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CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

Summary of the State of Employment in December	1
Special Articles and Reports—	
TRADE DISPUTES OF 1897—PRELIMINARY FIGURES ...	3
CHANGES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1897—PRELIMINARY FIGURES	4
THE DISPUTE IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE... ..	5
LABOUR STATISTICS—ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE	6
THE NATIONAL SUPERANNUATION FUND OF FRANCE ...	6
STATISTICS OF TRADE UNIONS	7
MERCANTILE MARINE	7
FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1897 ...	8
AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND	8
FIRST REPORT ON ACCIDENT INSURANCE IN NORWAY ...	8
RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS	9
TRADE GUILDS IN BULGARIA	10
NEW INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED IN 1897 ...	24
SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN DECEMBER ...	10
DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES	10
Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—	
REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.	
COAL MINING	12
IRON MINING	13
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	13
STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS	14
SHIPBUILDING	14
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	15
SEAMEN	15
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	16
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	16
DISTRICT REPORTS.	
LONDON	17
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	17
Lancashire	18
Yorkshire	19
Midland Counties	20
Eastern Counties	21
South Western Counties	22
WALES	22
SCOTLAND	23
IRELAND	24
Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—	
COLONIES... ..	10
FRANCE	11
GERMANY... ..	11
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY	12
ITALY	12
Miscellaneous Reports for December—	
LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR	9
RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION... ..	27
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	32
FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM	31
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..	31
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	31
Statistical Tables for December—	
TRADE DISPUTES	28
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	26
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR... ..	27
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	25
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	32
LABOUR BUREAUX	30
PAUPERISM	30
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	27
Notes and Reviews—	
HOURS AND EARNINGS OF GOVERNMENT WORKMEN IN DENMARK	29
EXPLOSIVES TESTING COMMITTEE	2
NEW SOUTH WALES LABOUR BUREAU	29
INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS	27
MINERAL INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM	27

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.

[Based on 2,223 returns, viz.: 1,526 from Employers, 576 from Trade Unions, and 121 from other sources.]

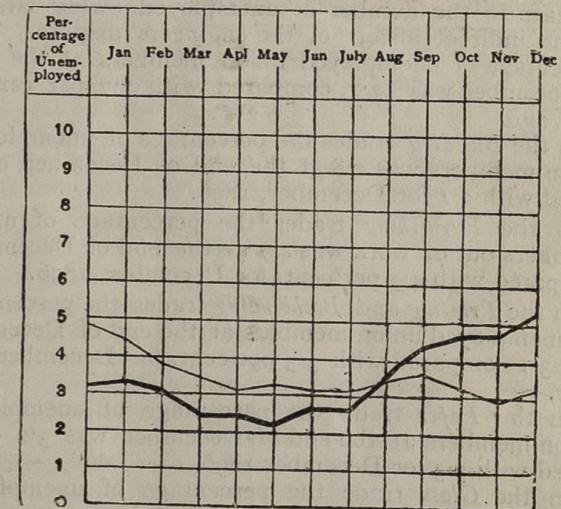
Owing to the Christmas holidays, a comparison of the returns of employment at the end of December with those for November gives a somewhat misleading idea of the tendency of the labour market. The only useful comparison, therefore, in the case of most trades is with the corresponding figures for December, 1896. Compared with a year ago the labour market shows very distinctly the depressing effect of the long-continued dispute in the engineering trade.

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 113 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 460,866, 24,636 (or 5.34 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3.2 per cent. in the 111 unions, with a membership of 441,481, from which returns were received for December, 1896.

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

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



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

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of December, 1897.		Corresponding Percentages for	
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Under 1 per cent.	23	28,133	6.1	7.9
1 and under 2 per cent.	19	85,800	18.7	31.9
2 " "	21	88,312	19.2	26.9
3 " "	21	66,964	14.5	15.6
5 " "	7	92,291	20.0	3.9
7 " "	7	23,439	5.0	4.3
10 per cent. and upwards	15	76,127	16.5	1.9
Total	113	460,866	100.0	100.0

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment continues good in this industry. The average number of days worked per week at pits at which 428,071 persons were employed was 5.31 per week in December, as against 5.32 days in November and 5.16 days in December, 1896. (For further details see page 12.)

Iron Mining.—Employment was good in this industry in December, though not quite so good as a year ago. The 17,601 workpeople employed at mines included in the returns worked an average of 5.58 days in December, as compared with 5.65 days in December, 1896. The figures for December, being affected by Christmas, do not compare with those for November. The number of workpeople employed was higher by 2.1 per cent. than a year ago. (For further details see page 13.)

Pig Iron Industry.—The number of furnaces in blast, so far as covered by the returns received, was 351, as compared with 350 in November. The number of persons employed, however, remains practically unchanged. As compared with a year ago, there were 6 more furnaces in blast and 491 more persons employed. (For further details see page 13.)

Employment at **Steelworks** is better than a year ago. At 138 works 38,735 workpeople were employed at the end of December, as compared with 38,063 at the end of December, 1896. (For further details, see page 14.)

At **Puddling Furnaces** and **Rolling Mills** employment shows no material change as compared with December, 1896. At 93 works 19,402 persons were employed as compared with 19,311 persons a year ago. (For further details see page 14.)

At **Tinplate** works the number of mills at work at the end of December was 326, being one more than in November, but two less than at the end of December, 1896. (For further details see page 14.)

Employment in the **Engineering** and **Metal** trades continues to be affected by the dispute. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December, apart from those directly affected by the dispute, was 6.5, compared with 2.5 for December, 1896.

The **Shipbuilding** trades again show an appreciable increase in the number of unemployed, owing largely to the indirect effects of the engineers' dispute. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 14.1, compared with 7.7 per cent. a year ago.

In the **Building** trades the percentage of unemployed union members was 2.8 at the end of December, compared with 2.1 for December, 1896.

In the **Furnishing** trades the percentage of union members out of work was 4.7 at the end of December, compared with 4.3 per cent. for December, 1896.

In the **Printing** and **Bookbinding** trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 3.1 compared with 3.3 per cent. for December last year.

In the **Paper** trade the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 3.2 compared with 3.3 for December 1896.

In the **Glass** trade the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 11.1, compared with 12.5 per cent. at the end of December, 1896.

In the **Leather** trade there is a decline, the percentage of unemployed union members being 5.5 at the end of December compared with 2.9 a year ago.

Employment in the ready-made and bespoke branches of the **Boot** and **Shoe** trade continues bad.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade continues very slack; in the bespoke branch it is quiet.

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

Employment in the **Woollen** trade shows a further decline; in the **Worsted** and **Hosiery** trades it continues slack.

As regards the employment of women in the **Textile**

trades, information respecting 542 mills employing 85,000 women and girls, shows that 62 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 61 per cent. in November, and 75 per cent. in December, 1896. (For further details see page 16.)

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—At the docks and principal wharves the average daily number of labourers employed in December was 16,106, compared with 16,053 in November, and 17,037 in December 1896. (For further details see page 16.)

The employment of **Agricultural** labourers was generally regular during the month, and was not interfered with by frost or snow. In a few districts some slight irregularity of work existed towards the latter end of the month owing to wet weather. In the Eastern Counties employment was particularly good for the time of year. (For further details see page 15.)

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-eight fresh disputes began in December, 1897, involving 1,879 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for November was 41, involving 6,644 workpeople, and for December, 1896, 36 disputes involving 6,316 workpeople. Eight disputes took place in the building trades, 3 in mining and quarrying, 2 in metal, engineering and shipbuilding, 6 in textile trades, and 9 in other industries. Of the 30 new and old disputes, involving 7,713 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 11, involving 1,030 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 10, involving 1,102 persons, in favour of the employers, while 9, involving 5,581 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 28.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of 13,300 workpeople were reported during December, of which number 10,200 received advances and 3,100 sustained decreases. The net result was an increase estimated at about 6d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. Changes affecting about 2,500 workpeople, or about 20 per cent. only of the total number affected, were preceded by strikes; and changes, affecting about 8,700 workpeople, were arranged under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting about 2,100 workpeople were obtained after negotiation between the employers and their workpeople, or their representatives, resort being made to arbitration in one case affecting 300 workpeople. (For further details see page 26.)

Pauperism.—In 35 selected urban districts 338,008 persons were relieved on one day in the second week in December. These figures correspond to a rate of 216 per 10,000 of the population of these districts, being the same rate as a year ago. (For further details see page 30.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom during December for places out of Europe was 5,973, as compared with 6,183 in December, 1896. (For further details see page 31.)

EXPLOSIVES TESTING COMMITTEE.

THE Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the best tests to determine the safety of explosives for use in coal mines has recently issued a report. The Committee refer to a Testing Station (of which a description and drawings are given), erected in accordance with the recommendations of an earlier report, and express the opinion that no improvement can at present be suggested. They consider, in some detail, various technical points connected with the testing, and recommend a standard test for the time being and a certain scale of fees for testing and re-testing particular explosives. They also point out that the fact of an explosive having passed the test is a guarantee only of its comparative, and not of its absolute, safety in dangerous workings. Accordingly, they recommend that the list of permitted explosives should from time to time be revised and the conditions of the tests altered if need be. Tests carried out in accordance with their recommendations have resulted in the issue of a new Explosives in Coal Mines Order under date of December 20th, 1897, promulgating a new list of permitted explosives. The new order itself is identical in terms with the order of the 4th June last, which it repeals, except that a printer's error has been corrected.

TRADE DISPUTES OF 1897.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

THE following figures with regard to the trade disputes of 1897 are preliminary, and subject to some revision in the Annual Report, but not to any extent which can appreciably affect the results.

The statistics of disputes in the year which has just ended show some interesting features. The number of disputes recorded was smaller than in the previous year, being 965, compared with 1,021. The number of persons affected—233,000—though showing some increase compared with 1896, was, with this exception, the smallest for any of the seven years for which these statistics have been recorded.

But, on the other hand, the aggregate number of working days lost, which in some ways is the most trustworthy measure of the magnitude of the disputes of the year, was greater in 1897 than in any year since 1893, when the great coal dispute took place, the total for 1897 being about 10,400,000, compared with 3,748,525 in 1896, 5,542,652 in 1895, and 9,322,096 in 1894.

This result is accounted for by the great loss of time attributable to the engineering dispute, which, though affecting a number of persons not very much greater than that involved in the boot and shoe dispute of 1895, considerably less than that affected by the second Scottish miners' dispute of 1894, and not a quarter of the number affected by the great mining dispute of 1893, has caused a very great loss of time owing to its great duration (twenty-six weeks up to the end of the year). The lost time in 1897 attributable to this single dispute outweighs that caused by all the remaining 964 disputes of the year.

The great majority of the disputes of the year were, as usual, very small. No fewer than 497 disputes (or more than half the total number recorded) involved less than 50 persons each, and only accounted in the aggregate for less than 10,000 workpeople, or 4.2 per cent., of the total. The number of disputes involving over 1,000 persons each was only 33, but they affected an aggregate of over 126,000 persons, or more than half the total persons concerned in all the disputes of the year, as will be seen from the following table.

Disputes grouped by Magnitude.

Limits of Groups.	Number of Disputes.		Number of Workpeople.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
Disputes affecting—				
5,000 workpeople and upwards ...	3	4	19,141	75,200
2,500 and under 5,000 ...	5	7	15,740	20,200
1,000 " 2,500 ...	30	22	38,373	31,200
500 " 1,000 ...	53	48	35,828	33,000
250 " 500 ...	120	86	40,814	30,000
100 " 250 ...	191	144	29,438	22,600
50 " 100 ...	152	137	19,461	11,000
Under 50 ...	467	497	8,892	9,800
Totals ...	1,021	965	198,687	233,000

The following table enables a comparison to be made of the disputes of the past seven years as regards number, magnitude and results.

General Summary for 1891-7.

Year.	Number of			Percentage proportion of Workpeople affected by settled Disputes, the results of which were			
	Disputes.	Workpeople affected by Disputes.	Working days lost through Disputes (Aggregate).	In favour of the Workpeople.	In favour of the Employers.	Compromised.	Indefinite or not known.
1891	906	267,460	6,808,742	25.6	34.8	36.7	2.9
1892	700	356,799	17,381,936	27.5	19.9	51.4	1.2
1893	783	636,386	31,205,062	62.9	12.1	24.7	0.3
1894	1,061	324,245	9,322,096	22.1	42.1	34.2	1.6
1895	876	263,758	5,542,652	24.1	27.9	47.1	0.9
1896	1,021	198,687	3,748,525	39.5	33.4	26.9	0.2
1897*	965	233,000	10,400,000	30.5	29.0	39.7	0.8

* Preliminary only.

Of the disputes commencing in 1897, 29, involving 54,500 workpeople, are still unsettled, by far the most important of the unsettled disputes being that in the engineering trade. Of the 936 disputes begun and ended in 1897, disputes involving 30.5 per cent. of the total number affected were settled in favour of the workpeople; disputes involving 29 per cent. in favour of the employers; disputes involving nearly 40 per cent. by compromise. As compared with 1896 there is a decrease in the percentages both of workmen and of employers who entirely gained their demands, and a corresponding increase in the proportion who settled their differences by compromises.

The distribution of the workpeople affected by disputes in 1897 among the principal groups of trades is shown in the following table.

Disputes classified by Trades.

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople affected by Disputes in						
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.*
Building ...	25,229	15,079	15,348	13,814	9,216	33,470	15,250
Mining & Quarrying ...	51,427	120,386	506,182	216,580	83,879	67,203	46,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	60,502	40,121	39,415	27,974	46,439	43,210	100,500
Textile ...	44,837	103,255	46,041	40,027	64,297	33,717	37,250
Clothing ...	40,992	35,536	9,948	5,576	50,071	4,016	6,750
Miscellaneous ...	44,473	41,522	28,452	20,274	9,856	12,071	24,250
Totals ...	267,460	356,799	636,386	324,245	263,758	198,687	233,000

As compared with 1896, the building trades and mining and quarrying industries are the only groups showing a falling off in disputes. The great increase is in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, the number affected, 100,500, being larger than the corresponding figure in any of the six previous years. Of this number about half are accounted for by the present engineering dispute. The number affected in the textile trades, although somewhat greater than in 1896, is below the corresponding figures for the years 1891-5.

Next to the general engineering dispute, the most extensive dispute of the year was also in the engineering trade, at Oldham, where about 12,000 persons were idle for 50 days owing to a demand for an advance of wages. Next in importance as regards time lost (though not as regards number affected) was a dispute in the Norwich boot and shoe trade, through which a number of men varying from 1,470 to 700 were idle for 207 days. Other disputes affecting considerable bodies of operatives were among London farriers, Edinburgh stonemasons, Belfast flax and linen operatives, navvies and labourers at Barry Docks, and weavers at Clitheroe.

The numbers of workpeople affected by disputes as to wages and hours of labour are shown separately in the following table.

Disputes classified by Causes.

Causes of Trade Disputes.	Number of workpeople affected in						
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.*
Wages ...	130,091	207,034	567,460	234,903	143,198	115,817	96,000
Hours of Labour ...	13,302	2,756	1,191	6,105	2,858	3,658	57,000
Other Causes ...	124,067	147,009	67,735	83,237	117,702	79,212	80,000
Totals ...	267,460	356,799	636,386	324,245	263,758	198,687	233,000

It will be seen that there was a decrease during 1897 in the importance of disputes as to wages and an increase in those relating to hours of labour. The number of workpeople affected by wages disputes in 1897 was 96,000, or 41 per cent. of the total, compared with 58 per cent. in 1896. On the other hand, the proportion affected by disputes about hours of labour shows a great increase from 2 to 24 per cent. mainly owing to the engineering dispute, which arose primarily from a demand for reduction of hours in London, although other matters of great importance are also now involved.

CHANGES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1897.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

The following summary of changes in rates of wages and hours of labour reported during 1897 is preliminary only, but, owing to the completeness of the monthly reports, it is unlikely that any subsequent alterations or additions will materially affect the general result.

Changes in Rates of Wages.

The upward movement of wages which took place in 1896 was continued in 1897. The changes in rates of wages in the United Kingdom reported during 1897 affected 575,000 separate individuals. Of this number 538,200 received a net increase, 14,500 sustained a net decrease, and the wages of 22,300, though affected by upward and downward changes during the year, stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning. The estimated effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of the total number of workpeople affected was a net increase of £28,750 per week.

The following comparative statement shows particulars with regard to the changes in wages recorded in each of the five years, 1893-7:—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.*
Number of Changes—					
Increases	508	608	624	1,471	1,300
Decreases	198	171	180	136	100
Total	706	779	804	1,607	1,400
Aggregate number of workpeople affected— (Counting individuals as many times as their wages change)					
By increases	655,014	321,011	93,981	558,744	602,000
By decreases	767,494	917,727	917,722	369,297	42,000
Total	1,422,508	1,238,738	1,011,703	928,041	644,000
Number of separate individuals affected—					
By increases	142,364	175,615	79,867	382,225	538,200
By decreases	256,473	488,357	351,895	167,357	14,500
By upward and downward changes leaving wages at the same level at the end of the year as at the beginning	151,140	6,414	4,956	58,072	22,300
Total	549,977	670,386	436,718	607,654	575,000
Computed net amount of change per week—Increase (+), decrease (-)	+ £12,426	- £48,091	- £28,211	+ £26,592	+ £28,750
Average weekly rise (+) or fall (-) in rates of wages of the number of separate individuals affected	s. d. + 0 5½	s. d. - 1 4½	s. d. - 1 3½	s. d. + 0 10½	s. d. + 1 0

The above table shows that the net amount of the rise in 1897 was slightly greater than in the previous year, viz., £28,750 per week, as compared with £26,592. The proportion of persons who gained a rise was considerably higher in 1897 than in 1896. Thus in 1897 nearly 94 per cent. of those whose wages were changed gained a net increase, compared with 63 per cent. in 1896, and only 18 per cent. in 1895.

From the table given below it will be seen that 455,000 out of the total 575,000 persons affected are accounted for by two great groups of industries, viz., mining and quarrying; and metal, engineering and shipbuilding.

The most noticeable feature of the wages movement in 1897 was the increase in wages in the coal mining and engineering and shipbuilding industries.

As regards coal mining, the downward movement in wages which began in 1894 and continued through 1895, ceased towards the end of 1896. In 1897 the miners in Northumberland, Durham, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and Fife and Kinross received small advances, and there were no general decreases. Altogether 240,000 coal miners were affected by changes in 1897, and the net result was an increase of £6,650 per week.

In the group comprising the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries, 204,000 workpeople were affected by changes, of which number 173,500 received increases, 9,500 sustained decreases, the wages of the remaining 21,000, though changed during the year, standing at the

* Preliminary figures.

same level at the end as at the beginning. Twenty thousand ironworkers in the Midlands are included in this latter figure. The decreases were mainly in the tinplate trade, in which employment was very irregular during the year. The number of workmen in the engineering and shipbuilding trades who received advances was 144,000, and there were practically no decreases.

The steady increase shown during the previous year in the wages of building trade operatives was maintained during 1897. The net result on the wages of the 78,000 workpeople affected by changes during the year was an increase of £8,200 per week.

The distribution of the changes among the principal groups of industries is shown in the following table:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople (separate individuals) affected by Changes in Rates of Wages in				
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Building	Increase ... 40,017 Decrease ... 4,521 At same level* 274	32,618 101 274	24,431 — —	88,922 24 —	78,000 — —
Mining and Quarrying	Increase ... 75,834 Decrease ... 103,802 At same level* 130,290	98,491 437,938 2,773	14,127 313,192 2,773	3,961 149,175 54,000	250,000 1,000 —
Metal Engineering & Shipbuilding	Increase ... 5,377 Decrease ... 95,279 At same level* 20,600	18,344 39,384 893	18,392 26,431 4,935	240,777 13,043 4,072	173,500 9,500 21,000
Textile	Increase ... 4,196 Decrease ... 50,891 At same level* 2,135	8,662 3,936 2,135	10,192 5,396 —	7,122 2,834 —	4,700 3,000 1,300
Clothing	Increase ... 3,599 Decrease ... —	3,457 1,450	1,785 40	2,697 700	2,000 —
Miscellaneous	Increase ... 3,210 Decrease ... 1,944 At same level* 250	4,894 5,468 339	4,101 6,740 21	24,464 1,340 —	23,000 1,000 —
Employees of Public Authorities	Increase ... 10,131 Decrease ... 36	9,149 80	6,839 96	14,282 241	7,000 —
Totals	Increase ... 142,364 Decrease ... 256,473 At same level* 151,140	175,615 488,357 6,414	79,867 351,895 4,956	382,225 167,357 58,072	538,200 14,500 22,300
Total Number affected	849,977	670,386	436,718	607,654	575,000

The total figures given above do not include agricultural labourers, sailors and firemen, or railway servants, which for various reasons are not treated statistically in the same way as other industries. Such returns, however, as have been obtained by the Department with regard to these industries show that they all shared to a greater or less extent in the rise of wages which marked the year.

Changes in Hours of Labour.

The number of workpeople affected by changes in hours of labour during 1897, in each group of trades, and the net aggregate amount of the reduction in working hours per week, is shown in the following table:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople in the under-mentioned trades whose hours of labour at end of the year as compared with end of the previous year showed		Total No. of workpeople whose hours of labour were changed.	Net aggregate amount of reduction in hours of labour per week.
	An Increase	A Decrease		
Building	30	14,000	14,030	15,000
Mining and Quarrying	59	27	86	92
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	70	32,000†	32,070†	221,000†
Textile	—	300	300	1,000
Printing	—	8,050	8,200	16,000
Woodworking	—	3,350	3,350	11,000
Miscellaneous	—	5,000	5,000	25,000
Employees of Public Authorities	100	2,000	2,100	11,000
Totals and Average for 1897†	409	64,727	65,136	300,092
Ditto 1896	73,616	34,655	108,271	78,533
Ditto 1895	1,287	21,448	22,735	44,105
Ditto 1894	128	77,030	77,158	311,545
Ditto 1893	1,550	33,119	34,649	68,937

* Workpeople whose wages after undergoing upward and downward changes during the year stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning.

† The above figures include a number of workpeople in engineering establishments in London who obtained a 48 hours' week during 1897 and did not subsequently revert to the longer hours.

It will be seen that the number of workpeople whose working hours were shortened during 1897 was greater than in any of the immediately preceding years, except 1894—the year of the adoption of the eight-hour day in Government establishments. The result was a net decrease of over 300,000 hours per week.

Judged by the net amount of the reductions in hours per week, as shown in the following comparative table, it appears that the reductions in hours of labour in private establishments were greater in 1897 than in any of the four previous years. The metal, engineering and shipbuilding, building and printing trades are those in which the most important decreases in working hours took place. Included in the metal, &c., group are 5,000 blastfurnacemen, who now work on the three instead of the two-shift system.

Groups of Trades.	Net Amount of Reduction in Hours per Week in				
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Building	18,602	24,181	18,351	4,792	15,000
Mining and Quarrying	418	6,678	8,902	2,068	92
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	10,337	34,632	53	9,440	221,000
Textile	3,783	4,519	1,152	481	1,000
Clothing	15,835	4,776	646	1,683	16,000
Printing and Allied Trades	6,782	6,431	826	7,205	16,000
Woodworking	2,437	15,463	1,508	13,356	11,000
Miscellaneous Trades	3,447	30,894	1,827	25,625	25,000
Total for Workpeople in Private Establishments	61,341	125,574	33,265	65,150	289,092
Employees of Public Authorities	7,596	185,971	10,840	13,383	11,000
Grand total	68,937	311,545	44,105	78,533	300,092

THE DISPUTE IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE.

In the last number of the GAZETTE (p. 355) the narrative of events in connection with the dispute in the engineering trade was brought up to the 14th December. On that day the conference, which had adjourned from December 3rd, resumed its sittings. The result of the ballot of the workmen on the provisional conditions of settlement as published in the last GAZETTE was announced as follows: For the proposals, 752; against, 68,966.

At the adjourned conference the proposals relating to management were referred to a sub-committee of three representatives of each side, viz., the Chairman, one of the Secretaries and another member of the Employers' Federation, and the Chairman and General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, and a representative of the Steam Engine Makers' Society.

Consultations took place between the sections of the Committee and their colleagues when necessary.

The proceedings of the Conference lasted for four days. The employers' proposals with regard to management were amended, the revised conditions as provisionally agreed to being given below.

I.—General Principle agreed to 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.

II.—Illustrations of the above General Principle.

1. 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 to give preference to non-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.

3. OVERTIME.—Terms of recommendation agreed to be made to employers:—When overtime is necessary, the federated employers recommend the following as a basis and guide—that no man shall be required to work more than forty hours overtime in any four weeks after full shop hours have been worked, allowance being made for time lost through sickness or absence with leave. In the following cases overtime is not to be restricted—viz:—break-downs in plant; general repairs, including ships; repair or replace work, whether for the employer or his customer; 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 local association of employers and the workmen concerned, existing practices regarding overtime may be continued.

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 rates 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.

5. APPRENTICES.—There shall be no limitation of the number of apprentices.

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.

III.—Provision 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.

The demand for a 48 hours' week was again put forward but refused by the employers, who also declined a proposal for a 51 hours week, and for the reference of the hours question to arbitration.

No concession being made with regard to hours, the men's representatives submitted the revised terms to their acceptance. The following were the questions submitted to ballot:—

(1) "Votes in favour of or against acceptance of employers' terms as submitted herewith" (i.e., as printed above).

(2) "Please vote for or against endorsement of following offer made by men's delegates at Conference. The offer made was pro-

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1897.

PRELIMINARY figures have been received from the Home Office, showing that the number of deaths reported from accidents in mines and quarries in 1897 was 1,095, a decrease of 94 as compared with the previous year. Of these 1,095 deaths, 923 were in or about coal mines, 49 in metalliferous mines, and 123 in quarries.

Coal and Metalliferous Mines.—Of the deaths in mines from accidents in 1897, 867 were underground and 105 on the surface. The following table groups the accidents by causes, and gives the number of deaths in 1897 and 1896 respectively, and the average for the five preceding years:—

Cause of Accident.	Number of Deaths.					
	Coal Mines.			Metalliferous Mines.		
	1897.	1896.	Average for period 1891-5.	1897.	1896.	Average for period 1891-5.
Underground —						
Explosions of fire-damp or coal dust ..	19	173	141	—	—	—
Falls of ground ..	475	424	439	10	15	20
Accidents in shafts ..	57	68	97	2	11	13
Other accidents underground ..	275	237	256	29	7	15
Surface ..	97	123	117	8	7	6
Total ..	923	1,025	1,080	49	40	54

It will be seen from the above figures that the fatalities in 1897 were considerably less than in 1896, or during the five years 1891-5. A reference to the detailed figures given in reports for previous years shows that this is the first year since 1888 in which less than 1,000 deaths have been recorded. The decrease is almost entirely accounted for by the freedom from serious explosions in mines in 1897.

The total number of persons employed in mines in 1897 has not yet been published, but for 1896 it was 725,803.

Quarries.—In quarries included under the Quarries Act of 1894, the number of deaths is given as 123, as compared with 124 in 1896 and 102 in 1895.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1897.

THERE was very little change in the rates of wages agreed upon at the various hiring markets held in Scotland between August and December, 1897, compared with the corresponding period in 1896. Information was received by the Department of the rates agreed upon at 41 hiring markets in the counties of Aberdeen, Ayr, Banff, Berwick, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Kincardine, Lanark, Nairn, Perth, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Stirling, and Wigtown. Generally speaking, the reports state that no changes took place in the rates of wages for farm servants who remained in their places, but that those who changed frequently accepted a reduction of 10s. to 15s., and in some cases 20s. for the half year. This is said to be chiefly due to the forward state of farm work, owing to the fine weather which prevailed in the autumn after harvest, which enabled some employers to slightly reduce their staff of men during the winter. The supply of lads and women, especially women for field work, was, it is stated, frequently scarce, and there was an upward tendency in their wages.

In Fifeshire and Kinross the wages of first and second horsemen at the yearly hirings were from £26 to £33, and of third horsemen from £24 to £29. At the half-yearly hirings the wages for the half year in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Dumfries, Elgin, Forfar, Kincardine, Lanark, Nairn and Stirling were usually from £12 to £16 for first and second horsemen.

In addition to the rates of yearly and half-yearly wages referred to, married men get a free house, together with a small garden in some cases; also allowances of milk, oatmeal and potatoes, and coals free, or carted free. Unmarried men are lodged and boarded in the farmhouses, or else lodged in bothies, or with married servants, and given allowances of food.

FIRST REPORT ON ACCIDENT INSURANCE IN NORWAY.

THE State Insurance Office of Norway, established for the purpose of administering the law of July 23rd, 1894, for the compulsory insurance of workmen against accidents in certain trades, has issued its first report, covering the period from July 1st, 1895, when the law came into operation, to December 31st, 1896.* The figures are provisional.

The committee of management of the Insurance Office consists of three members appointed by the Crown. The outdoor staff consisted, at the end of 1896, of 500 local inspectors appointed by the communal authorities, their salaries being paid to the extent of one-half by the State and one-half by the Communes.

All proprietors of establishments coming within the scope of the law were required to furnish the local inspectors, at least three months before the law took effect, with a statement describing the trade carried on, the number of workpeople employed, and the amount of wages paid. By the end of 1896 statements containing such information had been received from the proprietors of 8,896 establishments. Of these 7,794 were classified according to the degree of risk which they involved, 687 were found to be free from the obligation to insure, and 415 remained to be dealt with. The whole of the premium for insurance has to be found by the employer, the rate being fixed in proportion to his wages bill and to the degree of accident risk connected with the work carried on. In calculating the wages bill, anything over £66 10s. in the yearly earnings of a workman is left out of account. It has been estimated that the yearly premiums payable to the State Insurance Office in respect of 7,488 of the insured establishments will be £43,594.

Between July 1, 1895, and December 31, 1896, 3,842 accidents were reported. It is stated, however, that many accidents were not reported. Of the 3,842 accidents, 1,196 occurred in 1895, and of these 218 entailed compensation, viz: 31 deaths, 162 cases of permanent disablement (4 being total and 158 partial), and 25 cases of temporary disablement for more than four weeks.

The compensation payable under the law is as follows:

(a) *For Death:* A funeral benefit of £2 15s., and pensions to the surviving widow (or widower, if disabled), to each legitimate child up to the age of 15, and in certain cases to surviving parents or grandparents. For the widow or widower the pension corresponds to 20 per cent., and for each child to 15 per cent. of the annual earnings (up to £66 10s.) of the deceased; but the combined pensions may not exceed 50 per cent. of such earnings.

(b) *For Disablement:* From the beginning of the fifth week after the accident, the cost of medical treatment, together with a pension amounting, in the case of total disablement, to 60 per cent. of the yearly earnings, but in any case to not less than 6½d. per working day, or £8 6s. 3d. per annum. For partial disablement the pension is less in proportion; but unless this would come to at least 5 per cent. of earnings no pension is allowed.

The number of pensions granted in respect of accidents reported in 1895 was 235. These consisted of 162 pensions for total and partial injuries of a permanent character, the average amount of a pension being £7 10s. 9d.; 25 allowances for temporary injury, at an average rate of £11 7s. 2d. per annum; 15 pensions to widows, 31 to children and 2 to parents, the average yearly rates being £8 3s., £5 7s. 6d. and £9 8s. 5d. respectively.

* Beretning fra Rigsforsikringsanstalten om dens Virksomhed i 1ste regnskabsperiode omfattende tidsrummet, 1 juli, 1895, til 31 december, 1896.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Carpenters and Joiners at St. Helens.

SIR THOMAS WRIGHT, who was appointed as arbitrator by the Board of Trade (See GAZETTE for December, page 360) issued his award on December 20th. He awarded an advance of ½d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.) to come into force on April 4th, 1898, except as to contracts in hand on which the old rate is to be paid. Saturdays after 12.30 are to be in future paid at the rate of time and a half. Men employed more than three miles from the employer's place of business, are in future to walk back to the three mile radius in their employer's time. No boy is to be bound apprentice after attaining the age of sixteen years. A new clause has been added to the arbitration rule providing that the decision of the Court shall be arrived at before the end of February and come into operation on the first Monday in April. Failing a decision before the end of February, the old rules to remain in force for another year. Notice of alteration is in future to expire in November instead of March 1st or September 1st.

The rules come into force on April 4th, 1898.

(b) OTHER CASES.

Amended form of the Brooklands Agreement.

As a result of the dispute in the cotton trade of 1892-93 an agreement, generally known as the Brooklands Agreement, was entered into on March 24th, 1893, between the representatives of employers and employed. For some time representatives have been engaged in discussing the terms of this agreement with a view to their amendment. The revised terms were finally signed on December 24th, 1897. The following is the text of the three sections in which alterations have been made, the portions in italics representing the amendments. The remaining nine sections have remained unchanged:—

6.—That in future no local Employers' Association, nor the Federated Association of Employers, on the one hand, nor any Trades Union or Federation of Trades Unions on the other hand, shall countenance, encourage, or support any lock-out or strike which may arise from, or be caused by any question, difference, or dispute, contention, grievance, or complaint, with respect to work, wages, or any other matter, unless and until the same has been submitted in writing by the Secretary of the local Employers' Association to the Secretary of the local Trades Union, or by the Secretary of the local Trades Union to the Secretary of the local Employers' Association, as the case may be; nor unless and until such Secretaries or a Committee consisting of three representatives of the local Trades Union with their Secretary, and three representatives of the Employers' Association with their Secretary, shall have failed, after full inquiry, to settle and arrange such question, difference, or dispute, contention, complaint, or grievance, within the space of seven days from the receipt of the communication in writing aforesaid; nor unless and until, failing the last-mentioned settlement or arrangement, if either of the Secretaries of the local Trades Union or local Employers' Association shall so deem it advisable, a Committee consisting of four representatives of the Federated Association of Employers, with their Secretary, and four representatives of the Amalgamated Association of the Operatives' Trade Unions, with their Secretary, shall have failed to settle or arrange, as aforesaid, within the further space of seven days from the time when such matter was referred to them, provided always that the Secretaries or the Committees hereinbefore mentioned, as the case may be, shall have power to extend or enlarge the said periods of seven days whenever they may deem it expedient or desirable to do so. Should either the local Employers' Association or the local Operatives' Association fail to call such a meeting within seven days (unless by consent of the other side), then the party which has asked for the meeting shall have the right to at once carry the question before the Joint Committee of the Employers' Federation and the Operatives' Amalgamation without further reference to the local Association, and should either the Employers' Federation or the Operatives' Amalgamation fail to deal with the matter in dispute within a further seven days then either side shall be at liberty to take such action as they may think fit.

7.—Should a firm make any change which when completed involves an alteration in the work or rate of wages of the Operatives which is considered not satisfactory by them, then the firm shall at once place the matter in the hands of their Association, who shall immediately take action as per clause 6,

failing which the Operatives involved shall have the right to tender notices to cease work without further notice to the Employers' Association. When a settlement is arrived at, it shall date from the time the change was made.

9.—There shall not be placed upon any Joint Committee of the Federated Association and the Amalgamated Association more than one member of the local Employers' Association and one member of the local Trades Union, in addition to the respective Secretaries of these bodies. The rest of the said Joint Committee shall consist of persons who have not locally adjudicated upon the matter in question. It is understood that in case of unavoidable absence of Secretary a substitute may be present to act in same capacity as Secretary.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

Inducing Employer to Dismiss Workmen.—Allen v. Flood.—This was an appeal in a case originally heard in the Queen's Bench Division by a judge sitting with a jury (see LABOUR GAZETTE, March, 1895). Damages being given against the defendant, he appealed to the Court of Appeal, who affirmed the decision of the Court below. On appeal to the House of Lords, as there was a diversity of opinion among their Lordships, they announced that the appeal would be re-heard in the presence of certain of the judges. In consequence, the case was subsequently heard before nine of their Lordships and eight of the judges, who assembled to hear the arguments and tender their advice. The facts of the case were shortly as follows:—The respondents were shipwrights employed by a shipbuilding company, the engagement being a daily one, to do wood-work on a vessel. The Company employed a much greater number of men doing ironwork, than of shipwrights, and a strong feeling existed against the respondents, on the grounds that they being shipwrights had done ironwork for another firm on a previous occasion. An official of a Trade Union, the appellant, came to the dock in consequence of a telegram sent by one of the men doing ironwork. This man informed him that the men were talking of throwing down their tools at dinner time. The appellant replied that the men must not leave without the sanction of the Union. The appellant shortly afterwards saw the managing director, to whom he showed the telegram, and stated that the men did not like working with the two shipwrights, and that if they were continued on the job, the iron men would leave off work or be called out. The managing director dismissed the two men, and they brought an action for damages against the chairman and secretary of the Trade Union, and also the appellant, for having conspired together to induce the company to discharge the plaintiffs. The judge stated that no case had been established of conspiracy, or of coercion or intimidation. The jury found there was no conspiracy, as the chairman and secretary had nothing to do with the matter, and judgment was given for them with costs; but they found that the third defendant (the appellant) maliciously induced the company to discharge plaintiffs, and gave both the plaintiffs £20 as damages. The question addressed to the eight judges by the House of Lords was, "Assuming the evidence given by plaintiffs' witnesses to be correct, was there any evidence of a cause of action fit to be left to the jury?" Six of the judges answered the question in the affirmative, and two in the negative. The House of Lords subsequently allowed the appeal, six of their lordships being in favour of this course and three against. The judgment of the majority was to the effect that the appellant (the defendant in the action) had committed no actionable wrong, and that the respondents (the plaintiffs in the action) had no cause of action against him with regard to the part he took in the proceedings which resulted in the loss of their employment. Judgment was entered for the appellant with costs in the House of Lords and in both courts below, including the costs of the trial.—*House of Lords, December 14th.*

Inducing Employer to Dismiss Workmen.—This was a case which was heard by a judge and jury, being a case arising out of the recent strike in the cab trade with regard to privileged cabs at railway stations. After obtaining the answers of the jury to certain questions submitted to them, the judge deferred entering judgment until after the decision of the House of Lords in the case of *Allen v. Flood*. The action was brought by a cab driver against three defendants for damages for illegal interference with his business or work, and for maliciously causing, or conspiring to cause, persons not to enter into contracts with, or deal with persons employing him, and thereby throwing him out of employment. An injunction was also claimed (See LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1897). The plaintiff was in the employment of an owner of privileged cabs. When the strike broke out, 60 of the men who worked with plaintiff's employer left, leaving only four, among whom was the plaintiff. One of the defendants communicated with the employer, and told him that he must discharge the four men, or the other men would never go back again, which he accordingly did. Plaintiff also alleged that subsequently, through the action of the defendants, he was prevented from obtaining other employment. The judge directed the jury that there was no evidence against the defendants, except in the case of the one who had communicated with the employer as to the discharge of the plaintiff, and gave them judgment with costs. As regards the other defendant, he directed the jury that there was no evidence of any contract between the plaintiff and the employer or any other person that he would employ the plaintiff. Further, that there was no evidence that the defendant did anything to

prevent any person other than the employer from employing the plaintiff. After the judgment was given in the House of Lords in the case of *Allen v. Flood*, the judge gave judgment, and stated that that case bound him to enter judgment for the defendant upon every finding of the jury, except that regarding conspiracy by the defendant. He held that the judgment in the case of *Allen v. Flood*, apart from the question of conspiracy, established that nothing proved to have been done by defendant in the present case amounted to an actionable wrong, and that the fact of his having conspired with others to do those things did not render such otherwise innocent acts illegal and wrongful so as to give plaintiff a right of action against him. None of the acts done or agreed to be done gave the plaintiff any right of action for injury in law to any legal right of his. Judgment for defendant.—*Queen's Bench Division, December 18th.*

FACTORY ACTS.
Neglecting to Fence a Vat.—A firm of chemical manufacturers were fined £5 and 15s. costs for neglect of a Special Rule, in failing to fence a vat; in consequence of which a fatal accident had been caused.—*Manchester County Police Court, December 7th.*

Failure to Supply Particulars.—A firm of cotton spinners were fined £3 and £2 2s costs for failure to supply correct particulars of work to three employees in contravention of Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, s. 40.—*Chorley County Petty Sessions, December 14th.*

TRUCK ACT.
Payment of Wages otherwise than in Coin.—An embroidery agent was fined £40 and £4 costs for an infringement of the Truck Acts, by paying wages otherwise than in the current coin of the realm.—*Ardaya Petty Sessions, Donegal, December 14th.*

Neglecting to give Particulars of Deductions from Wages.—A firm of linen-weavers were fined £5 and 7s. 6d. costs for neglecting to give particulars of a deduction made from the wages of an employee, in contravention of Truck Act, 1896, s. 3.—*Belfast Police Court, November 26th.*

TRADE GUILDS IN BULGARIA.

Mr. F. E. H. ELLIOT, H.M. Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria has, under date of December 31st, 1897, transmitted to the Foreign Office a translation of certain sections of a law, recently passed, for the establishment of trade guilds. All persons who wish to practise any one of a list of trades enumerated in this enactment (including that of tailor, bootmaker, cooper, mason, joiner, upholsterer, moulder, smith, saddler, hatter, watchmaker, jeweller, tanner, dyer, potter, tinsmith, printer, binder, &c.) is obliged to join the guild to be formed for his occupation. Any foreigner establishing himself in Bulgaria with the view of practising any one of the specified trades must furnish to the officer of the trade guild written proof that he has learnt the trade by serving as apprentice, or has qualified as a full craftsman; failing such proof, he is forbidden to practise the trade until he has undergone a qualifying examination by that officer; he has also to pay certain fees for registration, &c. Should a foreigner desire to exercise his trade temporarily only, he has to pay an annual tax, fixed by the guild with the approval of the Minister of Commerce, and obtains from the officer of the guild a certificate giving him the right to exercise the branch of industry for which the guild is formed.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN DECEMBER.

(For Detailed Tables, see p. 25.)

THE following table contains a summary of the number of workpeople killed or injured by industrial accidents in December, 1897, and 1896, respectively, so far as reported. It will be seen that the number of persons killed was 32 more, and the number injured 551 more in December last, than in December, 1896.

Occupations.	Killed.		Injured.	
	Dec. 1897.	Dec. 1896.	Dec. 1897.	Dec. 1896.
Railway Servants—				
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	64	51	391	403
Other accidents	4	4	831	987
Miners	81	92	356	450
Quarrymen	5	10	64	53
Seamen	133	118	191	164
Factory and Workshop Operatives—				
(1) Accidents reported to Certifying Surgeons—				
In Factories	72	53	1,451	1,285
In Workshops	—	—	—	—
(2) Other Accidents (non-fatal and only reported to Inspectors)—				
In Factories	—	—	2,406	1,784
In Workshops	—	—	103	116
Others (so far as reported)	8	7	103	116
Totals	367	335	5,793	5,242

DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

RETURNS showing the rates of dividend on purchases paid to members for the third quarter of 1897 have been received from 882 co-operative distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,217,160, as compared with 968,671 in the 657 societies making returns for the corresponding period of 1896.

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

The returns show an average dividend of 2s. 7.58d. in the £1 of purchases, as compared with 2s. 8.04d. for the third quarter of 1896.

With few exceptions, the societies paid a dividend to non-members at one-half the rates paid to members.

Table showing the number and membership of Co-operative Distributive Societies paying the undermentioned rates of dividend per £1 of purchases in the third quarter of the year 1897:—

Rates of dividend per £1 of purchases.	Number of Societies.			Membership of Societies making returns in 3rd quarter of 1897.	Percent. age for corresponding period of 1896.
	England and Wales.	Scotland and Ireland.	Total.		
No dividend	9	—	9	1,644	0.1
Sixpence and under... ..	11	1	12	7,001	0.6
Over 6d. but not exceeding 1s.	29	5	34	11,820	1.0
1s. 6d. " " 1s. 6d.	62	4	66	49,353	4.1
2 0 " " 2 0	126	13	139	182,829	15.0
2 6 " " 2 6	99	34	133	234,829	19.3
3 0 " " 3 0	156	54	210	425,614	35.0
3 6 " " 3 6	111	42	153	182,445	15.0
4 0 " " 4 0	68	26	94	110,332	9.1
4 6 " " 4 6	14	10	24	7,945	0.6
5 0 " " 5 0	3	3	6	1,630	0.1
5 0 " " 5 0	—	—	2	1,518	0.1
Totals	690	192	882	1,217,160	100.0

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.—There is no demand for anyone in Canada at this season of the year. A trustworthy informant in Oregon, U.S.A., warns persons against going to the Klondike goldfields, unless they are strong enough to endure the severest privations, and rich enough to supply themselves with a proper outfit and 12 months' provisions; he also warns everyone against the numerous schemes and companies, some of which are fraudulent, professing to carry on business at the fields. The last report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries states that there was plenty of farm labour offering in Ontario last summer.

New South Wales.—There is a good opening in New South Wales for men with sufficient money to take up a little land, after they have acquired some knowledge of Colonial farming. Sugar-growing, for which the rich lands on the Clarence and Richmond rivers are very suitable, is now being given up, as sugar can be produced more cheaply in other countries; but dairying and mixed farming can be carried on at a good profit. For men without capital there is not much demand, though experienced mechanics can generally find employment at good wages, if they can afford to wait a little.

Victoria.—The yield of gold at Ballarat and other mining centres for the first 9 months of 1897 was considerably larger than in the corresponding period of 1896; but the yield at Maryborough declined. The number of men engaged in mining was larger than in any year since 1883. For men with a little money there is a good opening in Victoria, but the demand for those who depend solely on their wages is small.

Queensland.—Gold miners' have been busy for some time past. The yield of gold in 1897 is estimated at

* 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.

nearly 150,000 ozs. more than that in 1896. Dairying and sugar-growing continue to progress, and give employment to a large number of hands.

Western Australia.—There is a good demand for carpenters and other mechanics, and for experienced miners, also for farm and general labourers, navvies and female domestic servants. The Revenue of the Colony and the quantity of gold raised and exported were much larger last year than in 1896.

Tasmania.—In spite of the improvement in agricultural pursuits, and the rapid progress made by mining, there have been many men for whom the Public Works Department has been compelled to find employment. Miners on the West Coast have been well employed.

New Zealand.—The building trades have been busy in nearly all parts; the engineering trade has been almost as brisk, and men in the boot and clothing trades have been also generally well employed. Unskilled labourers have been engaged in shearing, bush-felling, scrub-cutting, &c.

Cape Colony.—The only class of labour for which there is some opening is that of experienced mechanics with a little money of their own; unskilled men find great difficulty in obtaining work. All parts of the Colony are suffering severely from drought, which materially affects the demand for labour.

Natal.—The agricultural and pastoral progress of the Colony have been seriously retarded by the ravages of drought, rinderpest and locusts, and transport in some districts has been almost entirely stopped. Owing to these causes, the prices of meat and some other articles of food have increased. There is no demand for more mechanics or other labourers at Pietermaritzburg, and at Durban many persons have been unable to find employment. Under the Immigration Restriction Act of last year, two or three indigent immigrants have lately been refused permission to land.

Transvaal.—Typhoid is very prevalent at the present time both at Johannesburg and Pretoria, mainly in consequence of bad water and bad sanitary arrangements. There is no demand whatever for more mechanics or labourers in the Transvaal.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in December.*—Employment continued good in the mining, silk and printing and allied trades; it was less plentiful than in the preceding month in the cotton, woollen and flax trades; the smelting and engineering trades showed a quieter tendency. There was an improvement in the glovemaking trade. The slack season had begun in the tailoring, dressmaking and hatmaking branches. The seasonal slackness in the building and allied trades was more marked than in November. Four hundred and thirty trade unions, having 118,000 members, reported a little over 8 per cent. unemployed on December 15th, compared with a little over 7 per cent. reported unemployed on November 15th by 420 trade unions with a total membership of 120,000.

Coal Mining in November.†—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in November was 5.96, as compared with 5.97 in the previous month. In November full time (6 days and over) was worked by 93 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 6 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 91 and 7 respectively. The pits making these returns employ three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

Labour Disputes in December.*—The labour disputes of December were few and unimportant. The total number of persons involved in 17 out of 19 disputes begun during the month was 345 only. Two disputes begun in previous months and still in progress at the beginning of December, involved 168 workpeople. The workpeople were unsuccessful in 12, partially successful

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

in 1, and successful in 1, out of 14 disputes terminated in December.

Conciliation and Arbitration in December.*—The disputes of December gave rise to two attempts to put the Conciliation and Arbitration Law into operation. In one of these cases, a strike of stonemasons at Morlaix, a committee of conciliation met, but no agreement was arrived at. In the other case, a strike of weavers at Turcoing, the employers declined the invitation of the *juge de paix* to attend a conference.

An agreement was arrived at on December 1st between representatives of the calico hand weavers of Thizy (Rhône Department) and their employers, whereby the workpeople accepted a reduction of existing piece rates for 6 months, subject to this arrangement being accepted by all the employers in the districts of Thizy, Roanne and Grandris.

Employment of Women and Children in Factories, &c., in 1896.†—As far as could be ascertained, there were, in 1896, exclusive of mines, &c., and quarries, 296,797 establishments, employing 2,673,314 workpeople subject to inspection under the Factory Acts. Of these establishments, 117,539 (39.6 per cent.), employing 1,741,443 workpeople (65.3 per cent. of all subject to inspection) were visited in 1896. The attention of the inspectors is stated to have been given more especially to the larger establishments, it being impossible, owing to the inadequacy of the staff, to give as much attention as would seem desirable to the smaller establishments.

The 1,741,443 workpeople employed in the places visited, consisted of 1,776 children of 12 to 13 years of age (969 boys and 807 girls), 159,193 children from 13 to 16 (80,392 boys and 78,801 girls), 125,167 young persons of 16 to 18 (62,164 youths and 63,003 young women), 98,546 young women of 18 to 21, 347,896 women of 21 and over, and 1,008,865 adult workmen.

The number of children of 12 to 13 years of age employed in accordance with the law in the establishments visited has declined steadily each year from 3,059 in 1893, when the law of November 2nd, 1892, relating to female and child labour came into operation, to 1,776 in 1896. The employment of children under 13 is illegal unless they can produce the certificate of primary studies, and have been medically certified as physically fit. The largest proportion of the contravention of the provisions of the Act in regard to the employment of children under 13 years, on account of which legal proceedings were taken in 1896, (165 out of a total of 435) related to glassworks.

The number of contraventions of the legal provisions relating to the length of the working day, which formed the subject of prosecution in 1896, was 5,725. The increase, as compared with 1895, when the number was 3,877, is regarded as an indication of greater vigilance on the part of the inspectors. The bulk of these contraventions occurred in the textile trades.

GERMANY.

Employment in the Textile Industry in October and November.—The November and December issues of *Der Arbeitsmarkt* contain special notices as to the state of employment in the textile industries of Germany, based upon information obtained from workpeople, upon the lists kept by the various public labour registries, so far as these were accessible, and upon information contained in trade journals. The results of the inquiry showed the state of employment in the textile trades in Germany to be unsatisfactory, the reports as to the Liegnitz district of Silesia, the hosiery-making districts of Central Germany and the silk and velvet factories of Crefeld alone being satisfactory. At Meerane, in Saxony, manufacturers were stated in October to have commenced on their summer orders, solely with the object of keeping their operatives together. On November 1st, the cotton manufacturers of South Germany agreed upon a general reduction of output.

Operations of Public Labour Registries October to December, 1897.—The following statement shows the number of situations offered, sought and found through 41 municipal and other public labour registries in Germany, by which returns were supplied to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* in each of the months October, November and December, 1897, compared with the information supplied by the

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.
† Report of *Commission Supérieure du Travail dans l'Industrie*. From *Journal Officiel* of December 6th, 1897.

same registries in each of the corresponding months of the previous year :-

Table with 6 columns: No. of Situations offered, sought, found; and 6 columns for months Oct, Nov, Dec for years 1897 and 1896.

New Rules for Hamburg Bakehouses.—The Senate of Hamburg has issued a new code of rules for the baking and confectionery establishments coming within its jurisdiction.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Labour Disputes in December.—Among the few disputes reported* to have begun in December, two only need be mentioned. One was a general strike of the journeymen bakers of Cracow.

The second dispute occurred at a textile mill in Bensen (Bohemia), where 600 German-speaking operatives struck on December 5th and returned to work on the following day.

New Rules for Ozokerit Mines in Galicia.—On September 16th the mining authorities issued a code of new rules for regulating the conditions under which ozokerit mining must in future be carried on in Galicia.

Provision is made for averting the risk of gas explosions due to the employment of inexperienced persons in the mines. For instance, in future, only persons over 18, medically certified as healthy, may be employed underground.

The length of a shift may not exceed 8 hours, from bank to bank, for underground workers, and 10 hours (of actual work) at the surface.

The new code also includes rules as to the housing of miners, the qualifications and duties of overseers, truck practices, and the ventilation and lighting of the mines.

Second Congress of Agricultural Labourers of Hungary.—The second congress of agricultural labourers of Hungary took place in Budapest during the Christmas holidays. Over 300 delegates from some 250 districts are reported to have been present.

ITALY.

Labour Disputes in December.—Among the new disputes reported in December in the Gazzetta Nazionale del Lavoro, was a strike of

* In Austrian employers and workmen's papers, including Die Industrie (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), Das Handels-Museum, Die Gewerkschaft, Die Arbeiter-Zeitung, and others.

500 carters of building materials at Rome and a strike of some 400 coopers at a number of establishments in Trapani.

In the former case the men demanded the fixing of a uniform and increased scale of prices per load and per journey, and are stated to have obtained their demand after being on strike for three days.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN DECEMBER.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues to be good. Returns received relating to 1,325 pits at which 428,071 persons were employed, show that during the four weeks ended December 25th an average of 5'31 days was worked at the pits, as compared with 5'32 days in November and with 5'16 days in the four weeks ending December 26th, 1896.

Table showing No. employed in Dec. 1897, average number of days worked per week by pits in four weeks ended, and data for Dec. 1897, Dec. 1896, and Nov. 1897.

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

Table showing Description of Coal, No. employed in Dec. 1897, number of days worked per week, and increase or decrease in Dec. 1897.

The table following shows the workpeople arranged according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 80'7 per cent. were employed in December, 1897, at pits working an average of 5 or more days per week, as compared with 71'2 per cent. in December, 1896, and 78'9 per cent. in November, in which month no general holiday occurred :-

Classification of the Workpeople according to the Number of Days Worked in four weeks by the Collieries. Table with columns for Number of days on which coal was hewn and wound, No. of Workpeople employed, Percentage proportion to total, and corresponding percentages in Dec. 1896 and Nov. 1897.

The number of workpeople employed at the pits

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—COAL AND IRON MINING.

included in the returns is greater by 8,868 in England and Wales, and by 305 in Scotland, than a year ago.

Comparison by Districts.—The Lothians district continues to show the highest average number of days worked, viz., 5'96 per week. Over 5 1/2 days were also worked in the West Scotland, and Gloucester and Somerset districts; and between 5 1/2 and 5 3/4 days were worked in the Salop, Worcester and Warwick, Durham, Stafford, Fife, and Derby districts.

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

Table showing District, No. employed in Dec. 1897, Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec. 1897 as compared with previous periods.

Percentage of Unemployed.—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0'8 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of December, as compared with 0'9 per cent. in November and 1'2 per cent. in December, 1896.

Exports of Coal.—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during December amounted to 2,980,092 tons, as compared with 3,192,581 tons in November and 2,565,193 tons in December, 1896.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT remained good in this industry during December, though not quite so good as a year ago. This decline is most marked in the Cleveland district, while Cumberland and Lancashire, Staffordshire and Shropshire, and Scotland, on the other hand, show an improvement.

The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended December 25th by the 17,601 workpeople included in the returns was 5'58 days per week, as compared with 5'65 days in December, 1896. The figures for December, being affected by Christmas Day, do not compare with those for November.

The following tables summarise the returns received :-

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

Table showing District, No. employed in Dec. 1897, Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec. 1897 as compared with previous periods.

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

Table showing Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks, No. of Workpeople employed, Percentage proportion to total, and Corresponding percentages in Dec. 1896 and Nov. 1897.

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER.

RETURNS received relating to the furnaces of 111 ironmasters owning about 90 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom show that they had 351 furnaces in blast at the end of December, being one more than at the end of November.

Three furnaces in England and Wales have been relit and 2 blown out, while in Scotland 1 furnace has been relit and 1 blown out or damped down. The effect of these changes on the number employed is, however, trifling.

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

Table showing Districts, Present time compared with a year ago, and Present time compared with a month ago, including columns for Dec. 1897, Dec. 1896, Nov. 1897, and Dec. 1897.

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during December amounted to 80,228 tons, as compared with 100,854 tons in November and 76,708 tons in December, 1896.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—IRON AND STEEL TRADES; SHIPBUILDING.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this group of industries is on the whole better than a year ago. The improvement is most apparent in the case of steel works, while iron and tinsplate works show no material change.

As compared with November, there was a decline in the number employed at steel and iron works, but this may be due to some extent to the Christmas holidays. At tinsplate works, however, an improvement is shown.

Returns received from 266 employers show that they had 85,416 workpeople employed at the end of December, as compared with 86,246 at the end of November and 84,200 a year ago.

Of the 85,416 workpeople, 38,735 were at 138 Steel Works, being 871 less than at the end of November, but 672 more than at the end of December, 1896.

At 93 Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills, 19,402 workpeople were employed, a decrease of 361 as compared with November, and an increase of 91 as compared with a year ago.

The following table shows the number of workpeople employed* in the occupations named at the end of December, 1897 and 1896, and November, 1897, respectively, by the 266 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1897, as compared with	
	Dec., 1897.	Dec., 1896.	Nov., 1897.	A year ago.	A month ago.
Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling and Forging.					
England and Wales ...	33,159	32,456	33,788	+ 703	- 629
Scotland ...	5,576	5,607	5,818	- 31	- 242
Total ...	38,735	38,063	39,606	+ 672	- 871
Iron Puddling and Rolling.					
England and Wales ...	15,195	15,465	15,509	- 270	- 314
Scotland ...	4,207	5,846	4,254	+ 361	- 47
Total ...	19,402	19,311	19,763	+ 91	- 361
Tinplate Manufacture.					
England and Wales† ...	12,834	12,921	12,584	- 87	+ 250
Other Workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above.*					
England and Wales ...	13,082	12,669	12,900	+ 413	+ 182
Scotland ...	1,363	1,236	1,393	+ 127	- 30
Total ...	14,445	13,905	14,293	+ 540	+ 152
Grand Total ...	85,416	84,200	86,246	+ 1,216	- 830

Further returns relating to 86 Tinsplate Works with 485 mills show that the improvement which set in in October was maintained in December. At the end of the month 44 works with 227 mills were giving full employment, and 17 with 132 mills were giving partial employment (99 mills being at work) while 25 works remained idle. Thus, in all, 326 mills were at work as against 325 at the end of November and 328 a year ago.

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

	No. of Works.	No. of Mills in such Works.		Total.
		Working.	Not Working.	
Works giving full employment ...	44	227	—	227
Works giving partial employment ...	17	99	33	132
Works idle ...	25	—	126	126
Total at end of December, 1897 ...	86	326	159	485
<i>Corresponding Total for Nov., 1897</i> ...	86	385	159	454
<i>Corresponding Total for Dec., 1896 ...</i>	89	388	164	492

* This table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.
† The figures on this line relate to only 370 of the 485 mills referred to in the next table.

Returns received from the owners of 70 Tinsplate Works with 378 mills show that they were employing 12,834 workpeople at the end of December, or 250 more than at the end of November and 87 less than at the end of December, 1896.

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during December amounted to 21,173 tons, of which quantity 10,123 tons went to the United States. During November 24,145 tons were exported, the quantity taken by the United States being 5,570 tons. In December, 1896, the exports were 18,218 tons, including 7,079 tons to the United States.

(e) SHIPBUILDING.

(1) Tonnage under Construction.*

FROM the returns compiled by *Lloyd's Register* it appears that on December 31st the number of vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom was 505, of 1,013,319 tons gross. This tonnage is greater by 128,983 tons than at the end of the preceding quarter, and by 228,608 tons than at the end of 1896. The number of warships under construction at the end of December was 12 at the Royal Dockyards and 83 at private yards. The total tonnage of these vessels amounted to 312,920 tons displacement, as compared with vessels of 318,612 tons at the end of the previous quarter, and 330,005 tons on December 31st, 1896.

The following table summarises the above figures:—

Date of Return.	Merchant Vessels.		War Vessels.	
	Tons gross.	Tons displacement.		
At 31st December, 1897 ...	1,013,319	312,920		
At 30th September, 1897 ...	884,336	318,612		
At 31st December, 1896 ...	784,711	330,005		

Of the 505 merchant vessels under construction, 480, with a gross tonnage of 1,009,192, were steam vessels, and 25, with a gross tonnage of 4,127 tons, were sailing vessels. The former tonnage is greater by 253,217 tons, and the latter less by 24,609 tons, than the tonnages under construction a year ago.

The gross tonnage of vessels (exclusive of warships) under construction in the principal districts at the end of December 1897 and 1896 is given in the table below. The figures include about 94½ per cent. of the total tonnage under construction.

District.	At Dec. 31st			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	1897.	Sept. 30th 1897.	Dec. 31st 1896.	Previous quarter.	Previous year.
Clyde ...	315,660	259,339	257,460	+ 56,321	+ 58,200
Belfast ...	165,166	158,602	129,242	+ 6,564	+ 35,924
Wear ...	153,612	145,436	124,647	+ 8,176	+ 28,965
Tyne ...	167,075	130,449	121,321	+ 36,226	+ 45,754
Middlesbro' and Stockton ...	79,764	81,632	65,112	- 1,868	+ 16,652
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	67,475	56,985	35,540	+ 10,499	+ 31,935
Barrow, Maryport and Workington ...	9,880	3,160	9,680	+ 6,720	+ 200

It will be seen that as compared with a quarter ago the greatest increases were on the Clyde and the Tyne, while Middlesbrough and Stockton is the only district in which there has been a falling off. As compared with a year ago there has been an increase in all centres.

(2) Total Output in 1897.

During 1897, 591 vessels, of 952,486 tons gross, have been launched in the United Kingdom, in addition to 48 warships of 95,465 tons displacement. The tonnage of merchant vessels shows a decrease of about 207,000 tons gross from the figures of 1896, and the tonnage of warships a decrease of 68,000 tons displacement. The figures for merchant vessels are about the same as those for 1895; the figures for warships show a decline of nearly 53,000 tons. Of the 48 warships, 4, with a displacement tonnage of 31,885, were built at Government yards.

* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are at various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the amount of work remaining to be done.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SEAMEN; AGRICULTURE.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN DECEMBER.

(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 32,295 in December, being 1,528 more than in December, 1896. The number shipped during the year 1897 shows an increase of 12,178 over the figures for the previous year. The supply of seamen and firemen during December was reported as equal to or greater than the demand at nearly all ports. At Leith and Methil, however, the supply was scarcely equal to the demand.

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 December 1897 and 1896 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the twelve months ended December in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in December, 1897.			Total in Dec. 1896.	Total number shipped* in twelve months ended December.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Dec. 1897.		1897.	1896.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	34	3,429	3,463	2,792	40,889	36,667
Sunderland ...	—	507	507	427	7,318	7,045
Middlesbrough ...	1	230	231	302	5,207	5,817
Hull ...	25	1,035	1,060	1,185	14,712	14,594
Grimsby ...	—	24	24	23	1,359	1,171
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	18	173	191	190	2,610	2,827
Newport, Mon. ...	14	1,011	1,025	801	14,381	13,098
Cardiff ...	181	5,387	5,568	5,545	64,865	63,726
Swansea ...	24	526	550	680	8,553	7,587
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	175	9,154	9,329	9,257	117,742	117,704
London ...	246	5,348	5,594	5,638	73,706	72,121
Southampton ...	—	1,397	1,397	1,448	16,617	16,027
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	—	745	745	564	8,239	8,478
Glasgow ...	77	2,119	2,196	1,700	28,415	26,624
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	126	126	93	1,180	841
Belfast ...	12	277	289	730	2,908	2,202
Total, Dec., 1897 ...	807	31,488	32,295	—	408,701	—
<i>Ditto, Dec., 1896 ...</i>	<i>1,094</i>	<i>29,673</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>30,767</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>386,523</i>

(g) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

THE agricultural correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 180 returns from all parts of the country, reports as follows:—Generally speaking, agricultural employment was regular during the month of December. The weather was mild throughout the month, and there was no frost or snow to interfere with out-door work. In some districts some slight irregularity is reported owing to wet weather, particularly at the latter end of the month, but on the other hand reports from certain districts, chiefly on the coast, state that extra employment has been caused by repairing damage done by storms and floods. From a good many districts it is reported that extra labour is difficult to get, and from most counties reports state that employment was more regular in December, 1897, than in 1896. The state of employment in the Eastern Counties of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire is particularly good for the time of year. No irregularity of work, except of a trifling nature, is referred to in the reports from these counties.

Northern Counties.—Reports from *Cumberland* state that work was generally regular in the Unions of *Boothe*, and *Whitehaven*; but in the *Cockermouth* Union a report from *Cockermouth* states that labourers have been somewhat irregularly employed; and in the *Carlisle* Union some irregularity also existed, particularly towards the end of the month, owing to unfavourable weather. In parts of

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

Westmorland, and in *Lancashire* in the Unions of *Fylde*, *Garstang*, *Lancaster*, and *Ulverston*, the wet weather at the end of the month is said to have interfered to some extent with outdoor employment. Reports of a favourable character come from *Durham*, from the Unions of *Durham*, *Chester-le-Street*, and *Darlington* (*Durham* and *Yorks N.R.*). In *Yorkshire* work is stated to be regular, with but few exceptions, in the Unions of *Beverley*, *Driffield*, *Easingwold*, *Knarborough*, *Malton*, *Pocklington*, *Thirsk*, and *Ouseburn*.

Midland Counties.—In *Cheshire* favourable reports come from the *Nantwich*, and *Tarvin* Unions; in *Derbyshire* from the *Chesterfield* Union, from the *Derbyshire* portion of the *Mansfield* Union (*Notts* and *Derby*) and from the *Derbyshire* portion of the *Burton-on-Trent* Union (*Staffs* and *Derby*). In the two last-mentioned districts extra hands are said to be difficult to obtain for threshing or at busy times, owing to work at the collieries being good. In *Shropshire* reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of *Bridgnorth*, *Market Drayton*, and *Tenbury*, and in *Staffordshire* from the Unions of *Lichfield*, *Stafford*, and *Tamworth* (*Staffs* and *Warwick*). Employment in *Warwickshire* is said to be generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of *Alcester*, *Atherstone*, *Coventry*, *Foleshill*, *Meriden*, and *Stratford-on-Avon*. Reports from the *Atherstone*, and *Stratford-on-Avon* Unions state that extra labour has been difficult to obtain. Reports of a favourable character come from *Leicestershire* from the Unions of *Melton Mowbray*, and *Lutterworth* (*Leicestershire* and *Warwick*), and from the *Barrow-on-Soar* Union. In the latter union a report refers to the difficulty of getting extra hands. Regularity of work is generally reported from *Nottinghamshire* from the Unions of *Mansfield*, and *Southwell*; from *Rutland* from the *Oakham* Union; from *Worcestershire* from the *Evesham* Union; from *Oxfordshire* from the Unions of *Thame*, and *Witney*; and from the *Oxfordshire* portions of the *Abingdon*, and *Wallingford* Unions (*Oxon* and *Berks*). Favourable reports come from *Northamptonshire* from the Unions of *Brixworth*, *Kettering*, and *Pottersbury*, and from the *Northamptonshire* portion of the *Banbury* Union (*Oxon*, *Northants*, and *Warwick*). Some slight irregularity is referred to in reports from the Unions of *Hardingstone*, and *Towcester*. In *Huntingdonshire* work is said to be scarce in part of the Union of *Huntingdon* owing to the employment of men on railway works. In the *Hunts* portion of the *St. Neots* Union there was some slight irregularity owing to wet weather, but a favourable report comes from the *Bedfordshire* portion. A satisfactory report comes from a district in the *Luton*, and *Hemel Hempstead* Unions.

Eastern Counties.—In *Essex* reports state that employment is generally of a favourable character in the Unions of *Billerica*, *Braintree*, *Colchester*, *Dunmow*, *Halstead*, *Maldon*, *Ongar*, *Orsett*, and *Tendring*, and in *Norfolk* in the Unions of *Aylsham*, *Blofield*, *Depwade*, *Docking*, *Downham*, *East* and *West Flegg*, *Erpingham*, *Forehoe*, *Freebridge Lynn*, *Guiltcross*, *Henstead*, *Loddon* and *Clavering*, *Mitford* and *Launditch*, *St. Faiths*, *Smallburgh*, *Swaffham*, *Thetford*, *Walsingham* and *Wayland*. A report from the *Docking* Union states that labour has been scarce from various causes, and employment more regular than usual for the time of year owing, to the mild weather, and to the large turnip crop. Favourable reports come from *Suffolk* from the Unions of *Blything*, *Bosmere* and *Claydon*, *Cosford*, *Hartismere*, *Hoxne*, *Mildenhall*, *Mutford* and *Lothingland*, *Plomesgate*, *Risbridge*, *Samford*, *Sudbury*, and *Thingoe*. Employment is also said to be regular with few exceptions in *Cambridgeshire* in the Unions of *Linton*, *Whittlesea*, and the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the *Peterborough* Union (*Northants*, *Cambs*, *Hunts*, and *Lincoln*). A few men are reported to have been in irregular work in the Unions of *Chesterton*, and *North Witchford*. Reports from *Lincolnshire* state that work is generally regular in the Unions of *Brigg*, *Boston*, *Bourne*, *Grimsby*, *Lincoln*, *Spilsby*, and *Sleaford*, and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the *Newark* Union (*Lincoln* and *Notts*).

Home Counties.—Reports of a favourable character come from *Buckinghamshire* from the *Aylesbury* Union; from *Berkshire* from the Union of *Wantage*, and from the *Berkshire* portions of the *Abingdon* and *Wallingford* Unions (*Berks* and *Oxon*); also from *Survey* from the Unions of *Farnham* (*Survey* and *Hants*) and *Godstone*; from *Kent* from the Unions of *Bridge*, *Elham*, *Faversham*, *Hoo*, and *Sevenoaks*; from *Hertfordshire* from the Unions of *Barnet*, *Hatfield*, *Hertford*, and *Hitchin*.

Southern and South Western Counties.—In *Sussex* work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of *Battle*, *Chailey*, *Cuckfield*, *Horsham*, *Lewes*, and *Rye*. Reports of a favourable character come from *Hampshire* from the Unions of *Havant*, *Hartley Wintney*, and *Stockbridge*; from *Dorsetshire* from the Unions of *Blandford*, *Bridport*, *Dorchester*, and *Wimborne*; from *Wiltshire* from the Unions of

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—TEXTILE; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

Amesbury, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Pewsey, Warminster, and Wilton; from Gloucestershire from the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Gloucester, and Thornbury; from Herefordshire from the Unions of Bromyard, and Ledbury; from Somersetshire from the Unions of Langport, Taunton, and Wellington; from Devonshire from the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton, Tavistock, and Torrington; and from Cornwall from the Bodmin Union.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN DECEMBER.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women showed an improvement in the cotton trade, and a further decline in the woollen and worsted trade. Information has been received with regard to 542 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills, employing about 85,260 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.		
Cotton Trade—				
December, 1897	66	27	6	1
November, 1897	62	29	7	2
December, 1896	77	16	5	2
Woollen and Worsted Trade—				
December, 1897	51	17	30	2
November, 1897	58	18	24	—
December, 1896	70	20	10	—
Silk Trade—				
December, 1897	59	12	29	—
November, 1897	58	11	31	—
December, 1896	42	—	58	—
Total of above Trades—				
December, 1897	62	24	13	1
November, 1897	61	26	12	1
December, 1896	75	16	7	2

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 61,820; of these 66 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 62 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in November, and with 77 per cent. in December, 1896); 27 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; 6 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,230; of these, 51 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 58 per cent. in November, and 70 per cent. in December, 1896); 17 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; 30 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

At the docks employment was, during December, better than in November, but not so good as in December, 1896. At the wharves it was not so good as in the previous month, but slightly better than a year ago. At both the docks and wharves employment declined towards the end of the month.

The average daily number of labourers employed at all the docks and at 115 of the principal wharves during the four weeks ended December 25th was 16,106, as compared with averages of 16,053 in the five preceding weeks, and 17,037 in December, 1896. The estimated number employed on any one day ranged from 13,663 on the 24th to 17,422 on the 8th.

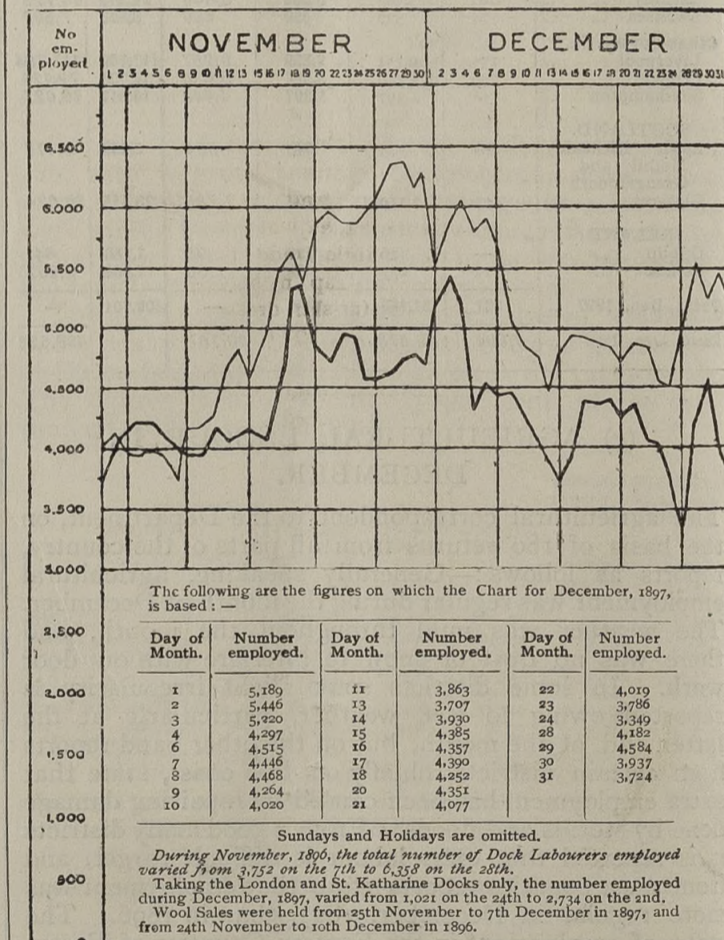
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

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 December	7,806	2,354	10,160	6,239	16,399
2nd " " "	7,450	2,740	10,190	6,499	16,689
3rd " " "	7,106	2,446	9,552	6,395	15,947
4th " " "	7,324	1,961	9,285	5,960	15,245
Average for 4 weeks ending Dec. 25th, 1897	7,426	2,393	9,819	6,287	16,106
Average for Dec., 1896	8,396*	2,405	10,801*	6,396*	17,037*
Average for Nov., 1897	7,371	2,251*	9,622*	6,431*	16,053*

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during November and December is shown on the chart below. The numbers in December ranged from 5,446 on the 2nd to 3,349 on the 24th.

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 November and December, 1897. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1896, is also given for comparison.

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



Employment in mid-stream has been fairly good during the first three weeks, but fell off in the fourth week. With corn porters it has been slack at the Surrey Docks, fair and steady at the Millwall Docks, and moderate to slack at the Victoria and Albert Docks. Coal porters, stevedores, lumpers, deal porters and lightermen have been fairly well employed.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have been well employed. The daily average number employed in December was 396, compared with 354 in November.

* Amended figures.

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

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—The general state of employment in London remains fairly good, notwithstanding the continuance of the engineers' dispute. Returns from 399 branches of 105 trade unions, having an aggregate membership of 71,040, show that 2,647 (or 3.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3.3 per cent. in December of 1896.

The **Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding** trades are still considerably affected by the dispute. Reports from 119 branches of 24 unions, with an aggregate membership of 20,905, show that, exclusive of those involved in the dispute, 980 (or 4.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.6 per cent. at the end of last year.

The **Building** trades (painters excepted) are still busy. Returns from 169 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with an aggregate membership of 10,454, show that 202 (or 1.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.2 per cent. at the end of December, 1896. The bricklayers, stonemasons, and mill-sawyers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, plasterers and stone-carvers as fair; the painters and decorators as dull.

In the **Furnishing** trades, reports from 39 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 6,345, show that 385 (or 6.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 8.3 at the end of December 1896.

Coopers are still well employed, two societies, with a membership of 980, showing only 0.3 per cent. unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of December 1896.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights are well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, having a total membership of 1,262, show that 30 (or 2.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4.1 per cent. for December 1896.

The **Printing and Bookbinding** trades, though showing a falling off in employment usual at this season, are fairly busy. Returns from 22 unions with a membership of 21,829 show that 649 (or 3.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2.8 per cent. at the end of December last year.

The **Clothing** trades, on the whole, are still quiet. The West End bespoke branch of the tailoring trade is dull; the East End bespoke branch fair; the wholesale trade quiet; the contract trade good. The ladies' tailoring and mantle trade is bad. Hatters are fairly well employed for the season; cap makers moderately so; helmet makers are less brisk. The fur skin dressers show a slight improvement; the furriers remain dull. The silk weavers describe employment as bad.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The West End hand-sewn branch is reported as bad, short time being worked. The East End shoe trade is brisk. The machine branch shows no improvement, and is reported as bad.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has fallen off. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,813, show that 76 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.4 per cent. at the end of December 1896.

In the **Glass and Pottery** trades, returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,429, show that 59 (or 4.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7.5 in December 1896.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades, returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 889, show that 55 (or 6.2 per cent.) were unemployed, the same percentage as for December 1896.

Gold and Silver Workers are still well employed, 6 unions, with 1,033 members, again reporting only 10 as unemployed, a percentage of 1.0, compared with 1.2 per cent. in December 1896.

In the **Tobacco** trades, returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,333, show that 67 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3.4 per cent. in December of last year.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The daily average number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves was 16,106 in December, as against 16,053 in November, and 17,037 in December 1896. Employment in mid-stream was fairly good during the first three weeks, but fell off in the fourth week. With corn porters employment has been slack at the Surrey docks, fair and steady at the Millwall docks, and moderate to slack at the Victoria and Albert docks. Coal porters, stevedores, lumpers, deal porters and lightermen have been fairly well employed. The fruit porters in Thames-street have been well employed. (For further details see page 16.)

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Six fresh disputes, involving altogether 123 persons, have been reported as arising during the

month, viz., two in the printing trade, two in the furnishing trade, and one each in the shipbuilding and glass trades (see page 28). No changes in rates of wages or hours of labour were reported.

Labour Bureaux.—Returns received from 8 labour bureaux show that 1,252 fresh applications for work were registered during December 1897, as compared with 1,164 in December 1896, an increase of 88. Work was found for 916 persons by these bureaux during December, compared with 905 in the corresponding period of 1896. The number of persons on the registers at the end of December 1897 was 1,697, or 351 less than a year ago. The number of fresh applications by women and girls in December 1897 was 363, as compared with 353 in December 1896. Of the persons on the registers at the end of December, 974 in 1897 and 745 in 1896 were women and girls. (For further details see p. 30.)

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of December was 104,619, or 2,075 more than on the corresponding day in November. As compared with December 1896, there was an increase of 8, the West, North and East Districts showing increases of 149, 44 and 134 respectively, and the Central and South Districts decreases of 159 and 160.

On the same day in December 1,207 vagrants were relieved, as against 1,164 on the corresponding day in November and 1,148 in December 1896.

In the West Ham District the number of persons relieved on one day in the second week was 8,711 in December, 8,337 in November, and 8,601 in December 1896.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—Employment has slightly fallen off, steam and house coal pits having averaged 5'06 and 5'18 days per week respectively, as compared with 5'11 and 5'5 days in November. Of the 20,724 union miners 6 are idle as against 4 in November. **Durham.**—A number of collieries have been idle one day owing to holidays. Coking coal pits are working fuller time, averaging 5'54 days per week as against 5'51 days in November. Gas, house and manufacturing coal pits and pits producing a mixed class of coal have averaged 5'3, 5'43, 5'27 and 5'37 days respectively. Returns from pits employing over 87,000 men and boys show an average of 5'46 days per week, as against 5'52 days in November. The number of union miners in receipt of stoppage pay is 635, or 1'04 per cent. (exclusive of 77 from causes other than bad trade), as against 752, or 1'23 per cent. in November. Employment in most of the cokeyards continues good.

Metal Mining.—Lead miners continue steadily employed; ironstone miners show little improvement.

Quarrying.—At one whinstone quarry the stonebreakers are suspended owing to bad trade. Limestone quarries generally are working less than full time.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Unions in these trades with a membership of 12,912, return 1,860 unemployed, or 14.4 per cent., in addition to 53.5 per cent. of the engineers directly affected by the dispute. Two or three more shipyards have given notice of short time. Engineering is much affected by the dispute; boiler shops are also slack. **On the Wear.**—Of the 4,602 members of these trades 933, or 20.3 per cent., are off work, exclusive of 31.4 per cent. of the engineers directly affected by the dispute. At most of the yards employment is fairly good; the want of engines, however, is keeping work back. Employment on ship repairs has been above the average, and smiths and engine-fitters have been better employed. Shipwrights and joiners have 13.1 per cent. idle.

Iron and steel moulders on both rivers with 1,366 members have 212, or 15.5 per cent., unemployed; brass finishers 20.3 per cent. unemployed and 8.3 per cent. on half-time; painters (house and ship) 41.6 per cent. unemployed. Drillers and hole cutters are busy on old work. Sailmakers report employment as much better. Steel smelting shops, plate and angle mills have worked full time. Iron mills at Consett were stopped one week. Blastfurnacemen have worked full time, and have been on eight-hours shifts since December 19th.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The coal porters and shippers have averaged 5 days per week; trimmers and teamers report employment as improved, and quayside labourers as fairly good. The demand for firemen and sailors continues good.

Building Trades.—Slaters and tilers are fully employed; bricklayers have 2 per cent. idle. Painters at Blyth and Alnwick are slack; masons are in good demand on both Tyne and Wear.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers on the Tyne and at Sunderland have 1.2 per cent. unemployed. Bookbinders

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

are busy. Three paper mills have worked 46 shifts, and one has been laid off a week for repairs.

Other Metal, Glass, and Chemical Trades.—Pressed glassmakers are slack; bottle-makers continue busy; cement, copper, and lead workers show little change.

Fishing.—Trawl fishing during the month has been good; line fishing below the average.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—Employment amongst the Cleveland miners has continued steady.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment at the mills and forges has been fair; blastfurnacemen have been well employed; bridge works and foundries, with one or two exceptions, have been going fairly well.

Engineering.—Employment has been good at all the works unaffected by the dispute. Branches of engineers, ironfounders, and pattern-makers, with 3,520 members, have 291 unemployed as against 363 last month, and 954 directly affected by the dispute, as against 934 last month.

Shipbuilding.—More yards have gone on short time, and at Hartlepool a number of joiners have been paid off. At Middlesbrough most of the joiners have obtained work in other departments of trade. A number of shipwrights are unemployed.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good for the season.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as quiet at both ports. Dock labour is quiet at the Hartlepoons. At Middlesbrough it was good early in the month, but was slack towards the close. Riverside labour has been moderate.

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 25th December, at pits from which returns have been received, was 5.29 per week, as compared with 5.46 in November last and 5.49 in December 1896. The number of men employed was 5,747, as compared with 5,467 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 280.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 25th December, at the 49 mines from which returns have been received, was 5.70 per week, as compared with 5.92 in November last, and 5.64 in December 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 6,468, as compared with 6,275 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 193.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast at the end of December was 49, as compared with 48 in November last, and 43 in December 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 3,676, an increase of 13 compared with November last, and of 422 compared with December, 1896.

Shipbuilding.—According to Lloyd's return the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction at the end of December was 9,880, showing an increase of 200 tons compared with December 1896, and of 6,720 tons as compared with September 1897.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—A slight improvement has taken place, and employment is reported as fair in Oldham and the surrounding district, as well as in Stockport; and as moderate in Ashton and Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Mossley, and Rochdale. The cardroom workers report employment as moderate in Oldham and Mossley; twiners and ring frame spinners report employment as fair. **Weaving.**—The power-loom overlookers and weavers report employment as moderate in velvets and slack in calicoes. Employment is also reported as moderate in reeling, winding, ball-warping, and beam and sectional warping.

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

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades about 2,300 in the Oldham district alone are out of employment through the dispute. Brassfounders report employment as fair, tinplate workers, gas-meter makers and boiler-makers as moderate, and ironfounders as slack.

Building Trades.—Painters report employment as slack; plasterers as fair; and plumbers, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners as moderate.

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

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment in Bolton and immediate districts is slightly more regular. In Bury a slight improvement is reported. In Wigan, Heywood, Chorley and Ramsbottom employment is fairly good. Cardroom operatives in Bolton, Chorley, Wigan and Bury are more regularly employed. **Weaving.**—Employment in Bolton shows no change. At Chorley an improvement is reported, fewer looms being idle and employment steadier.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers continue idle through the dispute. Employment in the metal trades has declined. In Wigan the steel rolling mills and allied trades are inactive owing to the dispute. General labourers in ironworks are less regularly employed.

Building Trades.—Employment in Bolton is less active. Painters, plasterers, slaters and paviors are moderately employed; masons, paviors and stone-dressers are fairly busy. In Chorley all the building trades are reported at a standstill. In Bury and Wigan employment is irregular.

Coal Mining.—In Bolton, Wigan, Walkden, Radcliffe, Little Lever and Darcy Lever the best collieries are working, on an average, 5 days per week; others 4 days.

Miscellaneous.—Enginemen, firemen, electrical workers, railway workers, wheelwrights, cloggers and shoemakers are fairly well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment shows a further improvement. In Burnley and Blackburn employment is much better. In Colne one firm is still on short time, but two firms which have had looms stopped for warps are filling them up. In Nelson there is a slight improvement, but some 2,000 looms are still on short time. In Darwen there is no change. In Preston employment is reported as bad. In the hard waste trade full time is still being worked. Coloured goods weavers are slightly better employed, but warp dressers are only moderately employed. Twisters and drawers in the Blackburn district are better employed, and a further improvement is also reported from Burnley. Winders and warpers are better employed than for some time back. **Spinning.**—Employment is reported as good in the Blackburn district and in Preston; brisk in Accrington; dull in Padiham; and bad in Burnley. Employment is good generally with cardroom workers. Branches of twisters and drawers, warp dressers and cotton spinners, with 3,582 members, have 140 (or 3.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 113 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Building Trades.—Employment continues fair for the season, except with painters, who are slack.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment continues brisk in the machine shops in the Accrington district; dull in the engineering shops. It is moderate with engineers in Todmorden and Colne.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners in the Accrington district are working full time. Employment is brisk in Burnley; moderate in Townley. With stone quarrymen it is only moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors continue well employed; cabinet-maker are moderately employed; letterpress printers are brisk; calico printers and dyers report a slight falling off.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies (excluding the engineering and metal trades) with 12,820 members, return 397 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 301 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Textile Trades.—Spinners in Manchester report employment as moderate; doublers in Stockport as good. In Macclesfield all cotton operatives are in full work. Both hand and power loom weavers in the silk trade have been slack. Silk dyers are moderately busy. Bleachers, dressers, dyers and finishers are slack. Fustian cutters report employment as moderate.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment amongst engineers in Manchester and Northwich remains unsatisfactory. Smiths and strikers report employment as moderate; boiler-makers, sheet metal workers and brassfounders as bad; iron-founders as bad in one district and good in another; iron-workers at Macclesfield and Stockport are fairly well employed; wire-drawers, wire-weavers, filesmiths, and tinplate-workers at Warrington are moderately busy.

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

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors is moderate in Manchester; in the wholesale department it is slack. Ready-made mantle makers and waterproof garment makers are slack; shirtmakers in Manchester are not busy; in Macclesfield and Stockport they are fairly well employed; capmakers are slack. Employment in the boot and shoe trade, and in the felt hat trade, is bad.

Building Trades.—Painters throughout the district and carpenters at Northwich report employment as bad. In other branches employment is moderate in Manchester; fair in Macclesfield, Northwich and Stockport.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in Manchester and Stockport report employment as good; lithographic artists as busy; lithographic printers as not so good; bookbinders and pattern-card makers as fair.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers in Manchester, Stockport and Warrington are fairly well employed. French polishers report employment as good; upholsterers as quiet; coach-makers in Stockport and Manchester as good. In Warrington coach-makers and coopers are fairly busy.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as moderate; engineers and patternmakers as unchanged; brass-founders as good; whitesmiths and drillers and hole-cutters as fair; iron and steel dressers and ironfounders as moderate; shipwrights and joiners as moderate; ship-painters as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers and French polishers report employment as slack; upholsterers as fair; coach-makers and painters as moderate; mill-sawyers as good; coopers as moderate.

Transport Trades.—The dock labourers and flatmen report employment as fair; quay and railway carters as steady; salt and coal heavers as moderate; sailors and firemen as unchanged.

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

Clothing Trades.—Employment in all branches of the tailoring trade is reported as quiet; in the boot and shoe trade as moderate.

Building Trades.—The plumbers report employment as fair; joiners in St. Helens and Birkenhead as fair, in Liverpool as moderate; painters as dull; all other branches as good.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners in Skelmersdale are very slack through flooding of mines. In Whiston employment is fair. In St. Helens an average of five days per week is reported. Quarrymen continue well employed.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Employment continues moderate with glass bottle makers; dull with chemical workers.—*C. Rowse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has been better at Winsford, moderate at Middlewich. Chemical workers at Middlewich are slack. Employment is fair in the building trades, but slack with painters. Moulders at Winsford are busy. Fustian cutters at Winsford and Middlewich are slack.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches with 6,428 members return 1,764 as unemployed directly or indirectly in consequence of the dispute. In the shipyards short time is being further introduced, and the Christmas holidays were unusually long. Engineers at Beverley, Goole and Grimsby, boiler-makers at Goole and Grimsby, and shipwrights at Selby report employment as good; shipwrights at Goole and Grimsby and engineers at Doncaster as moderate; sailmakers at Grimsby as bad.

Building Trades.—The painters report employment as bad. In other branches throughout the district employment is reported as good or moderate.

Transport Trades.—Employment with seamen and firemen is good; with deal carriers and timber workers fairly good; in grain and seed departments fair; in the general carrying trades only moderate. Dock labour at Grimsby is slightly better; at Goole it is fair. The railway workers at Hull, Grimsby, Goole, Selby and New Holland report employment as good.

Fishing Industry.—Employment for trawl fishermen is good at Grimsby; moderate at Hull; line fishing at Grimsby is moderate. With steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen employment is good at Hull; moderate at Grimsby. Fish curers report employment as dull; twine spinners and dressers at Grimsby as good.

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

Leather Workers.—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 report employment as good, but slightly fallen off; the coachbuilders at Hull and Doncaster as moderate.

Seed Crushing, Paint and Colour Works.—Employment in the seed crushing mills is reported as moderate; in the paint and colour works as fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—At Selby, in the mustard mills employment is good; in the braid and lace mills about two-thirds of the operatives are on three-quarter time.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineering dispute is severely affecting some of the kindred trades; the ironmoulders, boiler-makers, pattern-makers, and spindle and flyer makers have numbers unemployed. Steelworkers and whitesmiths in Leeds are fairly employed; brassworkers are quiet; stove grate workers are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe industry in Leeds and Bramley continues quiet; at Heckmondwike it is fairly good. The ready-made clothiers and bespoke tailors have been quiet.

Textile Trades.—Employment in Leeds continues moderate. Blanket raisers and linen workers are quiet; willayers, fettlers and woollen spinners continue slack. Flax workers are fairly well employed. Employment at Wakefield is fair; at Morley and Stanningley quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment continues brisk with carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, plasterers, and masons; it is quiet with plumbers and painters. Brick, tile and terra-cotta makers are well employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at the Leeds, Garforth, South Kirkby, and Wakefield pits continues good, full time being worked. Ironstone miners continue fully employed. Quarrymen are well employed.

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

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers were well employed until the end of the month, when the unemployed list considerably increased. Employment with the lithographers is moderate; with bookbinders and machine rulers good. Paper mill workers are slack.

Glass Trades.—The glass bottle-makers in Leeds are quiet; in Wakefield fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers and coachmakers continue well employed; brushmakers quiet.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in the Bradford district is much the same. In the Worth Valley employment is better, and a number are working overtime. In Halifax and Huddersfield employment is slightly affected by the holidays. There is some overtime in the latter town.

Woolen Trades.—Employment in Huddersfield and the Colne Valley is a little worse. Overtime is still going on at one or two places. In the heavy woollen districts of Dewsbury and Batley many are working short time and a number are unemployed.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade is moderate at Manningham. It continues rather quiet at Halifax and Brighouse. In the cotton trade employment at Huddersfield is much the same, while at Brighouse it is a little better. Employment in the carpet trade is a little better both at Halifax and Brighouse.

Metal Trades.—Employment is still affected by the general dispute, though less at Bradford, Brighouse, and Dewsbury than at Halifax and Huddersfield.

Building Trades.—Owing to the open weather employment is still good, and men are in demand, especially at Huddersfield.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is quiet in the bespoke and wholesale tailoring trades. It is poor in the rag trade; fair in the glass trade; quiet with printers.—*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 10,022 members, have 172 unemployed (or 1.7 per cent.), as compared with 177 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

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

Iron and Steel Industries.—Blastfurnacemen, hydraulic press workers and Siemens steel smelters are well employed. Bessemer steel workers, coremakers, iron and steel dressers, and railway spring makers report work as fair; enginemen and cranemen as fair, but affected by the engineers' dispute. The stove-grate workers are busy; boiler and girder makers, wire drawers, and merchant-iron rollers are slack. Branches of societies, with 5,338 members, have 121 unemployed, exclusive of those directly affected by the dispute. At Rotherham, Masborough, and Parkgate ironworkers are better employed. The steelworkers at Parkgate and Iccles and the engineers and ironfounders at Barnsley are well employed.

Cutlery and Tools.—Engineers' and joiners' tool makers are quiet. Employment is fairly good in the edge tool and table and butcher knife trades. In the pen and pocket blade, saw and razor trades employment is slack, and in the file trade all branches are affected by the dispute in the engineering trade. Haft and scale pressers and handle and scale cutters report employment as fair; bayonet and sword makers are well employed; wool shear grinders and benders are making better time.

Other Metal Trades.—Silversmiths, silver and electro-plate finishers, hollow-ware buffers, platers and gilders and brassworkers report employment as good; metal stampers as quiet; metal smiths as fair; spoon and fork filers as improved. Seven branches with 1,222 members have none unemployed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 48 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.6 days per week worked. Many of the pits were standing three days in Christmas week.

Building Trades.—Employment is good in Sheffield and Rotherham, moderate in Barnsley. Branches in Sheffield with 1,352 members have only five unemployed.

Linen Trade.—Employment in this industry is fair.

Glass Trade.—Bottle-makers in the Mexborough and Rotherham district report employment as moderate; at Barnsley as improving. The flint glass workers are well employed throughout the district.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring trade is quiet in Sheffield, moderate at Barnsley. In the ready-made trade employment is good; in the boot and shoe trade bad.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers are quieter; lithographers and bookbinders are fully employed.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers and coachmakers are fairly well employed; railway carriage builders are busy; railway wagon builders slack. Boxmakers and bobbin-makers at Barnsley and Penistone are well employed.—S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,104 members have 117 (or 1.6 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 91 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,444 members have 78 (or 3.2 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 65 (or 2.6 per cent.) at the end of November. Employment continues good in the locomotive works. In engineering generally employment is reported as moderate. With ironfounders in Derby, Butterley, Somercotes, and Chesterfield it is fair; with brass moulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent good; with lace machine builders in Long Eaton brisk for foreign trade, and with cycle workers in Long Eaton and Draycott improving slightly. Stove grate workers in Derby, Belper and Langley Mill are moderately employed; the blastfurnacemen in Ilkeston are well employed.

Coal Mining.—At collieries employing upwards of 30,000 men an average of 5.35 days per week was worked, as compared with 5.10 days in November.

Quarrying.—Employment in limestone quarries continues satisfactory. In chert quarries at Bakewell it continues good.

Textile Trades.—Employment with the cotton weavers and spinners in Belper and Borrowash is fair; in Glossop and Hadfield considerably improved, full time now being worked; with hosiery workers in Heanor, Belper and Ilkeston dull. Lace workers in Long Eaton and Ilkeston are fairly well employed. Calico printers and engravers in Dinting and Hayfield are slightly busier; in New Mills employment is brisk. Surgical bandage makers report employment as good in Derby; elastic web weavers as slightly improved.

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

Clothing Trades.—Employment with boot and shoe operatives, tailors, dress and mantle makers, is good.

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

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

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

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment in the levers branch is reported as improved; in the curtain branch as bad; in the plain net branch as good; with warp laceworkers and warpers as slack. Curtain readers and designers and draughtsmen report employment as irregular; auxiliary laceworkers as moderate; female laceworkers as brisker; dyers as bad. Employment is reported as moderate at Basford, Kimberley, Beeston, and Stapleford.

Hosiery Trade.—The majority of the framework knitters are making short time. Employment in the circular branch is reported as good; in the ribbed top branch as slack; in the hand frame branch as fairly good in Nottingham, and on best goods at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Kirkby and outside districts; with hosiery trimmers at Basford, and in the finishing departments at Nottingham, as moderate.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Cycle-makers report more activity; lace machine and hosiery machine builders not affected by the lock-out are well employed. Many men are leaving the town. Iron moulders report employment as moderate at Nottingham, fairly good at Mansfield and Retford; tool machinists as bad at Beeston and Nottingham, moderate at Grantham; boiler-makers as slack at Nottingham, fairly good at Grantham. Employment is steady at Newark, Mansfield and Retford. Kitchen range and hot water fitters report employment as busy; brassfounders as bad; brass finishers as fair; bobbin-makers and carriage straighteners as good; iron and steel dressers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths and blastfurnacemen at Bestwood as moderate; farriers as fair.

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

Coal Mining.—Returns from pits employing over 17,000 men show that an average of 4.4 days per week was worked during December, an improvement on November. Pits in the north of the county generally are making full time; in South Nottinghamshire only about half time, three collieries standing idle.

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

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors is moderate; with mantle-makers and ready-made tailoring operatives good; boot and shoe finishers are slack.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and furniture-workers, basket-makers, brush-workers and coach-builders are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Bakers and confectioners are slack; box-makers are only moderately employed; silk-dressers are making 32 hours per week.—W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and Shoe Industry.—Employment in all departments of the boot and shoe trade continued bad during the month. **Other Clothing Trades.**—Work remains unsteady both in the wholesale and bespoke branches of the tailoring trade. Silk and felt hatters report a decline. Employment is slacker with corset-makers, milliners and dressmakers.

Hosiery, Yarn and Woolspinning Trades.—In the hosiery trade work is short and irregular at Leicester and Hinckley. At Loughborough there is a slight improvement in the fine pant and circular rib trade; in other departments work is exceptionally slack. In several of the yarn and woolspinning mills the workpeople are on short time. Employment is slack with dyers and trimmers.

Elastic Web Trade.—Most of the workpeople are on short time.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Except at Loughborough, all branches of the engineers report employment as declining; tool-makers as fairly good; boiler-makers as slack; pattern-makers and ironfounders as bad. Cycle-makers generally are on short time.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment has improved at the South Leicestershire coal pits. Stone quarrymen in all departments continue in full work, and lime and ironstone workers are well employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND AND EASTERN COUNTIES.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—All branches of the letterpress printing trade report employment as good, lithographic printers as quiet, and bookbinders as good.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and builders' labourers are in full work, with no unemployed. Employment continues fair with stonemasons, plasterers and joiners; moderate with plumbers and bad with painters.

Coachmaking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is good in all branches of the cabinet and upholstering trades. It is moderate with carriage-makers and coach and railway wagon builders.

Leather Trades.—Tanners and curriers in Northamptonshire are fully employed, but work continues slack at Leicester.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with cigar-makers; fairly good with bakers and brushmakers; gas-stokers continue in full work.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Hollow-ware pressers report employment as improved, but at Burslem and Tunstall the operatives still average less than three days per week. With sanitary pressers full time is general. Flat pressers report a decline, averaging less than three days per week. Printers and transferrers and throwers and turners report improvement. Encaustic tilemakers remain busy. In most of the other branches better time has been worked.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in the forges continues good, but in the mills there is a general decline, the majority of operatives working only half-time. With steelworkers and blastfurnacemen full time is general.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and boiler-makers in North Staffordshire continue fairly busy in most towns. Copper-workers at Oakmoor and Froghall are not so busy. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley are well employed. Anchor chainmakers at Ford Green are averaging 4 days per week.

Coal Mining.—The miners in most cases are now regularly employed, full time being general.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade is slack. At Congleton trimming weavers report a decline. Silk dressers are moderately employed; fustian cutters report no change; towel weavers are busy. At Cheadle and Tean employment with silk and tape operatives is fair.

Clothing Trades.—In the Potteries bespoke tailors report a decline. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone report employment as quiet, with two-thirds of the operatives on short time.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as having declined in the Potteries; at Stafford as good; lithographic artists and printers and bookbinders and machine-rulers as good.

Miscellaneous.—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington report employment as good. Railway workers are fairly employed. Brushmakers are slack. Gasworkers are busy.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is brisk in the steel trade; good in the angle, hoop, plate and iron bar trades, and still slack in the sheet trade. The mills and forges made full time till the holidays. Employment continues fair in South Shropshire.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment is good with engineers, moulders, boiler, bridge, girder and tank makers. Cycle makers are a little busier, but not generally working full time. The malleable iron workers at Walsall are slack. Employment in Coalbrook Dale, Madeley and Tamworth is reported as good.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, axles, springs, edge tools, brazil and plantation hoes, malleable nails, protectors, cycle castings, tips, electrical and gas fittings; moderate with makers of spring traps, wrought nails, wrought iron odd work, builders' ironmongery, cut nails, tacks, brass work, latches, keys, padlocks, gunlocks, rim and mortice, latch and cabinet locks; not so brisk in the anvil and vice trades. In the iron plate trade it is fairly good at Bilston; rather slack at Lye. Employment is slack with hand-cut file-makers and chainmakers and strikers.

Coal Mining.—Employment is good in the Cannock Chase district and fairly good at Tipton, Blackheath and Tamworth. The pits in the Oldbury district report no improvement.

Building Trades.—Carpenters, plasterers, plumbers, bricklayers and builders' labourers report employment as moderate; painters as dull.

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

Leather Trades.—Employment at Walsall is reported as quiet.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Kidderminster carpet trade has improved, some firms running overtime. Short time is general in the spinning branch. The Bridgnorth carpet mills are still busy; the Tamworth tape mills are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is good in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trades; improved in the boot and shoe trades.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies, with 21,327 members, have 316 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 356 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Engineering.—Eight branches of the engineers report employment as moderate, two as good. The pattern-makers are fairly employed; the general toolmakers, smiths and strikers are well employed. In Coventry, Redditch and West Bromwich employment is good. Employment with the cycle makers is improving. At Coventry all sections are well employed. At Redditch cycle and cycle accessory makers are fully employed.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment in the brass-foundry trades continues good; at many firms overtime is being worked. Tube-drawers are quiet; fender and fire brass-makers are fairly employed. In the Dudley district employment is fairly good.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electroplaters.—Jewellers and electro-plate workers report employment as good; Britannia metal-workers as fairly good.

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

Building Trades.—Employment in the building trades continues good. The carpenters, bricklayers and plasterers report employment as fair; the masons and plumbers as good.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass makers, plate glass bevellers and silverers report employment as good; the flint glass cutters are fairly good. In West Bromwich employment continues good.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment with the cabinet-makers, carriage and railway carriage workers, is fair; with coachmakers declining; with mill sawyers good. Coopers report employment as good on wet work, bad on dry.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade is bad; in the boot trade work is scarce, and the dispute at Bromsgrove continues.

Miscellaneous.—In the printing trades employment has been good; in the sporting and military gun trade good; gasworkers are busy. Employment in the brush trade continues dull; brickmakers are fairly busy. In the iron hinge trade employment has been good; in the wiredrawing trade quiet. In Coventry, in the watch trade, on higher class watches, employment is good; cycle accessory makers are busy; the weavers continue dull; in the brickfields employment is fair. In Redditch employment in the needle, fishhook and fishing tackle trade continues good.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

General.—Branches with 3,724 members have 103 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 56 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors at Norwich are not busy, and employment has been dull in the ready-made tailoring factories. The boot and shoe operatives in Norwich have quite 300 out of work.

Building Trades.—At Cambridge employment is dull; in other parts of the district it is good, except with painters.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers are fairly busy at Norwich, some firms working overtime. Shipwrights and boatbuilders at both Yarmouth and Lowestoft have been busier, owing to damage done by the gales.

Textile Trades.—Silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth are running full time. Mat and matting weavers are fully employed.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment at Norwich in these trades is fair.

Fishing Industry.—At Yarmouth and Lowestoft a successful

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—E. AND S.W. COUNTIES AND WALES.

herring voyage has been brought to a close. The trawling for deep sea fish has been good.

Miscellaneous.—Brushmakers are quiet; wire weavers are slack; horticultural builders are busy; electric light workers are nearly all working full time.—G. Cleveley.

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers report employment as fair in the Ipswich district; moderate at Colchester; busy at Halstead and Earl's Colne; fair in shops unaffected by the dispute at Chelmsford. The boiler-makers report employment as fairly good at Ipswich; and the shipwrights as good at Ipswich, Wivenhoe and Rowhedge.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with boot and shoe operatives is reported as moderate at Ipswich; bad at Colchester; busy at Braintree. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment is moderate at Ipswich and declining at Colchester. With corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury employment is moderate.

Textile Trades.—The mat weavers report employment as good at Lavenham; fair at Hadleigh and Long Melford; moderate at Sudbury and Glemsford. Employment with horse-hair weavers at Lavenham is good; with furniture silk weavers at Braintree moderate; with silk weavers at Sudbury good. At Halstead and Earl's Colne silk operatives are busy.

Building Trades.—Employment is good for the time of year throughout the district.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as dull at Ipswich; moderate at Colchester; fair at Chelmsford and Southend. Lithographers and bookbinders have been well employed at Ipswich.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is dull with horticultural workers at Ipswich and Chelmsford. Shipping and dock labour at Ipswich has been moderate.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol and District.**

General.—Societies and branches (exclusive of the engineering trades) with 5,195 members, have 200 (or 3·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 99 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Building Trades.—Employment as a whole continues good for the season. Branches with 2,884 members have 116 (or 4·0 per cent.) unemployed as against 45 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the Forest of Dean the miners and quarrymen report employment as good. In the Bristol and Radstock districts employment has been steady.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 3,085 members report 64 unemployed, in addition to 161 directly affected by the dispute. The iron and brass moulders, railway wagon and coach builders and smiths report employment as good; the ship repairers as slack; the pattern-makers, fitters and brass finishers as fair.

Transport Trades.—Sailors and marine firemen report employment as fair; railroad men as brisk. Freight handlers have been fairly busy at Bristol; slack at Gloucester, Sharpness and Bridgwater.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale garment-making trade has slightly improved. Bespoke tailors and hatters are quiet. Boot and shoe operatives continue slack, especially in the Kingswood district.

Textile Trades.—Employment with the cloth-workers in the Stroud Valley is reported as good upon coatings and chevots; dull upon worsted trouserings; and fair upon heavy woollen goods. At Tiverton most of the silk net workers are making overtime.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with cabinet-makers is reported as steady; with upholsterers as dull; with woodturners and machinists as fair; with coopers as good; with brushmakers as having declined.

Printing Trades.—Employment continues good. Branches with 715 members have 12 (or 1·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 16 (or 2·2 per cent.) at the end of November.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—Cornish metal mining continues in the same depressed condition. Employment in the granite and limestone quarries is brisk; with china clay workers fair.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers report employment as only moderate at Plymouth and Newton, good at Hayle; brass-

workers as fair; boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders as moderate, with some overtime; shipwrights and ironfounders as good. Branches with 1,720 members have 35 (or 2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 19 (or 1·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Building Trades.—In Plymouth employment generally is good. In Exeter and Torquay it is dull.

Clothing Trades.—The improvement in the ready-made tailoring department has not been maintained, and in the bespoke department employment continues dull. With boot and shoe makers work is moderate, and shows a little improvement. Laceworkers at Tiverton are busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers has been good; with lithographic printers fair; with bookbinders busier; paper mills are in full work.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Dock labourers and store and warehousemen are worse employed; the timber and coal men are also slack. Among Government labourers work is good; with gasworkers moderately good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with mill-sawyers and machinists is good; with coachbuilders fair; with cabinet-makers and upholsterers moderate.

Fishing Industry.—Employment has been bad at Brixham, Plymouth and Newlyn, owing to the stormy weather.—W. Hedge.

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment at the coal mines continues good in every district of North Wales. Employment at the blende mines of Flintshire is brisk.

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

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The men at the Brymbo steel works are fully employed. Employment is fair at the Mostyn iron works; good with the engineers at Ruabon; moderate at Oswestry. Employment has been good at the Bagillt spelter works and the Ruabon wagon works. Tinplate-workers at Mold are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers at Wrexham report employment as fair, at Oswestry as dull; the plasterers at Llandudno as good; the carpenters and joiners at Wrexham as quiet, at Oswestry as moderate; the painters at Wrexham as fair. Employment in all branches at Rhos is reported as good, at Cefn and Ruabon as fair.

Brick and Terra Cotta Industries.—Employment continues steady in all branches in the Wrexham, Ruabon, Rhos, Mold, Buckley, and Penybont districts.

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

Clothing and Textile Industries.—Employment in the woollen industry of Montgomeryshire is reported as fair. Several women and girls are now being employed in the ready-made trade. The bespoke tailors at Rhyl report employment as good, at Bangor as quiet.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Employment has been slack. Returns from Dowlais, Cyfarthfa, and Tredegar show that collieries are working full time; Blaenavon and Ebbw Vale average 5 days a week; the Western District and Garw Valley colliers average from 4 to 5 days a week. Returns from pits employing 66,000 men and boys show an average of 5·24 days per week worked during December, as against 5·39 in November.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Returns from Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Briton Ferry, Neath, Landore, Rogerstone and Tredegar show that mills and furnaces have worked regularly. At Blaenavon one mill only has had a few days' stoppage. The Cardiff Dowlais Works have been busy.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—All branches have had moderate employment throughout the month. The shipwrights return 35 per cent. out of work at the end of December, and the boiler-makers 20 per cent. Ironmoulders have been busy. Branches of the engineers (with 2,795 members have 134 (or 4·8 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of November.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been much below the average at Barry and Cardiff, but improved at the end of the month. At Penarth, Newport and Swansea docks shipments have been moderate. Employment with dock hoppers and corn porters has been bad. The shipment of crews has been quiet.

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

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as quiet; the plumbers have been busy.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the fuel trade has been quiet; in the chemical and smelting industries dull; the wagon builders and lifters are fully employed. The letterpress printers report employment as good.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—The improvement in employment reported in the GAZETTE for last month was maintained during December, and at the end of the month 326 mills were at work (out of 485 mills at 86 works reported on), as compared with 325 mills (out of 484) working at the end of November, and 328 mills (out of 492) at work a year ago. Of the 86 works 44, with 227 mills, were giving full employment; 17, with 132 mills, were giving partial employment (99 mills being at work) while the remaining 25 works were idle.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches of societies (excluding the engineering and allied trades) with 10,167 members return 444 (or 4·4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 462 (or 4·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Lothians continues much the same as in November. In Mid and East Lothian full time is generally obtained. In West Lothian, in the Bathgate and Fauldhouse districts from 11 to 12 days per fortnight have been worked; in the Armadale districts 10 to 11 days; in the Benhar district 11 to 12; and in some cases 9 to 10 days.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Employment in these trades continues fairly good. Returns from 34 pits employing 3,833 workpeople (as compared with 4,428 in December 1896) show that full time was worked by 2,943 men, and 22 and under 24 days by the remaining 890, in the four weeks ended 25th December.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,433 members have 96 (or 3·9 per cent.) idle, in addition to 346 directly affected by the dispute. Branches of these trades in Falkirk, with 3,225 members, have 132 idle, as against 122 at the end of November.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in the shipbuilding yards in Leith is slightly worse. Branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights with 620 members have 157 (or 25·3 per cent.) idle, as against 144 (or 24·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Textile Trades.—There is no improvement in the woollen industry in Hawick, Galashiels and Selkirk, employment with both spinners and weavers being bad. Employment in the hosiery trade in Selkirk and Hawick is quiet. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,641 members have 162 (or 2·9 per cent.) idle, as against 186 (or 3·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,089 members have 21 (or 1·9 per cent.) idle, as against 15 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as fair; dock labourers and coal porters have been busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 1,877 members have 75 (or 4·0 per cent.) idle, as against 87 (or 4·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with the sett makers, glass cutters and saddlers is good; with bakers and carriers quiet; and with the tailors and shoemakers bad.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues disturbed by the engineers' dispute. Branches with 10,516 members have 865 (or 8·2 per cent.) idle, as against 881 (or 8·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 27,162 members have, in addition to the 4,000 engineers idle through the dispute, 1,492 (or 5·5 per cent.) idle, as against 1603 (or 5·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire coal mining declined, the men averaging less than five days per week. The ironstone miners are working full time. In Dumbartonshire employment has been good, five days per week being worked. In Lanarkshire employment in the coal trade has been good, the collieries with few exceptions working from four and a half to five days per week. In Renfrewshire the colliers are fully employed; ironstone miners are not so busy. Paisley men are going to pits every day, but a number of them are not getting a full day's work. The Nitshill men are also

irregularly employed. In Ayrshire the coal and ironstone miners generally are getting full time.

Building Trades.—Employment, except with painters, is still good. Branches with 11,023 members (excluding painters) return 198 (or 1·8 per cent.) as idle, as against 144 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 3,913 members return 83 (or 2·1 per cent.) as idle, as against 104 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally shows little change. In Newmilns several laceworkers are unemployed. Employment is fairly good in Catrine, Darvel and Galston. At Kilbirnie employment in the net works and the thread mills has improved; the thread mills in Paisley and the merino and woollen mills in Greenock are working full time; at Port Glasgow textile-workers are busy; in Glasgow beamers and dyers are fairly busy; calendermen, carpet-weavers, and rope spinners are all rather dull.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as slack; clothiers' operatives as dull; mantle-makers as busy; knee shoemakers report employment as fair and improved; the boot and shoe riveters as no better.

Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.—Seamen report no improvement. Dock labourers in Glasgow report employment as good; in Ardrossan as good. Shipping has also been good. Harbour work and carting in Greenock is slack. In Glasgow railway men, hackney carriage drivers, tramway men and carters are busy.

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

Glass Trades.—The improvement amongst flint glass makers and flint glass cutters has continued; bottle-makers are not quite so busy.

Miscellaneous.—Spindle and flyer makers, scale beam makers, settmakers and potters are still busy; calico engravers report improvement; brushmakers, tobacco-pipe makers and finishers are still dull. Carriers report employment as fair.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry in most departments continues fairly good. In the linen trade it is still quiet, although some factories are again busy.

Coal Mining.—In Fifeshire slackness is observable at several collieries, and one or two have been working short time. At pits employing upwards of 11,000 workpeople an average of 5·3 days per week has been worked during the four weeks ending December 25th, the same average as in the month of November.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineering shops unconnected with the dispute continue busy, and employment at the shipbuilding yards is still fairly good. In addition to 426 fitters, turners and machine workers directly affected by the dispute, branches with 2,456 members have 275 (or 11·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 274 (or 11·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in the building trades continues steady on the whole. The cabinet and furnishing trades remain busy. Societies with 1,606 members report 13 (or 0·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 15 (or 0·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Fishing Industry.—When weather permitted the boats engaged in the white fisheries proceeded to sea, and obtained fair catches. The fleet employed in sprat fishing has been only fairly successful.

Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks and jetties has been plentiful.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good in the printing and kindred trades; quiet in the tailoring and boot and shoe trades; busy with floorcloth and linoleum makers.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of the engineering and allied trades) with 5,162 members, have 95 (or 1·8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 98 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Quarrying.—All branches report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Employment is bad with painters; dull with plumbers; good with carpenters and joiners, slaters, plasterers, and building masons and hewers. Branches with 2,473 members have 66 (or 2·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 63 (or 2·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as improving; shipwrights, iron-

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

moulders and engineers as bad; pattern-makers as unsettled; blacksmiths, brassmoulders and finishers, toolsmiths and horse-shoers as good; tinplate workers as fair. Branches with 1,608 members have 134 (or 8.3 per cent.) unemployed, in addition to 232 directly affected by the dispute.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers, lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Tailors report employment as bad; boot and shoe rivetters and finishers as moderate; boot and shoe makers (hand-sewn) as good; carpet weavers, jute, flax, cotton, and woollen operatives as fair.

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

Fishing.—In December at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 56,848 cwts. of fish, realising £38,697, a slight increase in quantity and value as compared with November.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers and combmakers report employment as fair.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment generally was fair until the holidays; painters and lathsplitters, however, are dull. Branches with 3,704 members have 347 (or 9.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 198 (or 5.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Metal Trades.—The engineers, brassfinishers and whitesmiths report employment as fair; the smiths as slack; the boiler-makers as moderate. Branches with 823 members return 30 (or 3.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 27 (or 3.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with cart and wagon makers, cabinet-makers and upholsterers; good with organ-builders; bad with brushmakers.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as bad; the bootmakers as fair.

Printing Trade.—Employment generally is good. Branches with 1,266 members return 23 (or 1.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 34 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle-makers, electrical workers, and dockers report employment as good; the cork cutters, corporation labourers and ropemakers as fair.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Societies with 10,277 members report 216 (or 2.1 per cent.) as unemployed—as against 381 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November—in addition to 934 directly affected by the dispute in the engineering trade.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,014 members return 71 (or 1.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 78 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The powerloom yarn dressers and spindle and flyer makers report employment as dull; powerloom tenters as middling; beetling enginemen, flax dressers, flax roughers, yarn bundlers and dryers as fair; women workers, linen lappers and hackle and gill makers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 2,548 members have 26 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 56 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The mill-sawyers report employment as dull; carpenters and joiners as quiet; plumbers as moderate; hodsmen and labourers as fair; bricklayers as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 677 members report 56 (or 8.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 42 (or 6.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. Cabinet-makers and coachbuilders report employment as moderate; upholsterers as quiet; french polishers and packing case makers as fair; cooperers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 931 members have 24 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 27 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as dull; letterpress and lithographic printers as fair; and the lithographic artists as good.

Clothing Trades.—Societies with 721 members return 12 as unemployed and a great many as only partially employed. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as quiet; and the tailors as bad.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with 1,858 members have 55 (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 47 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The sailmakers return employment as bad; bakers and carters as fair; railway servants, locomotive engine drivers and tinplate workers as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—In the shipbuilding trade employment is dull throughout the district. In the engineering trade it is fair generally, but dull with iron and brass founders and pattern-makers, in Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

Building Trades.—Employment with painters and decorators is dull; with other branches fair.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax and tweed operatives in Douglas, Millfield and Blarney and down and feather operatives in Cork continue steadily employed; tailors and boot and shoe operatives are quiet.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers, cabinet-makers, mill sawyers, woodworking machinists and packing case makers report employment as fair; cooperers as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is moderate with printers and allied trades; fair with gasworkers, corporation labourers, coal porters and quay labourers; dull with bakers and confectioners.—P. O'Shea.

NEW INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED IN 1897.

The following table, based upon the monthly returns supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, shows the number of each of the various classes of industrial organisations registered during the year 1897 in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, together with the totals for the United Kingdom, and the corresponding totals for the years 1895 and 1896.

The decrease noted in 1896 was continued in 1897, the total number of organisations registered during 1897 being 734, as compared with 849 in 1896 and 1,100 in 1895. The fall in 1897 is almost entirely in English and Welsh Friendly Societies and branches, of which only 450 were registered, as compared with 580 in 1896 and 783 in 1895.

Trade Unions show a falling off of 5 as compared with 1896, and Industrial and Provident Societies 3. Twenty-one fewer societies were registered in England and Wales, this however, being nearly balanced by an increase from 36 to 52 in Ireland, where the co-operative dairy movement has been making rapid progress.

The registration of new Building Societies entirely stopped in 1897, the total number registered during the past three years being only 8.

TABLE showing the number of New Industrial Organisations registered in 1897 in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, together with the totals for the United Kingdom, and the corresponding totals for the years 1896 and 1895.—

Table with 6 columns: Country (England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Corresponding Totals for 1896). Rows include Trade Unions, Industrial and Provident Societies, Friendly Societies, Building Societies, and Total Industrial Organisations registered in 1897 and 1895.

* Including two Districts.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

(For Summary of these detailed Tables, see p. 10.)

I. Railway Servants.

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

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

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

Table with 10 columns: Class of Service, Killed, Causing Amputations, Dislocations, Fractures, and Internal Injuries, Contusions and Bruises, Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c., Shock and Unspecified Miscellaneous Injuries, Total Injured. Rows include Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, Guards (Passenger), Permanent Way Men, Porters, Shunters, Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants), and Total for December 1897.

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 4 servants killed and 831 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during December, as compared with 4 killed and 987 injured in December, 1896.

II. Miners and Quarrymen.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

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

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

Table with 6 columns: Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured). Rows include Underground (Explosions of Fire-damp, Falls of ground, In shafts, Miscellaneous), Surface (Miscellaneous), and Total for Dec., 1897 and 1896.

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

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

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

Table with 7 columns: Cause and Class of Accident, Number reported as Killed or Injured (In December, 1897: On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels, Total in Dec., 1897), Total for 3 months Oct. to Dec., 1897, Corresponding total for 3 months of 1896. Rows include I.—By Wreck or Casualty, II.—By other Accidents, III.—All Accidents.

NOTE.—Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.*

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

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

Table with 10 columns: Class of Accident, Number of Males (Adults, Young Persons, Boys, Total), Number of Females (Adults, Young Persons, Girls, Total), Total Males and Females. Rows include In Factories (Killed, Injured), In Workshops (Killed, Injured), and Total in Factories and Workshops.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 2,406 other non-fatal accidents (all in Factories) only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors, as compared with a total of 1,784 in December, 1896.

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

Table with 5 columns: Groups of Industries, December, 1897 (Number of Persons Killed, Injured), November, 1897 (Number of Persons Killed, Injured). Rows include Textiles, Non-Textiles, and Total.

* Exclusive of accidents reported by Mines' Inspectors.

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

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

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

Table with 7 columns: Nature of Works, Construction or Repair (Number of Persons Injured: Killed, Fractures and Dislocations, Other Injuries, Total), Use or Working (Number of Persons Injured: Killed, Fractures and Dislocations, Other Injuries, Total). Rows include Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, Traction engine, and Total for Dec., 1897 and 1896.

* Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894. † Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. ‡ Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during December affected 13,300 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these workpeople was an increase of about 6d. per head. About 10,200 received increases averaging 10½d. per head, and 3,100 sustained decreases averaging 9d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increase affected about 7,700 blastfurnacemen in the north of England.

Decreases.—The principal decreases affected 1,900 weavers at Clitheroe, and 1,000 steel millmen at Consett and Jarrow.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 10,800 persons, or about 80 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected, were settled without any cessation of work; the wages of 8,700 being changed under sliding scales, of 300 under an arbitration award, and of 1,800 after negotiation between the parties or their representatives. Changes affecting 2,500 persons, or less than 20 per cent. of the total number affected, were preceded by strikes.

Total for 1897.—See special article, page 4.

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

Table with columns: 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, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for Building Trades, Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, Textile Trades, Railway Service, Woodworking Trades, and Chemical Trades.

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

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for Baking Trades, Local Authorities, and Miscellaneous Trades.

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

No new co-operative distributive or productive societies were registered in England and Wales or Scotland during December, but eight co-operative agricultural and dairy societies were registered in Ireland.

A distributive society at Earcroft has amalgamated with the Darwen Co-operative society, a coal association at Herne Hill has had its registration cancelled, and Brownfield's Guild Pottery Society at Stoke-on-Trent has notified its resolution to wind up.

Returns received from 882 co-operative distributive societies in the United Kingdom show that the average dividend paid to members on purchases in the third quarter of 1897 by 690 societies in England and Wales was 2s. 6½d. in the £1, and by 192 societies in Scotland and Ireland, 2s. 10½d. in the £1, the average for the United Kingdom being 2s. 7½d. in the £1.

During the year 1897, 34 co-operative societies for distribution, and 64 for production, were registered in the United Kingdom.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

The changes in hours of labour reported during December affected only 801 workpeople, their working hours being reduced on the average by 2.93 hours per week. The changes were all decreases, the most important affecting 539 bakers, whose hours were reduced 2 to 5 per week, and 120 people in an engineering shop at Stourbridge, where the 48-hour week was adopted. All the changes were brought about by direct negotiation between the parties without any stoppage of work.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Extent of decrease per week. Includes sections for Building Trades, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, and Miscellaneous Trades.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

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

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, Adults, Young Persons, Children, Total, Grand Total. Includes sections for Lead Poisoning and Anthrax.

* No cases of Anthrax were reported in December, 1896.

MINERAL INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Home Office have issued the Third Annual General Report on the Mineral Industry of the United Kingdom for the year 1896, by Dr. Le Neve Foster. (C. 8705. Price 2s. 4d.) The report deals with numbers employed, output, accidents and prosecutions. About half the report is taken up with the mineral statistics of the Colonies and Foreign Countries.

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

† The mid-winter hours of ship joiners when employed on vessels have been reduced from 47½ to 46½.

‡ There is also an allowance of 9d. per hour to about 50 men for setting spang on Sundays.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on January 1st, and contain information for intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, rates of wages and cost of living in the various British colonies. Particulars are given as to the cost of reaching the colonies, the arrangements made at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest to them. Copies can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-eight fresh disputes were reported as beginning in December, 1897, as compared with 41 in November, and 36 in December, 1896. In these 28 disputes 1879 workpeople were involved, compared with 6,644 in November, and 6,316 in December, 1896.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades there were 8 disputes, involving 642 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 3 disputes, involving 555 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 2 disputes, involving 51 workpeople; textile trades, 6 disputes, involving 363 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 9 disputes, involving 268 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 28 new disputes 15 arose chiefly on wages questions, 2 were demarcation of work disputes, 2 on the question of employment of non-unionists, 4 in defence of fellow-workpeople, 3 in connection with working arrangements, and 2 arose from other causes.

Results.—Sixteen new disputes, involving 1,051 workpeople, and 14 old disputes, involving 6,662 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 30 new and old disputes terminated, 11 involving 1,030 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 10, involving 1,102 workpeople, in favour of the employers, and 9, involving 5,581 workpeople, by compromise.

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in December owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 1,456,000, as compared with 1,535,000 in November, and 1,530,000 in October.

Total Disputes in 1897.—See special article, page 3.

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
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I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER, 1897.

		8 Disputes. BUILDING TRADES. 642 Workpeople affected.	
Bricklayers, Plasterers and Labourers	Nottingham ...	Dec. 14	Refusal to work on a job where certain sub-contracts had been given to firms employing non-union men
Stonemasons	Dundee and District	11	Against proposed reduction in wages of 3d. per hour
Joiners	Morecambe ...	31	For advance in wages from 7½d. to 8d. per hour...
Slaters	Bishop Auckland	6	Against employment of a labourer upon slaters' work
Plumbers	Burnley ...	6	Refusal of Burnley employers to engage plumbers who had been concerned in the strike in that trade at Nelson
Ditto	Preston ...	18	For withdrawal of a black list of men engaged in a previous strike in certain shops
Ditto	Nottingham ...	6	Against gas pipes and fittings being laid down by men who were not plumbers, nor paid at plumbers' rates
Painters	Kingstown ...	4	Refusal to work with two men fined for working at less than union rates
		3 Disputes. MINING AND QUARRYING. 555 Workpeople affected.	
Coal Miners	Bredbury ...	9	Against proposed reduction in wages of 15 per cent.
Ditto	Ammanford ...	25	Against proposed reduction in wages of 5 per cent. to day-wage men.
Ditto	Dungannon ...	6	For re-arrangement of work, involving advance of 20 per cent. in wages
		2 Disputes. METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING. 51 Workpeople affected.	
Bedstead Mount Makers	Birmingham ...	11	Refusal to work for a firm which was no longer in the Employers' Association
Boiler Makers	London, E. ...	2	For increase in wages of 50 per cent. when working inside ballast tanks
		6 Disputes. TEXTILE TRADES. 363 Workpeople affected.	
Cotton Piecers	Meltham, Yorkshire	8	Objection to selection of piecers out of turn for promotion. Advance in wages also desired
Cloth-lookers	Heywood ...	12	For advance in wages ...
Cotton Weavers	Nelson ...	9	To enforce payment of list prices ...
Ditto	Nelson ...	27	Alleged failure of employer to fulfil promise made in the previous case
Ditto	Oldham ...	5	Dispute as to the discharge of an overlooker, and appointment of a successor
Winders	Rochdale ...	10	Against abolition of system of winders winding only the yarn spun by particular spinners
		9 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 368 Workpeople affected.	
Stevadores	Sharpness ...	8	Dispute as to amount payable on account of detention at Northwich
Printers' Warehousemen	London, N.E.	13	For increase in wages to the rate fixed by the union
Printers' Labourers	London, N.E.	20	For advance in wages to a minimum rate of 20s. per week
Cabinet Makers	London, S.W.	21	Unions of the trade desired employer to engage a larger proportion of full-waged men than previously
Wood Turners and Machinists	London, S.W.	22	Workpeople were refused employment for objecting to sign an agreement to resume work after holidays, other classes being on strike
Glass Bevelers	London, E.C.	28	Against intention of employer to engage cheaper labour
Marine Engineers	Glasgow ...	17	For payment of full sea rates for work ashore between voyages
Bookbinders	Glasgow ...	30	Dispute as to minimum rate of wages, and employer declaring the department a non-union one.
Bakers	Hamilton ...	20	For increased wages and reduced hours, which had been generally conceded

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER—(continued.)

Employment.	Locality	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
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II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE DECEMBER, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

BUILDING TRADES.						
Bricklayers (Tile Fixers)	London, W. ...	10 Nov.	Against employment of special men to fix tiles ...	4	23	Non-union bricklayers engaged to fix brickwork ready for tilters.
Plumbers	Lancaster ...	26 Oct.	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, with other alterations in working rules	19	44	Advance in wages from 7½d. to 8d. per hour arranged at a conference.
Ditto	Chesterfield ...	30 Aug.	For a code of working rules, including a minimum rate of wages of 8½d. per hour	18	90	Advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and code of working rules conceded.
Plasterers	Colne, Nelson & Brierfield	28 May	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (8d. to 9d.) with an amended code of working rules	23	178	1d. per hour advance in wages granted, and also amended working rules.

MINING AND QUARRYING.						
Coal Miners	Washington, Durham	10 Aug.	Dispute as to bottom cutting in main coal seam	978	99	Men summoned and ordered to pay damages; dispute referred to arbitration, payment in the meantime to be at county average.
Ditto	Near Barnsley	20 Nov.	For compensation of 2d. per ton on introduction of lamps in place of naked lights	255	18	The usual district price conceded for working under such conditions.
Ditto	Marsfield	31 July	Inability to agree as to terms of a price list	384	115	Satisfactory price list arranged.
Ditto	Blaina...	17 Sept.	Demand of hauliers and day men for advance in wages to rates obtaining at a neighbouring colliery, with reduction in hours	500	75	Work resumed without alteration in wages.

TEXTILE TRADES.						
Cotton Weavers	Blackburn ...	9 Aug.	Refusal of employer to remit fines inflicted for a previous stoppage, and to reinstate certain weavers	609	109	Two-thirds of their fines returned to weavers, the remainder given to local charities; the discharged weavers not reinstated.
Ditto	Blackburn ...	9 Aug.	Ditto	379	109	Ditto.
Ditto	Clitheroe ...	1 Sept.	Against proposed reduction in wages of 5 per cent. on account of alleged local disadvantages	3,000	97	Reduction of 2½ per cent. agreed to for three months, the question of local disadvantages to be meanwhile considered by a joint committee.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.						
Letterpress Printers and Machinemen	Edinburgh ...	22 Oct.	For reduction in hours of labour from 52½ to 50 per week	290	45	Advance in wages of 1s. per week granted, but hours to remain as before.
Cordelova Workers	Edinburgh ...	22 Nov.	Dispute as to prices on certain new designs	31	12	Work resumed unconditionally, but revision of rates afterwards arranged.
Fitters & Machinemen	Glasgow ...	29 Nov.	Objection to a "handy man" being put to work a boring lathe	172	6	Most of the men returned to work on a non-union basis.

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

The following 18 disputes, the commencement of which has previously been reported, and which now involve about 53,600 workpeople, were still unsettled at the end of December: Disputes commencing in—*March*: Tinplate operatives, Pentrych. *April*: Hosiery operatives, Ilkeston. *May*: Plasterers, Liverpool (since reported as settled—Jan.); ironfounders, Potteries. *June*: Carpenters and joiners, Oxford and Bournemouth. *July*: Engineers, United Kingdom generally; coal miners, Leeds and Castleford. *August*: Joiners, Blackburn; saddle and harness makers, Dublin; bricklayers, Scarborough. *September*: Coal miners, Normanton. *October*: Coal miners, Abernant (2 disputes), and near Barnsley. *November*: Brassworkers, Willenhall; boot and shoe operatives, Arbroath.

NEW SOUTH WALES LABOUR BUREAU.

THE fifth annual report of the Government Labour Bureau of New South Wales (for the year ending June 30th, 1897) states that there was a very marked improvement in the number and condition of the unemployed generally for the year as compared with the one preceding it. The average daily registrations fell from 36.65 during 1895-6 to 21.43 during 1896-7. The average weekly number of unemployed working on the different relief works about Sydney fell from 1,570 to 106. It should, however, be borne in mind that, the numbers employed on relief works quoted for each of these years do not represent so many individuals, but the number of working orders issued to men for the specified periods, some receiving one, two or three days a week, in accordance with the family scale regulating the working time.

The drought during the first four or five months of 1897 increased the number of unemployed who were attracted from the country and from other colonies to Sydney by the reports that relief works were being started there. The report states that numbers of these men refused "legitimate employment in the country, preferring to wait their turn once in six or eight weeks on the relief works," and that "it is therefore questionable if these temporary means of assisting the destitute unemployed are of much benefit to them, excepting, perhaps, in the cases of married men with large families whose circumstances will hardly permit them to go to the country; others too old; and numbers of clerical and professional men unfitted for hard manual labour, such as is required in country pursuits." The expenditure in relief works (inclusive of railway fares paid to men in search of employment, but exclusive of cost of supervision and plant) was £77,796.

The number of unemployed registered at the Bureau head office during the year was 6,427 (or 7,635 less than the previous year), of whom 2,498 were married men with 4,608 children depending on them, and 3,929 were single men.

The total number assisted and sent to work for the year was 13,718, or a decrease of 6,858 as compared with the previous year, and 7,291 more than the number registered. This is owing to the

fact that many registered in previous years were sent to different jobs during the year, in some cases to five or six.

The total number registered at the 42 country branches during the year was 1,253, and the total number assisted and sent to work was 534.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF GOVERNMENT WORKMEN IN DENMARK.*

AN official inquiry into the hours and earnings of Government workmen in Denmark (excluding employees receiving weekly or monthly salaries) in the first month of each quarter of 1897 has shown the limits of average daily cash earnings of 5,100 workmen to be as follows:—

	Limits of average daily Cash Earnings.						
	1s. 13d. to 1s. 8d.	1s. 8d. to 2s. 26d.	2s. 26d. to 2s. 93d.	2s. 93d. to 3s. 39d.	3s. 39d. to 3s. 106d.	3s. 106d. to 4s. 52d.	Over 4s. 52d.
No. of Workmen—							
Permanent	180	900	1,000	550	350	120	100
Temporary	20	900	600	150	80	50	100

Some of the permanent workmen have allowances—e.g., free quarters or a corresponding allowance—in addition to their cash earnings.

The following statement classifies workmen employed in January and July, 1897, according to the length of their working day (exclusive of pauses for rest and meals) in those months:—

Months.	Under 7½ hours.	7½ and under 8 hours.	8 and under 9 hours.	9 and under 10 hours.	10 and under 10½ hours.	10½ hours and over.
January ...	128	1,161	203	39	425	225
July ...	—	1	1,187	1	887	365

The working hours of platelayers, level crossing-keepers, and workmen employed in the locomotive branch of the State Railways are excluded from this table.

* Danmarks Statistik. Statistiske Meddelelser. Fjerde Række. Første Bind. Kjøbenhavn. Gyldendalske Boghandel. 1897.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

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 December was 338,008. This corresponds to a rate of 216 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1897.

Compared with November last there is an increase of 7,909 in the number relieved, and of 5 in the rate per 10,000. Thirty-three out of the 35 districts show increased rates, the largest increases being in the Leicester district (25 per 10,000), Galway (17), Dublin (14), Central London (13), Paisley and Greenock, and Stockton and Tees districts (10 each), West Ham and Bristol (9 each), and Hull, and Coatbridge and Airdrie districts (8 each).

Compared with December, 1896, the number relieved shows an increase of 2,914, the rate per 10,000 remaining the same. The rate has decreased in 20 districts, the most marked decreases being in the Hull, and Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts (each 14 per 10,000), Bristol, and Wigan districts (12 each), North Staffordshire (11), and Leicester (10). In the Birmingham district the rate was unaltered, while in the remaining 14 districts increases are shown, the largest being in the Bolton, Oldham, &c., district (20), Galway (16), Stockton and Tees, and Manchester (13 each), Dublin (11), and Belfast (10).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of December, 1897 (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 month ago, and Year ago.

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

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December, the 13 bureaux furnishing returns for December, 1897, and also for December, 1896, registered 1,783 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,750 in December, 1896, an increase of 31. Work was found for 1,050 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 1,075 persons in December, 1896. The number remaining on the registers at the end of December, 1897, was 2,261, compared with 2,882 a year ago.

(I.) Work Done in December. Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications offered by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities), Dec. 1897, Dec. 1896.

(II.) Workpeople on Registers at end of December classified by Occupations. Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Build-ing, Engi-neer-ing and Metal Trades, Carpen-ters, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Ware-house-men, Porters and Messen-gers, General Labour-ers, Other Occu-pations), Total Men, Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Ser-vants, Dress-makers and Semp-stresses, Others, Total Women and Girls), Grand Total (Dec. 1897, Dec. 1896).

* Temporary employment. † Permanent employment. ‡ These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. § Of the 44 workpeople found work, 33 were temporarily engaged. || Women and Girls are not registered.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE monthly accounts of trade and navigation show that the value of the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions for the month ended December 31st, 1897, was £41,332,284, as compared with £43,618,851 for December, 1896, a decrease of £2,286,567 or 5.2 per cent.

The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for December, 1897, were valued at £19,302,181, as against £20,317,759 in December, 1896, showing a decrease of £1,015,578, or about 5 per cent., while the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise for December, 1897, amounted in value to £4,989,178, as compared with £5,586,259 for the corresponding month of 1896, showing a decrease of £597,081 or 10.7 per cent.

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

Table with columns: Month ended Dec. 31st (1896, 1897), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances, Oils, Raw Materials for Manufactures, and Miscellaneous Articles.

Among the articles of food and drink, the imports of wheat show a decreased value of £527,496; barley, £310,995; oats, £127,931; and Indian corn or maize, £134,136, while wheat meal and flour has increased by £253,327. Butter has fallen off to the extent of £144,821, but cheese shows an increased value of £126,261. The imports of raw cotton have increased in quantity 12,827 cwts., but decreased in value £1,369,961. Sheep or lambs' wool fell off to the extent of £528,630, and flax, dressed and undressed, and tow £123,801.

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

Table with columns: Month ended 31st Dec. (1896, 1897), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Animals, living; Articles of Food and Drink; Raw Materials; Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, viz.: Yarns and Textile Fabrics; Metals and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery); Machinery and Millwork; Miscellaneous.

The exports of cotton yarn increased by 3,495,500 lbs. in the quantity and £62,770 in the value exported, but piece goods fell off to the extent of £348,800. Linen yarns, piece goods and manufactures showed a decrease of £101,996, woollen and worsted tissues £247,698, and raw wool £60,998, but silk (thrown, twist, and yarn) and jute, alpaca and mohair yarns increased in value as compared with December, 1896. Coal shows an increase in quantity of 414,899 tons, and in value of £231,276, and metals of £165,240. The exports of machinery again show a falling off amounting to £422,851. Apparel and articles of personal use fell off to the value of £131,747. The export of cycles and parts thereof shows a noteworthy decrease for the month of £123,154.

With regard to the trade for the year ended December 31st, 1897, the imports were valued at £451,238,683, as compared with £441,808,904 in 1896, an increase of £9,429,779. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, on the other hand, show a net decrease of £5,795,548 for the year 1897, as compared with 1896. This is chiefly due to decreases of £8,711,033 in the exports of yarns and textile fabrics; of £595,865 in those of apparel and articles of personal use; and of £732,165 in those of machinery and mill-work. The new United States Tariff may, to some extent, account for the former, but the important export trade of British machinery and millwork has been much affected by the continued engineering dispute.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered during December at ports of the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions amounted to 2,867,864 tons,

and the tonnage cleared to 3,289,139 tons, as compared with 2,868,489 tons entered, and 3,030,900 tons cleared in December, 1896.

The tonnage entered coastwise amounted to 2,562,545 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,480,046 tons, as compared with amounts of 2,633,755 tons and 2,557,966 tons respectively in December, 1896.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during December show a falling off of nearly 5 per cent. when compared with December, 1896, but an increase of nearly 42 per cent. when compared with December, 1895, this increase being entirely due to increased arrivals of American cotton. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was greater than in the corresponding month of 1896 or 1895. For the twelve months the imports are less than those of the two previous years.

The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

Table with columns: Imports, Bales; Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Bales; Exports, Bales. Rows include December, 1897, 1896, 1895 and Twelve months ending: December, 1897, 1896, 1895.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended January 1st amounted to £5,871,415, an increase of £205,306 (or 3.6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1896. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,519,265, an increase of £85,792, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,352,150, an increase of £119,514.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during December was £581,258, an increase of £67,792 as compared with December, 1896. In England and Wales there was an increase of £58,624, in Scotland of £7,239, and in Ireland of £1,929.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during December numbered 318, being 41 less than in December, 1896, 68 less than in December, 1895, and 11 less than in December, 1894. The total number for the year was 4,113 in 1897, 4,155 in 1896, 4,440 in 1895, and 4,778 in 1894.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during December was 8,699, as compared with 9,331 in December, 1896. During the year 1897*, the number of passengers amounted to 213,450, being 28,502 (or 11.8 per cent.) less than in 1896.

British and Irish.—Of the 8,699 passengers in December, 5,973 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 210 as compared with a year ago. For the twelve months, the passengers of British or Irish origin show a decrease of 15,385 (or 9.5 per cent.), the figures being 146,540* for 1897, and 161,925 for 1896. The following table gives the particulars for the different periods:—

Table with columns: Destination, December, 1897, December, 1896, Year 1897, Year 1896. Rows include United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, and Total.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 8,699 passengers in December, viz., 2,726, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 422 less than in December, 1896.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during December was 4,222. Of these, 996 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 824 so stated in December, 1896. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,226 (including 811 sailors), as against 2,586 (including 719 sailors) in December, 1896. For the year 1897*, the number of aliens en route to America or elsewhere was 32,223, and the number not so stated, 49,557, compared with 40,036, and 45,909 respectively in 1896.

* The figures for 1897 are subject to correction in the annual returns.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN DECEMBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Informations laid.	Convictions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to Limewash	9	9	14 1 6	3 8 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	21	19	36 6 0	13 9 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	51†	53	22 0 0	20 1 8
Employing child under legal age	1	—	—	—
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour	67	65	37 14 0	26 17 10
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	43†	44	10 0 0	9 3 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	18	17	11 16 1	6 15 6
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays... ..	1	1	1 7 0	0 8 0
At night	24	23	14 10 0	9 15 2
Employing Children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c....	4	4	5 5 0	2 1 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c. :-				
Not keeping Registers	37†	38	21 2 0	13 8 9
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	18	17	16 8 6	5 6 3
Not sending Notices required by Act	4	4	7 0 0	3 4 0
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars	3	3	3 0 0	2 2 0
Prosecutions under Truck Act, 1896	5	5	45 0 0	4 7 6
Other offences	2	2	5 10 0	0 17 0
By Workmen :-				
Allowing children to clean machinery in motion, &c.	1	1	0 10 0	0 17 0
Obstructing an inspector in the execution of his duty	2	2	—	1 12 6
Employing children full time, &c.	1	1	0 1 0	0 19 6
Employment before or after the legal hour ...	2	2	0 10 0	0 16 6
By Parents :-				
Allowing children to be illegally employed ...	2	2	2 0 0	0 14 0
Total for December, 1897	316	312	284 1 1	126 4 8
Total for December, 1896	292†	293	204 9 0	114 8 7

II.—Under the Mines and Quarries Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-					£ s. d.
Miscellaneous	6	5	1	—	20 17 2
By Workmen :-					
Safety Lamps	7	7	—	—	9 5 0
Shot-firing and Explosives	3	3	—	—	4 18 6
Timbering	2	2	—	—	1 0 0
Lucifer Matches, &c.	4	3	—	1	3 16 6
Riding on Trams	3	3	—	—	2 9 6
Miscellaneous	22	21	—	1	22 2 6
Total for Dec., 1897	47	44	1	2	64 9 2
Total for Dec., 1896	34	32	—	2	38 2 0
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-					
Fencing	1	—	—	1	—
Other Special Rules	3	3	—	—	16 9 0
Total for Dec., 1897	4	3	—	1	16 9 0
Total for Dec., 1896	8	8	—	—	20 2 0

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Penalties.	Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships :-			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Submerging disc	2	2	22 0 0	6 13 0
Carrying excessive deck cargoes	5	5	16 19 0	6 15 6
By Boarding-House Keepers :-				
Soliciting seamen as lodgers	1	1	3 0 0	1 4 0
Total for Dec., 1897	8	8	41 19 0	14 12 6
Total for Dec., 1896	20	20	90 15 0	20 0 10

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

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	With-drawn on compliance with Act.	Convictions.	Fines & Costs.
Failing to send Annual Statements or Returns	8	5	3	£ s. d. 9 6 0

* Supplied by the Home Office.

† In these cases 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.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN DECEMBER.

(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 December it will be seen that 2 Trade Unions, 8 Co-operative Associations for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Societies, 20 new Friendly Societies, and 21 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. One Trade Union, 18 Building Societies, and 4 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding up," or to have had registry cancelled, and 1 has amalgamated with another Society.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—Settmakers' Union, 424 Gt. Northern-road, Woodside, Aberdeen. Ireland.—Operative Bakers of Dundalk, Clanbrasil-street, Dundalk.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Glenamaddy Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Glenamaddy, Co. Galway; Pomeroy Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone; Duneane Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Duneane, Co. Antrim; Kiltarton Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kiltarton, Co. Galway; Beagh Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Gort, Co. Galway; Springfield Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Springfield, Co. Fermanagh; Ballysakeery Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballysakeery, Co. Mayo; Clones Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Clones, Co. Monaghan.

(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Justice Land, Building and Social Club, Ltd., 63 Great Clowes-street, Lower Broughton, Salford, Manchester; Coventry Co-operative Self-Help Land Soc., Ltd., 79 King William-street, Coventry. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 6; Working Men's Clubs, 6; Dividing, 5; Specially Authorised, 1. Scotland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1. Ireland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—I. O. Oddfellows, M.U., 3; A. O. Foresters, 3; Hearts of Oak, Dividing, 3; Various (including 1 District), 8. Scotland.—B. O. A. Free Gardeners, 1. Ireland.—Various, 3.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Grimsby Bricklayers and Plasterers' Labourers' Protective, Accident and Burial Soc., Friendly Societies' Hall, Grimsby.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Resolution to wind up received:—Brownfields Guild Pottery Soc., Ltd., Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent. Liquidator's final report received:—Tower Hamlets Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 438 Commercial-road, E.; Kentish Town Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 17 Prince of Wales Crescent, N.W. (Registry cancelled by request); Herne Hill and Brixton Coal Co-op. Association, Ltd., 231 Railton-road, Herne Hill, S.E. The Earcroft Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 600 Blackburn-road, Lower Darwen, has amalgamated with the Darwen Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—By instrument of dissolution, 4; notice of commencement of dissolution, 8; notice of termination of dissolution, 6.

NOTICE.

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