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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER.

[Based on 2,415 returns, viz.: 1,703 from Employers, 573 from Trade Unions, and 139 from other sources.]

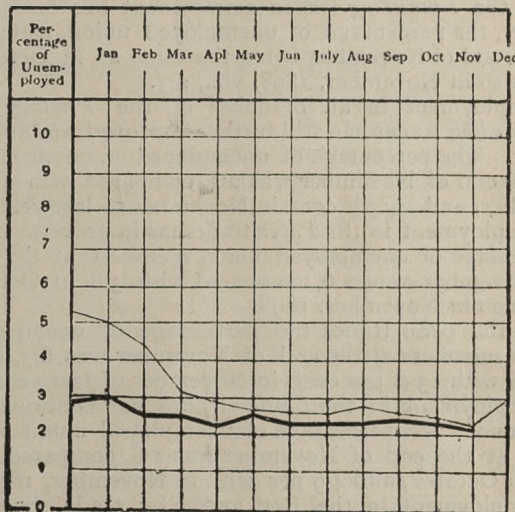
DURING November the general state of employment has remained good, and the percentage of unemployed members returned by trade unions is lower than at any similar period since 1889. A large number of work-people, especially in the coal, iron and steel, and jute trades, have had their wages raised during the month.

In the 123 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 509,274, 11,257 (or 2·2 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of November, compared with 2·3 in October, and with 2·3 per cent. in the 118 unions, with a membership of 469,844, from which returns were received for November, 1898.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1898 and 1899.

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



Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

Employment is very good, the number of days worked per week at collieries showing an improvement as compared both with October and with a year ago. Returns relating to collieries at which 452,026 workpeople were employed show that an average of 5·64 days per week was worked in the four weeks ended November 25th, as compared with 5·58 days in October and 5·46 days in November, 1898. (For further details see page 364.)

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good, and shows very little change on the whole. Returns relating to iron mines and open works at which 16,958 workpeople were employed, show that the average number of days worked per week was 5·79 in the four weeks ended November 25th, as compared with 5·80 in October and in November, 1898. (For further details see page 364.)

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry continues considerably better than a year ago. At the works of 117 iron masters, 380 furnaces were in blast at the end of November, employing an estimated number of 25,983 workpeople, as compared with 383 furnaces and 25,805 workpeople employed at the end of October,

The law allows a choice of two methods of administration for District Sick Funds, viz., the divided method (*administration distincte*) and the joint method (*administration mixte*). Under the former, the employers and the insured persons in the district form two distinct bodies, each exercising (through its general meeting, or through elected delegates) certain distinct functions; while in certain matters the decisions of the insured have to be ratified by the employers, subject to the approval of the supervising committee of the Canton (*see below*). Under the second method, the employers and the insured persons in the district form a single body, which, through its general meeting or through elected delegates, discharges the functions of administration.

Any employer giving employment in his business to not less than 100 persons (on an average) may, upon his application, and with the consent of the majority of such persons (being persons under obligation to insure) be authorised to establish a sick fund for his own business. In cases, in which the trade carried on involves special risks of sickness or accident, the employer may be ordered by the Federal Council to establish a fund of this kind. The divided method of administration (*see above*) is prescribed for Factory Funds, the functions assigned to the general meeting of employers in the case of District Funds, being in the case of a Factory Fund performed by the individual employer concerned.

All District and Factory Sick Funds are to be generally supervised by the Cantons, subject to the supreme control of the Confederation.

The present law places all Friendly Society Sick Funds under State supervision. Such of these funds as fulfil certain conditions (*e.g.*, as to value of sick benefits granted) are to be recognised as funds for effecting the sick insurance prescribed by the law.

The benefits payable in this branch of insurance (by District and Factory Sick Funds) are as follows:—

(1) *For Sickness*.—Free medical attendance, medicines and appliances, from the commencement of the sickness, and the refund of necessary outlay for travelling, conveyance, etc.; also, during incapacity, an allowance for each day, beginning with the third day of the sickness and payable weekly, amounting to 60 per cent. of the daily earnings of the sick person, if the incapacity be total, and to less in proportion, if it be partial. Where total incapacity is accompanied by indigence, the allowance may be increased by the Cantonal Authority on the recommendation of the District Sick Fund up to the full amount of the daily earnings. The above benefits cease, (a) when a year has passed since the beginning of the illness; (b) when the illness becomes a matter to be dealt with under the provisions relating to accident insurance contained in the present law. (*See below*.)

(2) *For Confinement*.—The cost of attendance and the sick pay as above until resumption of work, but not for more than 6 weeks from the date of confinement.

(3) *For Death*.—A burial allowance of not less than 20 or more than 40 francs (16s. to 32s.).

The benefits, which Friendly Society Sick Funds are required to pay in order to be recognised for purposes of compulsory insurance, must either be at least as extensive as the above, or else they must consist of free medical attendance, medicines, etc., and cost of conveyance, together with sick pay at the rate of at least one franc (about 9d.) per day. In the event, however, of the fund adopting the latter scale of benefits, those who use the fund as a means of fulfilling their obligation to insure, forego the advantage of having part of their premiums paid by the employers.

The chief sources of revenue of the District and Factory Sick Funds will consist of:—

(a) Grants of the Federal Government in aid of sickness insurance at the rate of not less than 1 centime (about one-tenth of a penny) per insured person and per day insured (Friendly Societies recognised as sick funds under the law are entitled to similar subventions), and

* The Federal Assembly is empowered to increase the general rate to 66½ per cent.

(b) Contributions of employers and workpeople, consisting, for each person insured and for each week-day, of a certain proportion (not to exceed 4 per cent.) of the daily earnings. These contributions are to be paid, as a rule, by the employer, who may, however, deduct half the amount from the earnings of the insured workpeople.

If the business carried on involve special risks, the contribution may be fixed at a higher rate, up to 12 per cent. of earnings, but in such a case the employer is not allowed to deduct from the earnings of the workpeople any more than if the contributions were at the ordinary rate.

The insured are to be divided into 10 classes according to their daily earnings, the highest daily earnings, on which contributions and benefits are to be based, being fixed at 6s.

The law contains provisions intended to encourage persons to become voluntary members of sick insurance funds for the purpose of securing the whole or a part of the benefits enumerated above. For instance, the Federal grants in aid of sickness insurance (*see above under (a)*) are to be paid for persons insuring voluntarily as well as for those under legal obligation to insure.

II.—Accident Insurance.

Those obliged to insure against sickness are also required to insure against all accidents whatever causing death, or permanent disablement, or sickness of more than six weeks' duration. For the purpose of administering this part of the law, Federal Insurance Office is to be established. This Office will be assisted by an Insurance Council, consisting of from 9 to 15 members, including at least 3 employers under legal obligation to contribute, and 3 persons insured under the obligation imposed by the law. The country is to be divided into inspectorial districts for the purposes of accident insurance, with an Inspection Office in each District.

The amount of the premium payable in respect to each insured person is to be fixed by the sick fund to which he belongs, and will depend upon the degree of risk to which he is exposed in respect to accidents, and upon the amount of his daily earnings, as computed for purposes of sickness insurance. The different classes of risks for different occupations are to be fixed by a risks table to be compiled by the Federal Office. The employer of a person under obligation to insure, must, as a rule, pay four-fifths of the necessary premium, but may deduct one-fourth of the amount for which he is liable from earnings. The remaining fifth part of the premium is paid by the Federal Government, this advantage being extended also to those who insure voluntarily. Besides paying one-fifth of the premiums, the Federal Government will grant subventions to institutions for rendering first aid, and to museums, etc., of appliances for the prevention of accidents, and towards the cost of investigations in relation to such matters; it will make annual grants to sick funds established or recognised under this law in proportion to their services in connection with accident insurance, and it will also defray the cost of establishing and administering the Federal Insurance Office.

The benefits payable in case of accident are as follows:—For the first six weeks after the accident the injured person comes under the provisions of the law relating to sickness insurance; thereafter, he receives, during incapacity, through the sick fund, but at the cost of the Federal Institution, similar benefits to those provided under that branch of the law; but in case the accident results in the permanent incapacity of the injured person (total or partial), he will receive from the Federal Institution a monthly allowance, equivalent to 60 per cent. of the diminution in his annual earnings likely to result from the injury. Where total incapacity is accompanied by indigence, the allowance may be increased (as in the case of sick benefit) up to the full yearly earnings. The yearly earnings are taken to be 300 times the maximum limit of daily earnings of the wage-class in which the injured person is insured against sickness. The highest allowance under the legal provisions as to accidents is, therefore, 300 times 6s., or £90 a year.

* The Federal Assembly is empowered to increase the general rate to 66½ per cent.

FIRST ANNUAL ABSTRACT OF FOREIGN LABOUR STATISTICS.*

This Abstract, which has been prepared in the Labour Department of the Board of Trade is the first of a series, the succeeding issues of which it is proposed to publish annually as supplementary to the Foreign Statistical Abstracts, which have been compiled for many years by the Board, and also as companion volumes to the Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom.

In the present volume four subjects only are dealt with, viz., Wages, Hours of Labour, Trade Disputes, and Co-operation. It is stated that in the succeeding volumes it is intended to continue and extend the information now presented with regard to these subjects, and to include available statistics relating to other subjects, such as Trade Unions, Arbitration and Conciliation, Industrial Accidents, Workmen's Insurance, and other matters affecting labour.

Altogether, figures relating to twelve foreign countries are included in the new Abstract, viz., Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria-Hungary, and the United States. Statistics of wages were available from all these countries, but these statistics vary as to completeness. Thus, in the case of Russia one return only has been utilised—a return relating exclusively to agricultural labour. On the other hand, the figures as to Belgium, France, and the United States cover a large number of occupations, and in the case of the United States are available for a series of years. Statistics of hours of labour are given for all the countries just named, with the exception of Russia and Austria-Hungary; of trade disputes for Sweden, Germany, France, Italy, Austria and the United States; and of co-operative societies for Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria-Hungary.

The sources of information utilised in the preparation of the different tables are stated in footnotes. These footnotes show that practically the whole of the information relative to wages and hours of labour has been obtained from official sources—the publications of Government Departments, Municipal Bodies, etc. The statistics of trade disputes have been obtained from official sources in the case of France, Italy, Austria, and the United States; in part from official, in part from trade union sources in the case of Germany; and wholly from trade union sources in the case of Sweden. In the section dealing with co-operative societies official sources only are utilised for France, Italy and Austria-Hungary, while the majority of the tables for Germany, as well as the Belgian table, the two tables for Holland, and one of the two Swiss tables, are based on publications of co-operative federations.

Owing to the wide differences in the methods of collecting the necessary data and of computing and presenting results adopted by the various authorities compiling the original statistics, upon which the figures stated in the Abstract are founded, it has not been found practicable to bring together in comparative tables the information obtained from the various countries in respect to any particular subject; and the reader is reminded that great caution must be exercised in making comparisons between the figures for one country and another. At the same time, the effort has been made to introduce uniformity of plan in the presentation of the figures, the original data having, with this object, been re-classified, so far as possible, on the lines adopted in the reports relating to the Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom.

Workmen's Compensation Schemes.

During the period November 12th to December 12th, 1899, the following scheme has been certified, under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies:—Cardiff, Penarth and Barry Mutual Friendly Society. This scheme affects ninety-four workpeople, and brings the total number of schemes now certified by the Chief Registrar up to seventy-three.

* [C.—9442.] Can be purchased through any bookseller. Price 8d.

If the accident proves fatal during the first six weeks, the same funeral benefits are to be paid as under the sickness insurance scheme, but at the cost of the Federal Institution; if at a later period, that institution will pay burial money amounting to 32s.; in either case the institution will pay pensions to the family (widow, widower, children, parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters) of the deceased, the combined pensions not to exceed 50 per cent. of his yearly earnings.

The law requires owners of businesses, in which one or more persons liable to insure are employed, to adopt the measures and appliances necessary for the prevention of accidents. It empowers the Federal Insurance Office to make rules either general or special for the prevention of accidents, subject to an appeal to the Federal Council. It also provides for the establishment of a special court for dealing with certain kinds of disputes arising out of this law.

In addition to the provisions relating to compulsory insurance against accidents, the law provides that employers may under certain conditions voluntarily insure themselves against accidents under the general scheme, and enacts that this scheme may also be extended by the Federal Assembly so as to include other persons residing in Switzerland.

The foregoing provisions are not applicable to sickness or accidents incurred during military service, the law containing separate provisions on this point.

TRADE UNIONS IN FRANCE.

The French Labour Department has published the first volume of a Report* on Workmen's Trade Societies. This volume begins by tracing the course of French legislation in respect to organisations of workmen from the days when all forms of combination were treated as illegal until the law of 1884, which conceded the right to form "trade syndicates or associations composed of persons belonging to the same trade or to allied trades," such organisations having no other object than "the investigation and protection of economic interests in industry, commerce or agriculture," and also federations of any regularly constituted organisations of this character. This is the law, under which the existing trade societies in France are constituted.

The organisations authorised by this law include both trade unions and benefit societies (whose members belong to the same or to allied trades); but the two classes of organisations are required to be kept distinct. A trade union may give, out of its funds, assistance to individual members in distress, *e.g.*, through sickness, but only as an act of grace, no person being entitled to claim such relief as a right. If a workman wishes to acquire the right to receive benefits of this nature, he must join a friendly society formed for the purpose of providing such benefits, and organised as a separate body.

The Report states that the number of trade unions formed under the law of 1884 has more than doubled in the period 1890-97; in the former year there were 1,006 unions, with 139,692 members, in the latter 2,324 unions, with an aggregate membership of 437,793. The following table classifies the unions in existence in 1898 by groups of trades:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Trade Unions.	Membership of Trade Unions.
Building Trades	450	33,795
Mining and Quarrying... ..	63	41,760
Metal Trades... .. .	286	38,316
Textile Trades... .. .	109	35,432
Clothing Trades (excluding boot and shoemaking and glove-making)	129	8,092
Transport and Commerce	243	160,208
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing... ..	69	8,002
Printing, Paper, and Allied Trades	197	13,944
Woodworking and Furnishing Trades	199	13,588
Chemical Trades... .. .	76	27,967
Glass-Pottery, etc., Trades, and Stone-cutting and Polishing	70	9,150
Food Preparation Trades	146	18,532
Skins and Leather Trades (including boot and shoemaking and glove-making)	167	20,262
Other Trades	60	8,725
Total	2,324	437,793

* Les Associations Professionnelles Ouvrières, Tome I., Paris. Imprimerie Nationale, 1899.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN NOVEMBER.

INFORMATION has been obtained as to the rates of wages of farm servants hired half-yearly, and lodged and boarded in the farmhouses, agreed upon at the principal Martinmas hiring fairs in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire, namely, at Carlisle, Penrith, Kendal, Lancaster, and Ulverston. Other hirings are also held at Appleby, Cockermouth, Brampton, Egremont, and Kirkby Stephen.

It is reported from several hirings that farm servants were somewhat scarce, more particularly in the case of women and the best men. In some others the supply was about equal to the demand, except in the case of women, who were scarce at all the hirings. At the second Ulverston fair, however, there was an abundance of men on hire, and it is stated that wages were not infrequently £1 to £2 lower than at the corresponding period last year. The reasons for this are given in a local newspaper as follows: "Owing to events in South Africa, some hundreds of men have returned to the district, and as the mines and quarries are fully manned, many of these would go to swell the numbers seeking employment on farms. Then, again, consequent on the open winter, and the twelve consecutive fine days in October, work is so well advanced on the farms that at least one hand can be dispensed with on most farms during the half year to Whitsuntide, with perhaps a little extra help in the spring seed months."

Generally speaking, the wages obtained were about the same as those at Martinmas last year, though those of women and best men showed an upward tendency.

The rates of wages generally obtained for the half year (board and lodging in addition) were as follows: For best men, £14 10s. to £18 10s. (in some cases they obtained higher rates than this); second men and youths, £9 to £14; boys, £4 10s. to £8. Best women, £12 to £13 10s.; second class women, £9 to £11; girls, £5 to £8 10s.

In Cumberland and Westmorland and in the northern part of Lancashire, namely, in the Poor Law Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, Lunesdale, and Ulverston, the great majority of the farm servants, both men and women, are unmarried, and are hired half-yearly at the hirings named, which take place at Whitsuntide and Martinmas. Some of those in the Fylde and Garstang Unions of Lancashire are hired yearly at Garstang at Candlemas (February 2nd), but it is stated that in recent years an increasing number of the farm servants there prefer to go to the half-yearly hirings in the neighbourhood, as they then can get two holidays in the year.

It is customary for farm servants to attend several hirings, often situated in two or perhaps three counties, with the object of obtaining amusement, and of meeting their friends as well as of getting situations. Employers also often visit the hirings outside their own county.

The married labourers in these counties who are attached to the staff of a farm are usually on weekly engagements, though in some districts they are nominally on daily ones, and they generally live in cottages near to the farm where they are employed. This class of men stay in their places for much longer periods than the hired men, who are continually changing their situations. In most districts there are not many odd men or casual men; the work of the farm is generally got through with the aid of the ordinary staff. Their wages are about 3s. to 3s. 6d. a day. At harvest they often take monthly engagements and get about £5 a month, and frequently food and drink. In some districts they lift potatoes by piece-work. In North Lancashire a good many Irishmen come into the district for harvest and stay for potato-lifting; some also go to parts of Cumberland.

In the counties named there are a number of small farms, some worked almost entirely by the farmer and his family, others with the aid of one or two hired men. Many of the small farmers have risen from the ranks of farm servants. While in the position of unmarried farm servants they are able to save money if they are careful, as they have little to spend it on except clothes.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Wages and Conciliation in the Coal Trade of the Federated Districts.

A meeting of the Conciliation Board for the coal trade of the Federated Districts of England and Wales was held at Westminster on December 7th. The Board considered the question of a further extension of the period of its existence, and the demand on the part of the men's representatives for an advance in wages. The following resolutions were agreed to:—

That the Conciliation Board recommend to the employers and workmen the continuance of the Conciliation Board from January 1st, 1901 (the date of the expiration of the present arrangement), for a further period of three years with the present minimum and an increased maximum to 60 per cent. on the 1888 standard; and that an advance of 5 per cent. on the standard rate of wages of 1888 be granted to underground labour only, and paid as and from the first making-up day in January, 1900, conditional on such extension of the period of the Board.

That the proposed advance of 5 per cent. be kept in hand until the arrangement for the extension of the Conciliation Board period has been accepted by both sides, and if accepted, the advance as from the first making-up day in January be paid on the first pay day after such acceptance.

That the meeting be adjourned until Tuesday, January 16th, 1900, at 11 o'clock.

With reference to the above it should be explained that the present minimum and maximum limits, within which the board fixes wages, are 30 per cent. and 45 per cent. respectively above the standard of 1888. The present rate of wages is 40 per cent. above the standard, so that the effect of the above resolution will be to raise the wages to 45 per cent. above the standard of 1888.

Twisters and Drawers at Ramsbottom.

The following is the text of an agreement signed on the 21st November by the representatives of the cotton manufacturers and the twisters and drawers of Ramsbottom:—

That we agree, as representing the trade, to accept Blackburn list on all sorts, except plain drawing, which shall be paid at the rate of 5 1/2 per 1,000 ends, old healds and dropping included. The foreman of the room shall be paid a reasonable price for services rendered, the fixing of the same to be left with the employer and workman (where possible).

This list to come into operation on the first making-up day in December, 1899.

The Blackburn list was drawn up in 1893-4. Its adoption as the recognised list at Ramsbottom is stated to have resulted in an increase in the wages of the operatives at the latter place.

Hull Fishermen.

An agreement has been entered into by the representatives of the Hull Fishing Vessels Owners' Association, Limited, and the Hull Trawl Fishermen's Protective Society fixing a uniform scale of wages for the weekly hands of steam trawlers and steam flisters, and securing to all these workpeople a direct interest in the value of the fish caught. The following extract from the agreement shows the weekly wage and the poundage to be paid to each of the weekly hands on all clear money, i.e., the sum obtained for each catch after the payment of certain expenses.

SINGLE BOATERS.

Table showing wages for single boaters: Boatswains (24s. per week and 2d. in the £), Third hands (20s. per week and 2d. in the £), Deck hands (17s. per week and 2d. in the £), Cooks (15s. per week and 2d. in the £), Spare hands (20s. per week and 2d. in the £).

FLEETERS.

Table showing wages for fleeters: Boatswains (20s. per week and 3d. in the £), Third hands (18s. per week and 2d. in the £), Deck hands (16s. per week and 1d. in the £), Cooks (14s. per week and 1d. in the £).

The agreement came into operation on November 1st, and is stated to have resulted in an advance of about 10 per cent. in the earnings of nearly 1,700 fishermen.

CO-OPERATION IN 1898.

The following table, showing the progress in 1898 of Workmen's Distributive and Productive Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom, is based upon returns sent direct to the Labour Department, supplemented by particulars furnished by the Co-operative Union and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

Particulars are given of 1,767 societies, with a total membership of 1,593,599 (including 5,045 societies); and sales amounting to £70,275,267, of which £60,074,669 are the sales of distributive departments and £10,200,598 the sales of productive societies and transfers† of the productive departments of distributive societies.

Of the £60,074,669 distributive sales, the sales of the 1,441 retail stores amounted to £42,583,449, and those of the four wholesale federations to £17,429,965, the remaining £61,255 being the sales of the 72 new Irish societies for the purchase and sale of seeds, manures, poultry, &c., which are this year shown separately in the table.

Of the £10,200,598 of productive sales and transfers, goods to the value of £3,325,173 were produced by the 250 societies established primarily for production; £3,683,529 in the manufacturing departments of 613 retail distributive societies, and £3,191,896 by the English and Scottish wholesale societies.

The total number of persons directly employed by the 1,767 societies at the end of 1898 was 74,743, of whom 44,639 were engaged in distribution, and 30,104 in production. Of the productive employees, 20,655 were employed in England and Wales, 8,864 in Scotland, and 583 in Ireland. Of the 30,104 engaged in production, 17,682 were men, 7,812 women, and 4,610 young persons under 18 years of age.

The total share, loan, and reserve capital of all the societies amounted to £25,826,180; and of this £8,414,589 was invested otherwise than in trade, of which £2,780,556 was invested in house property let or sold to members, £3,655,233 in other co-operative societies, and £1,978,800 in various other securities.

TABLE showing certain particulars relating to the Workmen's Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom, distinguishing Distributive and Productive Societies, for the year ended December 31st, 1898, together with the totals for 1897:—

Large table with 8 columns: Number of Societies to which the following particulars relate, Number of Members (Individuals, Other Societies*), Capital (Share and Loan, Reserve and Insurance), Amount of Sales during 1898, Profit including interest on Shares, but not on Loan Capital, Number of persons directly employed by the Societies.†

* The same society may hold shares in several societies, and may therefore be counted several times in this column.

† In some cases the number of employees was not stated. In these cases an estimate has been made.

‡ The goods produced by the wholesale and retail distributive societies are not usually sold direct by the manufacturing departments of these societies, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

§ Included under head of Distribution.

|| Less.

¶ The totals for 1899 have been revised by the deletion of two productive societies, which do not now appear to be workmen's societies, and which are not included in the 1898 figures.

** These societies are also shown in the totals above for distribution, but are only counted once in the grand totals at foot of table.

†† The particulars relating to production by distributive societies are included under the head of Distribution, and accordingly no total can be given.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS IN PRUSSIA.

ACCORDING to the report of the Prussian Factory Inspectors for 1898* the number of children under 14 years of age employed in factories and workshops in Prussia at the end of that year was 1,421, as compared with 1,359 at the end of 1897; the number of boys having risen from 869 to 952, while that of the girls fell from 490 to 469.

In the case of children from 14 to 16, both sexes show an increase; the boys, from 91,793 to 98,935, and the girls, from 40,559 to 43,186.

The number of women (over 16) employed in factories and workshops rose from 337,504 to 353,629.

The relation between the number of children, young persons and women employed in all factories and workshops in Prussia, and the number of such persons employed in the factories and work-

* Jahres-Berichte der Königlich Preussischen R. gierungs- und Gewerberäthe und Bergbehörden für 1898. Berlin, 1899. R. v. Decker, publisher. Price (in paper cover) about 8s. 8d.

shops actually inspected in 1898 is shown by the following table:—

Table with 2 columns: Number employed in (All factories and workshops, Factories and workshops inspected) and rows for Boys (16 years or under), Girls (16 years or under), Women (over 16 years), and Total.

The total number of the factories and workshops inspected in 1898 was 46,461, of which 35,096 were visited on one occasion, 7,299 twice, and 4,066 on three or more occasions; the total number of workpeople employed in these factories and workshops was 2,135,940, of whom 1,726,240 were males over the age of sixteen years.

REGULATION OF HOURS OF RAILWAY SERVANTS IN FRANCE.

THREE Ministerial Decrees have been issued in November regulating the hours of labour of railway servants on the main railway systems of France. Two of the decrees are dated November 4th, and relate to the hours of engine-drivers, firemen, and others who accompany the trains, while the third, dated November 23rd, relates to station staffs.

1. *Engine-drivers and Firemen.*—For these classes the working day must contain, on the average, not more than 10 hours of actual duty and not less than 10 hours of continuous rest, so that in every period of 10 consecutive days there shall not be contained more than 100 hours of actual duty, or less than 100 hours of continuous rest. Each spell of duty must occur between two periods of continuous rest separated by an interval of not more than 17 hours. By "continuous rest" is meant freedom from duty during at least 10 consecutive hours spent at home, or 7 away from home. Not more than two periods of continuous rest of less than 10 hours each may occur in succession, nor may the duration of any two successive periods of such rest amount in the aggregate to less than 17 hours. A period of continuous rest of at least 24 hours' duration, spent at home, must occur, on an average, once in 10 days, nor may more than 20 days intervene between any two successive periods of rest of this nature. In the case of officials whose duties do not entail sleeping away from home, the number of 24 hours rests may be reduced to an average of one in 15 days. (In reckoning the 100 hours minimum mentioned above each 24 hours rest only counts as 10 hours of continuous rest.)

A period of two months is allowed for railway companies to adapt themselves to the new rules.

2. *Train Staff, other than Engine-drivers and Firemen.*—For servants of this class the working day must contain, on the average, not more than 10 hours of actual duty and not less than 10 hours of continuous rest, so that in every period of 15 days there shall not be contained more than 150 hours of actual duty, or less than 150 hours of continuous rest. Not more than 17 hours may intervene between any two successive periods of continuous rest, nor may these 17 hours include more than 12 hours of actual duty as a rule, or more than 12½ hours, in any case, and then only if followed by a rest of 12 hours. For servants whose duties do not entail sleeping away from home, the average, duration of actual duty is fixed at a maximum of 11 hours, and that of continuous rest at a minimum of 9.

In the case of the classes of servants now under consideration a continuous rest is to mean a period of at least 9 hours spent at home, or 7 hours spent away from home. Not more than two periods of continuous rest of less than 9 hours each may occur in succession, nor may the aggregate duration of any two successive periods amount to less than 16 hours.

A period of continuous rest of at least 24 hours' duration (counting as 10 hours only in the ten-day period) spent at home, must occur, on an average, once in 15 days, nor may more than 30 days intervene between any two successive periods of rest of this nature.

As in the previous case two months are allowed for companies to adapt themselves to the new rules.

3. *Members of Station Staff.*—The hours of duty of servants of this class must not exceed 12 in 24, and they must be allowed two intervals of about one hour each for meals, one towards the middle and the other towards the end of the day. At least 9 consecutive hours of absolute freedom from duty must be allowed per day. For those having quarters at stations the hours of absolute freedom from duty may be reduced to 8 per day. This also applies to officials in sole charge of small country stations, and in respect to these latter officials the limit of 12 hours' duty in 24 need not be observed. One whole day or two half days off duty must be allowed to members of station staffs each month. Two such days (but not more) pertaining to two consecutive months may be taken together, but not more than two months may elapse without a day off duty.

Members of station staffs employed at stations, where day and night duty has to be performed, must not take the night turn for more than 14 consecutive nights. The Minister of Public Works may prescribe shorter turns of night duty (up to a minimum of 7 consecutive nights) in respect to large stations with heavy traffic. The rules for members of station staffs must be in full operation before April 1st, 1900.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 1,153 co-operative retail societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,511,713, show total sales for the third quarter of 1899 amounting to £10,443,350, as compared with £9,774,216 in the corresponding period of 1898.

Of these societies 831 show an increase, 316 a decrease, and 6 the same amount as last year, the net increase being £669,134 or 6·8 per cent.

Wales and Monmouth show a large increase compared with 1898, in which year trade was depressed in that district owing to the dispute in the coal trade.

Returns from three of the four wholesale federations for the same period show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £4,787,342 as compared with £4,179,963 in the corresponding quarter of 1898, an increase of 14·5 per cent. The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish wholesale societies amounted to £810,159 compared with £706,212 in the corresponding period of 1898, an increase of 14·7 per cent.

The following table, based upon reports and balance-sheets supplied direct to the department, shows the progress in trade of the wholesale and retail distributive societies, grouped by districts:—

Description of Societies and Districts.	Societies making Returns.		Sales of Societies making Returns.			
	No.	Member-ship.	In 3rd quarter of		Increase in 1899 compared with 1898.	
			1899.	1898.	Amount.	Per cent. on Sales.
Retail Distributive Societies.						
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Northern Counties	108	197,185	1,736,098	1,616,653	119,445	7·4
Yorkshire ...	182	304,315	2,007,537	1,914,515	93,022	4·9
Lancashire and Cheshire	168	306,236	2,460,133	2,305,728	154,405	6·7
North and West Midland Counties	149	160,178	869,381	805,544	64,337	8·0
South Midland and Eastern Counties	102	73,408	386,399	365,307	21,062	5·8
London (12 mile radius)	33	36,974	169,178	161,030	8,148	5·1
South Eastern Counties	52	41,660	203,811	192,913	10,898	5·6
Southern and Western Counties	53	48,955	202,717	199,752	2,965	1·5
Wales and Monmouth	44	17,203	132,953	105,288	27,665	26·3
Total—England and Wales	891	1,246,114	8,168,677	7,666,730	501,947	6·5
SCOTLAND:—						
North	103	97,996	771,667	721,119	50,548	7·0
South	151	165,500	1,492,202	1,377,244	114,958	8·3
Total—Scotland	254	263,596	2,263,869	2,098,363	165,506	7·9
IRELAND ...						
Total Retail Distributive Societies	1,153	1,511,713	10,443,350	9,774,216	669,134	6·8
Wholesale Societies.						
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Distributive Departments	1,071*	1,168,221*	£ 3,492,986	£ 3,042,081	£ 450,905	14·8
Manufacturing Departments			£ 475,349†	£ 394,173†	£ 81,176	21·2
SCOTLAND:—						
Distributive Departments	291*	238,624*	£ 1,228,401	£ 1,084,103	£ 144,298	13·3
Manufacturing Departments			£ 334,810†	£ 314,036†	£ 20,774	6·6
IRELAND:—						
Butter Agency (Distribution)	Not stated.		£ 65,955	£ 53,779	£ 12,176	22·6
Agricultural (Distribution)	No return.					

* Number and Membership of federated societies.
† Transfers from manufacturing to distributive departments.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

"ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT."

The widow of a workman, who had been killed by an accident in a coal mine, claimed compensation from his employers for the death of her husband; and the County Court judge made an award in her favour for £225. The deceased was not a collier but a labourer, and on the day of the accident he had been ordered to work with another man in clearing away coal from a roadway in the mine by picking it up and filling trucks with it. While so engaged, he got a mandril, and set to work on a piece of coal which was projecting from the side or roof of the drift. This piece of coal fell upon and killed him. One of the witnesses, the fireman in the mine, said that the deceased asked him if he might get the piece of coal, and he told him not to touch it, as it was dangerous. Another witness, the man who had been working with the deceased, gave evidence that some conversation had taken place between the fireman and the deceased, but what was said, being in Welsh, was not intelligible to this witness. The County Court judge found that the deceased had received instructions from the fireman to take down the coal. The employers appealed on the ground that there was no evidence that the accident arose out of and in the course of the employment of the deceased. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that, unless the applicant proved that the accident arose out of and in the course of the deceased's employment, the employers were entitled to judgment, and that the applicant had failed to prove this. The fireman denied that he had told the deceased to remove the piece of coal. Even if the County Court judge disbelieved the fireman, which he was entitled to do, there was still no evidence that the fireman had given any such order to the deceased. Further, there did not appear to be any evidence that the fireman was a person who had authority to give such an order.—*Edwards v. The International Coal Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, November 11th.*

In a case in which a labourer claimed compensation in respect of personal injury by accident received while in the employment of a builder, the County Court judge awarded him 10s. a week during incapacity for work, and the defendant (the employer) appealed, on the grounds that (1) the accident did not arise out of and in the course of the man's employment, and (2) there was evidence of serious and wilful misconduct on his part, to which the injury received by him was attributable. On behalf of the employer it was stated that the applicant was employed by the defendant to fill a mortar mill, and to receive timber as it came from a circular saw after being cut, but he was not required, in the performance of the work assigned to him, to go near the saw, and, if he did so, he was not doing his duty properly. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal.—*Edwards v. Perell, Court of Appeal, reported November 19th.*

DOCK "NEAR" A SHIPBUILDING YARD.

By Section 7, Sub-sec. (3) of the Act it is provided that "A workman employed in a factory which is a shipbuilding yard shall not be excluded from this Act by reason only that the accident arose outside the yard in the course of his work upon a vessel in any dock, river, or tidal water near the yard." A vessel had been launched from the yard of a firm of shipbuilders, and had been taken to a dock about two miles from that yard for the purpose of having its internal fittings adjusted, and for its completion as a ship. While the work was in progress, a shipwright, employed by the shipbuilders, was injured at the ship by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. He claimed compensation from his employers. The sheriff-substitute held that the case came within the sub-section quoted above; and, the man having been totally incapacitated by the accident, awarded him 17s. 3d. a week. The employers appealed, on the ground that the dock, in which the vessel lay at the time of the accident, was not "near" their yard, within the meaning of the Act. The Court of Session refused the appeal.—*Burley, Curle & Co. v. M'Millan, Court of Session, November 10th.*

WHAT IS A "DEPENDANT"?

The mother of a collier, who had been killed by an accident in the course of his employment in a coal mine, claimed compensation from his employers. The County Court judge awarded her £60. The employers appealed, contending that there was no evidence before the County Court judge that the applicant was either wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the deceased at the time of his death, within the meaning of the Act. The evidence was that the applicant lived with a daughter and a younger son, in a house which belonged to them, while the deceased lived in lodgings. The mother was not earning any wages. The daughter earned £45 a year as a pupil teacher, the greater part of which she paid to her mother for housekeeping purposes. The younger son was receiving 14s. a week from a provident fund, which was also devoted to household purposes. The deceased was in the habit of making a payment to his mother of 10s. or 15s. or 20s. every fortnight. The employers urged that the applicant did not show what she did with the money received from the deceased, and that the evidence given did not show that the applicant was dependent on the earnings of the deceased for the ordinary necessities of life. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, on the ground that it was not really disputed

at the hearing that the sums paid by the deceased to his mother went into a common fund for the benefit of the mother's household.—*Griffiths v. Davis and Sons, Limited, Court of Appeal, November 11th.*

PAYMENT DURING INCAPACITY.

Where the injury caused to a workman by an accident results in total or partial incapacity for work, the compensation payable under the Act is "a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding fifty per cent. of the average weekly earnings during the previous twelve months, if he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less period during which he has been in the employment of the same employer, such weekly payment not to exceed one pound." On July 28th, 1898, a miner, in the employment of a colliery company, while at work in a coal pit, accidentally sustained an injury to his eye, which compelled him to keep away from work for some weeks. On August 22nd he made a claim for compensation under the Act, and an agreement was come to between him and his employers that he should receive a weekly sum of 12s. as compensation. According to the evidence of the miner, there was no agreement as to the duration of this payment. The payment was made for six weeks, counting from August 12th. On September 23rd, the man's eye having got better, he returned to work at his employers' request. On November 16th he left his employment, having received a fortnight's notice from his employers, in consequence of a part of the pit being closed. His eye then got worse again, and on February 9th, 1899, he made a fresh claim under the Act. The County Court judge held that the applicant could not proceed under the notice of August 22nd, since the incapacity for work ceased when the miner went back to work on September 23rd, and could also not proceed under the notice of February 9th, because this notice was too late, the Act requiring that a claim for compensation shall be made within six months from the occurrence of the accident, and made an award in favour of the employers. The applicant appealed, admitting that the claim of February 9th was out of time, but claiming that he was entitled to proceed under the earlier claim, that his incapacity had never ceased, and that, when it increased, he was entitled to have the weekly payments resumed, nothing having been agreed as to their duration. On behalf of the employers it was said that the County Court judge had assumed that the applicant had made a good claim in August, 1898, and had urged that such claim was satisfied on September 23rd, and it was urged that the Court of Appeal would not interfere with such a finding of fact by the County Court judge, and also that that claim was not made in a valid manner according to the provisions of the Act. The Court of Appeal was of opinion that it was impossible to decide the case on the materials before them. It was not sufficiently clear what the County Court judge had intended to find as facts. The case must go down for a new trial.—*Bradbury v. Bedworth Iron and Coal Company, Court of Appeal, November 25th.*

"AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS"; BREAKS IN EMPLOYMENT.

A casual dock labourer, who worked sometimes for one stevedore and sometimes for another, was injured by an accident on January 25th, 1899. He claimed compensation from the stevedore for whom he was working at the time. When the accident occurred he had been working for this master for three days and a half. During the previous year he had been engaged to work for a great number of different stevedores, and he had worked many times for this master. From March 5th, 1898, to January 25th, 1899, he had worked for this employer in each week except four, though sometimes on only one day in each week. During the previous twelve months he had earned, from work done for this stevedore, £38 13s. 6d. The applicant stated that his earnings throughout the year, from all his employers together, were equivalent to an average of 28s. a week, his rate of pay being 5s. a day. The County Court judge took the amount earned in the year by the applicant while working for this stevedore as his basis, and calculated the average weekly wages of the applicant at 15s., and awarded him one-half of this sum, viz., 7s. 6d. a week. The applicant appealed, contending that the sum awarded him was too little, that his average weekly earnings ought for the purposes of the Act to be taken to be 28s. a week (his average earnings from all employers together), or that the average ought to be ascertained by taking as a basis the three and a-half days during which he had been employed immediately before the accident, and accordingly should be reckoned at 30s. a week. Thus he would in the one case be entitled to 14s., in the other to 15s. a week as compensation. On behalf of the employers it was contended, in the first place, that the applicant was not entitled to recover any compensation at all. The Act only applied where there was continuous employment for at least two weeks before the accident. There was no mode provided by the Act of assessing compensation where the employment was for a shorter period than two weeks. In the second place, if the Act applied, the County Court judge was right in awarding 7s. 6d. a week. The Court dismissed the appeal. The Court held that the appeal must fail unless the applicant could show that the County Court judge gave him less than he was entitled to. That judge had found as a fact that the employment of the applicant had been continuous during the twelve months preceding the accident, and that his earnings during this period were the amount above mentioned, and having divided this amount by the number of weeks comprised in the period, he had awarded to the applicant one-half of the sum so found. The applicant was not entitled to more than this. It was not for the Court to say whether in point of fact there was during the period in question such a continuous employment by the same employer as would justify the award. The employer had not

brought any appeal, and this point could therefore not be raised in the present case.—Williams v. Poulson, Court of Appeal, November 18th.

In another case a claim for compensation was made by a carpenter under the following circumstances. The applicant was first employed by the firm against whom the claim was made on August 24th, 1897, and he remained at work for them until February 17th, 1898 being paid by the hour.

(2) Factory Acts.

RULES FOR WOOL-SORTING.

A firm of woolcombers were summoned, under Section 9 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, for breach of a special rule made under the Factory Acts by having certain Persian locks taken direct to the sorting boards without their having been previously "opened" in the room specially set apart for that purpose.

The matter was taken by appeal; on a case stated by the justices, before the Divisional Court, Queen's Bench, no one appearing on behalf of the firm, and that Court allowed the appeal, and sent back the case to the justices, with direction to convict.

(3) Trade Union Act, 1871.

By this Act it is provided that, if any officer of a trade union registered under the Act, having any moneys of such trade union in his possession, wilfully withhold or fraudulently misapply the same, or wilfully apply any part of the same to purposes other than those expressed or directed in the rules of such trade union, or any part thereof, the court of summary jurisdiction for the place in which the registered office of the trade union is situate upon a complaint made by any person on behalf of such trade union, or by the registrar, may, by summary order, order such officer to deliver up all such monies to the trade union, or to repay the amount of money applied improperly, and to pay, if the Court think fit, a further sum of money not exceeding £20, together with costs not exceeding 20s.

The secretary of a trade union took proceedings under the section of the Trade Union Act referred to above against an officer of the union for illegally misapplying a sum of money belonging to the Union. The magistrate ordered the defendant to repay £102 5s, with £5 penalty and £1 costs.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad-way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, etc., mostly dated October and November last.)

Canada.—There is no demand during the present winter season for miners, mechanics, farm or general labourers, or for any other emigrants. The Ontario Department of Agriculture states that the supply of farm labourers in that Province this summer was sufficient at harvest time; but that female farm servants were scarce, as usual.

New South Wales.—A firm at Sydney states that they have great difficulty in procuring carpet layers, carpet planners, upholsterers, curtain drapers, and outdoor and indoor carpet, curtain and furnishing workmen, particularly those able to go out and take measurements and give estimates.

Victoria.—A considerable number of those out of employment have been set to work on railway construction. There is no demand for more emigrants at the present time.

* Handbooks, with maps on the different Colonies, may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information office at a penny each, post free.

South Australia.—There has been a good demand for farm hands, and a special demand for married couples without children for various occupations.

Queensland.—There has been a general improvement in trade and in the demand for labour during the last year, and the Treasurer, in his Financial Statement to Parliament, said that the depression had almost entirely passed away, and the disposal of the unemployed had ceased to be a difficulty.

Western Australia.—Serious disputes have arisen between alluvial miners and leaseholders in the Kalgoorlie district with regard to their respective rights to the gold found. The dispute as to wages at the Collie coal fields has been amicably settled; the hewing rate has been advanced to 4s. a ton, which is equal to a wage of about 12s. a day.

New Zealand.—In the district of Auckland the timber trade has been busy, and all the mills have been working full time: the building trade also has been active. Similar reports come from other parts of the Colony, men in the engineering and building trades, and in the flax mills and saw mills having, as a rule, plenty of employment; the boot trade has been doing fairly well in some centres, but has been bad in Wellington and Dunedin.

South Africa.—Persons are warned against going to South Africa at the present time in search of work.

LABOUR ABROAD. FRANCE.

Employment in November.*—Employment continued plentiful in the mining, metal (smelting and manufacture), engineering and electrical, watch, clock and jewellery trades; in the spinning and weaving of wool, linen and cotton, in silk manufacture, in the manufacture of ribbons and trimmings, in the printing and book-binding trades, in boot, shoe and glove-making, hat-making, woodworking (more especially cabinet-making, coach-building and coopering), and among pastry-cooks. In the garment-making, the building and accessory trades, and amongst gardeners and agricultural labourers employment became less plentiful. A further reduction has been made in the hours of labour in the building trades; they are now from 48 to 54 per week. The seasonal slackness prevails among tin-box makers.

Slightly less than 7 per cent. of the 96,000 members of 525 trade unions (excluding those of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais districts) furnishing reports were out of employment on November 15th. Seventeen per cent. of the unions (comprising 11 per cent. of the total membership) consider employment as more plentiful than at the corresponding date of 1898, 21 per cent. (with 23 per cent. of the membership) as less plentiful, while 62 per cent. (with 66 per cent. of the membership) consider it to have been equally plentiful at both periods.

Coal Mining in October.†—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in October was 5.99 (compared with 5.92 in the previous month, and 5.97 in October 1898). During the month full time (six days and over per week) was worked by 97 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 3 per cent. of the miners, the percentages in the previous month being 82 and 17 respectively. The above particulars are supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the coal mines).

* Information supplied by the courtesy of the French Labour Department. † Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, October and November, 1899.

GERMANY.

Grinding of Cutlery, etc. Special Rules.—The Report on Factory and Mines Inspection in Prussia in 1898* contains the text of a police order dated June 30th of that year, and prescribing special rules designed to promote the health and safety of workpeople employed in establishments in which cutlery and other metal goods are ground, polished, or subjected to other specified processes of a similar nature, with the aid of mechanical power. The rules, which deal with ventilation, the provision of a minimum amount of cubic air-space per worker, of apparatus for carrying off dust, etc., and of guards for preventing splinters of stone, etc., flying off, apply within the urban and rural districts of Düsseldorf and Solingen, and within the districts of Barmen, Remscheid, Lennep and Mettmann. This order came into force on November 1st, 1898.

HOLLAND.

Provision made for Workpeople in Cases of Accident.—According to the Report on Factory Inspection in Holland for the years 1897 and 1898,† the total number of accidents reported under the Factories and Workshops Acts as having occurred in those years was 8,385, of which 215 were fatal. Of these 8,385 accidents, 1,852 (including 30 fatal cases) occurred in the 5th and 6th inspection districts (comprising the provinces of Gelderland, Overijssel, Drenthe, Friesland, and Groningen), in both of which information has been collected on a practically uniform basis as to the nature of the provision made in each case in which a person sustained an accident during work. The following table summarises the information collected under this head:—

PROVISION MADE FOR PERSONS WHO SUSTAINED ACCIDENTS DURING WORK IN THE YEARS 1897 AND 1898 IN CERTAIN PROVINCES IN HOLLAND:—

Table with 4 columns: Nature of Provision made for persons who sustained Accidents, Persons who sustained Accidents in 1897 or 1898 (Number, Per cent.), and data for various accident types like 'Full wages and cost of attendance'.

SWEDEN.

Law relating to Strikes and Intimidation.—Under date of November 18th, Sir F. Pakenham, H.M. Minister at Stockholm, has forwarded through the Foreign Office a translation of Sections 22 and 24 of Chapter 15 of the Penal Law of Sweden as amended by a law of July 10th, 1899. The sections as amended are as follows:—

Section 22.—"Anyone who, without lawful right, or abusing his right, shall, by force or by threats, compel another to do, submit to, or refrain from anything, shall be punished with penal servitude for a time not exceeding two years, unless the offence be specially subject to a severer penalty. The same enactment shall apply in case anyone shall, in the manner above stated,

* Jahres Berichte der Königlich Preussischen Regierungs- und Gewerbeberäthe und Berichtsbehörden für 1898. Berlin, 1899. R. v. Decker, publisher. Price (in paper cover) about 8s. 6d. † Verslagen van de Inspecteurs van den Arbeid in het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden over 1897 en 1898. Uitgegeven door het Departement van Waterstaats Handel en Nijverheid. The Hague, Van Cleef Bros., 1899.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

the greater part of the month, farmers were generally able to get through all the necessary work satisfactorily. Many farmers state that they have never had a more favourable autumn for out-door employment, neither has farm work been in a more forward state at the time of year.

Changes in wages took place during October and November amounting to a rise of 1s. a week, in certain districts in the Counties of Durham, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Kent, Somerset, Suffolk, and of 2s. in a district in Cumberland. A seasonal decrease of 1s. a week or more took place in parts of Dorsetshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Sussex, and Warwickshire.

Northwestern Counties.—Agricultural employment is said to have been regular in *Northumberland* during the month of November, and in *Cumberland* in the Unions of Bortle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Longtown, Penrith, Whitehaven, and Wigton. A report from the Penrith Union states that labourers are scarce owing to the number of public works in progress in the district. It is further stated that farm work is well forward, owing to the favourable weather which prevailed during the month. A report of a similar character comes from the Cockermouth Union, and it is said that farm hands have been busy storing roots and sowing wheat. Reports from South Westmorland and from North *Lancashire* from the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, Luneside, and Ulverston state that work was regular during the month, except so far as it was interfered with by the Statute Hirings which took place in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire between the 9th and the 25th inst., and which are made the occasion for holidays. (For rates of wages obtained at these hirings see page 358.) In *Durham* labourers are said to be fully employed in the Unions of Chester-le-street, Durham, and Darlington (*Durham and Yorks, N.R.*). They are said to be very difficult to get, owing to the demand for men at the collieries. A report from the Durham Union states that, owing to the light crops of turnips, fewer women have been required. Employment in *Yorkshire* is said to be regular in the Unions of Beverley, Eaingwold, Guisborough, Howden, Knarresborough, Malton, Ouseburn, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. Generally the reports state that the weather was very favourable for out-door employment, and that farm hands were busily employed storing roots, ploughing, and wheat sowing. A report from the Ripon Union states that, owing to the light swede crop, there has not been quite so brisk a demand for lads to store it. In the Pocklington Union it is stated that extra hands for threshing are difficult to obtain at a higher rate of wages than last year.

Midland Counties.—Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Chester, Nantwich, Macclesfield, and Tarvin. In these districts it is stated that absence of frost and rain, enabled farm work to be proceeded with almost without interruption, namely, storing roots, ploughing, and wheat sowing. Reports of a similar character come from *Derbyshire* from the Unions of Chesterfield, and Hayfield, and from the *Derbyshire* portion of the Worksop Union (*Notts, Derby and Yorks, W.R.*), Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs and Derby*), and Mansfield Union (*Notts and Derby*). Regularity of work is also reported from *Shropshire* from the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (*Salop and Staffs*), Oswestry, Wellington, and Wem. A correspondent in the Drayton Union writes as follows: "Owing to the brisk trade demand, and the calling up of the Reserves for active service, the supply has been scarcely equal to the demand. On the other hand, owing to the very indifferent turnip crops, fewer hands than usual have been required for cutting and storing them." A report from the Wellington Union also states that though all hands were employed, fewer were wanted for storing roots owing to light crops. Reports from *Staffordshire* from the Unions of Tamworth and Leek state that no men were in irregular work. In the Tamworth Union it is said that less labour was required on the root crop.

In *Warwickshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon, and in the *Warwickshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon, Northants, and Warwick*). In the Atherstone and Foleshill Unions labour is said to be scarce. In the Meriden Union fewer men it is stated were required for the turnips owing to the light crop. A correspondent in the Alcester Union writes: "Weather could not have been better for getting off root crops and for wheat sowing. There has been a sufficient supply of labour to secure mangolds, potatoes, etc., without damage from frost." Employment for agricultural labourers is said to be quite regular in *Leicestershire*

in the Unions of Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough, and Lutterworth (*Warwick and Leicester*). Some scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Blaby, Lutterworth, and Loughborough. A report from the last-named Union states that this has been accentuated by the calling out of the Reserves. A correspondent in the Lutterworth Union writes: "Extra hands scarce, as threshing machines have been busy this good weather. Work such as potato lifting, which was backward owing to scarcity of labour, now completed." In the Oakham Union of *Rutland* the supply of labour is described as "decidedly short."

Reports from *Worcestershire* state that agricultural labourers are well employed in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Tenbury, and Upton-on-Severn. In the Evesham Union market-garden work is said to be well forward. In the Martley Union extra hands for threshing are said to be difficult to obtain. In the Upton-on-Severn Union the supply of labour is said to be generally scarce.

Regular employment is reported from *Oxfordshire* from the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and from the *Oxfordshire* portion of the Wallingford Union (*Oxon and Berks*). Agricultural labourers are said to be continuously employed in *Northamptonshire* in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Kettering, Potterspury, Wellingborough, and in the *Northamptonshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon, Northants, and Warwick*). A report from the Kettering Union, states that there is a "general scarcity of labour notwithstanding poor root crops." A large employer of labour in the Wellingborough Union writes as follows: "Supply of labour is very short, hardly any extra men for threshing, getting up turnips, etc., to be had. The very fine and open autumn and light crops of turnips have caused the short supply of labour to be less seriously felt than would otherwise have been the case." Employment is said to be regular in *Huntingdonshire* in the Unions of Huntingdon and St. Neot's (*Hunts, and Beds*). In both of these Unions extra hands have been difficult to obtain. Regular employment is also reported in *Bedfordshire* in the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton. A report from the Luton Union states that labourers are scarce for threshing, raising roots, etc.

Eastern Counties.—Reports from *Essex* state that agricultural labourers were well employed in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, and Tending. All the reports say that, except during the first few days of the month, the weather was all that could be desired for outdoor work, and that farm work is well forward. In a good many districts the supply of labour is said to be short or barely sufficient. In *Suffolk* all the correspondents state that work has been regular and the weather favourable. Reports to this effect have been received from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, and Thingoe. In the Hartismere Union some men were in irregular work in the early part of the month owing to wet weather. Some scarcity of labour is reported in the Unions of Cosford, Plomesgate, Mildenhall, and in some parishes in the Samford and Thingoe Unions. A report from Bradwell, in the Thingoe Union, states that the calling out of the Reserves and Militia has considerably thinned the supply of labour. In the Hoxne Union the supply of ordinary labourers is said to be sufficient, but good team men scarce. In the Blything Union the supply of men is said to be not deficient. A large employer of labour in the Bosmere and Claydon Union writes as follows:—"The season on the whole has been very favourable for cleaning-up work, and consequently everything is well advanced. We have about sufficient labour at present, though there are no 'casuals' nowadays."

Agricultural labourers in *Norfolk* are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, Eastand West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. A scarcity of men is referred to in the following reports, namely those from Downham, Erpingham, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Smallburgh and Swaffham. In the following Unions the supply of labour is described as just or barely sufficient, namely, Aylsham, Blofield, Forehoe, Loddon and Clavering, Thetford and Walsingham. In the Docking Union a report states that a great many men are employed as beaters for shooting. A correspondent in the Swaffham Union writes:—"I know farmers who cannot thresh owing to difficulty in getting men." A report from the East and West Flegg Union says:—"The fishing season at Yarmouth has been most prosperous, and as many of the fishermen are also agricultural labourers their earnings are unusually large this year."

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; TEXTILE TRADES.

Reports from *Cambridgeshire* state that employment is regular in the Unions of Chesterton, North Witchford, and Wisbech, and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Royston Union (*Cambs and Herts*). An employer in the Royston Union writes as follows: "The weather generally has been so fine that the mangold crop has been harvested without interruption, and cleaning the land proceeded with, and wheat sowing completed. The only difficulty has been to find labour to do the work." A report from the Chesterton Union says that there has been sufficient labour up to the present, but that "the calling out of the Reserves must somewhat affect the supply." In *Lincolnshire*, work is said to be regular in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Caistor, Gainsborough, Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, Sleaford, and Spilsby, and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Notts and Lincoln*). A report from the Sleaford Union states that "potatoes and carrots took up all labour." There is said to be a scarcity of labour in the Unions of Brigg, Caistor, Lincoln, and Sleaford. An employer in the Lincoln Union says that, "had turnips been a good crop, hands could not have been got to cut them."

Home Counties.—Employment is said to be regular in *Buckingham* in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. A large employer of labour in the Buckingham Union states that it is difficult to get milkers. In *Berkshire* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Bradfield, Newbury, and Wantage. A large employer of labour in the Wantage Union writes: "Labour is rather scarce, and if any one wanted extra hands it was difficult to get them. But there was nothing to require extra hands except threshing, and storing the mangolds, and, as the weather was very fine, work which could not be done one day could be done another." In the Bradfield Union labour is described as "very scarce."

In *Surry* employment is stated to be regular in the Unions of Godstone, and Hambledon, and in the *Surry* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants and Surrey*). The supply of labour is said to be short in the Union of Farnham. A report from the Hambledon Union states that the supply was about equal to the demand for agricultural purposes, but that men were difficult to get for copse cutting. Regularity of employment is reported from Kent from the Unions of Blean, Cranbrook, Eastry, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden. A scarcity of men is referred to in reports from the Unions of Blean, Faversham, Hoo, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden. In the Sevenoaks Union it is said that great difficulty has been experienced in getting hands for threshing and wood-cutting. In the Hoo Union it is stated that it is difficult to find young men to go with horses. In the Hollingbourne Union, however, an employer writes: "All employed, not exactly short, but could do with a few more." Agricultural labourers in *Hertfordshire* are said to be well employed in the Unions of Barnet, Buntingford, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Hitchin, St. Albans, and Watford. In the Barnet, Buntingford, Hitchin, and Watford Unions men are said to be scarce.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In *Sussex* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. Labour is reported as scarce in the Unions of Chailey, Horsham, Newhaven, and Petworth. A correspondent in the Newhaven Union writes as follows:—"The work is well forward owing to very favourable weather. All roots are now harvested, wheat planting has gone well, and many farmers have finished. Men are difficult to get; a number from this district have gone, being on the Reserve." Reports from *Hampshire* state that employment is regular 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 scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Basingstoke, Farnham, and Hartley Wintney. In the Christchurch and Stockbridge Unions the supply of labour is described as "just sufficient." Agricultural labourers in *Dorsetshire* are said to be generally employed regularly in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne; and in *Wiltshire* in the Unions of Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwells-down. The supply of labour is said to be scarce in the Unions of Bradford-on-Avon, Highworth and Swindon, Mere, and Pewsey. Several reports from both *Dorsetshire* and *Wiltshire* state that the supply of labour has been affected by the calling up of the Reserves.

In *Gloucestershire* work is said to be plentiful in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, Thornbury, and Winchcombe. A report from the Thornbury Union says that there has been plenty of work with apple gathering and cider making. In the Northleach and Stow-on-the-Wold Unions it is said that there has been a difficulty in getting men for threshing. In *Herefordshire* there is said to be regular employment in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (*Hereford and Monmouth*), Ledbury, Leominster, and Ross. A report from the Ledbury Union says that it was difficult to get the heavy crop of fruit picked with the available supply of labour.

Reports from *Somersetshire* state that agricultural labourers are well employed in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, Wincanton, and Yeovil. An employer in the Clutton Union writes: "The last three weeks in November were the finest I ever remember in that month. The work on tillage land is well forward, and a good deal of work has been done this month which is usually done in the early months of the next year." A report from the Langport Union says that there has been a great difficulty in obtaining sufficient hands for threshing, chiefly owing to the Reserves having been called out. In *Devonshire* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, Tavistock, and Torrington; and in *Cornwall*, in the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton. A report from the last-named Union describes the supply of labour as short.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN NOVEMBER.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month improved in the spinning branch of the cotton trade, but declined to some extent in one district in the weaving branch; in the woollen and worsted trade full employment was universal. Information has been received with regard to 608 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 104,720 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—Spinning—				
November, 1899	99	1	—	—
October, 1899	96	3	—	1
November, 1898	90	5	3	2
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
November, 1899	90	9	—	1
October, 1899	97	3	—	—
November, 1898	85	13	2	—
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
November, 1899	100	—	—	—
October, 1899	99	1	—	—
November, 1898	69	17	14	—
Total of above Trades—				
November, 1899	94	5	—	1
October, 1899	97	3	—	—
November, 1898	83	12	5	—

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 27,200; of these 99 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 96 per cent., among those for whom returns were received in October, and with 90 per cent. in November, 1898.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 57,860; of these 90 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 97 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in October, and with 85 per cent. in November, 1898.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 19,660; of these the whole number were employed in mills giving full employment during the

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—SEAMEN; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

whole month, to be compared with 99 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in October, and 69 per cent. in November, 1898.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN NOVEMBER.

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

The number of seamen shipped during November as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 31,175, a decrease of 2,553 as compared with November, 1898. The supply of seamen and firemen is reported to have been equal to or in excess of the demand at most of the ports.

During the eleven completed months of the year the number shipped at the selected ports shows an increase of 6,591 over the number for the corresponding period of 1898, chiefly accounted for by increased shipments at Cardiff, Newport, and Liverpool, partly balanced by decreases at ports on the East coast of England and Scotland.

Of the total number shipped during the eleven months (viz., 377,494*) 55,254, or 14.6 per cent., were foreigners, as compared with 14.0 per cent. in the first eleven months of 1898, in which period the total number of British and foreign seamen shipped was 370,903*. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Seamen's rates of wages continue to show some decline from the high rates obtained recently. For full particulars of the decreases see page 378.

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 November, 1899 and 1898 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the eleven months ended November in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in November, 1899.*			Total in Nov., 1899.*	Total number shipped in 11 months ended November*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Nov., 1899.*		1899.	1898.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Fyne Ports ...	75	2,372	2,447	2,709	33,197	40,897
Sunderland ...	—	394	394	440	5,350	6,714
Middlesbrough ...	23	186	214	121	3,499	3,762
Hull ...	11	1,181	1,192	1,326	13,301	15,671
Grimsby ...	—	38	38	33	921	1,591
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	—	540	540	587	5,586	5,726
Newport, Mon. ...	1	926	927	1,027	11,403	7,441
Cardiff ...	270	4,451	4,721	5,896	54,901	40,632
Swansea ...	78	493	571	635	6,624	7,327
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	297	9,328	9,625	11,065	120,214	115,909
London ...	242	5,659	5,892	5,673	67,634	67,652
Southampton ...	—	1,826	1,826	1,889	16,749	16,574
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	—	481	481	631	6,536	9,652
Glasgow ...	54	1,820	1,874	1,731	26,321	27,221
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	73	73	52	1,973	1,077
Belfast ...	—	353	353	213	3,127	3,184
Total, Nov., 1899	1,081	30,124	31,175	—	377,494	—
Ditto, Nov., 1898	973	32,755	—	33,728	—	370,903

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

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN NOVEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves shows an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended November 25th was 16,679, as compared with averages of 16,228 in the preceding four weeks and 15,633 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:—

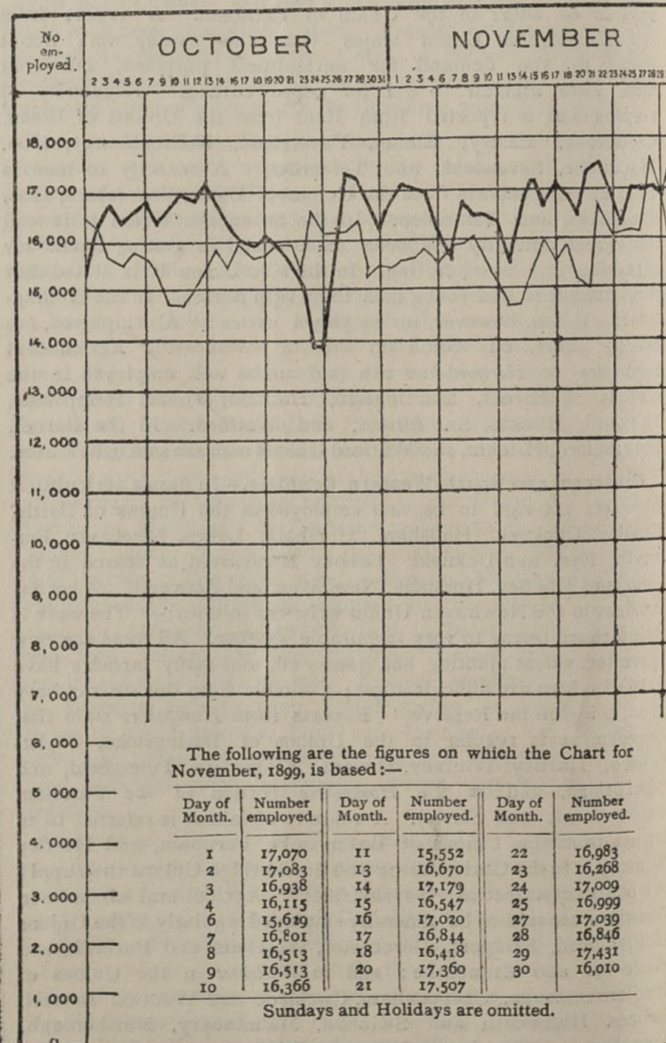
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Nov. 4	7,036	3,093	10,129	6,556	16,685
" " " 11	6,820	2,815	9,635	6,594	16,229
" " " 18	7,373	2,555	9,929	6,859	16,779
" " " 25	7,479	3,043	10,527	6,494	17,021
Average for 4 weeks ending Nov. 25th, 1899	7,177	2,873	10,055	6,624	16,679
Average for Nov., 1898*	7,008	2,103	9,111	6,522	15,633
Average for Oct., 1899	6,825	2,766	9,591	6,637	16,228

(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 October and November is shown on the chart below. The numbers in November ranged from 15,552 on the 11th to 17,507 on the 21st.

During November, 1898, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 14,630 on the 12th to 17,591 on the 28th,

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 October and November, 1899. The corresponding curve for October, and November 1898, is also given for comparison.

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



* Amended figures.

Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on page 369.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

General.—Employment during the month continued to improve, and at the close was very good in most industries. Returns from 445 branches of 110 unions, having an aggregate membership of 75,725, show that 1,743 (or 2.3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of November, compared with 2.9 in October, and 2.8 per cent. in November, 1898.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding trades has remained steady. Reports from 146 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,941, show that 614 (or 2.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.9 per cent. in September and October. The percentage for November, 1898, was 3.2.

The Building trades are busy. Returns from 178 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 12,287, show that 87 (or 0.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.9 in October, and 0.8 per cent. in November, 1898. The bricklayers, stonemasons, and stone-carvers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as fair; the plumbers as moderate; the painters and decorators as dull.

Employment in the Furnishing trades has remained steady. Reports from 49 branches of 12 unions, with a membership of 6,622, show that 190 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed, as compared with 2.7 in October, and 3.2 per cent. in November, 1898.

Coopers remain busy. Reports from two societies, with a membership of 1,000, again return no unemployed. Only one member was unemployed in November of last year.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights continue well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,455, show that 26 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.6 in October, and 2.1 per cent. in November, 1898.

Employment in the Printing and Bookbinding trades has continued to improve, and is now good. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 23,311, show that 443 (or 1.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.8 in October, and 2.2 per cent. in November of last year.

Employment in the Clothing trades has remained quiet. The West End bespoke tailors describe employment as fair during the month, but dull towards the end; the East End bespoke trade is rather dull, but fair on the whole; the export trade dull; the stock trade fairly brisk; the military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been only partially employed; with ladies' tailors and mantle-makers employment has been bad, though there were some signs of improvement towards the end of the month. Employment with hatters is good for time of year; with capmakers it is fair; with fur-skin dressers slack; with silk-weavers fair.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with West End handsewn boot and shoemakers has been quiet; in the East End sewaround trade good; with boot and shoe operatives quiet.

Employment in the Leather trades has remained quiet. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,623, show that 22 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.8 in October and 3.6 per cent. in November, 1898.

In the Glass and Pottery trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,486, show that 60 (or 4.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.3 in October, and 3.9 per cent. in November, 1898.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades, returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 904, show that 14 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.9 in October, and 6.4 per cent. in November of last year.

Gold and Silver Workers are well employed in most branches. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,126, show that 7 (or 0.6 per cent.) were unemployed. In October only one member was unemployed, while in November, 1898, the percentage was 2.1.

Employment in the Tobacco trades is scarcely so good. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,487, show that 51 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.3 in October, and 1.5 per cent. in November, 1898.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 16,679 in the four weeks ended November 25th, as compared with averages of 16,228 in the preceding four weeks, and 15,633 in November 1898. Employment in mid-stream has been fair at the beginning, and good at the end of the month. Employment has been good with stevedores, lumpers, lightermen, coal porters and deal porters; with corn porters it has been dull in the Surrey docks, but moderate

to fair at the Millwall docks, and fair at other docks. The fruit porters in Thames-street have had good employment, the average daily number employed being 364, as compared with 327 in October, and 352 in November, 1898.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—House coal pits have averaged 5.5 days per week, steam coal collieries 5.43 days, much the same as in October. The union miners, mechanics, deputies, engine and firemen are fully employed. Durham.—Coking, house, and gas coal pits have averaged 5.79, 5.58, and 5.47 days per week respectively, as against 5.72, 5.48, and 5.46 days in October. At 124 pits, employing over 62,000 men and boys, an average of 5.60 days per week has been worked, as compared with 5.55 days in October. The number of unemployed union miners is 79 (or 0.12 per cent.), as against 94 (or 0.15 per cent.) in October. Nearly all the mechanics, deputies, engine men, and coke yard workers are employed.

Metal Mining.—Lead miners have been discharged at one or two mines; in Upper Weardale employment is fairly good. Iron ore miners are busy.

Quarrying.—At all quarries Gateshead and district employment is reported as good. Limestone quarries in Weardale, Stanhope, and Haswell have generally worked full time. At Frosterley and at Blyth employment is fairly steady.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Night shifts in some engine shops have been discontinued. Electrical engineers are somewhat slacker. Employment at ordnance works and with locomotive builders is brisk. Employment in boiler shops is steady. The demand for riveters is still good. Repair work has been much better. These trades with a membership of 12,681 have 427 (or 3.4 per cent.) off work, as against 457 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. Sailmakers are dull. On the Wear.—Engine fitters and machine men have been in good demand. Ship smiths continue steadily employed. Iron shipbuilders have been busier. Branches of these trades with 5,234 members have 54 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 76 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. Shipwrights, pattern makers, and moulders are well employed, ship joiners not quite so well. Sailmakers are better employed. On both rivers drillers and hole cutters have 7.4 per cent. idle. Brass finishers are quiet; steel smelting shops and plate mills have worked full time; angle mills at Consett five shifts per week; chain and anchor smiths 5.5 shifts.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—With few exceptions coal porters and shippers have been fully employed. Employment has been good with trimmers and teamers. The demand for sailors and firemen is not so good as a year ago. Lumpers and riggers, and quayside labourers in general have had fair average employment.

Building Trades.—Painters are slack. Plumbers have 3.3 per cent. idle. Other branches report employment as either fair or good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Bookbinders are busy. Letterpress printers are fairly well employed. Three paper mills are busy; two have worked full time, five others a little over half time.

Woodworking Trades.—Branches of cabinetmakers, upholsterers, mill-sawyers and lath-renders, with a membership of 769 have 24 (or 3.1 per cent.) off work. Coopers on the Tyne are steadily employed.

Glass, Chemical, and Miscellaneous Trades.—Bottle makers at Seaham Harbour are all employed. On the Wear stoppages for repairs have interfered with regular employment. Pressed glass makers continue dull. White lead works are brisk. At three chemical factories the soda ash and bleaching departments are fairly busy. At one copper works two furnaces are laid off through scarcity of ore. Cement factories are fairly well employed.

Fishing.—A good supply of trawl fish has been landed. Line boats have only had moderate catches. Exceptionally good prices have been obtained.—f. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners report employment as fairly good. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines reported on was 5.63 days per week during the four weeks ending November 25th, as compared with 5.72 days in October, and 5.78 days per week in November, 1898. The number of workpeople employed in the mines was 6,804, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,704.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment continues good at the iron and steel works. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Arbitration and Conciliation Board wages will be advanced from November 27th 3d. per ton on puddling, and 2½ per cent. on all other forge and mill work. Employment also continues good at the blast furnaces, bridge works, pipe foundries, metal expansion works and general foundries; it is moderate at chair foundries.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is reported as good at Middlesbrough, Stockton and Bishop Auckland, fair at Hartlepool, moderate at Darlington and South Bank. Ironfounders, smiths and strikers and pattern-makers are well employed throughout the district. Branches of these trades with 4,310 members have 35 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 38 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Shipbuilding.—The yards in the district are fairly full of work. Smiths and strikers report employment as brisk; shipwrights as good; shipjoiners as fair.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fair at Middlesbrough and moderate at Hartlepool. Dock labour is good at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool. Riverside labour is good.

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

Miscellaneous.—Cement and concrete workers and pulp-workers report employment as good; wood-cutting machinists and mill-sawyers as fair; cabinet-makers as dull; saltworkers as moderate; tailors at Middlesbrough as slack; printers as good.—*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 Industry.—Employment has improved at the Cumberland mines compared with both a month and a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended November 25th, at the 21 pits covered by the returns, was 5.85 per week, compared with 5.62 days in October last and also in November, 1898. The number of workpeople employed in November, 1899, at these pits was 6,421, or practically the same as a year ago.

Iron Mining Industry.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended November 25th at the 44 mines from which returns have been received was 5.88 per week, as compared with 5.99 days in October and 5.93 days a year ago. There were 5,881 workpeople employed at these mines in November, the corresponding number for November, 1898, being 5,992.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces continues good, and is much better than a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of November was 54, the same number as at the end of October, compared with 46 in November, 1898. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces was 4,557, or 53 more than in October, and 1,018 more than a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment in Oldham and the surrounding districts is good in the spinning branch, and moderate in the twinning branch. In Rochdale and neighbourhood, Stalybridge, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Droylsden, and Stockport spinners report employment as good, with full time at the mills. Cardroom workers, ring frame spinners, and throstle frame tenters are fully employed. **Weaving.**—The power-loom overlookers and weavers report employment as brisk in calicoes, as moderate in velvets, and as slack in fustian goods. Ball and beam and sectional warpers and winders report employment as moderate; reelers as slack.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—Employment continues good in the woolen trade in Rochdale, Milrow and Stockport districts; with silk-dressers at Rochdale it is slack.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In the machine shops the engineers report employment as slack in some departments, moderate in others. Brassfounders, pattern makers, iron founders and boiler makers report employment as good; tin plate workers, gas meter makers, tool makers, and iron grinders as moderate; plate and machine moulders as slack.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as fair generally.

Coal Mining.—The miners at the pits in Oldham, Royton, Chadderton and Shaw are reported to be fully employed.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—In Bolton and immediate vicinity employment is reported as brisk. In Ramsbottom, Heywood, Leigh, Chorley, and Bury it continues active. At Walkden, Farnworth, and Tyldesley it is good. Cardroom operatives are fairly well employed in most towns in the district. **Weaving.**—Employment is reported as good in Bolton at most firms. In Chorley, Bury, Heywood, Ramsbottom, and Leigh, activity prevails at most firms.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—In Bolton, engineers and steam engine-makers are not quite so well employed. Roller turners, brassfinishers, irongrinders, and machine-fitters are moderately well employed. In Chorley, Wigan, Leigh, and Bury, employment in nearly all branches is fairly good. Steel smelters in Bolton and Wigan are slightly less active.

Building Trades.—In Bolton and district employment generally is fairly good for the time of year.

Coal Mining.—Employment is good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Leather-workers, lithographic printers, shoe-makers, tailors, carters and general labourers are well employed.

R. Toothill.

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment continues good in the Blackburn, Burnley, Nelson, Preston, Darwen, Great Harwood and Colne districts; in the coloured weaving trade there is a further improvement. Warp dressers are fairly employed. In the hard waste weaving trade overtime is continued. Twisters and drawers, tape sizers, winders and warpers are fully employed. **Spinning.**—Spinners report employment as good at Blackburn, Preston, Darwen and Accrington, and as moderate at Burnley. Ring spinners, cardroom workers, and workers in other branches continue fully employed. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers with 3,335 members have 82 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed as compared with 86 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building Trades.—Masons and bricklayers report employment as fair; painters as slack; plumbers as moderate; joiners as fair at Accrington, moderate at Blackburn.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—All branches are fairly well employed, with overtime in some cases.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report employment as good throughout the district; stone quarrymen as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Woolen block printers report employment as good; cabinet-makers and tailors as fair; boot, shoe and slipper makers as rather slack; letterpress printers as fairly good; calico printers and bleachers as moderate.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 22,269 members have 489 (or 2.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 449 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Ironfounders and machine workers in Manchester, Warrington, Stockport and Northwich are busy, boiler-makers fully employed. Engineers and smiths and strikers in Northwich report employment as good, in Manchester as moderate; sheet metal workers and brassfounders as fair. In Warrington wire drawers and wire weavers are fully employed. In Stockport and Macclesfield all branches are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—In Manchester bricklayers, bricklayers' labourers, and decorative glass workers report employment as good; stonemasons and carpenters as fair; concreters as moderate; painters as bad. In Northwich, Stockport, Warrington, and Macclesfield employment is moderate.

Textile Trades.—Employment is moderate with cotton spinners; slightly improved with woolen spinners; fairly good with bleachers; moderate with dressers, dyers and finishers. At Macclesfield employment is fairly good in the silk trade, slightly better with fustian cutters.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors is bad; in the ready-made tailoring branch it is rather quiet. Boot and shoe makers, felt hatmakers and trimmers, and capmakers report employment as moderate. Shirtmakers and waterproof garment makers are busy. Mantlemakers are slack.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers are fairly well employed in the private trade, busy in railway shops. Employment is good with cabinetmakers, French polishers, upholsterers and coopers; moderately good with wheelwrights.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE; YORKSHIRE.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report a further improvement. Stereotypers are busy. Lithographic artists, lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as fair; pattern card makers as good. Printers at Warrington, Stockport and Macclesfield are fully employed.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights and joiners report a slight decline; brassfounders, patternmakers, drillers and holecutters, whitesmiths and hammermen report employment as good; fitters and turners as moderate; ship-painters as fair.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen report employment as fair; dock labourers as moderate; Mersey flatmen as good; quay and railway carters, engine and cranemen and coalheavers as fair; saltheavers as moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers and French polishers report employment as good; cabinetmakers, mill-sawyers and woodworking machinists as fair; upholsterers as quiet; coopers as good.

Building Trades.—Plumbers and painters report employment as moderate; carpenters and joiners as quiet; other branches as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—All branches report employment as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as dull in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade, as good in the ready-made branch; as moderate with broot and shoemakers.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners are busy throughout the district. Quarrymen continue well employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as good; glassmakers and flatteners as fair; glass decorators as moderate; chemical workers as improving.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade is still slack. In Winsford and Middlewich employment is good with barge builders, boilermakers and brass finishers, and also in the building trade; it is moderate with fustian cutters. Moulders at Winsford report employment as moderate; chemical workers at Middlewich as improved.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—At Hull the engineers, steam engine makers, machine workers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, sheet metal workers, and general labourers report employment as good; the smiths and strikers, brassfounders and finishers, pattern-makers, boilermakers, iron and steel shipbuilders, drillers and hole cutters, shipwrights and sailmakers as moderate. At Beverley, Doncaster and Grimsby smiths report employment as fair; engineers and boiler-makers as moderate. At Selby engineers, boiler-makers, smiths and shipwrights report employment as good. At Goole engineers, smiths and boiler-makers report employment as fair; shipwrights as bad.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, plasterers, slaters and tilers, carpenters and joiners, and builders' labourers report employment as good; stonemasons as fair; plumbers and painters as moderate. At Grimsby and Selby employment is good.

Transport Trades.—Employment with seamen and firemen, dock labourers and railway workers is good.

Fishing Industry.—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull report employment as fair; at Grimsby as moderate. The trawl fishermen at Hull report employment as moderate; curing-house workers as fair.

Seed Crushing, Oil, Paint and Colour Trades.—Employment in all branches continues good.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers and bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment as moderate; lithographic printers as good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coopers report employment as good; cabinetmakers, coachbuilders and mill-sawyers as moderate. At Doncaster coachmakers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners and the brush-makers report employment as good; the Jewish tailors, pressers and machinists as moderate; the tanners, beltmakers and lace-cutters as fair.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches with 8,151 members have 144 (or 1.8 per cent. unemployed), compared with 153 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with the engineers, iron-moulders, boilermakers, steel smelters, and puddlers is reported as good; with the machine-workers, brass workers, and tinplate workers as fair; with shovel makers as quiet; with stove-grate workers as not so busy; with spindle and flyer makers as moderate. At Wakefield engineers and ironfounders are fairly employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade is not so brisk. Jewish operatives report employment as slack; bespoke tailors as only moderate; boot and shoe operatives as fair in Leeds, good at Heckmondwike, falling off at Bramley.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Leeds mills continues good. Blanket-raisers are busy. Woolen-spinners, linen-workers, and willeys, and fettlers are fully employed. Dyers in the stuff trade are busy; in the cloth trade rather slack. At Wakefield the worsted and cloth mills are moderately employed.

Building Trades.—In Leeds employment has been good with joiners, bricklayers, and masons; quiet with plasterers; moderate with plumbers. Employment is good at Harrogate, except with painters; fair at Castleford.

Mining.—All the collieries in the Leeds district are fully employed; ironstone pits are very busy. At Pontefract, Castleford and South Kirby full time is general.

Leather Trades.—Employment with tanners and curriers is brisker; saddlers and harness-makers are slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment has been fair with lithographers and good in other branches.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as good at Leeds, fair at Wakefield and Castleford.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers report employment as better, brushmakers as good; coachmakers as moderate.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment is good in Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, and the Worth Valley; fairly good in Huddersfield.

Woolen Trade.—Employment in Huddersfield and the surrounding district is very good, overtime being still common and some mills running night and day. In the heavy woolen district employment continues good. Woolcombers are well employed.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham, Brighouse and Halifax is reported as good. In the carpet trade at Halifax it is reported as good. In the cotton trade it is good at Huddersfield and Brighouse; fair at Halifax. Rag and shoddy workers are fully employed. Dyers report employment as good.

Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers is good at Bradford, Keighley, Halifax and Dewsbury; moderate at Huddersfield. With ironfounders it is good throughout the district.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good throughout the district, except with painters who are only moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with tailors, printers and bookbinders is moderate.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 12,882 members, have 128 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of October.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Workmen in all branches are well employed. Branches with 6,221 members have 60 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 48 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. At Parkgate, Masbrow and Rotherham, Penistone and Stocksbridge employment is good.

Cutlery and Tools.—Employment in all branches is either good or fair.

Other Metal Trades.—Silversmiths are quiet; stampers, platers and gilders, electro-plate finishers, hollow-ware buffers, spoon plate, and fork filers, and Britannia metal workers report employment as moderate; brass workers throughout the district are fairly well employed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 59 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.88 days per week worked during November.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches continues good throughout the district, except at Barnsley where it is only moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders are busy, and lithographers and machine rulers are well employed.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Railway carriage and wagon builders, coachmakers and cabinetmakers are fairly busy.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

At Barnsley and Penistone boxmakers are well employed. Bobbin makers report employment as good.

Linen Trade.—Employment is improving.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailoring in Sheffield is slack; in Barnsley moderate. Ready-made tailoring and boot and shoe operatives are fairly well employed.

Glass Trades.—Glass workers in all branches are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Brickmakers, chemical workers, papermakers, down quilt makers, quarrymen, farriers, saddlers and harness-makers, railway workers, and general labourers are busy, except at Barnsley, where labourers are slack.—S. Uttley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,883 members have 46 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 83 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Cycle workers in Long Eaton and Draycott report employment as bad; most other branches as good generally.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 72 collieries employing upwards of 29,000 men, show an average of 5½ days per week worked, as against 5¼ days in October.

Quarrying.—Limestone and chert quarrymen continue well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good throughout the district.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders at Derby and Long Eaton. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as good. Most timber yards are well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment is good with cotton operatives, surgical bandage makers, silk and merino workers, lace workers, dyers and bleachers; fairly good with calico printers and engravers; improving with elastic web weavers. Hosiery workers are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives in Chesterfield report employment as good, in Derby as moderate. Factory tailoring operatives are fully employed; bespoke tailors and dress and mantle makers report employment as good.

Railways.—Throughout the county employment is good, with overtime in some districts.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment in the curtain branch is bad; otherwise employment generally has shown a further improvement. Employment is reported as rather dull at Beeston, fairly regular at Stapleford and Bulwell; quiet at Kimberley. Dyers on silk are busy; on cotton laces rather quiet; bleachers report employment as good.

Hosiery Trades.—Employment in the hosiery trade is good throughout the district, except with the Shetland and wool shawl branch at Hucknall Torkard.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate to bad with fitters, mechanics, and smiths; as moderate but improving with cycle-makers; fair with lace and hosiery machine-builders. In other branches, employment generally is good throughout the district. Branches with 3,266 members have 78 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 99 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 26 pits employing 15,000 persons show an average of 5 days worked per week. An improvement is reported from pits in South Notts. Generally the pits in North Notts are making full time.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners, plumbers and painters report employment as dull; bricklayers and masons as fair; labourers as moderate; plasterers as unsettled; slaters and tilers as fair. Employment at Mansfield, Worksop, Retford, Grantham, and Newark is fair.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—All branches report employment as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as good; lithographic printers and lithographic artists as moderate; cutters and printers' labourers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as good at Mansfield and Hucknall Torkard; fair at Nottingham; bespoke tailors as quiet at Grantham, Nottingham, and Newark. Mantle makers and factory operatives are well employed.

Railways.—Employment generally is brisk.

Miscellaneous.—Colliery engine drivers, stationary engine drivers, engine and cranimen, gas workers, saddle and harness makers, silk dressers and cotton doublers, and female cigar makers report employment as good; bakers and confectioners as fair; maltsters at Newark as improved.—W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment is fair at Leicester, Hinckley, Wellingborough, Desborough, and Higham; rather quiet at Kettering and Northampton; slack at Daventry.

Other Clothing Trades.—In the wholesale tailoring trade some branches are working short time. Bespoke tailors are now generally busy. Employment is good with corset-makers, improving with dressmakers, moderate with milliners, mantle-makers and cap-makers; slacker with hatters.

Hosiery and Woolspinning Trades.—Hosiery workers at Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley are fully employed; dyers and trimmers are busy. With woolspinning operatives employment has improved.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment has improved in all departments.

Engineering Trades.—General engineers are fully employed at Leicester, Rugby, and Northampton. At Loughborough engine builders, turners, and winders are slack; electrical dynamo builders, toolmakers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, and needle-makers are busy; short time is general with cycle-makers.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners are working full time; stone quarrymen and lime and cement workers are brisk.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers are well employed at Leicester and Northampton, and moderately so at Loughborough and Rugby; bookbinders are busy.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good with bricklayers, builders' labourers, slaters and joiners, except at Rugby and Kettering; it is fair with plumbers, and dull generally with painters and house decorators.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers, cabinet-makers, rail and road car and wagon builders are fully employed. Upholsterers and mill-sawyers are slack.

Leather Trades.—Tanners are busy at Northampton, but slack at Market Harborough. Work is improving with curriers.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with railway workers, cigar-makers, brick and tile makers, bakers, gas fitters, and basket-makers; moderate with saddlers and boxmakers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Hollow-ware pressers are fully employed. Sanitary pressers are working full time. Flat pressers report a further improvement. Women gilders and decorators at some works are on short time. Designers, modellers, and mould makers, and throwers, turners, and handlers continue busy. Printers and transferers, encaustic tile makers, stilt and spur makers, packers, crate makers, and oven men are working well.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The mills and forges continue working to their utmost capacity.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, boiler-makers, and moulders throughout North Staffordshire are well employed. At Stafford a further decline is reported. At Crewe all hands are working full time. At Oakamoor and Froghall copper and brass workers continue well employed. At Longport brass moulders report an improvement. At Uttoxeter and Rugeley agricultural engineers continue busy.

Mining and Quarrying.—Throughout North Staffordshire, except at Cheadle, coal and ironstone miners continue busy. Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are fully employed.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade continues good. At Congleton fustian cutters continue busy. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as having declined in North Staffordshire; as fairly good at Crewe; quiet at Stafford. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone report employment as quiet, short time being the rule.

Building Trades.—For the time of year employment continues brisk, all classes, except painters, being fully employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND; E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers have been fairly brisk. Lithographic artists and printers are moderately busy. Bookbinders and machine rulers continue well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants continue busy. Bakers are well employed; brushmakers and basket-makers are fully employed; gasworkers are busy.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues brisk with steel smelters, and is good in the angle, iron-bar, hoop-steel, and sheet trades. In Shropshire the wire and rolling mills are running full time.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment is steady in the engineering trade, and is good with moulders, boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers. In the cycle trade it is a little better. In the motor trade it is busy. At Coalbrook Dale it has improved. At Madeley it is good. The malleable ironworkers at Walsall are working full time.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, spring and coach ironwork, electrical and gas fittings, black castings and spring traps, builders' ironmongery, gun locks, light hollow-ware, hinges, malleable nails and protectors, and with galvanizers, stampers and piercers. It is moderate with makers of edge-tools, files, tips and cut nails, spectacle frames, horseshoes, steel toys and safes, and with brassworkers, tinplate workers and japanners. It is quiet with latch, lock, and keysmiths. Employment in the ironplate trade is reported as good at Wolverhampton, Bilston and the Lye. Nailmakers at Hales-owen are better employed. Chain makers at Old Hill and Cradley Heath are well employed; anchor smiths at Cradley fairly so. The iron and steel forgers are busy at Wednesbury.

Coal Trade.—Miners are working full time throughout the district.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and carpenters report employment as fair; plasterers and plumbers as steady; labourers as good.

Glass Trades.—Flint-glass makers at Stourbridge and Wordsley and glass-bottle makers at Brierley Hill are well employed.

Leather Trades.—Gig saddlers are rather quiet; brown saddlers are fairly employed; other branches are busy.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade is good both at Kidderminster and Bridgnorth. The Tamworth tape mills are running full time.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has been good in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trade; and in the boot and shoe trade it is moderate.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches with 19,816 members have 257 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of October.

Engineering.—In the Birmingham district seven branches of engineers report employment as moderate, four as good. Tool-makers return employment as moderate, smiths and strikers and ironfounders as good. At West Bromwich and Coventry employment is reported as good, at Redditch as moderate. The motor industry at Coventry and Redditch is busy. Employment in the cycle trade is quiet.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment is fairly good with the brassworkers, moderate with brass and copper wire drawers; good with solid drawn and brazed tube workers; fair with copper-smiths and metal workers. At Dudley employment in the fender trade is fairly good.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electroplaters.—Jewellers report employment as fairly good, but quieter on best work; Britannia metalworkers as good; silversmiths and electroplaters as fair; plate-glass bevellers and silverers as good.

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of wrought iron and steel hinges, steam, water, and gas tubing, edge tools, picks, shovels, spades, axes, hoes and heavy and light steel toys, and nail and odd side casters return employment as good; makers of bedsteads, scale beams, weighing machines and cut nails, and iron and tinplate workers as fair; wire nail makers as quiet; file cutters by hand as slack. At West Bromwich ironworkers, nut and bolt makers, and hollow-ware and spring makers are returned as well employed; coach axle makers as quiet. At Redditch needle and fish hook makers are fully employed. In the Lye district employment in the iron plate trade is reported as fair.

Building Trades.—In the Birmingham district employment is reported as fair; at Coventry and Redditch as quiet.

Glass Trades.—Employment at Birmingham and West Bromwich is reported as good.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are fairly well employed; boot and shoemakers return employment as bad; Jewish tailors as quiet.

Woodworking Trades.—Coopers, mill-sawyers and machinists, and coachmakers return employment as good; cabinet-makers as fair; carvers as dull. In the railway and wagon shops employment is fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Gasworkers, gasfitters, general labourers and saddlers return employment as good; printers as moderate; brickmakers and gunworkers as quiet. At Coventry watch-makers are fairly brisk; weavers are slack. At Redditch makers of fancy cases are busy.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Clothing Trades.—In the boot and shoe trade riveters are slack; turn shoe and hand sewn operatives and clickers are fairly busy. Employment with bespoke tailors is fairly good; in the ready-made tailoring factories it is dull. Corset, shirt, and dressmakers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is good generally, but a few painters are unemployed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—General and electrical engineers, boiler-makers, hot water engineers, shipwrights and boatbuilders are well employed.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Lithographic and letterpress printers and bookbinders are fairly well employed.

Fishing.—At Yarmouth and Lowestoft trawl fishing has been fair; herring fishing has been good. Shell fishing at Lynn and Wells is fair.

Textile Trades.—Mat and matting weavers and horsehair weavers are fairly well employed. Silk and crape factories are still running full time.

Miscellaneous.—Steam flour, oilcake, and sawmill workers, steam joinery workers, horticultural builders, cabinet makers, confectionery workers, motor and cycle builders, and electrical workers are well employed. Shipping is fair. Riverside, dock and wharf labourers are fully employed.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers and moulders report employment as good, shipwrights as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives at Ipswich report employment as bad. In wholesale tailoring employment is good, bespoke tailors are slack; corsetmakers are well employed.

Textile Trades.—Mat weavers report employment as good at Lavenham and Long Melford, fair at Hadleigh and Sudbury, improving at Glemsford; silkworkers as quiet at Braintree, good at Sudbury, Halstead, and Earl's Colne.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with carpenters, bricklayers, and plumbers; fair with masons and plasterers; moderate with painters.

Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet makers and upholsterers report employment as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers have been fully employed. Bookbinders and lithographers are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good generally with general labourers, gasworkers, horticultural builders, farriers, brick-makers and maltsters. Shipping and dock labour has been fair at Ipswich; good at Parkeston.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Societies with 9,501 members have 98 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of October.

Building Trades.—The plumbers report employment as moderate, the painters as dull; other branches as good.

Engineering and allied Trades.—All branches report employment as either fair or good.

Coal Mining.—The pits in the Bristol coalfield are working full time, and the Radstock and Forest of Dean districts again return employment as good.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good, lithographic printers as fair, bookbinders and machine rulers as moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet makers, upholsterers, polishers, wood cutting machinists and turners describe employment as good; the coopers as fair.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—S.W. COUNTIES; WALES; SCOTLAND.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made tailoring operatives report employment as unsettled; the bespoke tailors as good; the glove makers and silk hatters as moderate; shirt and collar and stay makers are busy; boot and shoe operatives are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—In the Trowbridge district employment is good on covert coating and ladies' dress goods; slack on heavy woollens. At Stroud it is good on worsteds, fair on heavy woollens. At Twerton the weavers are working about five days per week; the silk mills at Tiverton are working to their fullest capacity.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Dock labourers report employment as brisk in the grain, and fair in the timber trade; sailors and firemen as good.

Glass Trades.—Bevellers, cutters, and decorative glass workers report employment as good. Bottle makers are also busy.

Miscellaneous.—The saddle and harness makers, tobacco and cigar makers, chocolate workers, and brush makers report employment as good. Floor-cloth makers are busy.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Tin and copper mining continues to improve; work is plentiful, but the number of miners who have returned from South Africa prevents any appreciable scarcity of labour. In the granite quarries men are well employed, and in the slate and limestone fairly so. Work in the china clay industry continues brisk.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers report employment as moderate at Hayle and Falmouth, good elsewhere; the boiler-makers as good, the ironfounders as fair, shipwrights as good generally, but quiet at Brixham and Dartmouth. In the Government yards work is plentiful. Branches with 2,659 members have 12 unemployed, as compared with 14 at the end of October.

Building Trades.—In Plymouth and Devonport employment generally is fairly good, except with plasterers and painters. In Torquay it is reported as quiet, in Penzance and Falmouth as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In the book and jobbing letterpress offices in Plymouth and Devonport work is quiet, but news hands are busy. In Exeter work continues good. Lithographers report employment as fair; bookbinders and paper rulers as improved.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and wood-working machinists report work as fair. Employment is moderate in cabinet works and joineries; quiet with upholsterers.

Clothing Trades.—In both the ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments employment is dull. Boot and shoe operatives continue fairly employed. Lace makers are busy.

Dock and Quayside Work.—There has been more work for grain carriers. Coal and timber carriers have been fairly employed. Ord nary quay-side work has been up to the average.

Fishing Industry.—The catches of the large trawlers have been light. Hook and line boats have done well, and there have been large catches of herrings and pilchards at the West Cornwall fishing stations.

Miscellaneous.—Navvies, excavators, and brickyard workers are fairly employed; brushmakers are quiet, bakers dull.—*W. Hedge.*

WALES.

North Wales District.

Mining.—Employment continues good at the coal, lead and blende mines.

Quarrying.—Employment at most slate quarries is fully maintained. It continues good at the freestone, granite sett, and lime and roadstone quarries.

Building Trades.—Except with painters, employment generally is fairly good.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers at Sandicroft report employment as moderate, at Ruabon as quiet, at Cefn as good. Employment continues good with the steelworkers, ironfounders, ironworkers, wagon makers, spelter workers and tinplate workers.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—In the Montgomeryshire flannel, tweed and wool industries employment has been constant. The bespoke tailors report employment as fairly good.

Brick and Terra-Cotta and Chemical Trades.—Employment in all departments of the brick and terra-cotta industry continues good; it is good with the chemical workers.—*G. Rowley.*

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Collieries at Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, and Rhymney are working regularly. The collieries in other districts have worked very regularly. The sliding scale audit awards an advance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from December 1st.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is reported as good. Mechanics in all branches are working overtime.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as moderate. Branches of the carpenters and joiners and plumbers with 1,799 members have 27 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 40 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—All branches have been better employed. Returns from branches of engineers and ironfounders with 3,007 members show 64 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 82 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. Ship painters and cleaners have been well employed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment on coal shipments has been fair at all ports; on general cargoes moderate; on iron ore and pitwood good. In the corn and timber trades it has been quiet. The shipment of crews has been normal.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the fuel trade has been brisk. Wagon builders and lifters report employment as good; lithographic and letterpress printers as not so good. Chemical and metallurgical works are still quiet.—*T. Davies.*

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—Employment is rather quieter than a month ago, but continues considerably better than a year ago. At the end of November 400 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), giving employment to an estimated number of 19,912 workpeople. These figures compare with 404 mills employing 20,168 workpeople at the end of October, and 326 mills employing 16,784 workpeople a year ago.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 16,713 members have 386 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 231 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good.

Shale Miners and Oilworkers.—Returns from 29 mines employing 3,318 workpeople (as compared with 3,030 in November, 1898) show that all were employed, most mines working full time during the four weeks ended November 25.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,238 members have 27 (or 1.2 per cent.) idle, as against 33 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. Branches in Falkirk with 3,640 members have 21 (or 0.6 per cent.) idle, as against 30 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 603 members have 19 (or 3.2 per cent.) idle, as against 38 (or 6.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues good with woollen spinners and weavers in Hawick, Selkirk and Galashiels. The hosiery workers in Selkirk and Hawick, and the carpet weavers in Midlothian, report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,661 members have 232 (or 4.1 per cent.) idle, as against 49 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,296 members have 22 (or 1.7 per cent.) idle, as against 17 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen and the coalporters and dock labourers report employment as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,288 members have 47 (or 2.1 per cent.) idle, as against 45 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Miscellaneous.—The saddlers, sett-makers, curriers and glass-cutters report employment as good, the glass-makers as fair, the bakers, tailors and shoemakers as quiet.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment still continues good. Branches with 14,600 members return 296 (or 2.0 per cent.) idle, as against 263 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good. Branches with 29,738 members return 594 (or 2.0 per cent.) as idle, as against 570 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building Trades.—Employment is good in all branches except with painters.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire work is still good, the men getting full time. In Dumbartonshire work is good, but a 5 days' policy is still maintained. In Ayrshire and Lanarkshire employment continues good. In Renfrewshire it has further improved.

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

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment except with painters remains fair. **Metal Trades.**—Employment is returned as good with the boiler-makers and electrical workers; fair with the farriers, whitesmiths and gasfitters; moderate with the engineers; dull with the brass-finishers and silver-plate workers.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment is returned as good with the cabinet-makers, upholsterers, coachmakers and cart and wagon builders.

Clothing Trades.—Dullness is reported with the tailors. One branch of the bootmakers reports employment as fairly good.

Printing Trades.—Work generally has been fair. Branches with 1,433 members have 85 (or 5.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 91 (or 6.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle-makers, dockers, general labourers and ropemakers report employment as good; the paviors as slack.

—*J. P. Nannetti.***Belfast and District.**

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 8,506 members have 217 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 215 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The patternmakers report employment as dull. The blacksmiths, blacksmiths' strikers and helpers, brassfounders, carpenters and joiners, and ironfounders as quiet or moderate. The engineers, furnishing trades, and enginemens, firemen, and crane-men as fair. The boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders, drillers and hole-cutters, steam-engine makers, shipwrights, sheet metal workers, general labourers, and platers' helpers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,027 members have 39 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 37 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. All sections report employment as good or improving.

Building Trades.—Societies (excluding painters) with 2,013 members have 132 (or 6.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 105 (or 5.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. In all sections employment is stated to be dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 866 members have 48 (or 5.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 31 (or 3.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The millsawyers and coachbuilders report employment as dull; the cabinetmakers and cooperers as quiet; the French polishers, upholsterers, and packing-case makers as fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 933 members have 40 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 69 (or 7.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; the lithographic artists, designers, and engravers as fair; the letterpress printers and bookbinders and machine rulers as good.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives are fairly employed; tailors report a slight improvement.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,914 members have 53 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 60 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The municipal employees report employment as dull; the bakers, butchers and carters as fair; the locomotive engine-drivers, railway servants and paviors as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Employment with boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders is steady in Haulbowline, Cork and Passage West, dull in Limerick; with fitters and erectors, smiths, copper-smiths and brass finishers it is fair in Cork, dull in Limerick and Waterford; with ironmoulders it is dull.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as fair in Cork and Limerick; quiet in Waterford, Skibbereen, Killarney and Tralee.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax and tweed operatives in Blarney, Millfield, Cork and Douglas report employment as steady; boot and shoe operatives in Cork and Limerick as fair, in Waterford as quiet.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and wood-working machinists, packing-case makers, cabinet and coach-makers report employment as fair; cooperers as quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders in Cork, Limerick and Waterford report employment as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with coal porters and general quay labourers, stationary enginemens, gasworkers, and railway and tram employees is fair; with beef and pork butchers, grocers' and wine merchants' assistants good.—*P. O'Shea.*

Clothing Trades.—Employment with mantle and waterproof makers is fair; with tailors, quiet. Knee shoemakers, slipper makers, and curriers are busy; boot and shoe operatives are well employed.

Textile Trades.—In Greenock, textile workers are dull; otherwise employment is reported as good generally throughout the district.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers are still dull; electrotypers and stereotypers are busy; bookbinders are better employed.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass cutters and makers and bottlemakers are busy; decorative glass workers are dull.

Miscellaneous.—Gilders, spindle and flyer makers, cigarette makers, brush makers, paviors, sett makers, scale beam makers, potters, labourers, tobacco pipe makers and finishers, carters, railway men, tramway men, and hackney carriage drivers are busy. Saddlers are quieter. Seamen are fairly well employed. Dock labourers are fully employed.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—In the jute industry employment is good. A general advance of 5 per cent. to mill and factory operatives came into operation as from December 1st. Employment in the linen trade continues good.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the Fifeshire collieries remains fairly steady. Returns from pits employing 11,650 workpeople show an average of 5.3 days per week worked during the four weeks ending November 25th, as compared with 5.2 days per week worked during October.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in engineering is better. At the shipbuilding yards it has been fairly good. Branches of societies, with 220 members, return 82 (or 3.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 112 (or 5.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment generally continues fair in the building trades; in the furnishing trades it is moderately good. Societies with 1,724 members return 25 (or 1.5 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 44 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

Dock Labour.—Employment has improved.

Fishing Industry.—The white fishing has been prosecuted with fair regularity, and with varying success. The sparling fishing has been fairly successful.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and kindred trades is reported as good; in the tailoring trade as unsatisfactory; in the boot and shoe trade as fair. The floorcloth and linoleum makers and bleachfield workers remain busy.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,763 members have 419 (or 6.2 per cent.) idle, as against 142 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October.

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

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

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

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,477 members have 48 (or 3.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 41 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of October. The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders and engineers report employment as moderate; ironmoulders as fairly good; brass finishers, blacksmiths, pattern makers, and horse shoers as good; tinplate workers and drillers and hole borers as fair; shipwrights as dull.

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

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

Fishing.—In November at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 62,615 cwt. of fish, with a value of £47,133, a decrease both in quantity and value, as compared with the previous month.

Miscellaneous.—The comb makers, sawmillers and saddlers report employment as good; upholsterers as dull; cabinetmakers as fair; bakers as bad.—*W. Johnston.*

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN NOVEMBER, 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 November affected about 219,700 workpeople. The net effect of all the changes on the wages of those affected was an increase of about 6½d. weekly per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 130,000 miners and other colliery workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Forest of Dean; to about 41,600 iron and steel workers in the Midlands and North of England and the West of Scotland; and to about 35,000 jute and linen workers in Forfarshire.

Decreases.—At several ports the predominant rates for various voyages declined—495 seamen, shipped during November, sustaining a decrease compared with the predominant port rate of the preceding month.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 1,200 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 158,700 workpeople took effect under sliding scales—all in the mining and iron and steel trades—and changes affecting about 3,000 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting about 56,800 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

Summary for First Eleven Months of 1899.—For the eleven months, January to November, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 1,063,900. Of these, 1,060,200 obtained a net average increase of 1s. 6½d. weekly per head, and 3,700 sustained a net average decrease of 1s. 9d. weekly per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 1s. 6½d. weekly per head in the wages of the 1,063,900 workpeople affected.

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.

Main table on page 376 showing changes in wages for various occupations and localities. Includes sections for Building Trades, Mining and Quarrying, Iron and Steel Manufacture, and Textile Trades.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer 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. § Exclusive of a certain number of miners, enginemen, stokers and outside fitters in South Wales and Mon., full particulars of whose advances v no yet been obtained.

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

Main table on page 377 showing changes in wages for various occupations and localities. Includes sections for Iron and Steel Manufacture, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, Textile Trades, and Employees of Local Authorities.

* Exclusive of Overtime.

† 1900.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by effect in 1899, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

SEAMEN. Decreases—495 Workpeople.

Table with columns: Port, Voyage, Occupation, No. shipped at new Rate during Nov., Particulars of Change, Monthly Rates (Oct, Nov, Increase per Month, Decrease per Month).

* Exclusive of overtime.

† See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

Agricultural Labour.—For recent advances in the cash rates of wages of agricultural labourers see p. 366.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

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

Table with columns: Product and District, Number of workpeople, Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit, Date from which last audit affects wages, Average ascertained selling price per ton, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.

The ascertainment of the price of manufactured iron show that considerable increases have taken place in each district. As a result, the wages of the puddlers and millmen have been advanced under the sliding scales in operation in the North of England, the Midlands, and the West of Scotland.

In South Wales and Monmouthshire the wages of the coal miners have been increased 1 1/4 per cent. under

* The exact amount of the difference cannot be stated.

sliding scale, as a result of a small advance in the ascertained average selling price of coal. No ascertainment have been made since the last publication of the table of the average price of Northumberland coal and of Cleveland and Cumberland pig iron. These figures, therefore, are repeated unaltered.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN NOVEMBER, 1899.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during November were all decreases, and affected 2,660 workpeople, the reductions averaging 2 7/8 hours per week. In two cases the hours were reduced to 48 per week.

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

HOME-WORK IN BELGIUM.

THE Belgian Labour Department has issued the first of a series of volumes containing the results of investigations which it has caused to be made respecting home-work in Belgium. The present volume consists of 359 pages 8vo, includes a number of illustrations and charts, and deals with the arms manufacturing industry of Liège, the men's wearing apparel industry of Brussels, and the cutlery industry of Gembloux.

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. ‡ Les Industries à D-micile en Belgique, Volume I. Ministère de l'Industrie et du Travail. Office du Travail, Brussels, 1899. Société Belge de Librairie, Rue Treurenberg, 16. Price about 2s. 6d.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during November was 427, being 79 more than in October, and 78 more than in November, 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), 394 were reported killed, and 8,052 injured by accidents during November, as compared with 320 reported killed and 7,346 injured in November, 1898. These figures give one death in November for every 13,825 persons employed in those industries. During the eleven completed months of 1899, 3,820 persons were reported killed and 77,493 injured, as against 3,228 reported killed and 63,587 injured in the corresponding period of 1898.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 33 persons were reported killed, and 1,119 injured in November, as compared with 29 reported killed and 1,009 injured in November of last year.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed (Nov. 1899, Nov. 1898), Injured (Nov. 1899, Nov. 1898), Number Employed according to latest Returns.

DETAILED TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed (By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles, By other accidents on the Companies' Premises), Injured (By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles, By other accidents on the Companies' Premises), Total.

Table with columns: Shipping (On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels), Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Factories (Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons, Other Accidents), Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Workshops (Adults, Young Persons, Children), Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Factories & Workshops (classified by trades), Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23 (Docks, Wharves and Quays, Warehouses, Buildings to which Act applies, Laundries), Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 (Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, Tramway, Tunnel, Other Works, Traction Engines), Construction or repair, Use or Working, Total.

* 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 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 2,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1898, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year. † 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.

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.—Thirty-one fresh disputes were reported as having begun in November, 1899, compared with 38 in October, and 44 in November, 1898. In these 31 disputes 3,317 workpeople were directly affected and 6,390 indirectly affected, a total of 9,707, compared with 5,275 in October, and 8,457 in November, 1898. The large proportion "indirectly affected" (for explanation of this term see footnote*) in November was caused by a strike of 250 colliery enginemen, resulting in 6,000 miners being thrown out of work.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 2 disputes took place, involving 96 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 4 disputes, involving 6,516 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 5 disputes, involving 240 workpeople; textile trades, 10 disputes, involving 2,278 workpeople; transport trades, 6 disputes, involving 281 workpeople; and among employees of public authorities, 4 disputes, involving 296 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 31 disputes, 20 arose chiefly on wages questions, 4 on questions of working arrangements, 3 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 4 from other causes.

Results.—Twenty-six new disputes, involving 9,295 workpeople, and 11 old disputes, involving 1,505 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 37 new and old disputes terminated, 9, involving 658 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 13, involving 1,096 persons, in favour of the employers; 14, involving 9,000 persons, resulted in a compromise; while in the case of the remaining dispute, involving 46 persons, the points in dispute were still under consideration at the end of November, when 22 old disputes were reported to be unsettled, involving altogether about 1,900 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The total aggregate duration in November of all the disputes, new and old, was about 94,000 days, compared with 92,600 in October, and 176,000 in November, 1898.

Summary for the First Eleven Months of 1899.—For the eleven completed months of 1899 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 680 disputes which commenced in those months was 168,467, as compared with 246,985 in the 615 reported in the corresponding period of 1898. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 2,375,000, as compared with 15,039,000 for the corresponding period of 1898, which included the South Wales coal dispute.

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

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN NOVEMBER, 1899.

Table for Building Trades: 2 Disputes. 96 Workpeople affected. Includes Greenock Dist. Hawick.

Table for Coal Mining: 4 Disputes. 6,516 Workpeople affected. Includes Neston, Cheshire; Monmouth-shire, Merthyr, and Dowlais Districts; Pontypridd; Galston, Ayrshire.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades: 5 Disputes. 240 Workpeople affected. Includes Stockton-on-Tees; Leeds; Cardiff and District; Greenock; Wishaw.

Table for Textile Trades: 10 Disputes. 2,278 Workpeople affected. Includes Blackburn; Brierfield; Burnley; Croston; Mossley; Oswaldtwistle; Preston; Glossop, Hadfield & Dist. Palsley; Lurgan.

* 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 (Di. rectly, Indi. rectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN NOVEMBER, 1899—(continued).

Table for Transport Trades: 6 Disputes. 281 Workpeople affected. Includes Oswestry; Wolverhampton; Coathridge; Edinburgh; Glasgow; Granton.

Table for Employees of Local Authorities: 4 Disputes. 296 Workpeople affected. Includes River Tyne; Hyde; Glasgow; Port Glasgow.

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

Table with 7 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Di. rectly, Indi. rectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

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

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—During November 16,139 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, or 1,371 more than in November, 1898. Comparing the eleven completed months of 1899 with the corresponding period of 1898, there is an increase of 34,827, viz., from 195,823 in 1898 to 230,650 in 1899.

British and Irish.—Of the 16,139 passengers in November, 8,467 were of British or Irish origin, or 1,269 less than a year ago, the falling off being in a great measure due to a decline in the number proceeding to South Africa. For the first eleven months of 1899 the total number was 141,441, as compared with 134,645 in the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 6,796, mainly accounted for by larger numbers proceeding to the United States. The following table gives the figures for the different periods:—

Table with 4 columns: Destination, Nov., 1899, Nov., 1898, Total for eleven months ended (Nov., 1899, Nov., 1898).

Foreign.—The remainder of the 16,139 passengers in November, viz., 7,672, were foreigners or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 2,640 as compared with November, 1898.

Alien Immigration.—During November 8,726 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 3,707 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,719 as compared with November, 1898.

Kingdom, an increase of 1,719 as compared with November, 1898. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 5,019,* or 695 more than a year ago. The figures for November, 1899 and 1898, and also for the 11 months ended November in each year, are as follows:—

Table with 4 columns: Nov., 1899, Nov., 1898, Total for eleven months ended (Nov., 1899, Nov., 1898).

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Newcastle District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under-manager of a mine will be held for the Newcastle District on January 4th and 5th, 1900. Intending candidates should communicate on or before December 30th, 1899, with the secretary to the examination board, Mr. M. Walton Brown, Neville Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

South Staffordshire District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will shortly be held for the South Staffordshire District. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Robert S. Williamson, Cannock Wood House, Hednesford, Staffordshire.

* The figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,095 in November, 1899; 1,019 in November, 1898; and 12,367 and 11,346 respectively in the eleven months ended November in each year.

PAUPERISM IN NOVEMBER.

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 November was 322,636, corresponding to a rate of 201 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1899.

Compared with October, 1899, the number relieved has increased by 5,048 and the rate per 10,000 of population by three. Thirty of the 35 districts show increased rates, the most marked increases being in the North Staffordshire district (9 per 10,000), Central London, West Ham, and Cardiff and Swansea (6 each); and the comparatively small Galway district (19). In four districts there is no change, while in one district (Bradford) there is a decrease in the rate of 1 per 10,000.

Compared with November, 1898, there is a decrease of 6,746 in the number of paupers relieved and of 7 in the rate per 10,000 of population. Of the 35 selected districts 28 show a decline in the rate, the largest decreases being in the Stockton and Tees district (30 per 10,000), Bristol (27) and Cork, Waterford and Limerick district (21). In two Scottish districts the rate is the same as a year ago, and in five districts an increase is shown, the rise amounting to 13 per 10,000 in the case of the Dublin district.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of November, 1899 (In-door, Out-door, Total), Rate per 10,000 of population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES*, METROPOLIS, Other Districts, SCOTLAND*, 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 NOVEMBER.

DURING November the 10 bureaux furnishing returns registered 2,154 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,957 in November, 1898, an increase of 197, largely accounted for by increases at Islington and Glasgow. Work was found during the month for 1,088 persons, of whom 559 (378 males and 181 females) were engaged by private employers, 195 males by Local Authorities, and 334 males by the Salvation Army Authorities.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of November, 1899, was 1,407, as against 1,532 a year ago. (I.) Work done in November.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during (Nov. 1899, Nov. 1898), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Nov. 1899, Nov. 1898), No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities). Rows include London, Provincial, Total of 10 bureaux.

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

Table with columns: Occupation, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total. Rows include Engaged by Private Employers (Men, Women and Girls), Engaged by Local Authorities (Men, Women and Girls), Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities (Men, Women and Girls), Grand Total.

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

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of (Nov., 1899, Nov., 1898). Rows include Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls, Grand Total.

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN NOVEMBER.

DURING November 636 fresh applications for work were registered by eight bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns and 882 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 221 persons, of whom 117 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 November:—

WORK DONE IN NOVEMBER.

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. Rows include Summary by Bureaux, Summary by Occupations, Total in October.

The applications for domestic servants fell from 728 in October to 656 in November, the number of servants applying falling from 397 to 338, and the number engaged through the bureaux from 134 to 117. The demand for dressmakers and milliners fell from 169 to 89; the supply fell from 54 to 53, and the number engaged from 42 to 33.

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 November, and also during the eleven completed months of the year 1899, with comparative figures for 1898:—

Table with columns: Month of Nov., Eleven months ended (1899, 1898). Rows include 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 four weeks ended December 2nd, amounted to £6,495,087, an increase of £269,655 (or 4.3 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1898. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,483,096, an increase of £130,876, and from goods and mineral traffic £4,011,991, an increase of £138,779.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during November was £861,823, an increase of £154,579, as compared with November, 1898. In England and Wales there was an increase of £155,947, and in Scotland one of £8,302, while in Ireland there was a decrease of £9,670.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during November numbered 343, being 46 less than in November, 1898, 42 less than in November, 1897, and 29 more than in November, 1896.

* In addition to 7 temporary engagements as waitresses.

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:—

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

The imports for November, 1899, were valued at £44,244,811, an increase of £2,175,997, or 5.2 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £29,741,452, as against £24,351,041 in 1898, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures in November, 1899, alone amounted to £24,571,940, an increase of £4,751,733, or 24 per cent. The latter increase, however, it should be observed, includes the value of new ships, viz., £1,830,821, this being the first year for which these exports are shown. Foreign and colonial merchandise exported amounted in value to £5,169,512, an increase of £638,678, or 14.1 per cent. as compared with November, 1898.

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

Table with columns: Category, Month ended Nov. 30th (1898, 1899), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances, Oils, Raw Materials for Manufactures, Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles, Total.

The increase in articles of food is chiefly due to larger importations of Indian corn or maize, beef, butter and margarine, fish, lard, sugar (refined and candy), tea and tobacco. Wine has decreased to the extent of £183,383. In raw materials, there is a falling off of £1,328,126 in raw cotton, but there are considerable increases in the values of wool, hemp, jute, silk, gutta percha, hides, manures, tallow and stearine, and timber. In the case of metals the principal articles contributing to the increase are iron ore, lead and tin. Among manufactured articles leather alone shows an increase of £220,816, cotton manufactures £35,419, inen yarn £86,152, and woollen yarn £35,744.

Exports.—As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the values for November 1899, as compared with November 1898, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table with columns: Category, Month ended Nov. 30th (1898, 1899), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Animals living, Articles of Food and Drink, Raw Materials, Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, Yarns and Textile Fabrics, Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery and Ships), Machinery and Millwork, Ships, new (not registered as British), Miscellaneous, Total.

The value of coal, coke and fuel shipped last month was £281,877 in excess of the corresponding month of the previous year, of cotton piece goods and manufactures £416,347, of linen piece goods and manufactures £66,352, and woollen and worsted tissues £84,996. The value of iron unwrought and wrought exported increased by £937,551, and of telegraphic wires and apparatus, £220,402. Machinery increased by £122,220.

In the eleven months ended November 30 1899, the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions were valued at £444,339,264 as compared with £425,283,431 for a similar period of 1898, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £242,622,158 (including £8,562,922 the value of new ships not registered as British, and not included prior to 1899) as compared with £212,412,384 for the eleven months ended November 30th, 1898. The exports of

foreign and colonial merchandise for the eleven months amounted in value to £59,393,658, as compared with £55,084,817 in 1898.

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 during November, 1899, amounted to 2,941,807 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,557,572 tons, as compared with 2,648,424 tons entered, and 3,410,114 tons cleared in November, 1898. As regards the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during November, 1899 was, 2,553,203 and the tonnage cleared 2,537,489 tons, as against 2,605,489 tons and 2,594,119 tons respectively, in November, 1898.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN NOVEMBER.

(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 November, it will be seen that 8 Trade Unions, 2 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 2 Co-operative Associations for Production, one other Industrial and Provident Society, 5 Building Societies, 40 Friendly Societies, and 51 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during November. One Trade Union, 2 Industrial and Provident Societies, 16 Building Societies, and 21 Friendly Societies (including 9 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Nat. Amal. Tinplate Workers of Great Britain, 6, Walpole-street, Wolverhampton; Denton Silk Hat Trimmers' and Stitchers' Union, King's Head Hotel, Manchester-road, Denton; Costermongers' Federation, 41, Exmouth-street, Clerkenwell, E.C.; West End Foremen Tailors' Soc., Burlington Arms Inn, Old Burlington-street, W.; Bristol Brassfounders' and Finishers' Trade Soc., "Full Moon," Broad-street, Bristol; Nat. Hackney Carriage Owners' and Drivers' Soc., 31, Bridge-street, Manchester; Cheltenham Cab Proprietors' and Drivers' Trade Union, Oddfellows' Hall, Cheltenham. *Scotland.*—Associated Patternmakers of Scotland, 119, Graham's-road, Falkirk. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Ebbw Vale Ind. and Prov. Soc., Ltd., 23, James-street, Ebbw Vale. *Scotland.*—Dalbeattie and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 86, High-street, Dalbeattie. *Ireland.*—None. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—North Shields Builders, Ltd., 1, Victoria-crescent, North Shields. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Bekan Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Bekan, co. Mayo. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—Carlton Working Men's Club and Institute, 70, Risk-street, Glasgow. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 15; Dividing, 9; Juvenile, 1; Benevolent, 1; Specially Authorised, 4; Working Men's Clubs, 7. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Specially Authorised, 2. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—39. *Scotland.*—11. *Ireland.*—1.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—3. *Scotland.*—2. *Ireland.*—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—City of Birmingham and District Master Hauliers Association, Crown Hotel, Broad-street, Birmingham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Resolution to wind up received: Redbourn Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Fish-street, Redbourn. Transferred its engagements to Milnorow Conservative Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd.: Butterworth Hall Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Newhey-road, Milnorow. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 6; Dividing, 1; Branches, 2; Registration cancelled: Working Men's Clubs, 2; Dissolved otherwise: Dividing, 1; Juvenile, 1; Branches, 5. *Scotland.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Branches, 2. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 4; notice of commencement of dissolution, 1; notice of termination of dissolution, 10. *Scotland.*—Notice of termination of dissolution, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

New Appointments.—Mr. H. E. Brothers, 35, Paradise-street, Birmingham; Mr. D. F. Young, 121, West Regent-street, Glasgow; Mr. R. Eatock, 72, Bridge-street, Manchester; and Mr. J. H. Warren, 23, Hall Gate, Doncaster, have been appointed Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN NOVEMBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:				
Neglecting to Limewash ...	8	8	£ 9 0 0	£ 2 19 2
Allowing Factory or Workshop to be over-crowded ...	1	1	0 5 0	0 3 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	10	8	42 10 0	8 0 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	35	35	17 10 9	12 18 3
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour ...	102	101	57 1 0	34 5 5
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	47	47	16 12 6	17 12 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	16	16	9 8 6	5 17 2
At night ...	22	22	20 8 3	7 3 2
Other ...	4	3	1 5 0	1 8 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers ...	22	22	12 10 6	9 8 8
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	8	8	3 17 6	2 10 9
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	11	11	12 15 6	5 12 3
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars ...	11	11	12 12 0	7 11 6
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ...	4	1	0 5 0	1 12 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts ...	9	2	10 0 0	2 0 0
By Workmen:—				
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c. ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 15 6
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules ...	7	7	1 9 0	2 3 0
Making false entry in Register ...	1	1	1 0 0	0 3 6
By Parents:—				
Allowing children to be illegally employed ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 10 6
Total for November, 1899 ...	320	306	229 10 6	132 15 10
Total for November, 1898 ...	262	244	171 14 7	98 12 8

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.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c. ...	2	2	—	—	£ 9 0 0
Shafts and Manholes ...	4	4	—	—	3 17 6
Miscellaneous ...	3	3	—	—	11 1 0
By Workmen:—					
Safety Lamps ...	4	4	—	—	4 13 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	5	5	—	—	3 9 6
Timbering ...	5	4	—	1	3 0 0
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c. ...	14	14*	—	—	15 16 6
Riding on Trams ...	11	11†	—	—	3 5 0
Miscellaneous ...	21	21	—	—	22 9 6
Total for Nov., 1899 ...	69	68	—	1	76 12 0
Total for Nov., 1898 ...	91	82	4	5	87 1 9
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c. ...	2	2	—	—	£ 1 12 0
Other Special Rules ...	2	2	—	—	1 12 0
Total for Nov., 1899 ...	4	4	—	—	3 4 0
Total for Nov., 1898 ...	29	24	—	5	34 10 0

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.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:—				
Submersion of Disc ...	1	1	35 0 0	0 6 0
Removing certain Deck Lines ...	1	1	5 0 0	0 17 0
Illegal Engagement ...	1	1	2 0 0	1 16 0
Excessive Deck Cargo ...	1	1	20 0 0	5 13 6
By Boarding-House Keepers and Others:—				
Illegal Boarding ...	1	1	2 0 0	1 9 0
Total for Nov., 1899 ...	5	5	64 0 0	10 2 2
Total for Nov., 1898 ...	4	4	91 1 0	2 11 6

* In 3 cases a sentence of 14 days' imprisonment was inflicted.
† In 5 cases the defendants were admonished.

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