ..                  | 3                  | 3                 | —                        | —                        | 1 10 0                           |
| <b>By Workmen:-</b>                   |                    |                   |                          |                          |                                  |
| Safety Lamps ... ..                   | 10                 | 10                | —                        | —                        | 13 1 0                           |
| Shot-firing and Explosives ... ..     | 1                  | 1                 | —                        | —                        | 0 15 0                           |
| Timbering ... ..                      | 6                  | 6                 | —                        | —                        | 6 9 0                            |
| Smoking in the Mine ... ..            | 2                  | 2                 | —                        | —                        | 4 19 0                           |
| Miscellaneous ... ..                  | 7                  | 7‡                | —                        | —                        | 4 5 6                            |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1898 ... ..</b>    | <b>45</b>          | <b>45</b>         | <b>—</b>                 | <b>—</b>                 | <b>91 9 6</b>                    |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1897 ... ..</b>    | <b>47</b>          | <b>41</b>         | <b>2</b>                 | <b>4</b>                 | <b>88 2 6</b>                    |
| UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.               |                    |                   |                          |                          |                                  |
| <b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:-</b> |                    |                   |                          |                          |                                  |
| Special Rules ... ..                  | 2                  | 2                 | —                        | —                        | 2 1 0                            |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1898 ... ..</b>    | <b>2</b>           | <b>2</b>          | <b>—</b>                 | <b>—</b>                 | <b>2 1 0</b>                     |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1897 ... ..</b>    | <b>1</b>           | <b>1</b>          | <b>—</b>                 | <b>—</b>                 | <b>0 16 6</b>                    |

### III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

| Nature of Offence.                        | Prosecu-<br>tions. | Con-<br>victions. | Penalties.     | Costs.         |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>By Owners or Masters of Ships:-</b>    |                    |                   |                |                |
| Carrying excessive deck cargoes           | 3                  | 3                 | £ 53 10 0      | £ 11 10 2      |
| Not providing life-saving appli-<br>ances | 1                  | 1                 | 5 0 0          | 2 16 0         |
| <b>By Boarding-House Keepers:-</b>        |                    |                   |                |                |
| Illegal supply ... ..                     | 3                  | 3                 | 6 0 0          | 7 19 0         |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1898 ... ..</b>        | <b>7</b>           | <b>7</b>          | <b>64 10 0</b> | <b>22 5 2</b>  |
| <b>Total for Jan., 1897 ... ..</b>        | <b>4</b>           | <b>4</b>          | <b>54 10 0</b> | <b>12 12 0</b> |

### IV.—Under the Building Societies Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

| Nature of Offence.                              | Prosecu-<br>tions. | With-<br>drawn on<br>compli-<br>ance<br>with Act. | Con-<br>victions. | Fines &<br>Costs. |
|---|--------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Failure to send Annual Statements of<br>Account | 2                  | 1   | 1                 | £ 4 14 0          |

\* Supplied by the Home Office.

† In this case the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice in Scotland being to lay one information against one person however many offences he is charged with.

‡ One of these cases was for an offence relating to "communication."

§ One of these defendants was admonished.

## BUILDING SOCIETIES IN 1896.

THE Second Annual Report (Part II.)\* upon Building Societies issued under the Building Societies Act, 1894, contains a summary of the returns made by building societies in the United Kingdom for a year ending at various dates in 1896.

The total number of societies on the register at the end of 1896 is stated as 3,072, as compared with 3,730 in 1895, a decrease of 658. Of the 3,072 societies, 2,768 were incorporated societies, as compared with 2,735 in 1895, and 304 unincorporated societies, compared with 995 in 1895, a decrease of 691. This decrease appears to be due to the operation of the Building Societies Act, 1894, which provided that unincorporated societies certified after the year 1856 must become incorporated societies before August 25, 1896, or be removed from the register. In notifying this provision to the societies it was discovered that 260 had ceased to exist, or could not be traced; 173 applied for and were granted incorporation, the remaining societies being removed from the register.

Returns were received for 1896 from 2,635 of the 3,072 societies of both classes remaining on the register. The total membership was 635,716, the total receipts for the year £33,306,638, an increase of £3,453,189 over 1895. The total liabilities were returned at £57,010,640, made up of £34,845,218 due to shareholders, £19,030,242 due to depositors, and other creditors, and £3,135,180 undivided profit balances of 2,177 societies.

The assets were made up of £43,350,439 due on mortgage securities; £13,047,018, investments in other securities and cash; and £613,183 deficit balances of 393 societies. The deficits increased by 53.3 per cent. over 1895, the whole of this increase being due to incorporated societies, the unincorporated societies showing an improvement over 1895.

Of the 2,635 societies making returns 2,421 with 90.9 per cent. of the total membership, and 97.2 per cent. of the annual receipts were in England and Wales; 174 societies with 6.7 per cent. of members and 2.3 per cent. of annual receipts were in Scotland, and 89 societies with 2.4 per cent. of members and 0.5 per cent. of annual receipts in Ireland.

The returns under Part I. of the Schedule to the Act show £2,032,930 as the aggregate amount due on mortgages of more than £5,000 each (exclusive of such mortgages coming under Part II. and Part III.), an increase of 56 per cent. over 1895. Under Part II. £5,772,771 is returned as the aggregate value of properties in possession of societies for more than twelve months, an increase of nearly 110 per cent. over 1895. The returns under Part III. show £549,401 as the amount of mortgages upon which the repayments were in arrears for more than twelve months, but in which cases the properties had not been taken over by the societies. This amount was an increase of 55.4 per cent. over 1895.

The report contains a list of 118 societies which have registered the termination of their dissolution during 1896.

## MUNICIPAL LABOUR BUREAUX CONFERENCE.

A CONFERENCE of representatives of Metropolitan Municipal Labour Bureaux, was held at the St. Pancras Vestry Hall on Thursday, January 27th, 1898.

Representatives were present from the Hackney, Islington, St. Martin-in-the-Fields and St. Pancras Vestries.

A representative of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade was present as a visitor.

Resolutions were adopted in favour of a system of inter-communication between the several bureaux, with a view to applicants for work where possible being passed on to districts where labour was required, and appointing a committee consisting of the chairmen of the several Metropolitan Municipal Labour Bureaux Committees to prepare a scheme for a central exchange, to be submitted to the various local authorities.

The Conference also passed resolutions in favour of legislation giving to county and local authorities legal power to establish and carry on Labour Bureaux, and of holding an annual conference of representatives of Municipal Labour Bureaux, the next to be held at Islington.

\* Second Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies of the Proceedings of the Registrars under the Building Societies Acts for the year 1896. (Part II.) P.P. 171-1 of 1897. [Price 1s. 9d.]

## NOTICE.

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