

61a

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. VIII.—No. I.

JANUARY, 1900.

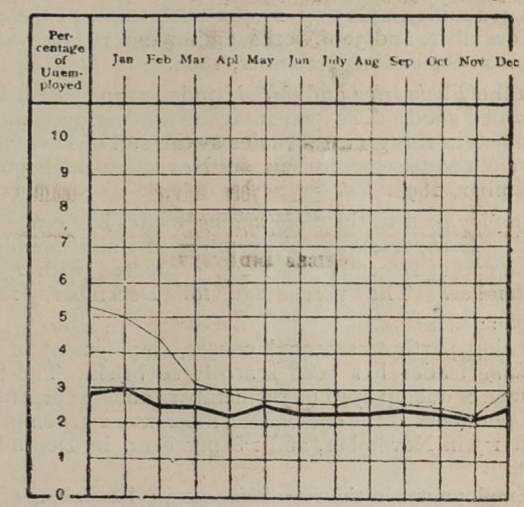
PRICE ONE PENNY.

CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

	PAGE
Employment Chart, 1898-99	1
State of the Labour Market in December	1
Special Articles and Reports—	
TRADE DISPUTES IN 1899—PRELIMINARY FIGURES	3
CHANGES IN RATES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1899—PRELIMINARY FIGURES	4
TRADE UNIONS IN UNITED KINGDOM IN 1898	6
AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND	7
RECENT LABOUR LEGISLATION IN NEW ZEALAND	4
LEAD COMPOUNDS IN POTTERY MANUFACTURE	7
EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN	2
LABOUR DISPUTES IN DENMARK IN 1898	5
RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS	8
NEW GERMAN LAW ON OLD AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE	31
Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—	
REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES	
COAL MINING	12
IRON MINING	13
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	13
IRON AND STEEL WORKS	13
SHIPBUILDING	14
TINPLATE WORKS	14
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	15
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	16
SEAMEN	14
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	17
DISTRICT REPORTS	
LONDON	17
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	18
Lancashire	19
Yorkshire	20
Midland Counties	21
Eastern Counties	22
South Western Counties	22
WALES	23
SCOTLAND	23
IRELAND	24
Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—	
COLONIES	10
FRANCE	10
GERMANY	11
SWITZERLAND	11
Miscellaneous Reports for December—	
LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR	8
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	29
FOREIGN TRADE	31
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES	29
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	32
Statistical Tables for December—	
TRADE DISPUTES	28
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	26
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR	24
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	25
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	32
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX	31
LABOUR BUREAUX	30
PAUPERISM	30
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	10
Notes and Reviews—	
SHOEING SMITHS, COLLAR MAKERS AND WHEELERS WANTED BY WAR OFFICE	8
EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES	10
INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES—NEW APPOINTMENTS	29

EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1898-1899.

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



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

[Based on 2,339 returns, viz.: 1,659 from Employers, 550 from Trade Unions, and 130 from other sources.]

The general state of employment has continued good, and the percentage of unemployed members returned by trade unions is lower than at any similar period of the year since 1889. A comparison of the returns for the end of December with those of the previous month is to some extent affected by the Christmas and New Year holidays, and allowance must therefore be made for this disturbing influence when considering the figures given below.

In the 123 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 511,184, 12,664 (or 2.5 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2.2 in November, and with 2.9 per cent. in the 118 unions, with a membership of 470,391, from which returns were received for December, 1898.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment continues very good, the average number of days worked per week being greater in December than at any time during the five years in which these statistics have been compiled. Returns relating to collieries, at which 445,469 workpeople were employed, show that an average of 5.65 days per week was worked in the four weeks ended December 23rd, as compared with 5.64 days in November, and 5.54 days in December, 1898.

Iron Mining.—Employment was good in December, though not quite as good as a year ago. At mines and open works, at which 16,980 workpeople were employed, the average number of days worked in the four weeks ended December 23rd was 5.75 per week, as compared with 5.79 in November, and 5.82 a year ago.

Almost equal numbers of disputes were decided in favour of the workpeople, in favour of the employers, and by compromise respectively. As regards the number of workpeople involved it appears that the balance of advantage rested with the employers. Of the 75,203 workpeople involved in disputes decided in favour of the employers, 35,000 are accounted for by the Dundee jute-workers' dispute.

The dispute of the year which perhaps attracted the greatest attention was the strike and lock-out of plasterers, which affected 4,000 men, and had an aggregate duration of 200,000 days.

Of the 178,440 workpeople involved in the disputes of the year, Scotland accounts for 60,165; Wales and Monmouthshire, 36,552; Lancashire and Cheshire, 27,674; Yorkshire, 19,136; other northern English counties, 9,104; midland and eastern counties, 16,055; while all the southern and western counties, including London, contributed only 6,876 to the total, and in Ireland only 2,878 were affected.

RECENT LABOUR LEGISLATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

Employers forbidden to compel Workmen to pay Accident Insurance Premiums.—The Wages Protection Act, 1899, passed by the Legislature of New Zealand on October 19th, 1899, recites that "there has lately grown up amongst certain employers a practice of taking out accident insurance policies to insure their workmen against accident and themselves against liability under the Employers' Liability Acts, and of compelling or inducing their workmen to contribute, as premium for such insurance, sums at a rate proportionate to their wages," and that "such practice is oppressive, and it is expedient to prevent the same," and enacts that "(1) It shall not be lawful for any employer to directly or indirectly take or receive any money from any worker in his employ, whether by way of deduction from wages or otherwise howsoever, in respect of any policy of insurance against injury by accident. (2) It shall not be lawful for any insurance company, or any person on its behalf, to directly or indirectly take or receive from any worker any money in respect of any policy of insurance which in any way, directly or indirectly, purports to both indemnify the employer against any of his liability under the Employers' Liability Acts, and also to pay compensation in respect of injury to the worker by accident. Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any voluntary arrangement arrived at between an employer and his worker for insurance against accidents happening to such worker outside the time in which he is engaged working for such employer; provided, further, that such arrangement is approved of by a Stipendiary Magistrate after hearing evidence; but in no case shall the premium payable by the worker exceed one-third of the total amount payable."

Minimum Wages for Boys and Girls in Factories and Workshops.—By another New Zealand statute ("The Employment of Boys or Girls without Payment Prevention Act, 1899"), passed on October 21st, 1899, "Every boy or girl under the age of 18 years who is employed in any capacity to do any work in a factory or workshop shall be entitled to receive from the employer payment for the work at such rate as is agreed on, being in no case less than 4s. per week for girls and 5s. per week for boys irrespective of overtime. If the employer makes default for 14 days in the full and punctual payment of any money payable by him as aforesaid, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 5s. for every day thereafter during which such default continues." It is further enacted that "No premium shall be paid by any such boy or girl to, or be accepted by, any factory-occupier for employment in any factory or workshop, whether such premium is paid by the boy or girl employed or by some other person: and if any factory-occupier is guilty of any breach of the provisions of this section he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £10."

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1899.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

THE following tables are based on the monthly tables appearing in the LABOUR GAZETTE, and are subject to correction in the Annual Report, which will also include the wages statistics relating to railway servants, seamen and agricultural labourers. For reasons fully explained in the last Annual Report,* changes of wages in these occupations cannot be treated in quite the same way as changes affecting other trades. Complete information as regards these three important occupations will not be available until the annual returns relating to them have been compiled. Meanwhile, it may be stated generally, on the basis of the information so far available, that wages in these trades have shown an upward tendency, in sympathy with the general movement in wages recorded below.

Changes in Rates of Wages.

The total number of changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as having taken effect in 1899, was 1,453,† of which 1,436 were increases, and 17 decreases.

The figures for 1893-9 are shown in the following table:—

Table with 4 columns: Year, Total number of individuals affected by changes in rates of wages, Net result on weekly wages of those affected by changes (Increases (+) and Decreases (-)), and Average per head.

The upward movement in wages which commenced in the latter part of 1895, and continued during 1896, 1897, and 1898, was fully maintained during 1899, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) affected by net increases in rates of wages being 1,110,128 while 1,069 only were affected by net decreases. This gives a total of 1,111,197 affected by upward or downward changes—a larger total than in any year included in the table. The total effect of all the changes in 1899 was a net increase of £85,820, or an average of 1s. 6½d. per head in the weekly wages, of those affected.

From the following table showing the net result of the changes by groups of trades it will be seen that the largest increases in 1899 were in the coal mining and iron and steel industries:—

Table with 5 columns: Group of Trades, Individuals affected by changes in rates of wages (Number), Net increase on weekly wages of those affected by changes (Total Amount, Average per head).

Of the computed total amount of increase in weekly wages (£86,000), £49,000, or 57 per cent., went to the coal miners, £13,000, or 15 per cent., to the iron and steel workers, and £6,400 or 7 per cent. to building trade operatives. The changes of wages of the first two groups of workmen were fully noticed in the GAZETTES for November and December last (pp. 323 and 355) and need not be further dealt with here. Next to these changes in importance are the advances

* C. 9434 of 1899. † Exclusive of changes in the rates of wages of agricultural labourers, railway servants and seamen.

which have taken effect in the textile trades. For six years no general changes had been recorded in this group—the last reported movement being in the period 1892-3, when the cotton spinners sustained a decrease of 2.91 per cent., and the wages of the linen and jute workers of Dundee fell 5 per cent.

The following table shows the general changes in the standard rates of wages of three of the principal groups of textile workers since 1873—the year when these rates were at their highest level.

Table showing Net percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the Wages of Cotton Spinners in Lancashire, Cotton Weavers in Lancs., Ches. and W. Yorks., and Flax and Jute Operatives, Dundee, from 1873 to 1899.

The returns showing the number affected by the changes of 1899 are still incomplete, but those already furnished to the Department show that 210,000 textile operatives received advances during the year. The average amount of advance is but small—less than 6d. per head weekly. Thus, while the number receiving advances in the textile group forms 19 per cent. of the total affected by changes, only 6 per cent. of the computed total increase in weekly wages went to this group.

The other changes included in the table by groups of trades, call for little notice. Wages in the building trade show that continued and steady increase which has distinguished them in every year for which statistics have been collected.

The engineering and shipbuilding trades show an increase in 1899, but the increase is small as compared with the three previous years. The computed increase in weekly wages in 1899 is estimated at £2,068. In 1898 it was £9,904; in 1897, £9,751, and in 1896, £15,679.

The following table shows the methods by which the changes in wages were brought about and the number affected in each case:—

Table with 3 columns: Agencies by which the Changes in Wages were arranged, Number of Workpeople affected, and Percentage number of Workpeople whose Wages were arranged by each Agency. It is divided into 'After Strike' and 'Without Strike'.

It thus appears that of the 1,111,197 workpeople whose rates of wages were changed, only 31,055, or 2.79 per cent. of the total, were affected by disputes causing a stoppage of work. Of the 1,080,142, whose wages were changed without cessation of work, rather more than half had their wages arranged by Conciliation

* The mill hands on set wages sustained a reduction of 10 per cent. only. † The weavers did not participate in this advance. ‡ Including 100,000 miners in Durham who received 3 advances during the year, 2 after negotiation between the representatives of the parties and 1 under Conciliation Board.

and Arbitration Boards, Sliding Scales, &c., the great majority of these being employed in the mining and iron and steel industries.

Changes in Hours of Labour.

During the year 1899, the weekly hours of labour were reduced in the case of 29,105 workpeople and increased in the case of 2,600. The net result of these changes was an average decrease of 3.60 hours in the weekly hours of labour of the 31,705 workpeople affected. Nearly a third of the total number affected by the changes were building trade operatives, 9,497 of whom had their normal working time reduced on the average by 0.84 hours per week. In the coal mining industry, 3,778 workmen had their hours reduced by an average of 3.38 hours per week. In engineering and other metal trades, 6,306 workpeople obtained an average reduction of 4.81 hours per week; in one case in this group, affecting 710 workpeople, the eight-hours day was adopted. 4,668 workpeople in the employ of public authorities obtained an average reduction of 9.46 hours per week. This high figure is due to the reduction by 12 hours per week of the working time of 1,000 tramwaymen at Liverpool, the adoption of the eight-hours day for 570 employees of the West Ham Corporation, and the change from 7 to 6 days labour per week affecting over 1,900 tramwaymen in the employ of the London County Council.

Of the 31,705 workpeople whose hours of labour were changed, 5,973, or 18.8 per cent. had their hours altered as the result of disputes causing stoppage of work; 1,100 of the remainder obtained their changes by arbitration, and the rest by direct negotiation between the employers and their workpeople, or their representatives. The following table enables a comparison to be made between 1899 and the 6 preceding years as regards changes in hours of labour:—

Table with 4 columns: Years, Number of workpeople affected by changes in hours of labour, Net average reduction per week in hours of those affected by changes, and Computed total reduction in weekly hours of those affected.

It will be seen from this table that the number of workpeople affected by reductions in hours in any year is a very small fraction of the total working population.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN DENMARK IN 1898.

OFFICIAL figures relative to this subject, contained in the Statistical Abstract just issued by the Danish Government Statistical Bureau (see ante p. n), give the total number of labour disputes, which occurred in Denmark in 1898 as 148 (compared with 111 in 1897). Full information was lacking for 36 disputes of 1898, and for 46 of 1897. These are stated, however, to have been of small extent and brief duration.

The maximum number of workpeople directly thrown out of work by the disputes for which full information was available and the aggregate number of working days lost by those people, were as follows in the two years:—

Table with 3 columns: 1897, 1898. It shows No. of disputes for which full information was available, Maximum number of workpeople directly thrown out of work, and No. of working days lost.

Of the 118,283 working days lost in 112 disputes in 1898, 40,815 (in 9 disputes directly involving 612 workpeople) are grouped under "unskilled labour employed in industry and commerce"; while 18,357 (in 9 disputes directly involving 591 workpeople) are grouped under "factory operatives of various kinds." The remaining 94 disputes admit of the following classification according to groups of trades:—

Group of Trades.	Maximum number of persons directly thrown out of work by disputes in 1898.		Number of disputes directly thrown out in 1898.	Aggregate Number of working days lost by persons directly thrown out of work by disputes in 1898.
	On Strike.	Locked-out.		
Building	2,745	—	2,745	15
Metal and Engineering (including Electrical Engineering)	285	69	354	12
Textiles	280	34	314	7
Clothing	357	20	377	22
Printing and Bookbinding	38	—	38	3
Woodworking	151	—	151	12
Food and Tobacco	370	530	900	15
Leather and Upholstery	66	—	66	3
Other Trades	104	—	104	5
Total	4,396	683	5,079	94

Five of the disputes of 1898 were settled by arbitration.

TRADE UNIONS IN 1898.

THE Eleventh Report on Trade Unions has just been issued by the Labour Department. It contains full statistical and some other information as to the position and work of those associations for the year 1898, the latest period for which such particulars are available, and also as to various kindred organisations to which they have given rise. Seventy-four pages of the volume are taken up with the general and detailed Report, or analysis of the statistics presented, and with the special summaries into which have been gathered the general results of the detailed tables presented in the remaining 311 pages. Special attention is drawn to a new feature in the Report, which appears on pp. 234-93. It was felt that while the general tables of the Report show correctly the total and average amounts paid and received under the different heads by all the members, they do not indicate the exact financial liability of the individual member to his union, nor of the union to each of its members. A summary has therefore been prepared, giving for the 100 principal unions, the rates of entrance fees and contributions paid by the different classes of members, and the scales of benefit to which they are entitled in case of dispute, unemployment, sickness and old age. This summary is drawn from the rules of the unions, supplemented in some cases by information courteously supplied by their secretaries.

The directory of Trade Union addresses hitherto included in the report is now discontinued, it being the intention of the Department to publish shortly a special list of addresses of Associations of Employers and of Workmen.

From the General Report it appears that, at the beginning of 1898, there were on the list of the Department 1,307 trade unions with 1,611,384 members. During the year 35 new unions were formed with a membership of 66,192. In 56 cases unions ceased to exist, the membership of which at the end of 1897 had been 16,279. The number of unions, but not the total membership, was also affected by the absorption of 19 sectional unions by the larger organisations of their respective trades. The total number of unions on the list at the end of 1898 was therefore 1,267, of which the membership was 1,644,591. There was thus an increase on the year of 33,207, or a little over 2 per cent., which is a slower rate of increase than in 1897. The groups of trades showing the most important increases of membership during 1898 are building and mining. Those showing the greatest decline are railway service and engineering. Of the total number of unions existing at the end of 1898, 594, with 1,234,635 members were registered under the Trade Union Act, while 673 unions, with 409,956 members were not so registered. It thus appears that three-fourths of the membership of all the unions is included in the registered societies. 140 societies included females in their membership to the total number of 116,016, which is only 7 per cent. of all the unions, but 41 per cent. of the membership of the 140 unions to which they belong. The bulk of these female operatives are to be found in the textile trades.

The accounts of the 100 principal trade unions selected for analysis show that they contained 1,043,476 members, or upwards of 63 per cent. of the membership of all the unions, leaving less than 37 per cent. of membership to the remaining 1,167 societies. The numerical strength

and general financial position of these 100 unions is shown comparatively in the following table for a period of seven years:—

Year.	Income.	Expenditure.	Funds at end of year.	Membership at end of Year.
1892	1,459,214	1,421,169	1,612,500	999,618
1893	1,619,798	1,854,999	1,381,599	914,311
1894	1,632,243	1,435,804	1,578,038	928,105
1895	1,559,914	1,391,908	1,705,044	917,050
1896	1,675,535	1,235,720	2,155,859	961,809
1897	1,981,251	1,838,095	2,259,075	1,065,910
1898	1,915,455	1,489,671	2,694,799	1,043,476
Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of 1898 compared with	1897 (-) 3'3	(-) 21'5	(+) 18'8	(-) 2'1
	1892 (+) 31'3	(+) 4'8	(+) 66'7	(+) 4'7

This table shows an increase under all heads over the whole period, although in 1898 the income and expenditure of the 100 unions decreased concurrently with the membership. The total income and expenditure of these 100 unions both decreased in 1898 as compared with 1897, the former by 3'3 per cent., the latter by no less than 21'5 per cent., the cause in both cases being the same, viz., the exceptional expenditure in 1897 on the part of the engineering trades in consequence of the great dispute and the additional funds raised in that year to meet part of the increased outlay. Thus, in 1897, the income of the metal and engineering trades group of unions exceeded that of 1898 by £88,271, while the expenditure was greater by £398,512.

While as to the 100 selected unions the tables of the Report give copious details, the aggregate expenditure under the general heads of dispute benefit, friendly benefits, and working expenses are thus briefly summarised for a period of seven years:—

Expenditure on:—	Amount.	Per cent. of Total.
Dispute pay	2,473,036	23
Unemployed and other benefits	6,358,609	59
Working expenses	1,895,721	18
	<u>£10,727,366</u>	<u>100</u>

Thus, of the nearly ten and three-quarter million pounds expended during the period of seven years, 59 per cent. was expended under friendly and benevolent heads, 23 per cent. on dispute benefit, and 18 per cent. on working expenses of various kinds. In 1898 the percentage expended on dispute benefit was 21'2, which is thus somewhat below the average of the seven years.

The chief source of income of the unions is, of course, the contributions of members, and over the period of seven years treated in the report the aggregate income of the 100 unions was £11,843,410, of which over 90 per cent. was raised in this way, less than 10 per cent. remaining being due to fines, entrance fees, interest on funds, subscriptions from other societies, the public, and other miscellaneous sources. The average amount of annual contribution per member of all the 100 unions in 1898 was £1 13s. 2d., though in the case of 12 unions with a membership of 192,372 the contributions exceeded £3 per member. Over the period of seven years the amount of the average of annual contributions shows a general tendency to increase.

As to funds in hand the accounts of the 100 unions show the largest total yet recorded. The average per member of these funds at the end of 1898 was £2 11s. 7½d., the rise being steadily maintained from 1893, when the average per member was £1 10s. 2½d. The funds of one society (the Cotton Spinners) amount to no less than £15 12s. 9d. per member.

During 1898 there was little change in the number and membership of Trades Councils, the total of such bodies being 156, or one more than in 1897, the membership being a little over 701,000 in each year. As to Federations of Trade Unions there were 112 of such organisations for 1898, as against 120 in 1897, the membership represented for the two years, respectively being 1,009,690 and 1,089,583, but these totals are subject to considerable deductions, for members of separate societies represented on more than one Federation.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1899.

INFORMATION has been received by the Department of the rates of wages obtained by farm servants at the yearly and half-yearly hiring fairs which took place in Scotland during the last six months of 1899 in the counties of Aberdeen, Argyle, Ayr, Banff, Berwick, Caithness, Clackmannan, Dumfries, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Haddington, Inverness, Kincardine, Kirkcubright, Lanark, Linlithgow, Nairn, Peebles, Perth, Renfrew, Ross and Cromarty, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Stirling and Wigtown.

Generally speaking, there was but little change in wages compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. At the earlier autumn fairs, notably in the counties of Forfar and Perth, a rise of about 20s. for the year was paid, but as the hiring season advanced wages are said to have returned to their former level. As a rule, men who remained in their places got their old wages. In a few cases men who changed had to take from about 10s. to 20s. less for the half-year, and where this happened it is said to be due to the fine weather in the autumn, which enabled farmers to get field work exceptionally well advanced.

Women servants were generally scarce and their wages frequently increased from 10s. to 20s. for the half year.

The wages of first and second horsemen at the yearly hirings in the Counties of Fife and Kinross were from £26 to £33, and of third horsemen from £24 to £29. The half-yearly wages of first and second horsemen were generally about £13 to £18 in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Elgin, Forfar, Inverness, Kincardine, Lanark, Nairn and Stirling. Married men in addition to their cash wages usually get free cottages and allowances of oatmeal, milk, potatoes, and perhaps coals, or coals carted free, and unmarried men get their board and lodging, except in the Border Counties and the Lothians, where the system prevails of engaging families by the year.

Speaking generally, the unmarried men who are lodged and fed by their employers are hired by the half-year, and married men who live in cottages (and with these are generally included shepherds and men in charge of cattle, and the head ploughmen) are engaged by the year. But there are many exceptions; in some districts the engagements being half-yearly for all classes, whether married or single, in others yearly, in others a mixed system. Men and women, with the exception of stewards and shepherds, are mostly engaged at the numerous hiring fairs which are held at various periods of the year in practically every county in Scotland.

In the Border Counties and in the Lothians most of the farm servants are hired by the year, and live in cottages on or close to the farm. They are usually hired by families, the sons and daughters living at home with their parents and working together on the same farm, the men being paid an "upstanding wage," and the women being paid so much a day when they present themselves for work. In most of these counties there are districts where unmarried men are hired by the year and half year, and are lodged and boarded by their employers. In other parts of Scotland the proportion of the boarded men is usually larger than that of the married men, but the number of married men that a farmer can engage depends, of course, on the cottage accommodation at his disposal, as they are always provided with cottages on the farm, the village system in England being practically unknown.

Several systems for lodging and boarding unmarried men are in existence. In many cases they are lodged and boarded in the farmhouses, but in some in the houses of the married men. Another system is to lodge them in a bothy and provide food for them in the kitchen; another to lodge them in a bothy and for the farmer to provide them with food there; and another for the men to lodge in a bothy and to find their own food. In the last case they usually receive a certain allowance of meal and milk, and sometimes potatoes.

LEAD COMPOUNDS IN POTTERY MANUFACTURE.

A CIRCULAR, dated December 14th, 1899, has been addressed by the Home Office to manufacturers of earthenware and china, dealing with the use of lead compounds in pottery. Reference is made to the Report on this question by Dr. Thorpe and Dr. Oliver (see GAZETTE, May, 1899, p. 132), and to the circular in relation to this Report issued by the Home Office in March, 1899; and it is stated that since the issue of that circular the views of the manufacturers have been fully presented to the Secretary of State, additional investigations have been made by Dr. Thorpe and Dr. Oliver, there has been time to watch the working of the rules established in 1898, statistics are now available to show how far these rules are effective in checking lead poisoning, and additional information has been obtained by H.M. Inspectors. The Secretary of State is satisfied that for many purposes leadless glazes can be adopted without injury to the trade, and that they are being used exclusively by certain manufacturers. He proposes to modify the existing rules so as to exclude the processes in which the use of lead has been discontinued from the operation of such portions of the rules as are intended to protect the workers against lead poisoning, leaving in force those portions only which are aimed at the prevention of danger from dust, or at securing general cleanliness.

A considerable reduction in the number of cases of lead-poisoning—chiefly in the number of cases among women and girls—has taken place as the result of the working of the special rules. The Secretary of State has, in these circumstances, determined that, in accordance with a suggestion submitted to him on behalf of the manufacturers, the monthly medical examination, previously required for women and young persons, shall be extended to the whole of the workers in lead processes.

The Secretary of State has decided to embody in special rules another proposal put forward by the manufacturers—that only glazes, in which the lead is fritted, should be used in the manufacture of china and earthenware; a period of six months will be allowed to elapse before this restriction is brought into force compulsorily.

With respect to fritted glazes, it is remarked that there is a very great variety in the character of the different frits, some of which are almost insoluble and, therefore, comparatively safe to the workers, while others are little, if at all, better than the raw lead. The Secretary of State is, therefore, of opinion that ultimately a standard of safety in fritts must be definitely fixed by special rules—a standard having reference, not to the amount of lead in the frit, but to the solubility of the lead.

So far as glazes are concerned, the regulation should run in some such terms as the following:—

"No glazes into the composition of which the fritted lead enters shall be regarded as satisfying the requirement as to insolubility which yields to a dilute solution of hydrochloric acid more than two per cent. of its dry weight of a soluble lead compound calculated as lead monoxide when determined in the following manner:—A weighed quantity of dried material is to be continuously shaken for one hour, at the common temperature, with 1,000 times its weight of an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid containing 0'25 per cent. of H Cl. This solution is thereafter to be allowed to stand for one hour and to be passed through a filter. The lead salt contained in an aliquot portion of the clear filtrate is then to be precipitated as lead sulphide, and weighed as lead sulphate."

It is stated that, in order to give manufacturers ample time to provide themselves with glazes, etc., answering to such a standard, two years will be allowed to elapse before bringing it compulsorily into force. In the meantime, specimens of fritted lead or of fritted glazes, submitted by manufacturers, may be tested for a very small fee in the Government Laboratory, in order to ascertain whether they come up to the proposed standard.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

by the calling out of the Reserves. Reports from Suffolk show that, owing to favourable weather, employment has been generally regular, and farm work is well forward in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Nutford and Lotingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, and Thingoe. The supply of labour is reported as fairly adequate except in the Unions of Cosford, Mildenhall, and Plomesgate, where some scarcity is reported.

Favourable reports as to employment come from Norfolk from the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guilthcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, and Walsingham. In the Unions of Forehoe, and St. Faiths, a few labourers are said to have had irregular employment, and there has been some slight interruption of outdoor work in some districts caused by frost. Generally speaking, the supply of and demand for labour have been about equal, but scarcity of labour is reported from the Unions of Aylsham, Downham, Freebridge Lynn, and Guilthcross. A report from the Mitford and Launditch Union states: "Farm work very forward, just enough labour to keep the farms going. The weather has been very changeable, but labourers have lost no time."

Employment is said to be quite regular in Cambridgeshire in the Unions of Chesterton, Linton, and North Witchford, and in the Cambridgeshire portions of the Peterborough Union (Northants, Cambs, Hunts, and Lincoln) and the Royston Union (Cambs and Herts). A correspondent writes from the Chesterton Union: "Roots are not good this season, and the labour in getting them up is much less. Work is fairly forward, and the weather for the most part has been favourable for regular employment." Agricultural labourers are said to have been regularly employed in Lincolnshire, in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, and Spilsby, and in the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Notts and Lincoln). A scarcity of labour is reported from the Boston, Brigg, Grimsby, Lincoln, and Spilsby Unions. A correspondent from the Lincoln Union reports: "Great difficulty in getting extra hands, even for threshing, although willing to give 6d. extra per day."

Home Counties.—In Buckinghamshire employment is reported as regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow, and in the Buckinghamshire portion of the Henley Union (Oxon and Bucks). Scarcity of labour is reported from the Henley Union. A report from the Buckingham Union states that a number of young men have migrated to other parts to fill the places of Reservists, or there would have been a surplus supply of labour. Employment is also said to be regular in Berkshire in the Unions of Bradfield and Wantage. Labourers are stated to be scarce in both Unions, and a report from Wantage states that so many are called out with the Reserves or Militia, that no extra hands can be had; but, on the other hand, as work was well forward, there was no difficulty experienced.

Agricultural labourers are reported to have had regular employment in Surrey in the Unions of Godstone, and Hambledon, and in the Surrey portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). Labour is reported as scarce in the Farnham Union, particularly for wood-cutting. The weather has been, on the whole, favourable for outdoor employment in this county. Reports from Kent show that employment has been quite regular in the Unions of Blean, Eastry, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden. The weather has, generally speaking, been favourable for outdoor work. Labour is said to be scarce in the Unions of Blean, Elham, Faversham, Maidstone, and Tenterden, and more men have been wanted for wood-cutting in the Sevenoaks Union. Favourable reports as to employment come from Hertfordshire from the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, and Watford. Agricultural labourers, especially young men, are said to be scarce in the Unions of Buntingford, Hitchin, and Watford. The report from Hitchin states that the railway companies are absorbing a large number of agricultural labourers, but that the root crop has been short, and consequently there is less stock kept. Employment is said to be quite regular in the Barnet Union of Middlesex.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Reports from Sussex state that agricultural labourers have been regularly employed in the Unions of Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, and Rye. Owing to favourable weather, farm work is well forward in this county, but labourers are said to be scarce (in some cases owing to the calling out of the Army Reserves) in the Unions of Hailsham, Horsham, Newhaven, and Rye, while in the Petworth Union men for copse work are difficult

to obtain. An employer writes from the Horsham Union, "Throughout the Union labour is fully employed, and more hands are required. I could do with half a dozen more hands for draining and pay them a price at which they could earn 4s. per day easily." Employment is said to have been regular in Hampshire in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Kingsclere, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). A short supply of labour is reported from the Basingstoke, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Petersfield, and Farnham Unions, stated to be chiefly due to the departure of Reservists in the case of the Petersfield, and Farnham Unions, and to the absorption of labour by railway works in the Hartley Wintney, and Basingstoke Unions. A correspondent from the Petersfield Union states that the "crops generally were lighter this season and the open weather has partly made up for the scarcity of labourers, consequently work is forward." Favourable reports come from Dorsetshire from the Unions of Blandford, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne; and from Wiltshire from the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. A report from the Dorchester Union states that the roots have been fairly good and have given a lot of employment. A correspondent from the Amesbury Union writes that the weather being fine, threshing was general, employing every available hand, while a report from the Bradford-on-Avon Union states that "most outdoor work is completed, ploughing and threshing excepted. Ploughing hindered by heavy fall of snow, but work still regular, feeding cattle and odd work." Some scarcity of labour is reported from the Unions of Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, and Warminster, the scarcity being occasioned chiefly by the calling up of Reservists, and in some districts by an unusual amount of sickness among the men.

Agricultural labourers in Gloucestershire are said to have been generally well employed in the Unions of Dursley, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, Thornbury, and Winchcombe. The weather has been favourable on the whole, though ploughing was interrupted for a time by frost, but labourers have been well employed manure carting and threshing, etc. Some difficulty is reported in obtaining sufficient labour in the Stow-on-the-Wold and Winchcombe Unions. In the Gloucester Union a number of agricultural labourers were incapacitated from working owing to the influenza. Reports from Herefordshire from the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (Hereford and Monmouth), Ledbury, and Ross state that there has been some slight irregularity of employment owing to wet weather. Some scarcity of labour is referred to in the reports from the Bromyard, Ledbury, and Ross Unions. In Somersetshire employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, and Yeovil. The weather is stated to have been changeable, but work is said to have been found for all hands under cover during wet weather, but in the Frome Union a few men were irregularly employed owing to this cause. A report from the Yeovil Union states that "influenza has been very prevalent in this district; a great number being obliged to stay at home on account of it. Nearly all are in a club, but the funds are getting low through so many drawing sick pay." A scarcity of men (attributed chiefly to the withdrawal of Reservists) is reported in the Frome, Taunton, Wellington, and Wells Unions. Reports state that agricultural labourers generally have been fully employed in Devonshire in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holford, Kingsbridge, Tavistock, and Torrington; and in Cornwall in the Unions of Bodmin, and Camelford. It is said that the weather has been favourable for outdoor work except in the last week of the month. The supply of labour is stated to have been, on the whole, just sufficient, owing generally to the comparatively small amount of work required to be done on the farms.

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves shows an improvement as compared with a year ago, but a slight decline when compared with last month.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended December 30th was 16,390, as compared

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; TEXTILE TRADES; LONDON.

with averages of 16,679 in the preceding four weeks, and 15,887 in the corresponding period of 1898.

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

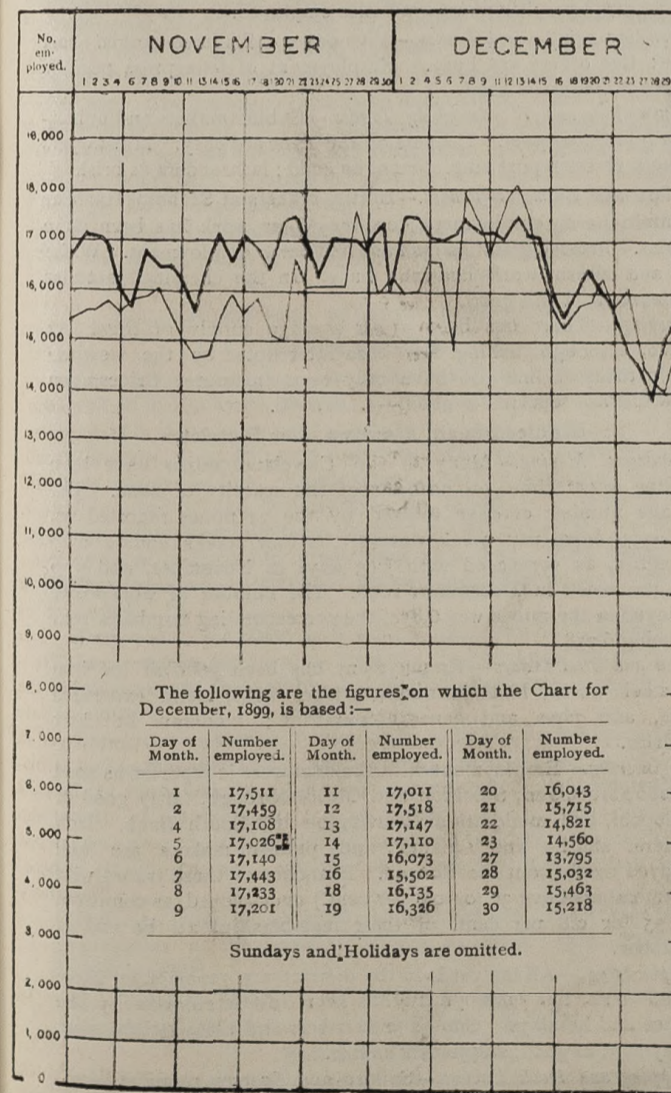
Table with columns: Period, By Dock Companies or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, &c., Total, Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns, Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves during November and December is shown on the chart below. The numbers in December ranged from 17,518 on the 12th to 13,795 on the 27th.

During December, 1898, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 18,157 on the 13th to 12,190 on the 27th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of November and December, 1899. The corresponding curve for November and December, 1898, is also given for comparison.

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



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on the next page.

* Amended figures.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month continued good in all branches of the textile trades. Information has been received with regard to 604 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 102,320 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:—

Table with columns: Trade and Month, Working full time, With Full Employment, With Partial Employment, Working Short Time, Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 26,330; of these, 97 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 99 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in November, and with 97 per cent in December, 1898.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 55,540; of these, 92 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 90 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in November, and with 87 per cent. in December, 1898.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 20,450; of these, 100 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with the same percentage among those for whom returns were received in November, and with 65 per cent. in December, 1898.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

General.—The state of employment during December continued good in most industries, considering the time of year. Returns from 445 branches of 110 unions, having an aggregate membership of 75,119, show that 2,570 (or 3.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2.3 in November, and 3.6 per cent. in December, 1898. It is to be remembered that the last week in December is always a week of broken employment, so that the comparison with November is somewhat misleading.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding trades has remained good, and has somewhat improved. Reports from 146 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,549, show that 491 (or 2.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.8 per cent. in November. The percentage for December, 1898, was 3.0.

The Building trades have remained busy. Returns from 178 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 12,320, show that 95 (or 0.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.7 in November, and 1.3 per cent. in December, 1898. The bricklayers and stone-carvers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, stonemasons, and plasterers as fair; the plumbers as moderate; the painters and decorators as dull.

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

ending 23rd December, as compared with 53 days per week worked during November.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the engineering industry remains good on the whole, and work at the shipyards continues fairly plentiful.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Although in some branches interrupted by the weather, employment in the building trade on the whole has continued fair.

Fishing Industry.—When able to proceed to sea the boats met with but moderate success.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and allied trades has been good.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,695 members have 408 (or 6.1 per cent.) idle, as against 419 (or 6.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Aberdeen and District.

Quarrying.—The masons, settmakers, and quarrymen report employment as good; granite polishers as fair.

Building Trades.—The plasterers report employment as good; masons, plumbers and painters as bad; carpenters and joiners and slaters as fair.

Transport Trades.—The railway servants report employment as good; carters and labourers as fair; dock labourers as moderate.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,481 members have 41 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 48 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as dull throughout the district.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as quiet; boot and shoe operatives as fair; feather operatives as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Printers, lithographers and bookbinders report employment as good in Limerick, fair in Cork, Waterford and Tralee.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with cabinetmakers and packing case makers is reported as fair; with coopers, general quay labourers and coal porters as dull; with railway and tramway employees and gas workers as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The mill and factory workers and boot and shoe makers report employment as good; tailors as quiet; boot and shoe operatives as fair; carpet weavers as bad.

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

Fishing.—In December, at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 69,107 cwts of fish, with a value of £51,403, an increase both in quantity and value as compared with November.

Miscellaneous.—The sawmillers, combmakers and saddlers report employment as good; upholsterers as dull; cabinetmakers as fair; bakers as bad.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, plasterers, glass cutters and glaziers report employment as good; the slaters and tilers, carpenters, whiteners and painters as fair.

Metal Trades.—Employment is returned as good with the ironfounders, brass finishers, gasfitters and boiler-makers; moderate with the engineers; bad with the silver-plate workers; fair with the electrical workers and whitesmiths.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment is returned as fair with the cart and wagon builders and coachmakers; as declining in the upholstering and furnishing trades.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and bootmakers report employment as dull.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as fair; all other branches as good.

Miscellaneous.—Faviors, dock labourers, and general labourers report employment as good; ropemakers as fair.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches of societies with 8,511 members have 284 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed as against 218 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

The carpenters and joiners report employment as bad; pattern-makers as dull; ironfounders, blacksmiths, and strikers and helpers as moderate; engineers, machine workers and furnishing trades as quiet; enginemn, cranemen, and firemen, general labourers and

platers' helpers as fair; boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights and sheet metal workers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,024 members have 36 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 39 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Building Trades.—Branches of societies (excluding painters) with 1,923 members have 170 (or 8.8 per cent.) unemployed as against 132 (or 6.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 882 members have 97 (or 11.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 48 (or 5.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 915 members have 51 (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 40 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and boot and shoe operatives have been well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,932 members have 42 (or 2.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 53 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Cork and District.

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

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as quiet; boot and shoe operatives as fair; feather operatives as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Printers, lithographers and bookbinders report employment as good in Limerick, fair in Cork, Waterford and Tralee.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with cabinetmakers and packing case makers is reported as fair; with coopers, general quay labourers and coal porters as dull; with railway and tramway employees and gas workers as good.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1899.

The changes in hours of labour reported during December were all decreases, and affected 2,004 work-people, the reductions averaging 3.34 hours per week. The most important change was the adoption of an eight-hour in place of a twelve-hour shift, for 130 blast-furnacemen in Yorkshire.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate number of work-people directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (Before change, After change), Reduction per week.

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. ‡ Slag tippers' earnings reduced about 8 per cent.; all other rates except those of metal carriers remain the same.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

The total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during December was 297, or 130 less than in November, and 183 less than in December, 1898.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,447,140 persons (according to the latest available figures), 273 were killed, and 6,983 reported injured by accidents in December, as compared with 461 killed and 7,126 reported injured in December, 1898. These figures give one death in November, 1899, for every 19,953 persons employed in those industries.

During the year 1899, 4,093 persons were reported killed and 84,476 injured, as against 3,689 reported killed and 70,713 injured in 1898. In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 24 persons were reported killed, and 1,051 injured in December, as compared with 19 killed and 1,030 injured in December, 1898.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Summary table with columns: Industry, Killed (Dec. 1899, Dec. 1898), Injured (Dec. 1899, Dec. 1898), Number Employed according to latest Returns.

DETAILED TABLE.

Detailed table with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Total, and sub-categories like By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles, By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.

Table with columns: Killed, Injured, Total, and sub-categories: By Wreck or Casualty, By other Accidents.

Table for Shipping: On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels, Sailing, Steam.

Table for Factories: (a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons, (b) Other Accidents, Total Factories—December, 1899, December, 1898.

Table for Workshops: Adults, Young Persons, Children, Total Workshops—December, 1899, December, 1898.

Table for Factories & Workshops (classified by trades): Textiles, Non-Textiles, Total December, 1899, Total December, 1898.

Table for Under Factory Act, 1895, Bs. 22, 23: Docks, Wharves and Quays, Warehouses, Buildings to which Act applies, Laundries, Total for December, 1899, Total for December, 1898.

Table for Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894: Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, Tunnel, Other Works, Tractor Engines, Total for December, 1899, Total for December, 1898.

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1899.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during December affected about 71,400 workpeople. The net effect of all the changes on the wages of those affected was an increase of about 1s. 4½d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 45,000 miners and other colliery workpeople in Northumberland, South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, and the Forest of Dean; to 6,850 blastfurnace-men in Cleveland and Durham and West Cumberland; to 1,000 steel millmen at Consett and Jarrow; to 2,000 steel workers at Barrow-in-Furness; to 5,000 iron and steel workers in South Wales; and to 2,450 chain-makers and strikers in South Staffs and East Worcestershire.

Decreases.—310 men sustained a decrease of 5 per cent. in bonus in connection with one of the "Trade Alliances" in Birmingham. At several ports the predominant rates for various voyages declined—334 seamen and firemen shipped during December, sustaining a decrease compared with the predominant port rate of the preceding month.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 600 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting 16,100 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and changes affecting 40,300 workpeople were arranged by Wages and Conciliation Boards without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting 14,400 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Summary of Changes in 1899.—See special article on 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: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

Table for BUILDING TRADE. Deceases—Nil. Includes Bradford Plasterers.

Table for COAL MINING. Deceases—Nil. Includes Northumberland Coal Miners, South Staffordshire and East Worcester Coal Miners, Forest of Dean Undergound and Surface Workers, Bristol Coal Miners, Clydach Coal Cutters, Loughor, Glam. Hewers, Hauliers, Daymen and Bankers.

Table for IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE. Deceases—Nil. Includes Cleveland and Durham Blastfurnacemen, Consett and Jarrow Steel Millmen and Enginemen and Firemen, Eton Enginemen, Stockton-on-Tees Firemen and Boys, Teams (Gateshead) Steel Workers, West Cumberland Blastfurnacemen, Askam and Millom Blastfurnacemen, Leeds Metal Carriers, Rotherham Steel Smelters, Barrow Blastfurnacemen, Ulverston Steel Millmen, Barrow-in-Furness Steel Workers, Enginemen, Cranemen, Shunters, &c., Ilkeston Gas Stokers, Loco. Engine Drivers, and Shunters, Frodingham Blastfurnacemen, Mechanics, St. George's, Salop Blastfurnacemen, Wellingboro (near) Blastfurnacemen, Gowerton Steel Smelters, South Wales Iron and Steel Workers.

Table for METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. Includes Stanningley Platers, Bolton Engineers, Birmingham Coffin Furniture Makers, Birmingham Gasmeter Makers, South Staffs. and East Worcester Chain Makers and Strikers (Dollied and Block Chain and Country Workers).

* Exclusive of overtime. † At a meeting of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at Cardiff on 9th Jan., the proposals of the Conciliation Board for the Federated Districts, involving an advance of 5 per cent. to all underground workers from 1st Jan., were adopted. A meeting of the Conciliation Board will be held on 16th Jan., when it is expected that this decision will be ratified. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table for METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. Includes Bath Engineers, Pattern-makers and Smiths, Cowes Shipwrights, Paisley Smiths' Strikers, Belfast Irondressers.

Table for TEXTILE TRADES. Deceases—Nil. Includes Halifax Dyeworks' Labourers, Clitheroe Cotton Weavers, Rochdale Ring Spinners, Royton Cotton Weavers and Overlookers, Denton Ring Winders, Long Eaton Lace Workers, Nottinghamshire Hand Frame Hosiery Workers, Cupar Flax Spinners, Dundee & District Bleachfield Workers, Dundee Mechanics (Linen and Jute Trades).

Table for EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Deceases—Nil. Includes Leeds Destructor Men, Birkenhead Ferry Staff, Heywood Gas Stokers and Labourers, Leicester Gasworks' Labourers, Arbroath Gas Stokers, Falkirk Gas Stokers, Paisley Carters, Belfast Night Scavengers.

Table for MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Deceases—Nil. Includes Sunderland Enginemen, Goole Coal Trimmers and Bunkerers, Hull Lathrenders, Rotherham Letterpress and Litho Printers, Bookbinders, &c., Leicester Jobbing Compositors, Loughborough Compositors and Machine Minders, Nottingham Compositors, Linotype Operators, Ruckie Bakers, Falkirk Compositors and Machine Minders, Fraserburgh Bakers, Hamilton Bakers, Keith Bakers, Kirkcaldy Compositors and Machine Minders, Motherwell Bakers, West Calder Bakers.

Table for SEAMEN. Deceases—334 Workpeople. Includes Liverpool, Cardiff, North Shields, South Shields with details on voyages, occupations, and rates.

* Exclusive of Overtime. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. ‡ Average. § Sailing Vessels. NOTE.—Clothing Trades.—An award dated 11th January has been issued increasing the minimum rate of wages of clickers at Northampton by 2s. per week (26s. to 28s.), and that of pressmen by 3s. per week (22s. to 25s.). For further particulars see p. 8.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-eight fresh disputes were reported as having begun in December, 1899, compared with 31 in November, and 29 in December, 1898. In these 28 disputes 5,013 workpeople were directly, and 1,103 indirectly affected, a total of 6,116, which compares with 9,707 in November, 1899, and 6,319 in December, 1898.

Trades Affected.—In the mining and quarrying trades 5 disputes took place, involving 1,332 workpeople; in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 5 disputes, involving 414 workpeople; in the textile trades, 10 disputes, involving 1,486 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades, 8 disputes, involving 2,884 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 28 disputes, 21 arose chiefly on wages questions, and 7 from other causes.

Results.—Twenty-one new disputes, involving 5,634 workpeople, and 10 old disputes, involving 1,558 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 31 new and old disputes terminated, 14, involving 1,717 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 8, involving 2,664 persons, in favour of the employers; and 8, involving 2,661 persons, resulted in a compromise. With regard to the remaining dispute, involving 150 persons, certain points are still under consideration. At the end of December 23 old disputes were reported to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 1,600 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The total aggregate duration in December of all the disputes, new and old, was about 70,000 days, compared with 94,000 in November, 1899, and 160,000 in December, 1898.

Summary of Disputes in 1899.—See special article, page 3.

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

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER, 1899.

Table for Mining and Quarrying Trades. 5 Disputes. 1,332 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for Sunderland, Darlington, Swansea Valley, Bechar, and Shotts.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. 5 Disputes. 414 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for Warrington, Willington, and Middlesbrough.

Table for Textile Trades. 10 Disputes. 1,486 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for Ashton-under-Lyne, Brierfield, Burnley, Near Clitheroe, Hadfield, and Padiham.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades. 8 Disputes. 2,884 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for Gateshead, Goole, Todmorden, Newark, Greenock, and Near Belfast.

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

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued.)

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

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE DECEMBER, 1899, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. 5 Disputes. 858 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for South Shields, Llanelly, Coatbridge, and Greenock.

Table for Other Trades. 5 Disputes. 700 Workpeople affected. Includes entries for River Tyne, Croston, Glossop, Loughor, and Granton.

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

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 4 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 3 Co-operative Associations for Production, 3 Building Societies, 22 Friendly Societies, and 40 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during December.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Liverpool Corporation Workmen's Union, Oddfellows' Hall, St. Anne-street, Liverpool; London Slaughtermen's Protection Society, 28, Armada-street, Deptford, S.E.; National League of the Blind of Great Britain and Ireland, 24, Lambeth Walk, S.E.; Northumberland Colliery Enginemen and Firemen's Mutual Protection Association, New Phoenix Inn, Morpeth. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Millwall Dock Shareholders Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 23, Billiter-street, E.C.; Gwersyllt and Summerhill District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stores, Summerhill, Wrexham; Association Manufacturers, Ltd., 15, Southampton-row, W.C. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. (B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—Barry Building and Contracting Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Bassett Arms Hotel, Barry Dock; Derby Printers, Ltd., 23, Twyford-street, Derby. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. (C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Dividing, 10; Collecting, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 5. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Specially Authorised, 1. Working Men's Clubs, 1. (B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—28. Scotland.—11. Ireland.—1.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—3. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Associated Engineers of Sheffield and District, 6, Nottingham-street, Sheffield (amalgamated with Nat. Am. Union of Enginemen, Cranemen, Hammer Drivers, and Boiler Firemen); Western District of London Ladies' Hand-Sewn Boot and Shoe Makers' Soc., Prince Arthur Inn, Golborne-road, Westbourne Park, W. (notice of dissolution); Hull United Butchers' Association, Hide, Skin, and Fat Market, Finkle-street, Hull (notice of dissolution); Independent Tailors' Machinists and Pressers Union, 167, Cannon-street-road, E. (registration cancelled). Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—St. George's Mutual Benefit Investment Soc., Ltd., 32, Sackville-street, W. (dissolved by instrument). Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 10; Dividing, 1; Female, 1; Branches, 3. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 1; Branches, 12. Scotland.—By instrument of dissolution: None. Dissolved otherwise: Ordinary Friendly, 1; Juvenile, 1. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 8; notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; notice of termination of dissolution, 16. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of December, and also during the year ended December 31st, 1899, with comparative figures for 1898:—

Table with 5 columns: Month of December (1899, 1898), Year ended 31st December (1899, 1898). Rows: Imported, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Exported.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended January 6th, amounted to £7,681,151, an increase of 16,607 (or 0.2 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1898. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,300,844, a decrease of £12,468, and from goods and mineral traffic £4,380,307, an increase of £29,075.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during December was £648,390, an increase of £49,280, as compared with December, 1898. In England and Wales there was an increase of £48,427, and in Scotland one of £5,212, while in Ireland there was a decrease of £4,359.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during December numbered 346, being 9 more than in December, 1898, 28 more than in December, 1897, and 13 less than in December, 1896. The total number for the year was 4,121 in 1899, 4,315 in 1898, 4,113 in 1897, and 4,155 in 1896.

H. M. Inspectors of Factories.

New Appointments.—Mr. E. F. Boggis Rolfe, 69, St. George's Square, London, S.W.; Mr. C. F. R. Johnston, 13, Kent Gardens, Ealing, W.; and Mr. J. L. Edwards, Glenhafren, Barry, Glamorgan, have been appointed Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of December was 329,717, corresponding to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1899.

Compared with November, 1899, a seasonal increase is shown of 7,081 in the number relieved, and of 5 in the rate per 10,000 of population. Thirty of the 35 districts show increased rates, while in the remaining five there is no change. The most marked increases are in Central London (15 per 10,000), Coatbridge and Airdrie (10), West Ham, and Paisley and Greenock districts (9 each), East London (8), and North London and Manchester (7 each).

Compared with December, 1898, there is a decrease of 6,150 in the number relieved and of 6 in the rate per 10,000 of population. Decreases are shown in 26 districts, and increases in 8, while one district shows no change. The largest decreases are seen in the Stockton and Tees district (39 per 10,000), Bristol (25), Leicester (24), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (20), Cardiff and Swansea (17), North Staffordshire and Bradford districts (16 each). There is an increase of 14 per 10,000 in the Galway district, and of 13 in West Ham.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of December, 1899 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of estimated population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with month ago, A year ago. Includes sections for ENGLAND & WALES*, SCOTLAND*, and IRELAND.†

* 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.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December the 10 bureaux furnishing returns in 1899 and 1898 registered 1,355 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,385 in December, 1898. Work was found during the month for 1,280 persons, of whom 572 were engaged by private employers, 564 by Local Authorities, and 144 by the Salvation Army.

The number remaining on the registers of these 10 bureaux at the end of December was 1,076, as against 1,207 a year ago.

Particulars relating to a Labour Bureau recently opened at Dundee, are this month added at the foot of Table I., but are not included in the above figures.

(I.) Work done in December.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications offered by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities. Includes London, Provincial, and Dundee.

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

Table with columns: Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities, Total. Includes Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls.

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

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

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December 374 fresh applications for work were registered by eight bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns and 470 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 141 persons, of whom 80 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency and the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following table, which shows the work done by the eight bureaux during December:—

WORK DONE IN DECEMBER.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers. Includes Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

The applications for domestic servants fell from 656 in November to 364 in December, the number of servants applying falling from 338 to 171, and the number engaged through the bureaux from 117 to 80. The demand for dressmakers and milliners fell from 89 to 22; the supply fell from 53 to 33, and the number engaged from 33 to 16. The supply of dressmakers, therefore, exceeded the demand for the first time since July.

NEW GERMAN LAW ON OLD-AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE.

NUMBER 518 of the Miscellaneous Series of Diplomatic and Consular Reports issued by the Foreign Office has just appeared,* and consists of a memorandum on, and translation of the German Law of July 13th, 1899, relating to insurance against old age and invalidity. The report has been prepared by Mr. Gastrell, Commercial Attaché to H.M.'s Embassy at Berlin.

The Law came into operation on January 1st, and its chief features, compared with those of the original law, have already been described in the LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1899, page 259.

In connection with the new law two official proclamations have been issued, embodying regulations drawn up by the Federal Council with respect to its administration. The first of these proclamations is dated December 24th, 1899, and fixes the procedure to be followed and the conditions to be observed in granting applications, for exemption from the obligation to insure, to persons working on their own account for the greater part of the year. The second proclamation is dated December 27th, and defines the circumstances in which temporary services are not to be considered as employment entailing obligatory insurance within the meaning of the law.

* (Cd. 2-1), 1899. Price, 3d.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

Summary for December.

The trade returns for the month of December last show a decrease as compared with the corresponding month of 1898 in the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, but an increase in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures and in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for December, 1899, were valued at £49,738,896, as compared with £45,364,786 in December, 1898, a decrease of £4,625,890, or 10.1 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £27,664,380, as against £26,514,361 in December, 1898, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures alone amounted to £22,038,489, an increase of £1,066,081, or 5 per cent. This, however, includes the value of ships, new (not registered as British), viz., £632,270, which were not included previous to 1899. The value of foreign and colonial merchandise exported in December, 1899, shows an increase, as compared with 1898, of £89,938, or 1.6 per cent.

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

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

The decrease in articles of food is chiefly due to diminished quantities and values of corn imported, wheat alone having fallen off to the extent of £600,084, wheatmeal and flour £453,589, and barley £428,297. In raw materials for manufactures there is a falling off in raw cotton and flax and hemp, in the case of the former to the extent of £3,367,936.

Exports.—As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the values for December 1899, as compared with December 1898:—

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

The exports of coal, coke and fuel show a decrease in quantity of 48,451 tons, but an increase in value of £445,426. Cotton yarn has fallen off to the extent of £84,343, and cotton piece goods to the extent of £355,975. Jute yarn and jute piece goods have decreased, but linen piece goods and worsted yarn and wollen tissues have increased. The exports of steam engines of all kinds fell off to the extent of £113,112.

Summary for the Year 1899.

In the twelve months ended December 31st, 1899, the imports from foreign countries and British possessions were valued at £485,075,514, as compared with £470,378,583 for 1898, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £264,660,647 in 1899, as compared with £233,359,240 in 1898. This is inclusive of new ships (not registered as British), which were reported to the value of £9,195,192 in 1899, and had not been recorded prior to that year. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise were valued at £65,619,549 in 1899, as against £60,654,748 in 1898. In the various categories of the imports for the year the following increases are

found:—Articles of food and drink £2,652,761; metals £6,411,462; chemicals, dye-stuffs, and tanning substances £284,470; oils £1,332,355; and manufactured and miscellaneous articles £5,334,493. On the other hand, raw materials for manufactures fell off to the extent of £1,144,494.

As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures the principal increases are found in metals and articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery and ships) £7,565,653, raw materials £5,505,133 and yarns and textile fabrics £4,946,405.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared With Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during December, 1899, amounted to 2,808,135 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,286,120 tons, as against 3,024,175 tons entered, and 3,470,180 tons cleared in December, 1898. For the twelve months ended December, 1899, the figures were 36,224,248 tons entered, and 43,031,081 tons cleared, as compared with 34,515,804 tons entered, and 39,462,642 tons cleared in 1898. As regards the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during December, 1899, with cargoes, amounted to 2,443,062 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,411,012 tons, as against 2,603,330 tons entered, and 2,572,410 tons cleared in December, 1898. For the year 1899 the figures were as follows:—Entered 31,004,547 tons, and cleared 30,608,392 tons. These figures compare with 30,914,274 tons entered, and 30,504,091 tons cleared in 1898.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during December was 10,455, as compared with 9,348 in December, 1898. During the year 1899* the number of passengers was 241,105, being 35,934 (or 17.5 per cent.) more than in 1898.

British and Irish.—Of the 10,455 passengers in December, 5,336 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 663 as compared with a year ago. The number of British and Irish passengers for the twelve months shows an increase of 6,133 (or 4.4 per cent.), the figures for 1899* being 146,777 and for 1898, 140,644. It will be seen from the following table that in 1899 there has been a marked increase in the number proceeding to the United States, following a decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897.

The numbers bound for South Africa show a steady decline from 21,109 in 1897 to 14,560 in 1899.

Destination.	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1898.	Total for year ended		
			Dec., 1899*.	Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1897.
United States	2,669	2,712	92,530	80,494	85,324
British North America	196	265	16,451	17,040	15,571
Australasia	1,040	632	11,478	10,693	12,061
South Africa	587	1,385	14,560	19,756	21,109
Other places	844	1,005	11,758	12,061	12,395
Total	5,336	5,999	146,777	140,644	146,460

Foreign.—The remainder of the 10,455 passengers in December, viz., 5,119, were foreigners or persons whose nationality was undistinguished, being 1,770 more than in December, 1898. For the years 1899* and 1898 the numbers are 94,328 and 64,527 respectively.

Alien Immigration.—During December 6,388 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 2,454 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,360 as compared with December, 1898. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,934†, or 503 more than a year ago. For the year 1899* the number of aliens en route to America or elsewhere was 49,949, and the number not so stated 64,212†, compared with 32,177 and 53,084† respectively in 1898. The figures for the different periods are shown in the following table:—

	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1898.	Total for year ended	
			Dec., 1899*.	Dec., 1898.
Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	3,934†	3,431†	64,212†	53,084†
Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom...	2,454	1,094	49,949	32,177†
Total	6,388†	4,525†	114,161†	85,261†

* These figures for the year 1899 are subject to correction in the annual returns.
 † These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 956 in December 1899; 953 in December, 1898; and 13,323 and 12,299 respectively in the years 1899 and 1898.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN DECEMBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases MARR.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.		Amount of Costs.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
By Owners, Managers, &c.:						
Neglecting to Limewash	3	3	7 0 0	1 6 6		
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	11	11	45 1 8	23 17 9		
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, or to work between fixed and traversing parts of a machine in motion ...	1	1	1 1 0	0 11 6		
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	58	54	50 8 0	17 11 8		
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—						
Before or after the legal hour	73	71	42 9 0	20 7 3		
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	28	28	10 10 0	15 9 0		
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	10	10	4 13 0	4 9 0		
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays	6	6	3 0 0	4 4 0		
At night	7	7	3 0 0	1 18 6		
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	5	3	0 10 0	1 2		
Other	2	2	4 0 0	0 14		
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—						
Not keeping Registers	18	18	20 15 0	5 19 6		
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	17	11	9 9 8	3 5 3		
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	10	10	14 5 0	2 7 5		
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty	2	—	—	—		
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules	4	4	5 1 0	2 3 0		
Prosecutions under Truck Acts	2	2	15 0 0	1 6 6		
Other	3	2	1 1 8	0 15 0		
By Workmen:						
Employment during meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	2	2	1 10 0	1 0 0		
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty	1	—	—	—		
By Parents:						
Allowing children to be illegally employed ...	3	3	0 6 6	0 15 6		
Total for December, 1899	260	248	239 1 6	109 3 10		
Total for December, 1898	333	317	304 4 6	134 0 1		

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
By Workmen:					
Safety Lamps	4	4	—	—	2 15 8
Shot-firing and Explosives	4	4	—	—	6 5 0
Timbering	4	4	—	—	3 16 0
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	7	7	—	—	6 12 0
Riding on Trams or Tubs	10	10	—	—	7 18 6
Miscellaneous	13	13	—	—	12 2 0
Total for Dec., 1899	43	42	—	—	39 9 2
Total for Dec., 1898	59	59	—	—	51 11 1
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	2	2	—	—	1 15 0
Fencing	1	1	—	—	1 8 0
Other Special Rules	4	4	—	—	14 7 3
Total for Dec., 1899	7	7	—	—	17 10 3
Total for Dec., 1898	24	24	—	—	35 9 4

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
Excessive Deck Cargo	4	4	£ s. d. 17 14 0	£ s. d. 4 1 8
Submersion of Disc	1	1	100 0 0	—
Infringing Collision Regulations	1	1	20 0 0	1 7 0
Total for D 1899	6	6	137 14 0	5 8 8
Total for Dec., 1898	8	8	79 7 0	3 11 7