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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER.*

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

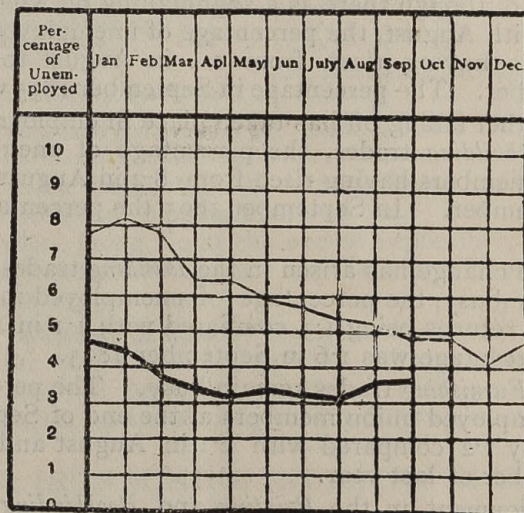
THE returns for September show very little change in the general state of employment compared with August, though judging from the trade union returns the percentage of unemployed has slightly risen. Employment continues to be considerably better than a year ago.

In the 110 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 433,276, making returns, 15,535 (or 3·6 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of September, compared with 3·4 per cent. in August, and with 4·9 per cent. in the 87 unions, with a membership of 393,920, from which returns were received for September 1895.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1895, and of each completed month of 1896.

[The thick line applies to 1896, the thin line to 1895]



The proportions of unemployed in the 110 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent.	71	284,673
3 and under 5 per cent.	18	65,176
5 and under 7 per cent.	10	34,830
7 and under 10 per cent.	3	2,170
10 per cent. and upwards	8	46,427

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

Employment in this industry in September was slightly better than in 1895 at the same period of the year. At pits employing 380,663 persons an average of 4·89 days per week was worked in September, compared with 5·00 in August, and 4·80 in September 1895. Unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted to 1·2 per cent. of the membership at the end of September, as compared with 1·3 per cent. at the end of August, and 2·3 per cent. at the end of September, 1895.

* The reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of September, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between September 30th and October 15th.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.

DURING September, 2,373 applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux making returns. Private employers engaged 1,164 persons, and local authorities 328. Of these 1,492 persons engaged, 809 are stated to have obtained work of a temporary character only. Of the 2,913 workpeople on the registers at the end of the month, 2,013 were men, 813 women and girls, and 87 lads and boys.

Taking the figures of the 9 bureaux which also furnished returns for September 1895, it will be seen that the number of fresh applicants for work decreased by 37.8 per cent., the total for September being 1,377, and for September 1895, 2,215.

(I.) Work Done in September.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications, No. of Situations offered, No. of Workpeople found, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Sept. 1896, Sept. 1895, temp. perm., Rate per 10,000 of estimated population.

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

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Engineering, Trades, etc.), Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Servants, etc.), Grand Total (Sept. 1896, Sept. 1895).

* Particulars relating to men only have been furnished. † Cannot be given. Women and Girls are not registered at Hackney and Plymouth.

PAUPERISM IN SEPTEMBER.

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

THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of September was 318,713. This corresponds to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1896.

Compared with August there is an increase of 1,000 in the number relieved, and of 1 in the rate per 10,000. In twenty-one districts the rate increased slightly; in the East London, Newcastle and North Staffordshire districts it was unchanged; and in the eleven remaining districts it decreased, the largest decrease being 10 per 10,000 in the Wolverhampton district.

Compared with September 1895 the number relieved is less by 4,237 and the rate per 10,000 by 5. The decrease was almost entirely confined to outdoor pauperism. In eight districts the rate has increased, viz., in Dublin (9), Bristol and Dundee and Dunfermline (6 each), Leicester, Edinburgh and Leith, and Coatbridge and Airdrie (3 each), Belfast (2), and West London (1). In Leeds the rate remained the same. The greatest decreases took place in Stockton and Tees (33), Barnsley (31), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (21), Galway (19), Sheffield (17), Wolverhampton (16), West Ham and Nottingham (13 each), Halifax and Huddersfield, and Hull (11 each).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of September 1896, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year, Rate per 10,000 of estimated population, Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of estimated population.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; 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.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

THE numbers of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed or injured by accidents reported in September 1896 and 1895 respectively were as follows:—

Summary table with columns: Occupations, Killed (Sept. 1896, Sept. 1895), Injured (Sept. 1896, Sept. 1895).

* See note to Table I. below. † No returns.

The particulars are given in greater detail in the following Tables:—

I. Railway Servants.

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of September 1896.

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

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Causing Amputations, Dislocations, Fractures, and Internal Injuries, Contusions and Bruises, Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries.

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 5 servants killed and 787 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during September. These figures have been reported in accordance with a new order recently issued by the Board of Trade, and are scarcely comparable with those for September 1895.

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

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

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of September 1896 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

[The returns of non-fatal injuries are probably far from complete, the tabulation being first made in February last.]

Table with columns: Cause and Class of Accident, On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels, Total in Sep. 1896, Total for 3 months July 1896 to Sep. 1896, Corresponding total for 3 months of 1895.

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

III. Miners and Quarrymen.*

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries, during the month of September 1896.

[The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 733,657, and in and about quarries as 104,625 in 1895.]

Table with columns: Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured), Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured).

* Supplied by the Home Office.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.*

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of September 1896.

[The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.]

Table with columns: Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident, Killed, Causing Amputations, Fractures, Injuries to Head or Face, Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes, Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries, Total persons Injured.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,649 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors.

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

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

Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of September 1896.

Table with columns: Nature of Works, &c., Construction or Repair, Use or Working, Number of Persons, Injured, Killed, Fractures and Dislocations, Other Injuries, Total.

* 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.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Based on Home Office Return.)

DURING September 87 cases of lead poisoning in factories and workshops were reported, as compared with 76 cases in August. Of those affected 50 were men, 29 women, and 8 young persons (five lads and three girls). Three cases of anthrax (men) were also reported.

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, returns from Employers and Trade Unions, and newspaper reports. Application for particulars is made to the Employers and Trade Unions affected in each dispute, and the information so obtained up to the time of going to press is used.)

Number and Magnitude.—Fifty-one disputes occurred in September 1896, compared with 90 in August, and 66 in September 1895. In 47 of the disputes 8,181 workpeople were affected.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 11 disputes occurred, 10 involving 115 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 3 disputes, 1 involving 2,800 workpeople; engineering and shipbuilding, 15 disputes, involving 1,925 workpeople; miscellaneous metal trades, 3 disputes, involving 520 workpeople; textile trades, 8 disputes, 7 involving 2,582 workpeople; clothing trades, 5 disputes, involving 56 workpeople; dock &c., labour, 1 dispute, involving 31 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of trades, 5 disputes, involving 152 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 51 new disputes, 26 arose chiefly upon wages questions, 12 upon matters connected with working arrangements and quality of material supplied; 5 were on the question of the employment of non-unionists; 5 arose in defence of fellow-workmen; 2 through sympathy with workmen on strike; and the remaining dispute was caused by the employment of a joiner on pattern-making.

Results.—Thirteen old disputes, involving 3,778 workpeople, and 35 new disputes (32 involving 2,712 workpeople) have been reported as settled. In 22 of these disputes, involving 4,046 persons, the workpeople were successful; in 11, involving 1,629 persons, unsuccessful; in 7, involving 372 persons, partially successful; and in 8 disputes (5 involving 443 persons) the results cannot at present be definitely stated.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1896.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Workpeople, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes categories like Building Trades, Mining & Quarrying, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, etc.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1896—continued.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Workpeople, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes trades like Tailors, Ditto, Dock & Labour, etc.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Workpeople, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes categories like Building Trades, Coal Mining, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, etc.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in August were still unsettled:—Plasterers, Cambridge, 10 on strike (since settled, Oct. 3rd); coal miners, Aspull, and Wrexham (since settled, Oct. 3rd); pattern-makers, Oldham; engineers, Hull; lacemakers, Nottingham; coopers, Glasgow; cabinet-makers, Halifax; brass casters and finishers, Dronfield; cotton weavers, Padiham.

The following disputes which commenced before August were also still unsettled:—Coal miners, Durham and Barnsley; plumbers, Nottingham (since settled, Oct. 8th); tailors, Leicester; joiners, Nantwich, Chorley and Cork; cotton-spinners, Slaithwaite; fustian-weavers, Norden; cotton-weavers, Barnoldswick (two disputes); engineers, Keighley and Shipley; brassfinishers, Halifax; fitters, &c., Dowlais; silk dyers, Macclesfield.

The following disputes commencing before September, of which information has only recently been obtained are also still unsettled:—

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Workpeople, Date of Commencement. Includes Coal Miners, Packing-case Makers, Wardressers, Shipwrights.

London Cab Dispute.—During the month a dispute has arisen in the London cab trade with regard to the so-called "privilege system" adopted by the chief railway companies with regard to the use of stations by cabs. The stoppage thus caused, though generally called a strike, has not been included in the above table, not being due to a dispute between employers and workmen.

SHIPPING CASUALTIES 1894-95.*

In the year July 1st 1894 to June 30th 1895, the total number of sea casualties to vessels belonging to the United Kingdom recorded, was 7,556 or 339 more than in the previous year. Of these, 529 (tonnage 153,640) were total losses, a decrease of 55 (tonnage 46,982) as compared with the previous year.

lost in 338 cases and amounted to 1,348 members of the crews, and 1,196 passengers. The number of passengers is considerably higher than for any year in the previous twenty years. The number of members of crews lost is below the average.

The number of casualties to vessels belonging to the British possessions abroad was 714, of which 261 were total losses, and the loss of life 499. The number of casualties occurring to foreign vessels on or near the coasts of the United Kingdom and British possessions was 573, of which 107 were total losses. Eighty-seven lives were lost by 19 of the casualties.

* Abstracts of returns to the Board of Trade of Shipping Casualties, July 1st 1894 to June 30th 1895. [C-8247]. Price 4s. 4d.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

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

Summary.—The total number of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported during September was 134,000, and the estimated general effect of all the changes on the wages of these persons was an average increase of 1½d. per head per week. About 26,000 received increases amounting on the average to 1s. 9d. per week and 108,000 sustained decreases averaging 3d. per week.

Increases.—Important increases are again reported in the metal trades. In the engineering and shipbuilding industries over 18,000 workpeople have secured advances. This number includes 6,000 shipbuilders on the Clyde and at Belfast, 8,000 engineers at Manchester and 1,340 at Edinburgh and Leith. In other branches of the metal trades 700 fender and fire brass makers have obtained an increase of 10 per cent. under a Wages Board. The remaining increases include 3,000 stonemasons in the London district, whose wages have been increased to 10d. per hour from October 3rd, and 800 workpeople engaged in the woodworking and furnishing trades.

Decreases.—Reductions under sliding scales are reported affecting 107,000 workpeople. This number includes 100,000 miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 5,000 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and 2,000 in Cumberland and North Lancashire. The amount of the reduction in each case is, however, very small.

Method by which Changes of Wages were made.—Of the 134,000 workpeople affected by changes, 108,000 had their wages altered under sliding scales or wages boards, and 26,000 after negotiation, mutual arrangement, or by the authority of employers. Of this latter number the changes in the case of 2,500 persons were preceded or accompanied by strikes, although in some cases only a section of the men whose wages were altered actually struck work. In one case involving 120 men the strike was settled by arbitration.

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 changes in the pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime.

Table for BUILDING TRADES. Includes Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Carpenters and Joiners, Plasterers, Plumbers, Lathrenders, Builders' Labourers.

Table for COAL MINING. Includes Miners, Ditto.

Table for IRON AND STEEL TRADES. Includes Iron and Steel Dressers, Steel Smelters, Millmen, Charge Wheelers, Blast Furnacemen.

Table for TINPLATE TRADE. Includes Tinplate Workers, Ditto.

Table for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. Includes Fitters, Ironfounders, Patternmakers, Engineers, Grinders and Glaziers, Turners and Fitters, Patternmakers, Machinemen in Railway Shop, Machine Workers, Ironfounders, Ditto, Smiths' Strikers, Engineers, Patternmakers.

* In all cases the accuracy of newspaper reports is enquired into before the information is used here. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

Table for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES (continued). Includes Turners, Fitters, Smiths, Engineers, Patternmakers, Fitters and Turners, Machinemen, Smiths, Ironfounders, Platers, Brass Moulders, Ditto, Brass Trimmers, Brass Firemen, Ironfounders, Wreaham, Blacksmiths, Ditto, Ship Joiners, Patternmakers, Iron Moulders, Engineers, Blacksmiths, Pattern-Makers, Range and Stove Fitters, Shipbuilders, Ditto.

Table for OTHER METAL TRADES. Includes Tinplate, Iron and Brass Workers, Journeymen, Labourers, Pen and Pocket Blade Forgers, Tinplate Workers, Brass and Iron Fender Makers, Fire Brass Makers, Fender Makers.

Table for TEXTILE TRADES. Includes Cotton Weavers, Powerloom Overlookers, Reelers, Linen Yarn Winders, Fustian Cutters, Ditto.

Table for WOOD-WORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES. Includes Cabinet-makers, French Polishers, Cabinet-makers, French Polishers, Cabinet-makers & Chair Makers and Carvers, Upholsters, Coopers.

Table for EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Includes Smiths, Smiths' Strikers, Tinners, Yardsmen in Gas Works, Lamplighters, Workpeople in Sanitary and Cleansing Depts, Auxiliary Fireman, Carters and Foreman.

Table for MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Includes Joiners in Chemical Works, Newspaper Compositors, Jobbing Printers, Brushmakers.

Table for SEAMEN. Includes London (Dock Street), Ditto, Bristol, Ditto, Glasgow, Ditto, Ditto, Ditto.

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. † The port rate, however, remained unchanged.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during September (excluding the slight modification in the hours of London stonemasons) affected 1,931 workpeople, of which number 1,681 had their working hours shortened and 250 had them lengthened. The decreases included 900 building operatives at Leeds, and 125 workpeople in the London fur trade, whose hours have been reduced to 48 per week without loss of pay. The increase in hours of labour at Wolverhampton was mutually agreed to by employers and workpeople, the earnings of the latter being proportionately increased.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change.	After change.	Dec. or Inc. per week.
DECREASES.						
Building Trades.						
Bricklayers ...	Leeds ...	21st Sept.	500	50	49½	½*
Stonemasons† ...	London Dist.	3rd Oct.	3,000	44½	44	½†
Builders ...	Leeds ...	21st Sept.	400	50	49½	½*
Labourers						
Other Trades.						
Workpeople in Engineering Shop	Salford ...	15th Sept.	231	53	50	3
Plumbers' Brass-workers	Birmingham	11th Oct.	50	57	54	3
Cabinet-makers and French Polishers	Blackburn ...	28th Sept.	70	54	51	3*
Ditto ...	Accrington ...	4th Sept.	30	54	53	1
Litho. Artists ...	Potteries ...	1st Sept.	26	50	47½	2½
Workpeople in the Fur Trade—						
Male ...	London, E.C.	7th Sept.	38	55	48	7
Female ...						
Shop Assistants ...	Birmingham	7th Sept.	8	62½	59	3½
Ditto ...	Pendleton ...	24th Sept.	215	56	55	1
Employees of Co-operative Society	Netherfield	1st Sept.	26	58	54	4
INCREASES.						
Workpeople in Electrical Engineering Works	Wolverhampton	1st Sept.	250	49	53	4

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

† This change only applies to the mid-winter period, which has been reduced from 8 to 6 weeks, the summer period being extended from 38 to 40 weeks. There is, therefore, no reduction, but a very slight increase in the average hours per week over the whole year.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN SEPTEMBER.

(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 September it will be seen that 1 Co-operative Association for Distribution and 1 for Production, 16 new Friendly Societies, and 36 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. 5 Building Societies, 4 Industrial and Provident Societies and 1 Trade Union are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding up," or to have had registry cancelled.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Wootton Progressive Ind. Co-op. Soc., 1 Quinton Road, Wootton, Northampton. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Drummully Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Drummully, Cavan.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Dividing, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 9; Juvenile, 1. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—I.O. Rechabites, 9 (including 1 branch for Females); G.I.O.L. Caledonian Corks, 4; I.O.O.F.M.U., 4; various others, 14. Scotland.—Various, 4. Ireland.—I. N. Foresters, 1.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Milnrow Miners' Association Perseverance Lodge, Milnrow. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Goytre Ind. and Prov. Soc., Ltd.; Fairford and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd.; Woodborough Co-op. Land and Building Soc., Ltd. Notice of resolution to wind up has been received from the Co-op. Aid Association, London. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—By instrument of dissolution, 1; notice of commencement of dissolution, 1; notice of termination of dissolution, 3.

ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAYS.

THE report on the accidents that have occurred in the working of the railways of the United Kingdom during 1895* states the number of persons reported to the Board of Trade as having been killed and injured from all causes in such working during the year to have been 5,045 (1,024 killed and 4,021 injured).† With respect to accidents affecting servants of companies or contractors, the total number killed or injured was 3,096 (442 killed, 2,654 injured), of whom 12 were killed and 88 injured from accidents to trains, rolling stock, permanent way, &c., while 430 were killed and 2,566 injured from other causes, including accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct. In all, 16 servants were killed and 331 injured whilst employed in the coupling and uncoupling of vehicles; 94 were killed and 1,127 injured whilst employed in various other shunting operations; 12 were killed and 64 injured by being caught between vehicles; 9 were killed and 54 injured by falling or being caught between trains and platforms; 86 were killed and 148 injured whilst walking, crossing, or standing on the line on duty.

The number of train accidents inquired into in 1895 was 69, in which 17 persons (including 12 servants of the company) were killed, and 424 (including 53 railway servants) were injured. Inquiries were also held by the Sub-Inspectors into 285 cases of accidents involving fatal and other injuries to 290 persons, nearly all of whom were servants of the railway companies, the remainder being contractors' servants and persons at work or transacting business on the companies' premises. "In the majority of these cases recommendations and suggestions were put before the railway companies with a view to securing the greater safety of their servants, and the companies have, with the exception of one or two of the larger systems, favourably received these recommendations. As a result improvements have been made in many places by the provision of additional means of lighting up goods yards, sidings, &c., at night, by the covering in of wires and point-rods, and the removal of dangerous obstructions, as well as by the issuing of fresh instructions and regulations, and the adoption of other safeguards recommended by the Sub-Inspectors and approved by the Inspecting Officers." The total number of recommendations thus made is stated to have been 287, of which 175 were adopted. Communications have been addressed to the companies as to the provision of protectors intended to prevent the danger caused by flying glass and escaping steam in the case of burst gauge-glasses, and "while many of the companies were already taking steps in this direction, most of the remaining companies have agreed to adopt the safeguard suggested." The companies have also been urged to provide brake handles on both sides of waggons, in order to prevent shunters and others having to pass between the waggons to apply the brakes; and many companies are taking steps in this direction.

* General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1895. C.—8246 of 1896. Price 3½d.

† In addition, the companies have returned 66 persons killed and 5,297 injured from accidents that occurred on their premises, but which were not connected with the movement of railway vehicles, of whom 47 killed and 4,826 injured were servants of companies or contractors.

NOTICE.

Communications respecting the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to:—

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