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LABOUR DEPARTMENT,
BOARD OF TRADE,
44 PARLIAMENT STREET,
15th February 1896.

In the present number of the LABOUR GAZETTE, in which the monthly reports and returns begin a new year, some new features and modifications have been introduced which require a word of notice.

In the first place several of the Tables relating to Industrial Accidents have been modified. For the first time an attempt has been made to record non-fatal injuries as well as fatal accidents to seamen. Such injuries, however, as occur on vessels engaged in the home trade are usually only reported once in six months, and will be so published instead of monthly.

The new system of tabulating accidents to Railway Servants, recommended by the Departmental Committee of 1894, came into force at the beginning of the present year. Accordingly the figures given in the present GAZETTE are compiled on the new method.

The number of accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act 1894 has been considerably reduced, owing to the operation of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.

Under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, cases of Lead Poisoning and certain other diseases in Factories and Workshops have to be notified to the Chief Factory Inspector. On page 52 will be found the first monthly statement of the cases so reported.

For some time past it has been the custom to record in the GAZETTE the principal cases of recourse to Arbitration and Conciliation in the month. This has now been supplemented by an account of important Collective Agreements between representatives of employers and employed, in which the mediation of third parties is not involved.

On pages 48 and 49 will be found preliminary results of the analysis of Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour, and of Strikes and Lock-outs recorded in 1895.

A considerable extension has been made in the area covered by the quarterly statistics of Workmen's Co-operative Societies collected by the Department, and the figures given on page 51 may be regarded as representative of the progress of such societies throughout the United Kingdom.

The latest published results of the working of the German Insurance Laws, both as regards Accidents, Old Age and Invalidity and Sickness, have come to hand during the month, and are summarised on page 50.

On page 49 is given an account of the close of the Engineering Dispute on the Clyde and at Belfast.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—GENERAL SUMMARY.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

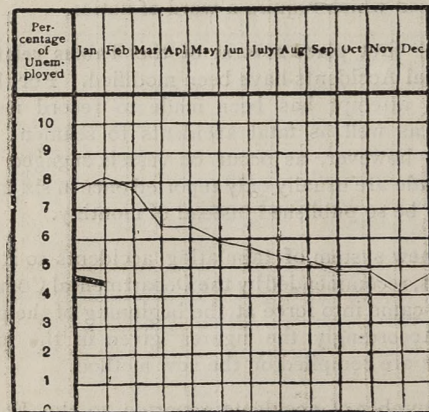
The returns received show an improvement in the state of employment, not only as compared with last month (for which, however, the returns were affected by the Christmas holidays), but also as compared with January 1895.

In the 96 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 401,410, making returns, 17,901 (or 4.5 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of January, compared with 4.8 per cent. in December, and with 8.2 per cent. in the 76 unions, with a membership of 370,335, from which returns were received for January 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 96 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent. ...	44	120,734
3 and under 5 per cent. ...	20	175,379
5 and under 7 per cent. ...	10	35,832
7 and under 10 per cent. ...	13	18,292
10 per cent. and upwards ...	9	51,173

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.

Employment continues good in nearly all districts. At 971 pits, from which returns have been received and employing 280,101 workpeople, the average number of days worked in January was 4.94 per week, as compared with 4.88 days in December and 4.70 days in January 1895. The proportion of unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham was 1.7 per cent. at the end of January, the same as in December, but less than in January 1895, when the percentage was 2.7.

Iron Mining.—Employment has improved and is now good. The average number of days worked at 114 iron mines, employing 13,215 workpeople, was 5.70 per week in January, against 5.57 days in the previous month and 5.56 days in January 1895.

In the Pig Iron industry more furnaces are in blast and more men employed than in December, or a year ago. At the end of January the ironmasters making returns had 328 furnaces in blast, being 4 more than at the end of December, and 20 more than at the corresponding date of last year. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 21,071, an increase of 191 over the previous month, and of 1,057 over January 1895.

Employment in Steel Works has improved, the number employed in the 89 works for which returns have been received being 14 per cent. greater than in the corresponding period of 1895. Returns from 71 Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills show a slight improvement compared with last year.

Employment in Tinplate Works is unsatisfactory and many mills are idle. Returns from 37 tinplate manufacturers give the number of their mills in operation at the end of the month as 156, being 16 less than in the previous month, but 2 more than in January 1895.

In the Engineering and kindred trades the percentage of unemployed union members has fallen from 5.0 in December to 4.3 at the end of January, compared with 8.7 per cent. in January 1895.

In the Shipbuilding trades an improvement has also taken place, the percentage of unemployed at the close of the month being 9.1, compared with 10.5 in December. In January 1895, during the frost, the percentage reached 17.3.

The Building trades as a whole continue steadily employed. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns for January is 3.7, compared with 3.8 last month and 8.2 in January 1895, when the long frost was in progress.

The Furnishing and Woodworking trades remain steady. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns is 4.2, compared with 4.4 in December and 6.7 in January 1895.

Some seasonal falling off is observable in employment in the Printing and Bookbinding trades, the percentage of unemployed union members having risen from 4.1 in December to 5.4 in January. The percentage for January 1895 was 5.3. Employment in the Paper trade remains steady and the percentage of unemployed union members is 3.2, compared with 3.1 last month.

Employment in the ready-made branch of the Tailoring trade is better, but the bespoke branch is somewhat slack.

Employment in the Boot and Shoe trade continues to be only moderate in the principal centres.

Owing to seasonal causes a slight falling off has taken place in employment in the Leather trades, and the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns is 5.4, compared with 4.1 in December and 8.8 in January 1895.

Employment for Cotton spinners has improved, but weavers in many cases have been irregularly employed. The Woollen and Worsted trades continue well employed in most districts. Employment in the Hosiery trade is in general good; in the Silk trade it is fair in most districts.

As regards the employment of women in the Textile trades information respecting 494 mills, employing about 86,000 women and girls, shows a decline, 87 per cent. being in mills giving full employment, compared with 91 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in December; 10 per cent. in mills giving only partial employment or running short time; while mills employing 3 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month. The decline occurred in the weaving branch of the cotton trade.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—In London the average number of dock labourers employed during January at the docks and principal wharves was 14,578, as compared with 15,048 in December. At provincial ports dock and riverside labour has been fairly well employed except at some places on the North-East coast.

Agricultural employment, with few exceptions, was more satisfactory in January last than in December or in January 1895. The weather was very favourable, owing to the absence of either frost or rain.

Trade Disputes.—The number of disputes occurring in January was 50, as compared with 37 in December and 57 in January 1895. Eleven disputes took place in the Textile trades, 10 in Mining and Quarrying, 7 in the Clothing trades, 6 in Metal trades, 4 in connection with Engineering and Shipbuilding, 2 each in the Building and Waterside trades, and 8 in the Miscellaneous group of industries. In 46 of the 50 disputes, 7,363 workpeople were involved, an average of 160 persons per dispute, against 115 in the previous month. Sixteen old disputes, involving 5,672 workpeople, were

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

brought to a termination in January, and at the end of the month 13 new and 20 old disputes, affecting together 4,594 workpeople, were known to be still unsettled.

Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour.—The changes in rates of wages reported during January included nearly 11,000 workpeople who received increases averaging about 1s. 9d. per week, and over 133,000 who sustained decreases averaging about 3½d. per week, resulting in a nett average decrease of less than 2d. per week for the total number (144,000) affected. About 6,000 engineers on the Clyde and over 1,000 at Belfast are estimated to have received advances in accordance with the recent settlement. In the coal mining industry 100,000 miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire and 30,000 in Northumberland sustained reductions in their rates of wages. Decreases, mainly of 10 per cent., were also reported as affecting 2,320 workpeople in the South Wales tinplate trade.

The changes in hours of labour reported during the month affected 1,256 workpeople, of whom all but 20 had their hours of labour reduced.

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts on one day in the second week of January was 342,282, being in the proportion of 221 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1896. The number on the corresponding day of December was 340,223, and in January 1895, 352,594.

Emigration.—British and Irish passengers from the United Kingdom to places out of Europe numbered 6,968 during January, as compared with 6,999 in the same month of last year.

II.—REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN JANUARY.

The returns received from 114 iron mines and openworks indicate an improvement in employment in January last, the average number of days worked being 5.70 per week as compared with 5.56 in January 1895 and 5.57 in December 1895. A comparison of the numbers employed shows that for every 1,000 persons employed in January 1895 there are now 1,046.

The particulars given in the returns are summarised in the following table:—

District.	No. of Mines from which returns were received.	Total No. of workpeople employed at 25th January.	Average number of days worked per week in 4 weeks ended		
			25th Jan. 1896.	26th Jan. 1895.	28th Dec. 1895.
Cumberland & Lancs.	41	5,774	5.32	5.72	5.65
Other places in England ...	61	6,248	5.65	5.40	5.48
Scotland ...	6	981	5.34	5.09	5.84
Ireland ...	6	212	5.96	6.00	5.93
Total ...	114	13,215	5.70	5.56	5.67

A classification of the 13,215 workpeople included in the returns, according to the number of days worked at the mines, shows that 4,825, or 36.5 per cent., were at mines which worked full time (24 days) during the four weeks; 5,794, or 43.8 per cent., at mines working 22 and under 24 days; 1,845, or 14.0 per cent., at mines working 20 and under 22 days; while the remaining 751, or 5.7 per cent., were at mines working less than 20 days.

(b) COAL MINING IN JANUARY.

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

Summary.—Returns have been received relating to 971 pits, at which 280,101 workpeople were employed on the last pay day in the four weeks ending 25th January last. They show that, on the whole, employment in the coal mining industry in January was better than a month ago, and than in the corresponding period

in 1895, the average number of days worked per week being as follows:—

	Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1895.	Dec. 1895.
England and Wales ...	4.96	4.74	4.84
Scotland ...	4.68	4.41	5.37
Ireland ...	4.16	4.93	4.25
United Kingdom ...	4.94	4.70	4.88

The falling off in January in the case of Scotland as compared with December is more than accounted for by the New Year holidays, the second fortnight showing an improvement of nearly 1½ days per week over the first fortnight. The improvement in the second fortnight in England and Wales was only one-quarter of a day per week.

If the 280,101 workpeople employed in January last at the 971 pits, from which returns have been received, are classified according to the number of days worked at those pits in four weeks, we get the annexed table, in which the corresponding percentages for January and December 1895 are included for the sake of comparison.

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

Number of days* on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	January, 1896.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	January, 1895.	December, 1895.
Under 4 days ...	1,427	.5		
4 and under 6 days ...	30	.0		
6 " " 8 " ...	514	2	3.2	4.0
8 " " 10 " ...	4,447	1.6		
10 " " 12 " ...	2,496	.9		
12 " " 14 " ...	7,674	2.7		
14 " " 16 " ...	19,880	7.1	40.9	55.9
16 " " 18 " ...	43,074	15.4		44.9
18 " " 20 " ...	44,118	15.7		
20 " " 22 " ...	57,327	20.5		
22 " " 24 " ...	86,485	30.9	55.9	40.1
24 days (full time) ...	12,629	4.5		52.3
Total ...	280,101	100.0	100.0	100.0

The proportion (55.9 per cent.) employed at pits working full or very nearly full time is noticeable, a marked improvement being shown on the percentage for January 1895, and some improvement on the figure for December 1895. As regards the number of men employed, some of the returns do not give the 1895 figures as well as those for 1896, but, so far as is shown by the information received, it would appear that in Scotland only 896 workpeople were employed in January last for every 1,000 employed a year ago in the same pits. The figures for England and Wales show, on the contrary, 1,006 persons now employed where 1,000 were employed in January 1895.

The proportion of unemployed miners connected with Trade Unions in Northumberland and Durham was 1.7 per cent. of the membership at the end of January, or the same as in December last, but less than in January 1895, when it was 2.7 per cent.

Comparison by Districts.—In the following table the various coalfields are arranged in two groups, one showing an advance and the other a decline in the number of days worked in January last, as compared with a year ago. The first group includes 11 districts, with 240,784 workpeople, employed at pits showing an average improvement of a third of a day per week, the improvement in the various districts ranging from nearly a full day per week in North Wales to .04 of a day only in Lancashire and Cheshire. The second group consists of 4 districts, in which there was a decline as between January 1896 and January 1895. The apparently most important decline, having regard to the number affected, is in Northumberland, but this comparison is affected by the fact that in 1895 the average related to a much smaller number of pits than in January 1896.

* Allowance is made in all the calculations for short days.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN JANUARY 1896 AND 1895, AND IN DECEMBER 1895.

District.*	No. employed in Jan. 1896 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Days worked per Week in		
		Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1895.	Dec. 1895.
(a) Districts in which January 1896 exceeds January 1895.				
North Wales	4,447	5.18	4.21	4.53
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	5,114	5.03	4.43	4.68
Cumberland	5,537	5.37	4.91	5.02
Durham	33,224	5.19	4.80	5.24
Derbyshire	22,826	4.81	4.42	4.67
West Scotland	16,661	4.71	4.34	5.32
Yorkshire	38,120	4.97	4.64	4.69
South Wales and Monmouth	53,891	5.85	5.29	4.93
Staffordshire	20,499	4.82	4.56	4.52
Gloucester and Somerset	6,637	4.89	4.79	4.66
Lancashire and Cheshire	33,918	4.68	4.64	5.15
Total and averages for group	240,784	5.06	4.73	4.91
(b) Districts in which January 1896 is less than January 1895.				
East Scotland	5,856	4.59	4.61	5.52
Northumberland	23,763	4.18	4.38	4.55
Notts and Leicester	7,564	4.18	4.45	4.23
Ireland	134	4.16	4.63	4.25
Total and averages for group	39,317	4.24	4.47	4.64
Grand Total and Averages	280,101	4.94	4.70	4.88

For the sake of comparison the figures for December 1895 are added to the table, but the effect of the holiday season is so apparent that no further remark is necessary.

Taking the district averages, and classifying them according to the number of days worked at the pits in January 1896, we get these three groups:—

	Number employed.	Average number of days worked per week.
5 days and upwards per week	102,213	5.38
Over 4½ but less than 5 days	144,427	4.81
Over 4 but less than 4½ days	33,461	4.18
Total	280,101	4.94

South Wales and Monmouth heads the list with 5.55 days, and Cumberland, Durham, North Wales, and Salop, &c., all fall into the highest group. Northumberland, Notts and Leicester, and Ireland fall into the lowest group, the other 7 districts making up the middle group.

Exports of Coal.—The quantity of coal exported from the United Kingdom during January was 2,789,938 tons as compared with 2,468,392 tons in December 1895, and 2,196,857 tons in January 1895.

(c) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN JANUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in the Pig Iron Industry continues to improve. The number of furnaces in blast and the number of workpeople employed at the end of January were both greater than at the end of December, and considerably greater than at the end of January 1895.

Returns received from 109 ironmasters, who own about 90 per cent. of the furnaces in blast, show that at the close of the month they had 328 furnaces in blast, as compared with 308 at the end of January 1895. Of the increase of 20 furnaces, England and Wales account for 18, and Scotland for 2. The only district in which a decrease is reported is Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire, where there is a decrease of 1. The number of workpeople employed at the 328 furnaces was 21,071, an increase over the corresponding figure for last year of 860 in England and Wales and 197 in Scotland. As compared with December, the 109 ironmasters making returns had 4 more furnaces in blast, 7 having been relit and 3 blown out or damped down in England and Wales, and 1 relit and 1 blown out in Scotland. The number of workpeople employed has increased by 166 in England and Wales, and by 25 in Scotland.

* The districts are arranged according to the differences in the numbers of days worked in January 1896 and 1895.

Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of January 1896 with the number in blast at end of January 1895, and at end of December 1895, so far as included in the returns made to the Department:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1896.	Dec. 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Jan. 1896.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	94	93	+1	94	94	...
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks... ..	42	31	+11	42	42	...
Lincolnshire	13	11	+2	13	12	+1
Midlands	14	14	...	14	14	...
Glamorgan and Mon.	85	82	+3	85	82	+3
Other districts	16	17	-1	16	16	...
Total England and Wales... ..	274	256	+18	274	270	+4
SCOTLAND	54	52	+2	54	54	...
Total furnaces included in returns	328	308	+20	328	324	+4

The following particulars respecting the pig iron industry in Cleveland are taken from the monthly circular issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association.

Production.—The amount of pig iron produced in January was 269,195 tons, against 261,469 tons in the previous month, and 253,276 tons in January 1895.

Stocks.—These amounted on January 31st to 332,197 tons, an increase of 26,528 tons as compared with December, and of 62,804 tons as compared with January 1895.

Shipments.—From Middlesbrough, 69,740 tons of pig iron were shipped coastwise or foreign during the month, being 7,821 tons more than during December, and 21,793 tons more than during January 1895.

The quantity of pig iron shipped from all ports in the United Kingdom to foreign countries and British possessions was 47,665 tons in January 1896, as against 35,677 tons in January 1895 and 25,704 tons in January 1894.

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

RETURNS received from 174 employers show that they had 65,445 workpeople in their employment at the end of January, or 4,716 more than at the end of January 1895. The increase in England and Wales amounted to 7.2 per cent., and in Scotland to 11.4 per cent. South Wales and Monmouth was the district showing the largest increase, chiefly due to a percentage increase among the steel workers of 40.7 per cent.

Returns from 37 tinplate manufacturers state that they had 156 mills in operation in the last week of January, or 16 less than in December, but 2 more than in January 1895.

Table showing the number of persons employed* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of January 1896 and 1895, respectively, by 174 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.					
	England and Wales.		Scotland.		United Kingdom.	
	Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1895.	Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1895.	Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1895.
Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling, and Forging	24,643	21,882	4,795	3,951	29,438	25,833
Iron Puddling and Rolling	12,220	12,010	3,077	3,000	15,297	15,010
Tinplate Manufacture	10,311	9,768	—	—	10,311	9,768
Other workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above*	9,439	9,140	960	978	10,399	10,118
Totals	56,613	62,800	8,832	7,929	65,445	60,729

* The table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Further particulars as to employment in tinplate works in South Wales and Monmouth, received through other correspondents, are given on pages 45 and 46. The following table summarises these returns:—

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

	No. of Works.	No. of Mills.	
		In the Works.	Working at end of Jan.
Works giving full employment	36	197	167
Works giving partial employment	19	146	87
Works idle	28	134	—
Total	83	477	284

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during January amounted to 23,401 tons, as compared with 29,532 tons in January 1895, and 31,696 tons in January 1894.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN JANUARY.

ENGLAND.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of returns from 180 correspondents in different parts of the country, and from one Agricultural Labourers' Union, reports as follows:—

Generally speaking employment was fairly regular during the month of January, and more regular than in the previous month of December. Districts where employment was less favourable in January than in December are exceptional. In Essex this is the case in two Unions, owing, it is said, to lack of threshing, consequent on the decrease in the acreage of corn. In four unions in Kent the state of employment in January is said to compare unfavourably with that of December. An improvement took place in January in the state of employment in Suffolk, which was the county, in the month of December, where it was the most unfavourable. With but few exceptions the state of employment in January 1896 compares favourably with that of January 1895. But in the latter period field work was greatly interfered with by snow and frost, whereas the month of January last was conspicuous for mild weather.

Northern Counties.—Reports from Cumberland from the Carlisle, Penrith, Wigton and Cockermouth Unions, also from the County of Westmorland, and from North Lancashire, with the exception of the Cartmel district, state that very few men were in irregular employment in January. Favourable reports also come from Durham from districts in the Durham, Darlington and Chester-le-Street Unions; from Cheshire from the Nantwich and Tarvin Unions; from Yorkshire from the Unions of Easingwold, Knaresborough, Great Ouseburn, and Ripon. In the Malton Union some irregularity of work existed in the district owing to farm work being so forward.

Midland Counties.—In Derbyshire satisfactory reports come from the Chesterfield Union, and from a district in the Worksop Union. A favourable report is given of a district in the Bingham Union of Nottingham, and an unfavourable one of a district in the Southwell Union. In Leicestershire regular work is reported in certain parishes in the Billesdon and Blaby Unions, and some slight irregularity in the Unions of Melton Mowbray and Uppingham, and also in the Oakham Union of Rutland. In Shropshire regularity of work is reported from the Tenbury, Whitechurch and Atcham Unions, but in the Market Drayton Union from 7 to 10 per cent. are said to have been in irregular employment. In Warwickshire in the Stratford Union a number of men are said to be out of work, but favourable reports come from districts in the Unions of Alcester, Banbury, Coventry, Rugby, and also from the Unions of Pershore and Shipston-on-Stour in Worcestershire. In Northamptonshire favourable reports come from districts in the Unions of Brixworth, Banbury, Kettering, and Pottersbury. In some parishes in the Abingdon and Thame Unions of Oxfordshire there was some irregularity of work, but reports from the Wallingford and Witney Unions are favourable. In the St. Ives Union of Huntingdonshire there was some

irregularity of work. From the Huntingdon Union, and also from the St. Neot's Union, both in Hunts and Beds, and from the Luton and Leighton Buzzard Unions of Bedfordshire, there are favourable reports.

Eastern Counties.—In Essex employment is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Braintree, Halstead, Lexden and Winstree, Ongar, Colchester, Tendring and Dunmow. There was some irregularity in the Unions of Billericay and Maldon. In the latter Union the irregularity referred to was in the districts of Burnham-on-Crouch and the lower part of the Dengie Hundred. In both these Unions this want of work is said to be due to there being less corn to thresh than usual. In Suffolk the reports are generally better than those in December. In the Risbridge Union work is reported regular. In the following Unions some irregularity existed but not of a serious character, namely, Thingoe, Samford, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Cosford, Sudbury, Bosmere and Claydon. In Cambridgeshire reports state that there were comparatively few men in irregular work in the following Unions, namely, Ely, Peterborough, Wisbech, North Witchford, Chesterton and Linton. In the Royston Union there are stated to have been a good many men in irregular work in certain parishes. In Norfolk favourable reports come from the Unions of Depwade, Mitford and Lauditch, and Downham, while a few men were in irregular work in the Unions of Loddon and Clavering, and Swaffham. Reports from Lincolnshire from districts in the Unions of Brigg, Spilsby, Grimsby, Louth, Lincoln, Sleaford and Newark state that work was regular.

In the Home Counties.—Reports from the Unions of Faversham, Sevenoaks, and Tonbridge, state that work is regular, but there was some irregularity in the Unions of Bridge, Hoo, Hollingbourne, and Cranbrook. Generally in these Unions the numbers in irregular work in January are said to be greater than those in December last. From the Farnham Union of Surrey there is a favourable report. A few men are reported in irregular work in the Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow Unions of Buckinghamshire, and a satisfactory report is given of a district in the Aylesbury Union. Some irregularity of work is reported from the Hemel Hempstead Union of Hertfordshire, and in Berkshire in certain parts of the Wantage Union.

Southern and Western Counties.—Some irregularity of work is reported from Sussex from the Unions of Rye, Ticehurst and Battle, and a favourable report comes from a district in the Chailey Union. Reports from Hampshire from the Farnham and Kingsclere Unions are satisfactory, but a number of men were in irregular work in certain parishes in the Hartley Wintney Union. In Dorsetshire work was generally regular in the Unions of Blandford, Dorchester and Wimborne, and in Wiltshire, in the Unions of Pewsey, Highworth and Swindon, Westbury, Devizes, and Wilton. In Gloucestershire regularity of work is reported from the Unions of Gloucester, Cirencester, Barton Regis, and Winchcombe, and in the Bromyard, Leominster and Kington Unions of Herefordshire. Some irregularity is reported in the Ledbury Union. In Somerset favourable reports come from the Unions of Wellington, Langport and Frome. In certain parishes in the Wells Union some irregularity of work is reported. In Devonshire employment is reported as regular in the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton and Tavistock. There is said to have been some irregularity in the Torrington Union. In Cornwall work is reported regular in the Bodmin Union.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN JANUARY.

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

DURING January 33,855 men were shipped from the principal ports of the United Kingdom as the crews of foreign-going vessels. This is an increase of 3,956 over the figures for the corresponding month of last year. At all the undermentioned ports, with the exception of Liverpool, London, and Dublin, the numbers increased, the largest increases being those of 1,134 at Cardiff, Barry and Penarth, and 980 at the Tyne ports.

At Dublin, Cardiff, and Swansea, seamen are said to have been scarce for sailing vessels, and at Middlesbrough firemen were in demand. At the other ports dealt with the supply equalled or exceeded the demand.

The rates of wages of seamen and firemen remained generally, during January, as in the previous month. Particulars of some few variations from the ruling rates are given in the table of Changes of Wages on page 63.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in January 1896 and 1895 respectively:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in January 1896.			Total in Jan. 1895.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Jan. 1896.	
ENGLAND.				
East Coast.				
Tyne Ports	90	3,162	3,252	2,272
Sunderland	16	704	720	456
Middlesbrough	13	661	674	403
Hull	33	1,393	1,426	1,067
Grimsby	27	126	153	98
Bristol Channel.				
Bristol	10	278	288	247
Newport, Mon.	25	1,348	1,373	1,787
Cardiff	430	5,723	6,153	5,024
Swansea	113	724	837	438
Other Ports.				
Liverpool	315	8,771	9,086	9,243
London	238	5,447	5,685	5,590
Southampton ... ..	...	1,304	1,304	1,370
SCOTLAND.				
Leith, Kirkcaldy and Grange-mouth	28	610	638	558
Glasgow	103	1,865	1,968	1,679
IRELAND.				
Dublin	15	17	32	107
Belfast ... ..	...	264	264	160
Total Jan. 1896	1,456	32,399	33,855	...
Ditto, Jan. 1895	1,495	28,404	...	29,899

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.

† Including Barry and Penarth.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN JANUARY.

EMPLOYMENT for dock and wharfside labour was as a whole not so good in January as in the previous month. It was, however, subject to considerably less fluctuation.

The average daily number of labourers employed in all the docks and at 106 of the principal wharves is estimated at 14,578 for the five weeks ending February 1st, being 470 less than the average for the four preceding weeks. The third week shows the maximum daily average, and the fifth week the minimum. The greatest number at work on any one day is estimated at 15,635 on January 17th, and the lowest at 13,669 on the 31st.

The average number employed by shipowners directly was somewhat higher than in the previous month, but those employed both at the wharves and by the Dock Companies were fewer than in December. In the case of all three groups of labourers the greatest daily average was in the third week of the month.

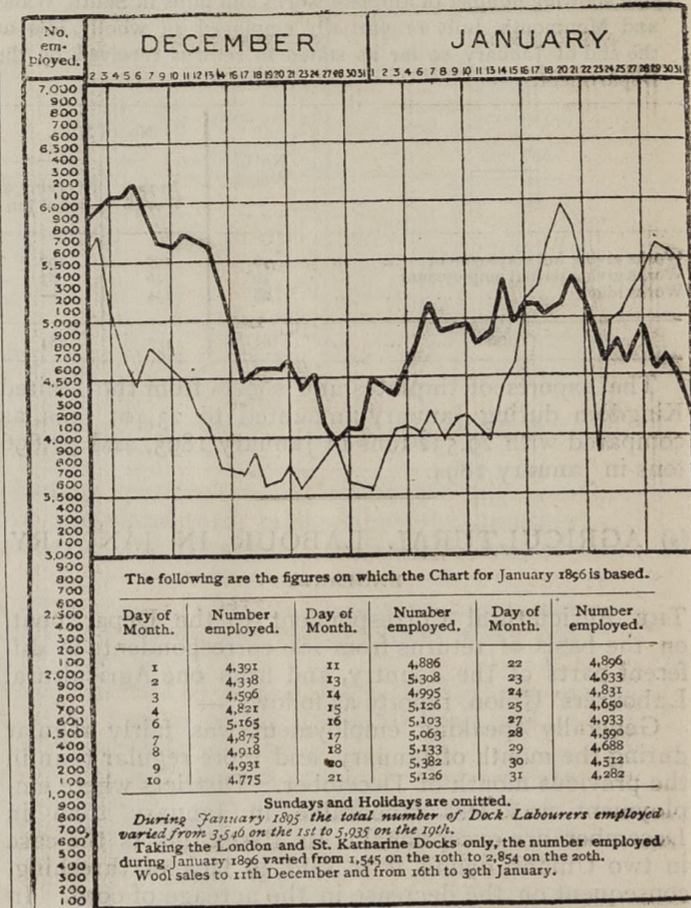
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 106 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of January	7,168	1,783	8,951	5,443	14,394
2nd " "	7,270	1,783	9,053	5,560	14,613
3rd " "	7,291	2,050	9,341	5,878	15,219
4th " "	7,600	1,770	9,370	5,694	15,064
5th " "	6,806	1,593	8,399	5,801	14,200
Average for 5 weeks ending Feb. 1st ...	7,107	1,796	8,903	5,675	14,578
Average for 4 weeks ending Dec. 28th ...	7,604	1,542	9,236	5,812	15,048

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during December and January is shown on the chart below. The numbers in January varied from 5,382 on January 20th to 4,282 on January 31st.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of December 1895 and January 1896. The corresponding curve for December 1894 and January 1895 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included.

[The thick curve applies to 1895-6, and the thin curve to 1894-5.]



The following table gives particulars of the number of labourers employed by the Dock Companies in January 1896 and 1895. It will be seen that towards the end of the month employment was not so good as last year.

Period.	Labourers employed by Dock Companies directly or through Contractors.			
	1896.	1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
1st week of January	7,168	6,458	710	—
2nd " "	7,270	6,485	785	—
3rd " "	7,291	7,482	—	191
4th " "	7,600	7,595	—	595
5th " "	6,806	7,931	—	1,125
Average for 5 weeks	7,107	7,174	—	67

Deal porters and coal porters, winchmen and tank-men have been fairly employed. Stevedores and lightermen have been busy. Employment at the wharves and in mid-stream has been somewhat irregular owing to vessels being detained by fog.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have had fair employment, though of an intermittent character. The daily average number of men employed was 458 for the first week, 304 for the second and third, and 383 for the fourth and fifth. For the month the daily average was 366, as compared with 387 in December.

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

To judge from the returns received from women correspondents, the state of employment in January was not quite so good as in December. The decline is, however, confined to the weaving branch of the cotton trade, several weaving sheds having been closed for repairs, and a considerable number of looms standing idle for want of warps. The woollen and worsted trades are still very well employed. Information has been received with regard to the employment of women and girls in 494 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills. In the case of

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON.

340 mills the numbers employed are known approximately. If the same average number be assumed to be employed in the remaining 154 mills as in those for the same trade for which numbers are known, the information may be summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate Estimate of Women and Girls employed.		
		Number.	Percentage for January.	Percentage for Dec.
Full time	444	75,399	87	91
Ditto, but partial employment	22	6,102	7	4
Short time	12	2,431	3	4
Closed for repairs	10	...	...	...
" on account of disputes	4	2,613	3	1
" " bad trade	2	...	...	...
Total	494	86,545	100	100

Cotton Trade.—According to this estimate the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 67,729. Of these, 84 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 89 per cent. in December); 8 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 4 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 4 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on, is estimated at 17,841. Of these 97 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (showing no change as compared with December), and 3 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment.

Silk Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the silk mills reported on, is estimated at 975, all of whom were employed in mills working full time (showing no change as compared with December).

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—On the whole the state of employment in the metropolis remains steady. Returns from 367 branches of 86 unions, with an aggregate membership of 67,094, show 2,402 (or 3.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of January, compared with 3.7 per cent. last month and 7.2 per cent. for January 1895.

The **Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding** trades have continued to improve in most cases. Reports from 100 branches of 19 unions show that 530 (or 2.6 per cent.), out of a membership of 20,026 were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 4.0 per cent. in December and 8.4 per cent. in January 1895.

The **Building** trades, with the exception of the painters, are still well employed. Reports from 179 branches of 12 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 12,584 show that 280 (or 2.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 2.1 in December and 8.9 per cent. in January 1895 (a period of severe weather). The mill-sawyers describe employment as good; the carpenters, and joiners and plasterers as fair; the bricklayers and plumbers as moderate; the stonemasons and painters as dull; the stonemasons as bad.

The **Furnishing and Woodworking** trades have again fallen off to some extent, owing to seasonal causes. Reports from 33 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 5,289, show that 296 (or 5.6 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 4.8 last month and 7.5 per cent. in January 1895.

The **Coachbuilding** trades have somewhat improved. Reports from 10 branches of 7 unions, with a membership of 1,050, show that 35 (or 3.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.8 per cent. in December.

The **Printing and Bookbinding** trades are not so well employed as last month, but fairly well so for the season of the year. Returns from 16 unions, with a membership of 19,697, show that 937 (or 4.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.5 per cent. in December and 5.2 per cent. in January 1895.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade has continued fairly good for time of year; the West End tailoring trade has remained dull; the East End bespoke trade quiet; the

hat trade is fairly good, but not brisk; capmakers are busy. Employment with fur skin dressers has continued good, with furrriers bad.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The machine branch has been slack, but improved slightly towards the end of the month; the high-class bespoke branch also improved at the close of the month; slipper-makers are slack.

The **Leather** trades have improved. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 1,097, show that 28 (or 2.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.6 per cent. in December.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—On the whole some improvement has taken place in these trades. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,437, show that 76 (or 5.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7.5 per cent. last month.

Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.—A considerable improvement has taken place in this group of trades. Returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 906, show that 32 (or 3.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.6 per cent. in December.

The **Gold and Silver** trades are busy. Returns from 6 unions with a membership of 1,068, show that 15 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed.

The **Tobacco** trades are better employed. Returns from 3 unions, with a membership of 2,099, show that 101 (or 4.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.4 per cent. last month.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks and the wharves on the North side was not so good in January as in December; at the wharves on the South side employment was about the same. The average daily number of dock labourers employed at the docks and at 106 of the principal wharves is estimated at 14,578 for January, and 15,048 for December. Fruit porters have had fair employment, though of an intermittent character. Coal porters, winchmen and tankmen, and deal porters have been fairly employed; stevedores and lightermen busy. Employment at the wharves and in mid-stream has been rendered rather irregular owing to vessels being detained by fog. (For further particulars see p. 38.)

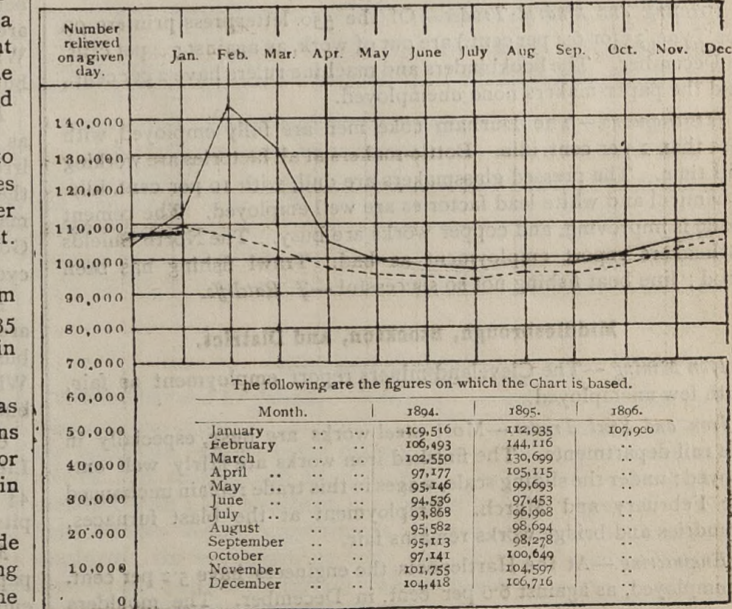
Disputes and Trade Movements.—Six small disputes among fibre-dressers, mat and matting makers, fancy leather workers, cap-makers, cabdrivers and dock labourers have been reported as taking place during the month, particulars of which will be found on pp. 60-61.

Labour Bureaux.—The four labour bureaux furnishing returns for January 1896 and January 1895 registered 1,395 fresh applications from workpeople and 341 from employers during last month, as against 1,721 and 330 respectively in January 1895. The number of workpeople engaged through these bureaux was, for January 1896 479 (232 by private employers and 247 by local authorities), and for January of last year 381 (257 by private employers and 124 by local authorities).

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on the last day of the second week in January was 107,906. As compared with the number on the corresponding day in December this shows an increase of 1,190, and as compared with January 1895 a decrease of 5,029, mainly in the South District.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1894, 1895 and 1896:—

[The thick curve represents 1896; the thin curve 1895; and the dotted curve 1894.]



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

In the third week of January the number relieved was 107,812; in the fourth week 108,333, and in the fifth week 108,674.

The number of vagrants in London on the last day of the second week in January was 1,190, as compared with 1,290 in January 1895. On the same day in the third, fourth and fifth weeks the numbers were respectively, 1,139, 1,187, and 1,195.

In West Ham the number of paupers on one day in the second week was 9,154 in January, 9,162 in December, and 10,425 in January 1895.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Durham.*—Gas and house coal pits continue working fairly regularly. Returns from collieries employing 19,994 men and boys show an average of a little over 10 days per fortnight. The number of union miners unemployed, owing to bad trade—exclusive of 400 locked out—is 1,400 (or 2.4 per cent.), as against 2.2 per cent. in December. *Northumberland.*—The steam coal collieries are working short time. Pits producing house coal are better employed. Forty-eight collieries have averaged 8.3 days per fortnight. There are 61 unemployed union miners (or 0.30 per cent.), as against 56 in December.

Metal Mining.—Ironstone and lead mines are working full time.

Quarrying.—All quarries in Gateshead and district report employment as better. At Frosterley and Weardale the lime and whinstone quarries continue working fairly well.

Shipbuilding, Engineering, &c.—On the Tyne.—Five or six yards are fairly busy, and two or three others show improvement. Employment in the boiler shops is, on the whole, steady. Marine engineering continues to improve. Three firms are employing a night shift of turners and machine men. One or two repairing shops are slack. The Elswick factory is busy. Of the 10,117 members of unions in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, included in 49 returns, 1,107 (or 10.9 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 11.7 per cent. in December. **On the Wear.**—Shipbuilding continues normal, except in one or two yards. In the engine shops work is fuller, night shifts being occasionally worked. Of the 3,736 members in these trades comprised in 18 returns, 457, or 12.2 per cent., are idle, as against 15.2 per cent. in December. The steel smelting and plate-mills are working full time. At one firm the angle mills have worked five shifts, and iron mills four shifts per week. On both rivers, out of 1,050 moulders, covered by 6 returns, 84 (or 8 per cent.) are out of work. The joiners (house and ship) have over 5 per cent., and the pattern-makers 2.3 per cent. unemployed. Shipwrights are fully employed on both the Tyne and Wear.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Coal porters on both rivers have been well employed as shippers of gas coal, and trimmers and teemers fairly so, except at the South Dock at Sunderland. The quayside labourers and Tyne watermen report employment as dull. The demand for seagoing men is fair.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in the building trades has slightly fallen off. A large percentage of bricklayers are idle on the Wear, owing to completion of contracts. Mill-sawyers and woodcutters continue well employed. Coopers are fully employed, except in the cement industry.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Of the 550 letterpress printers on the Tyne, 35 (or 6.4 per cent.) are out of work, as against 7.2 per cent. in December. The bookbinders and machine rulers have 2 per cent., and the paper-makers none unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The Durham coke men are fully employed, with less than 1 per cent. idle. Bottle-makers at all factories are working full time. The pressed glassmakers are dull, with 10 per cent. idle. Chemical and white lead factories are well employed. The cement trade is improving, and copper works are busy. The North Shields sailmakers report employment as bad. Trawl fishing has been good; line boat fishing not so successful.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron Mining.—The Cleveland miners report employment as fair, with few unemployed.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Most steel works are busy, especially in the rail departments. The finished iron works are fairly well employed; under the sliding scale, wages in this trade remain unchanged for February and March. Employment at the blast furnaces, foundries and bridge works remains fair.

Engineering.—At the Hartlepoons the engineers have 5.2 per cent. unemployed, as against 6.6 per cent. in December. The moulders

also report improvement, with only 2 per cent. unemployed. At Stockton the percentage of unemployed engineers has risen from 2.3 in December to 2.6; and at Middlesbrough from 4.9 to 6.5. The moulders report no change. Smiths and strikers continue busy, with few unemployed.

Shipbuilding.—At Middlesbrough work is brisk at all the yards. Improvement is reported at Thornaby and Hartlepool. At Stockton employment continues busy; the shipwrights report none unemployed. The ship-joiners report employment as fair, with only 1.6 per cent. idle; the smiths and strikers as good.

Building Trades.—Employment is fair. Six branches of carpenters and joiners and millsawyers, with 915 members, report 1.3 per cent. as unemployed.

Dock Labour.—The dock labourers report employment at Hartlepool as slack, at Middlesbrough as moderate; riverside labour is fair.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors report employment as bad; the letterpress printers as moderate; the salt workers as fair.—*A. Main.*

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—There is little change in employment in the cotton trade in this district. In Oldham the spinners have 4.3 per cent. on unemployed benefit, and the cardroom workers 7.1 per cent. In addition to these, considerable numbers in both branches have exhausted their benefit. In Oldham, Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton and Stockport employment is reported as moderate or slack, and out of 9,224 spinners, 447, or 4.8 per cent., are on the out-of-work fund, as compared with 5.6 per cent. in December. In Stalybridge two mills have been closed through bad trade. Twiners and ring frame spinners are well employed. Reelers, winders and velvet weavers report employment as moderate; calico weavers as slack.

Woollen Trade.—Woollen weavers in Rochdale, Milnrow, and Stockport are still well employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers in 7 branches report employment as moderate, and in 3 as bad, with 5.2 per cent. of the members unemployed; the boiler-makers as moderate; the ironfounders as improving, with overtime at some firms; the spindle and flyer makers as brisk; the machine-makers as full in most departments; the brassfinishers, tinplate workers, and gas-meter makers as full.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers and carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate; the slaters as slack; the plasterers and painters as bad.

Miscellaneous.—Coal-miners are moderately employed. The tailors and flaggers report employment as slack; the brushmakers and printers as moderate; rope and twinemakers, reed and heald makers as brisk.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—In the spinning branch all mills are on full time with increased activity; the spinners have 5.3 on unemployed benefit, as against 5.7 at the end of December. The other branches are fairly active, with few unemployed. Employment is good in Wigan; fairly good in the spinning branch at Bury and Chorley, but not quite so good in the weaving branch.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as good; the iron machine makers as active; the steel smelters as irregular. Labourers in ironworks are well employed. In Wigan the engineers are busy, and the steel smelters and steel roller makers are on full time; the finished iron trade is depressed. Good reports come from Bury and Chorley. Employment in the cycle trade is good at Wigan.

Building Trades.—The joiners, plumbers, plasterers and painters are fairly well employed; the masons, flaggers and paviors are busy. Outdoor labourers are moderately well engaged. In Wigan and Bury employment is fairly good, except among painters, but not so good in Chorley.

Coal Mining.—In Bolton, including Walkden, Little Hulton, Little Lever, and Darcy Lever, the miners are averaging about 4.3 days per week. In Wigan they are working 5 days in the best pits, 4 days at others in the district.

Miscellaneous.—The cloggers, bleachers, finishers and dyers, paper mill workers, printers and bookbinders are moderately well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

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

Burnley, Accrington, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Calico weaving has slightly improved, a number of looms having been re-started in the Blackburn and Darwen districts, though in the former there are still over 5,000 stopped; in the latter, though none are now entirely stopped, a number are partially so for want of warps, and several mills are working short time. In the Preston and Burnley districts work is fairly regular. The shoddy trade continues exceptionally good, overtime being worked at almost all the mills, and a night shift working in one case. Employment in the coloured trade and the sateen trade continues fair. In the looming and drawing department it shows a slight improvement, though in the Burnley district 7 per cent. of the members are still unemployed. Employment for spinners shows little improvement; in Preston 1.7 per cent. of the members are unemployed, in Blackburn 8.6 per cent., in Accrington 1.4 per cent., whilst in Darwen 12.6 per cent. of the members have been out of work during the whole of the month, besides an additional number during part of the month.

Building Trades.—Except among painters, employment continues moderately good.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The various branches of these trades continue good, especially in the machine and erecting departments.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is moderate in the calico printing and dyeing trades; good in the chemical, quarrying, brickmaking and Darwen paper-making trades; unchanged in coal mining. In the Rossendale district the slipper trade and the felt carpet printing industry are brisk.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The iron trades in this district are improving. In Manchester the engineers have barely 4 per cent. unemployed, and the steam engine makers less than 1.3 per cent. The boiler-makers report 1.5 per cent. unemployed; the ironfounders 4.3 per cent.; the machine-workers only 1.4 per cent.; and the braziers and sheet metal workers less than 1 per cent. In Northwich the iron trades are reported as moderate, the engineers having 2.3 per cent. unemployed and the boiler-makers 2 per cent. In Warrington the wire drawers and wireweavers, and iron-workers generally, are fairly well employed. In Macclesfield ironmoulders are well employed, and other branches of the iron trades moderately so.

Textile Trades.—Employment for cotton spinners again shows an improvement, the percentage unemployed falling from 7.3 to 7. The mills making coarse counts which were on short time are on full time again. In Macclesfield employment for cotton operatives has much improved, and all are working full time. Silk operatives remain busy in all branches. Fustian cutters are busy, but dressers, dyers and finishers report employment as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailoring trade in Manchester and district continues bad, and the wholesale branch remains quiet. Ready-made mantle and waterproof garment makers continue slack. Shirtmakers in Macclesfield are fairly busy; in Manchester moderately so; with umbrella-makers employment is fairly good. The boot and shoe operatives and felt hat makers report employment as moderate, the latter with 3 per cent. unemployed.

Building Trades.—These trades in Manchester are fairly well employed; the joiners, with over 2,000 members in this district, have but 1.4 per cent. unemployed. The bricklayers and plasterers report employment as good; the stonemasons, with 6.3 per cent. unemployed, and the plumbers, with 3.8 per cent., as moderate. The painters and decorators report employment as worse, but the glass painters and embossers as moderate. In Macclesfield and Warrington the building trades are quiet.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as good; the coachmakers, both in the railway shops and in private shops, as good; the upholsterers as bad. At Warrington cabinet-makers, coach-makers and coopers are fully employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad, with more idle; the lithographic printers, with 4.7 per cent. unemployed, and the bookbinders, with 5 per cent., as moderate.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in the iron trade continues busy. Two furnaces are being put in blast which have not been in use for some time. The steelworkers since the second

week in January have been busy, the works being fully employed. In Workington and district they are fully employed, although not exceptionally busy.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in marine engineering continues busy, with no unemployed, the large number discharged in December having all re-started; other engineering firms in the district are also busy. Shipbuilders are busy, but many platers, riveters, and caulkers are idle, owing to the work not being ready for them.

Mining.—The iron-miners, with no unemployed, report improvement; coalminers are well employed.

Building Trades.—All sections of these trades are fairly busy, with none out of work.

Shipping and Railways.—At the Barrow Docks there is a slight improvement; other ports have been fairly active in the coasting trade. The railway traffic has greatly improved, and the men in the workshops are still on full time.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with the printers, juteworkers and bakers is moderate. Millers and pulp and paper workers are busy.—*J. D. Cowper.*

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers report employment as good, especially on repair work, with fewer idle than usual; the shipwrights and shipjoiners as fair; the engineers and pattern-makers as moderate; the brassfounders as good; the ship-painters as moderate. Labourers upon ship repairs are fairly well employed.

Furnishing and Coachbuilding Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as still good; the upholsterers and French polishers, coachmakers and painters as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors and the boot and shoe-makers report employment as slack.

Building Trades.—Masons and bricklayers are still in request. The plasterers, carpenters and joiners report employment as good the plumbers as moderate; the painters as quiet.

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

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as quiet, American and Canadian lines being slack. The dock labourers report work as good in Bootle and the north end of Liverpool; as moderate in the south end. Coal-heavers are moderately busy; cotton porters are quiet.

Other Transport Trades.—The quay and railway carters report employment as dull, the flatmen and watermen as moderate.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—The plate and sheet-glass industries are quiet; bottle-makers are moderately busy; chemical workers are slack.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal-miners and stone quarrymen are fairly well employed throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—The saddlers report employment as quiet. The bakers and confectioners are moderately busy, with 5 per cent. unemployed. The packing-case and boxmakers are improving. Gas workers, general labourers and excavators are fairly well employed.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt industry has been slack, as far as loose salt is concerned, both at Winsford and Middlewich. In every branch connected with this industry the men are on short time. Employment in the chemical works at Middlewich is normal. The building trades are fair, with a few unemployed. Moulders at Winsford are slack. Fustian cutters have plenty of work both at Winsford and Middlewich.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The machine-workers and iron and steel dressers report employment as good; the shipwrights as fair; the engineers, steam engine makers, brassfounders and finishers, smiths and strikers and ironfounders as moderate; these eight societies, with 3,254 members, have 4.9 per cent. unemployed. The boiler-makers report employment as moderate, with few unemployed; the sailmakers as bad; the shipyard, boiler and engineering, and general labourers, with 870 members, as moderate and improved, with 17.1 per cent. wholly, and 11.6 per cent. partially, unemployed.

Building Trades.—The mill-sawyers and wood-machinists report employment as good; the stonemasons, carpenters and joiners and

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—YORKSHIRE.

builders' labourers as moderate; the bricklayers as dull; the plumbers as bad. These 6 societies, with 2,173 members, have 71 per cent. idle. The painters report employment as bad.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment of sailors and firemen is reported as moderate; of dock labourers as bad.

Seed Crushing, Paint and Colour Trades.—Employment in the seed crushing mills has been good, all mills running full time. The paint and colour trades show a slight improvement. The coopers report employment as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers both report employment as moderate, the former with 67 per cent. unemployed; the bookbinders and machine rulers as good.

Miscellaneous.—The leather-workers report employment as moderate; the tailors as slack; the brushmakers and cabinet-makers as bad; the gasworkers as fair. Employment in all trades at Doncaster and Selby has been good.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Metal Trades.—Employment among engineers in Leeds shows no decline but is not brisk, 75 per cent. being idle. At Wakefield employment in the engineering and iron trades is moderate; employment with ironfounders is moderate in Leeds, good at Stanningley; with pattern-makers fair in Leeds, exceptionally good at Stanningley. The boiler-makers report employment as improving, with 3 per cent. idle; the brassworkers and machine-workers as fair; the white-smiths, with 3 per cent. idle, and stove-grate workers as brisk.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe trade in Leeds continues quiet. At Bramley short time has been worked. The ready-made clothing operatives are slack but improving, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the bespoke tailors are moderately employed.

Textile Trades.—In Leeds employment in the blanket trade is moderate; in the flax and linen trades good. Most mills are fully employed. Woollen mule spinners report employment as declining but fair; the willeys and fettlers as full. At Yeadon employment is regular, with few idle. At Wakefield and in Stanningley district mills are running full time. The dyeing trade in Leeds is good.

Leather Trades.—The tanners report employment as slack, with several idle; the leather-shavers as fair; the curriers as declining.

Building Trades.—Except the plasterers, plumbers and painters, all branches are fairly well employed.

Glass Bottle Trade.—Employment has been fair in Leeds; good at Wakefield. The medical bottle department in Leeds reports 5 per cent. unemployed.

Mining.—In pits near Leeds five days per week has not been maintained all round. Ironstone miners are fully employed. Wakefield shows no change.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as slack with many unemployed; the lithographers and paper-mill workers as fair; the cabinet-makers and paper-stainers as good; the saddlers and brushmakers as moderate.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worsted Trade.—In the Bradford district employment continues exceptionally good in the spinning and weaving branches; the woolcombers are not so well employed. The worsted trade is also fairly good in all the centres from Keighley to Huddersfield, including Halifax, and overtime is being worked in some cases. A few woolsorters are out of work in Bradford district.

Woollen Trade.—In this branch also employment in the Huddersfield district is good. In the Colne Valley the mills are exceptionally busy, several working overtime, and one or two all night. The heavy woollen trade shows a slight decline.

Metal Trades.—The engineers in Bradford, Halifax, Keighley and Huddersfield, out of 2,168 members, report 45 per cent. unemployed, as against 4 per cent. at the end of December. The ironfounders in Keighley and Huddersfield have 16 per cent. idle, as against 2 per cent. in December.

Building Trades.—Employment in all the centres is moderately good, with few out of work.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with wire workers and rag workers; fair with cotton operatives and printers; moderate with silk workers; bad with tailors.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—No change is reported. A few pits are working only 2 days a week, others from 3 to 5 days. About 700 men are under notice at collieries at Rotherham, Barnsley, Sheffield and Normanton, and the men have given in their notices at a colliery

at Bradford. At one colliery in the Barnsley district 497 men stopped work for a few days on account of a wages dispute.

Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as bad with engineers at Barnsley, with 95 per cent. idle; as moderate with ironfounders at Barnsley, fair at Swinton, and bad at Mexborough; as good with stovegrate workers at Swinton. At Doncaster railway workers are busy, some engineers working overtime; carriage body makers are working double shifts.

Glass Trades.—The flint-glass makers at Barnsley report employment as bad; the glass-bottle makers as good at Barnsley, improving at Conisbrough and Stairfoot, moderate at Swinton and Mexborough. Out of 902 members in these districts 148 (or 16.4 per cent.) are returned as unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The bricklayers and the builders' labourers report employment as fair in Barnsley; the railway servants at Mexborough as fair; the woodturners and sawyers and the letterpress-printers at Barnsley as good. The general labourers at Conisbrough and at Denaby Main are working 5 days a week.

J. Wadsworth.

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—The blast-furnacemen continue fully employed, and puddlers, shinglers, and ball-furnacemen are more regularly employed. Employment in the merchant iron mills is good. Siemens steel smelters are fully employed, and the output in the Bessemer department is increasing. Crucible steel-workers are well employed. The hydraulic pressers are fully employed on armour plates; and planers, slotters, drillers, and benders are making full time. Work on forgings for marine and locomotive purposes is fair, and the steel axle, tyre and spring branches have improved. Sword and bayonet-makers are working full time, and patent shot and shell makers are much busier. Favourable reports come from the locomotive engine-makers, boiler and girder-makers (with 2 per cent. idle), wire workers, iron founders (with 3½ per cent. idle, as against 10½ per cent. in December), and engineers (with 3 per cent. idle). At Thorncliffe and Chapeltown ironmoulders employed on pipes, colliery castings, and general work are making full time. At Ecclesfield work is fair on castings, steel hammers and files. At Parkgate the iron-workers have improved, and the steel-workers are fairly well employed. At Masbrough and Rotherham the iron trade is moderate. At Rotherham brass-workers are busy; bath-makers are fairly busy; stove-grate makers only moderately so.

Cutlery and Tools.—The table knife trade has continued to improve, both the hand forgers and the grinders reporting employment as good. Employment with engineers' and joiners' toolmakers and filemakers is good; with patent shearmakers, agricultural implement and garden tool makers and edge tool grinders fair (the last with 3 per cent. unemployed). In the spring knife trade, the pen and pocket blade forgers report employment as worse, about 30 per cent. working short time.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the silver trade is rather slack, one or two firms being on short time. The stampers report 2 per cent. unemployed, with more only partially employed; the finishers 1½ per cent., with more on short time; brass-workers are working full time. Employment with the Britannia metal and electro-plate workers is moderate.

Building Trades.—These trades show a decline, but are on the whole fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as worse, with 12½ per cent. idle; the bookbinders as good, with none out of work and only 2 per cent. on short time.

Miscellaneous.—The coachmakers are better employed, with 6 per cent. out of work, as compared with 10 per cent. in December. Railway carriage and wagon builders are making better time, both in Sheffield and Rotherham. At Rotherham the potters are busy, and the medicine bottle makers moderately employed.—*S. Uttley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Out of 2,155 members in these trades, 42 (or 2 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 2.8 per cent. in December. Engineers at the locomotive works are fully employed; telegraph and signal departments are discharging hands; bridge, girder and boiler yards continue busy. The boiler-makers in Derby report employment as fair; in Ilkeston and Burton-on-Trent as moderate, with no unemployed. The ironfounders, with about 5 per cent. idle in all districts, report employment as improving in Derby and Butterley, as moderate in Chesterfield, as bad in Codnor. The

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

brass moulders and finishers are busy. The pattern-makers report employment as moderate; the stove-grate workers in Belper as bad; the lace machine builders and cycle workers in Long Eaton as fair.

Iron Trades.—These trades show a slight improvement. The malleable iron trade continues to improve. In Dronfield, spindle-makers and shovel-makers are fully employed.

Coal Mining.—Miners have been fairly well employed, few being totally out of work. Returns received from 18 collieries, employing about 6,000 men, show an average of 4½ days a week in all districts, a slight improvement on December.

Quarrying.—In Whatstandwell stone quarrying is rather slack. In Wirksworth employment is brisk; in Buxton, Peak Forest, and Millers Dale all limestone quarries are fully employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally remains fair, except with the painters.

Textile Trades.—The lace trade has slightly improved at Long Eaton and Borrowash. The cotton trade continues unsatisfactory in Glossop. The hosiery trade in Belper is moderate. The wool, silk and merino manufacturers in Lea and Holloway continue busy. The elastic web weavers and surgical bandage makers report employment as good; the dyers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in these trades is dull, with few totally unemployed, but the majority on short time.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as dull, with about 6 per cent. unemployed.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby are working 4 to 5 days per week; the coachbuilders in private shops are moderately employed. The cabinet-makers report employment as moderate; the sawyers and woodworking machinists and most timber yards are fairly employed. In Long Eaton the wagon builders and repairers continue busy.

Miscellaneous.—The shoeing and general smiths, millers, paper-makers and brushmakers report employment as good; the gasworkers and bakers as moderate; tanners and curriers in Chesterfield as busy.—*C. White-Dacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment continues fair in the plain net branch, but is not so good in the curtain and levers branches; it is moderate in the warp lace branch, and is depressed with the warpers. The curtain-readers and correctors are slack; designers and draughtsmen, threaders and winders, and card-punchers report employment as moderate. Female labour is fairly well employed in some branches, but only partially in others; dyers and bleachers are slack. The operative lace makers, the warp lace makers, and the warpers, with a total membership of 3,970, return 47 per cent. unemployed, as against 36 per cent. at the end of December.

Hosiery Trade.—The firms not affected by the hosiery dispute are all fully employed; surgical bandage makers report employment as good; the hand-frame branches are well employed at Sutton and Kirkby on lace ankle goods, but slack on common work; shirt and pantaloons makers are brisk. Employment is fair at Mansfield and Arnold, quiet at Carlton, improving at Ruddington, moderate at Hucknall. Bleachers and trimmers maintain the improvement reported last month.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 31 collieries employing 16,500 persons underground show an average of 15½ days worked per month. Employment continues moderate.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Cycle-makers and lace machine builders are busy, and hosiery machine building has improved. The engineers, out of 996 members at Nottingham, report 11 per cent. unemployed, as against 2 per cent. of the membership at the end of December. The ironfounders at Nottingham and Mansfield have only 3.8 per cent. unemployed, as against 9 per cent. in December. In Nottingham the tool machinists, brassfounders, steam-engine makers, carriage straighteners, bobbin and carriage-makers, smiths and wheelwrights, and iron dressers, with a total membership of 519, have only 1 per cent. unemployed. Employment is good at Mansfield and Beeston; quiet at Newark.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as slack, with 11.9 per cent. unemployed; the lithographic printers and artists as moderate; the bookbinders as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is moderate with tailors on bespoke work; and with machinists and mantle-makers. Boot and shoe operatives are slack.

Railways.—Employment is brisk at Colwick and Netherfield, Mansfield and Toton; good at Newark and Nottingham; slack at Retford and Worksop.

Building Trades.—Fourteen branches of these trades in Nottingham, with 2,763 members, return 3.6 per cent. unemployed, as against 2.3 per cent. in December.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with blast furnacemen, brush-makers, cotton doublers, and spinners and gasworkers; fair with cabinet-makers and basket-makers; moderate with farriers, coach-makers and silk throwsters; quiet with bakers.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—Employment is fairly regular at Leicester, Melton, Wellingborough, Rushden and Higham Ferrers. It is moderate at Northampton, Finedon and Anstey, and slack at Hinckley and Kettering. Work is not so brisk in the leather-dressing trades.

Clothing Trades.—In the wholesale clothing trade workpeople are steadily employed, but in the bespoke branch work is slack both at Leicester and Northampton. Operatives in the hatting trades are in full work. Corset-makers and milliners are busy, dress and mantle-makers only moderately so.

Hosiery, Yarn and Spinning Trades.—Work continues regular in the hosiery trade. At Leicester and Loughborough some branches report a little slackness. Operatives in the wool and worsted spinning trades are still well employed. The dyeing and trimming departments are also busy. Wool sorters are slack.

Elastic Web and Rubber Industries.—In the cord, braid and garter branches workpeople are fairly employed. Those on boot webbings are not so busy. Labour is in good demand in all branches of the rubber trade.

Engineering, Iron and Cycle Trades.—The principal branches of the engineering industry report employment as good. Electrical fitters, shoe and hosiery machine builders and needle-makers are still busy; turners, smiths, moulders and ironfounders fairly so; but boiler-makers, dynamo-makers, lampmakers and pattern-makers are not fully employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners are still slack, and 150 have been thrown out of work by the closing of a pit at Coalville. Stone quarrymen and ironstone miners are in full work.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—The letterpress printers are well employed at Northampton, but with jobbing hands at Leicester work is slack. Employment is moderate with lithographic printers, and good with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Employment with bricklayers, builders' labourers, carpenters and joiners, and plasterers continues fair at Rugby, Leicester, and Northampton, but is bad in the Coalville district; it is slack with house painters and decorators and plumbers, but good with gasfitters.

Furnishing and Coachbuilding Trades.—Employment is slack with upholsterers and French polishers; fair with cabinet-makers and coachbuilders; full with tramcar-makers, painters, and carriage upholsterers, overtime being worked at Loughborough.

Railways.—Employment continues regular, wagon-builders and repairers are rather slack; navvies continue in full work.

Miscellaneous.—Brick, tile and terra-cotta workers, cigar-makers, saddlers, gas-stokers, bone button-makers, and paper-box-makers, are fully employed. Work is quieter with gaiter-makers and brush-makers, and moderate with outdoor labourers.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Operatives have not been fully employed, stock-taking having lasted longer than usual. The hollow-ware pressers report employment as slack, with 3 per cent. out of work. The sanitary pressers are generally working only 5 days per week. The flat-pressers have more unemployed, and short time is general. The printers and transferrers report employment as bad; the women gilders and decorators as unsettled, with 2 per cent. out of work, and a number on short time; the throwers and turners in the general trade as slack. Mouldmakers, designers, and modellers are not so busy. Packers and cratemakers are slack, and a number of ovenmen are idle. Encaustic tile makers are not so busy.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The ironworkers, at first only moderately employed, have become busy. At one large works the sheet mill has only just started after the stoppage at Christmas. In the steel mills and at the blast furnaces full time is general. The anchor chainmakers are busy.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND AND EASTERN COUNTIES.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, boiler makers and moulders are not so busy at Stoke, the night turn having been stopped, and about 2 per cent. being unemployed. At Hanley and Burslem employment is bad, with 6 per cent. out of work and many on short time. At Crewe the millwrights are busy; the boiler-makers, moulders, and steam engine makers have a number on short time and 5 per cent. unemployed. At Stafford employment in general engineering is improving, with 1 per cent. out of work. The agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter are slack, the copperworks at Froghall and Oakamoor are busy in all departments.

Coal Mining.—At many pits the colliers are only working $4\frac{1}{2}$ days per week. At Cheadle short time is general.

Textile Trades.—At Leek the silk trade is slack in all departments. At Congleton the trimming weavers are working only half-time; the throwsters are moderately well employed; fustian cutters and the tape operatives at Cheadle and Tean are busy.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as slack throughout the district; the shoemakers at Stafford as improving; at Stone as bad. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter are busy.

Building Trades.—These trades are fairly good in the Potteries; declining at Stafford; quiet at Crewe; bad at Leek.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In the Potteries, the letterpress printers, with 10 per cent. unemployed, show no improvement; at Stafford employment remains fair; the lithographic artists and printers report employment as moderate, the bookbinders and machine-rulers as busy.

Miscellaneous.—The railway servants at Crewe and Stafford report employment as good, and at Stoke as moderate; the bakers as declining; the gas workers as busy.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire both mills and forges are now fully employed on most classes of iron. In East Worcestershire employment in the iron trade continues good, and brisk in the steel trade. Steel smelting has improved. In South Shropshire blastfurnacemen are busy at Lilleshall and Suedshill. At Wombridge wire rollers did about 8 days and sheet rollers about 16 days during the month.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—The engineers and constructive machinists are fairly busy in Wolverhampton, with 2 per cent. idle, in West Bromwich, with none idle, and in South Shropshire. Hydraulic and electrical engineers are fully employed. Heavy ironfounders report employment as good in Wolverhampton and Bilston, with none out of work, and in South Shropshire as moderate. In West Bromwich employment is good with iron door and safemakers, tool-makers and machinists, iron-bridge and girder constructors, tank and boiler makers, and cycle-makers. Overtime and double shifts are still being worked in the electrical trades. All branches at the railway sheds are on full time.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with cable, chain and anchor makers, galvanizers and jappers, brass and copper workers, iron braziers and makers of malleable nails, cycles and electrical castings; improving with tube workers, vice and anvil makers and wrought nail-makers; fair with enamellers; moderate with edge tool and plantation hoe-makers; slack with spring trap-makers, key stampers and some branches of the lock trade; declining with fender and fire-iron makers, ironplate workers at the Lye (short time being worked), and hollow-ware casters (working four days or less).

Clothing Trades.—The tailors have been slack; boot and shoe makers are generally well employed.

Coal Mining.—In the Cannock Chase district (household coal) a further decline is reported. At Hednesford (household coal) the pits are only working an average of three days per week. In South Shropshire coal for manufacturing purposes has been worked about five days per week; miners of household coal have only been moderately employed.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment has been slack with packing cask, case and crate makers, cabinet-makers and upholsterers; moderate with mill-sawyers and machinists and coachbuilders; good with wet cask coopers.

Glass-making.—The flint glass trade is reported as good at Wordsley and Dudley; as slightly declining at Brierley Hill; at Stourbridge the works are closed. The glass bottle trade at Brierley Hill is bad, and one works has been closed for repairs.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is only moderate in these trades. Employment with brickmakers in West Bromwich and

Wolverhampton is fair; in South Shropshire quiet. In Stourbridge and Brierley Hill fireclay workers and brickmakers have been busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers in Wolverhampton are slack, with 6 per cent. out of work. Bookbinding and machine-ruling have been moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Wool-spinning and carpet-weaving in Kidderminster have been fair; gas stokers are busy; railway men, carters, and carriers have been well employed.—*W. F. Mee.*

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—Seven branches report employment as good, with none on short time and few idle; the pattern-makers as satisfactory, with none out of work; the smiths and strikers as good.

Brass and Copper Working.—Employment continues good on chandelier and gas fitting work, with overtime at some of the large works; also on electric light fitting, bedstead mount, tube and lamp work. In plumbers' brass founding there is a decided improvement. Cabinet brass founding does not improve, but few are wholly out of work. Copper-smiths are moderately employed.

Other Metal Trades.—Bedstead work is brisk, half the men working overtime. The tinplate workers report employment as good, with 1 per cent. unemployed, the wire drawers and ironplate workers as fair, the latter with a small percentage on short time, and 50 idle; the file-smiths as again improved; the cycle-makers as especially busy.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—Employment in the jewellery trades shows no falling off, and many are working overtime; on silver work it is on the whole good; but on plated ware there is a slight decline.

Building Trades.—The carpenters are fairly busy; four branches return only 12 unemployed. The open weather has been favourable for the outdoor branches of these trades, but the plasterers report work as dull and the stonemasons as bad.

Other Trades in Birmingham.—Flint glass-makers report no change; bevellers and silverers are busy; private carriage building is moderate; railway work is still busy. The printers report employment as moderate; the cabinet-makers as quiet; the packing case-makers as fair. Ivory button-workers have made full time, and other branches of the button trade are good. Gas labourers are somewhat slack.

Trades in South Staffordshire.—Iron and steel workers continue well employed. The advance in prices of iron, however, is not sufficient to affect wages. The vice and anvil-makers report employment as unchanged; the chain workers as fair. Nail working is also good. Employment on locksmiths' work in Walsall is reported as good, and workers in all Walsall trades are now well employed.—*W. J. Davis.*

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.**Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment is fair with engineers and good with boiler-makers at Norwich; fair with engineers, good with shipwrights, and slack with shipsmiths at Yarmouth; good with shipbuilders at Lowestoft, and with engineers at Lynn and Melton Constable; dull with engineers at Thetford.

Textile Trades.—The silk and crape industries are fairly busy at Norwich and Yarmouth.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors are slack throughout the district. Employment is fair in the Norwich boot and shoe trade.

Building Trades.—Employment is quiet in Norwich; fair at Yarmouth and Cromer; good at Lowestoft; dull in the other districts reporting.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers at Norwich both report employment as fair, with few idle. Bookbinders and machine-rulers are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Brushmakers at Norwich, Diss and Wymondham are fully employed. Fishing at Lowestoft and Yarmouth is dull.—*G. Cleverly.*

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate at Ipswich, with no unemployed; as bad at Wickham Market; as good at Colchester, Beccles, Bury St. Edmunds, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; as slack at first but now improved at Chelmsford. At Ipswich the moulders are slack and the boiler-makers report employment as moderate; shipbuilding has improved.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—S.W. COUNTIES & WALES.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is quiet at Ipswich; moderate at Colchester. In the tailoring trade employment is good in the wholesale branch at Ipswich and Colchester. Corset-makers are fairly well employed at Ipswich and Sudbury.

Textile Trades.—The matmakers report employment as moderate at Sudbury and Glemsford; as good at Long Melford and Lavenham; and as bad at Hadleigh. The silk and crape workers are busy at Halstead, Braintree and Bocking.

Building Trades.—Employment with the stonemasons remains bad at Ipswich, and carpenters are slack at Chelmsford, but with these exceptions employment is moderately good at Ipswich, Sudbury, Chelmsford and Earl's Colne. It is dull at Colchester, Halstead and Bury St. Edmunds.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as moderate at Ipswich and Colchester; as dull at Bury St. Edmunds; as busy at Beccles. The bookbinders at Ipswich report employment as good.

Shipping.—A decided improvement is reported at Ipswich.

Miscellaneous.—At Ipswich employment has improved at the horticultural works, and is good with the gasworkers, cigar-makers, and sack, rick-cloth and tent-makers; moderate with the coachbuilders; depressed with general labourers.—*R. W. Mather.*

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire Districts.**

General.—Returns received from 71 trade societies and branches, with a membership of 17,761, report 1,162 (or 6.5 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of January.

Building Trades.—Twenty-five branches, with a membership of 2,647, report 265 (or 10 per cent.) unemployed, as against 5.4 per cent. at the end of December. The carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate; the painters and plumbers as bad; the masons at Weston-super-Mare, and plasterers at Cheltenham as fair; the lathrenders as dull in Bristol and fair at Gloucester; the bricklayers as fairly good at Bridgewater, Swindon and Gloucester, and dull at Bristol; the brickmakers as good for the time of year.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe industry in Bristol is reported as slightly improved, but with half only partially employed. In the Kingswood district employment has fallen off and is bad. The wholesale garment makers report improvement, the majority of shops working overtime; the bespoke tailors report employment as slack; the silk hatters as improving; the shirt and collar makers at Taunton as moderate.

Textile Trades.—At Trowbridge all branches are on short time. Employment continues good at Stroud, and is brisk at Wellington and Westford, the worsted-spinning departments working overtime.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Employment continues fair with house and steam coal miners in the Forest of Dean. The Bristol miners report employment as slack; the Radstock men as unsteady, with a maximum time of five days per week at some pits. Quarrymen are busy.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The brushmakers report employment as improving; the cabinet-makers, upholsterers, mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists as fair; the coopers and basket-makers as good; the box and packing-case makers as bad; the stickmakers at Stroud as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Out of 636 members, 46 (or 7.2 per cent.) are unemployed; the lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as brisk; the letterpress printers as slack at Bristol, fair at Gloucester, and improving at Bath.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Seven branches of the engineers, with 1,523 members, report less than 1 per cent. out of work. The boiler-makers report 3.7 per cent. idle, and employment as good at Swindon and bad at Bristol. The ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers, smiths and strikers, and galvanizers are reported as fully employed; the cycle-workers as slack; the hollow-ware workers as declining; the railway wagon and coachbuilders as busy, with a demand for men at Swindon; the shipwrights as depressed, with a large percentage unemployed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment with sailors and firemen is reported as fair; with corn porters and deal runners as dull; with general cargo hands as improved.

Miscellaneous.—The glass bevellers and cutters report employment as fairly good; the glass bottle-makers as dull, with 39 per cent. idle; the saddle and harness-makers as slack; the curriers as good; the general labourers as slack.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—During the month a number of metal miners have been discharged from the mines, and although some have left the district for South Africa, others have returned, thus making the number of unemployed considerable. The quarrymen and the clay workers continue well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The engineers again report employment as good generally in the district. The Plymouth and Devonport branches continue fully employed. The ironfounders report employment as moderate; the boiler-makers, brassfounders and finishers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made department of the tailoring trade has become busy. The bespoke department continues quiet. The boot and shoe operatives report an improvement, those previously on short time now working full time; the operatives discharged at Redruth have found employment with a new firm. The bespoke branch of the boot trade continues quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment in the building trades generally, except in Torquay, is fair. The masons, bricklayers and carpenters continue well employed. The plasterers still have a few unemployed. The plumbers are quiet, but have improved. Painters continue quiet.

Dock Labour and Shipping.—Shipping has shown a further improvement, and quayside and dock labour has been fairly well employed. The seamen report no change, berths being difficult to obtain.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers report a decline generally, with more unemployed, and the lithographic printers report employment as quiet.

Miscellaneous.—The wheelwrights, coach-builders, smiths and brush-makers report employment as quiet; the cabinet-makers, upholsterers and furniture workers as fair. The fishing industry remains bad, with little improvement. Gas-workers are busy. Builders' labourers are well employed.—*J. Welland.*

WALES.**South Wales District.**

Coal Mining.—There was a very marked improvement in this industry during January throughout the district, but a slight decline at the end of the month. The steam coal districts are reported to have felt the improvement greatest. There were no new disputes during the month. (See also p. 46.)

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments were exceptionally good at every port. General cargo shipments were fair at Cardiff and Swansea, bad at Newport. Employment in the iron ore, pitwood and grain trades has been fair; dull in the timber trade. Dock labour has been good. The shipping of crews was more active.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades is reported as dull throughout the district, especially at Cardiff, Newport and Swansea. The carpenters and joiners report employment as bad, with 7 per cent. unemployed at Cardiff and Barry, 2½ per cent. at Newport, and 7½ per cent. at Swansea.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—The boiler-makers report employment as fair, with 10 per cent. out of work at Cardiff, 5 per cent. at Newport, 15 per cent. at Swansea; the shipwrights report 15 per cent. unemployed throughout the district, as against 25 per cent. in December; the moulders 15½ per cent. unemployed at Cardiff, as against 25 per cent. in December; the shipjoiners 18½ per cent. unemployed. The engineers report employment as bad, but improved, with 1½ per cent. unemployed at Barry, 8½ per cent. at Cardiff, none at Newport, 10 per cent. at Swansea, 3 per cent. at Neath, 11½ per cent. at Llanelly. Throughout South Wales 20 branches of the engineers, with 2,717 members, report 205 (or 7.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 3.8 per cent. in December. In the foundries and engineering firms in the tinplate and colliery districts employment is dull.

Tinplate Trade.—Works are continually being stopped, and notices of stoppage, unless reductions in wages are accepted, have been given in others. (See further report on p. 46.)

Iron and Steel Trades.—The steel trade is still fairly good all round. In Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale and Briton Ferry employment is reported as good. The iron mills are not running regularly.

Miscellaneous.—The patent fuel workers, wagon-builders, steam-sawyers, lathrenders, and wagon spring makers report employment as fair; the copper smelters as steady; the chemical workers as dull.—*T. Davies.*

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

Another report from *South Wales* states that the audit of the coalowners' books shows a reduction in price, and the wages of the *South Wales* miners will fall to 11½ per cent. on the 1879 standard (a reduction of 1½ per cent.) from 1st February.

The Tinplate Trade in South Wales and Monmouth.—Reports received with regard to the tinplate trade in *South Wales* and *Monmouthshire* state that employment is unsatisfactory. Out of 83 works, with 477 mills, to which the returns received by the Department relate, 36 works with 197 mills are reported to be fully at work; 19 works with 146 mills to be giving partial employment (87 of their mills being at work); while 28 works with 134 mills are either temporarily or permanently closed. In some cases tinplate mills are being converted into steel plate mills.

In the GAZETTE for January, on page 14, it was reported that the Tin-plate Workers' Union was endeavouring to bring about a general stoppage in March, in order to diminish production and avert a decrease of wages. Owing, however, to the refusal of the Llanelly men to fall in with the movement, it is now stated that the stoppage will probably not be brought about.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining.—In Mid and East Lothian employment with the miners improved towards the end of the month and nearly all are fully employed. In West Lothian the men are working from 10 to 12 days per fortnight.

Mineral Oil Trades.—The mineral oil industry continues busy, all sections being fully employed. Of the men employed at 23 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian, 26·2 per cent. were at mines which worked full time during the four weeks ended January 25th. The percentage working full time was affected by the New Year holidays. The owners of these mines had 3,467 men employed, as compared with 3,071 in January 1895.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In the Falkirk district both the light and heavy moulders report employment as good; in the Edinburgh district light branches report employment as good and heavy branches as fair. The engineers, range, stove, and ornamental fitters, and blacksmiths report employment as fair; the copper-smiths, brassfounders, tinsmiths, and gas-meter makers as good. Returns from 15 branches of unions show 2·5 per cent. unemployed.

Shipbuilding.—In Leith the boiler-makers report employment as bad, with 25 per cent. on the idle roll; the shipwrights as good on repair work and as bad on new work, with 4 per cent. idle. Shipjoiners have been fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—The carpet weavers of Midlothian report employment as good. In Hawick, Selkirk and Galashiels the woollen industry is depressed, and a number of the mills are running short time. The hosiery trade in Selkirk is fairly busy; in Hawick slack; dyers are not well employed. In Leith the ropeworkers are fairly well employed. In Dunfermline employment in the linen industry continues quiet but regular.

Building Trades.—The plasterers, masons, bricklayers and lath-splitters report employment as good; the joiners and plumbers as fair; the glaziers as quiet, and the slaters and painters as bad, with a considerable number out of work.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The coopers, sawmill operatives and brushmakers report employment as good, with no unemployed; the coachmakers, French polishers, upholsterers and cabinet-makers as dull generally. Returns from ten branches of unions show nearly 3 per cent. unemployed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The shipping industry continues quiet at Leith; the sailors and firemen report only a few unemployed, as a number of those engaged in the Baltic trade belong to the Orkney and Shetland Islands, and, as usual, returned home at the end of the season. The dock labourers and coal porters report a decline.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The typefounders continue to work only five days per week. The lithographic printers, stereotypers and press and machine men report employment as good; the lithographic artists and bookbinders as fair; the compositors as unchanged. Returns from seven branches of unions show 2·8 per cent. out of work.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors, bakers and curriers report employment as bad; the shoemakers, saddlers and glasscutters as quiet; the skinner as fair; the settmakers and pipemakers as good. Employment for general labourers has been better than in December.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—The shipwrights report employment as good. During the month 110 men left for Devonport and other Government Dockyards, and 24 went to the Tyne; the shipjoiners report improvement, a considerable number of men being taken on. In Dumbarton the shipbuilding yards are busy. In one yard, which has been on short time for four months, full time has been resumed. In Greenock, where the yards opened on 27th January, the engineers are now nearly all working, and in some places arrangements are being made for night shifts; the shipwrights are all employed, the Government Dockyards having taken the surplus men; the shipjoiners have 10 per cent. idle. In Port Glasgow the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders have 11 per cent. idle; the blacksmiths, 6 per cent.; the shipjoiners, painters, shipwrights, plumbers, shipyard-helpers, and engineers are all fully employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—With the termination of the Clyde dispute nearly all the men are again at work. The ironmoulders and blacksmiths report employment as good, with fewer unemployed; the plumbers as moderate. The dispute had no effect on the iron-dressers, who are well employed. The tinplate-workers during the month had 4 per cent. idle. The iron-drillers report no change. In consequence of the dispute pattern-makers had 4 per cent. idle at the beginning of the month, none at the end. The range, stove and ornamental fitters are hardly so busy as last month; they have a few idle men. The toolmakers report all branches as fair. The scale-beam makers are brisk and all are fully employed. The spindle and flyer-makers are busy, and have been so all the month. The wireweavers are still busy, and more men could be employed. In Paisley the engineers and ironmoulders report employment as good; the blacksmiths, pattern-makers and joiners as fair. All branches are good in Dumbarton and Renfrew. In Kilmarnock employment with blacksmiths is good, with pattern-makers fair. At Motherwell iron-bridge building is dull; engineering and bolt and nut making fair.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Steel and ironworkers report employment as good throughout the district.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the West of Scotland has been fairly good.

Building Trades.—Except among painters, employment is good in all branches in Glasgow, Port Glasgow and Paisley; quiet in Greenock. Corporation paviers have been busy, but contractors' paviers are slack.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The sawmillers and packing-box-makers report employment as good; the wood-turners as improved; the wood-carvers as not so good; the cabinet-makers and upholsterers as dull; the coachbuilders as fair.

Textile Trades.—The weavers in all branches are fully employed in Glasgow and Greenock; the dyers report an improvement; the calendermen and calico engravers have been well employed; the warpers are only averaging 40 hours per week; carpet weaving is good in Paisley and Stirling.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as quiet; the wholesale clothing operatives as fair; the shoemakers as quiet; the boot and slipper makers as dull, but with none idle; carriers have been slack.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The dock labourers report employment as fair; the sailors and firemen as slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as worse in Glasgow, with 7 per cent. idle; as moderate in Paisley; the lithographic printers as not so good, with 5 per cent. idle; the bookbinders as fair, with 3 per cent. idle; the electrotypers and stereotypers as good.

Miscellaneous.—The potters report employment as busy in all branches; the sailmakers as bad, and the bottle-makers as brisk, except in the medical branch. Railway servants and carters are well employed. Settmakers and kerbdressers are brisk. General labourers in Glasgow are well employed, but in Greenock many are idle.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in these trades has continued exceptionally good, especially in the jute branches. The linen trade remains fairly steady, all looms being employed.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the Fife collieries is still far from satisfactory. At some pits the miners are not working more than three days per week. In the Clackmannan district, except at one colliery where half-time continues to be worked, employment is steady. At a recent meeting of the Fife and Kinross Miners' Executive, the question of the short time worked by the miners

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

throughout the winter and the consequent distress was under consideration; a resolution was adopted, asking the miners at the various collieries to consider the advisability of voting a sum for relief from the association's funds. The result shows that 10 collieries voted in favour of a grant, and 14 against.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Considerable briskness prevails in engine and machine-making shops, but marine work is dull. The engineers report employment as moderate, with 5 per cent. idle; the ironmoulders as fair, with 17 per cent.; the blacksmiths as quiet, with 4 per cent.; the boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders with 30 per cent. idle, and the shipwrights as dull.

Building Trades.—Employment has been somewhat unsteady in some branches. The masons report several idle, and the carpenters and joiners 8 per cent. unemployed. Plasterers and slaters report employment as fair; plumbers and painters as still slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographers and bookbinders as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as fair, with some idle; the carvers and upholsterers as slack; the French polishers as moderate; the sawmillers, packing-case makers, and woodcutting machinemakers as good.

Fishing Industry.—The haddock fleet has met with fair success. The returns of the boats engaged in herring fishing have been small.

Dock and General Labour.—Dock labour continues well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors report employment as improved; the boot and shoe makers as moderate; the bleachfield workers as fair, but with some short time; the floorcloth and linoleum makers as fairly busy.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen, drillers, blockers, cranemen and sett-makers report employment as good, with none idle; the monumental masons as dull; the granite polishers as moderate. A number of stonecutters and a few granite hewers are idle.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners report employment as good; the plasterers as fair, with none idle; the plumbers as moderate, with 3·1 per cent. idle; the painters as bad; the plasterers' labourers as good.

Fishing.—In January the trawl boats landed 31,025 cwts., realising £22,033, and the line boats 14,924 cwts., realising £7,286, an increase in quantity and value as compared with December.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers report employment as slack in ship yards and boiler and bridge shops, with 16·1 per cent. idle. The shipwrights and ironmoulders with none idle, the blacksmiths with 3·1 per cent. idle, the tinplate workers and the pattern-makers report employment as good; the engineers as fair.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment in the woollen, flax and jute industries is good; the cotton trade shows some improvement; the carpet-weavers, rope and twine spinners, hemp dressers and boot and shoe makers in the hand-sewn branch, all report employment as good; the riveters and finishers as dull; the tailors as bad.

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

Furniture and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet chair makers, wood carvers and wood turners, saw millers and wood cutting machinemakers and coachmakers, report employment as good; the upholsterers as bad, with 10·3 per cent. idle.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Six societies, with 2,933 members, have 6·9 per cent. idle. Work has been good with the stonecutters, plasterers, and carpenters and joiners; fair with the bricklayers, sawyers, lathsplitters, slaters and paviers; and dull with the painters and glaziers.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Four societies, with 596 members, have 4·2 per cent. idle. The coachmakers, saddlers and harness-makers, report employment as dull; the cart and wagon builders, coopers and packing-case makers, cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and polishers as fair.

Metal Trades.—Four societies, with 769 members, have 3·3 per cent. idle. The engineers, smiths, boiler-makers, ironfounders, brass finishers and tinsmiths have been fairly busy; employment with the horse-shoers and plumbers has been moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Four societies, with 1,181 members, have 7·2 per cent. idle. The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the binders and machine rulers

as fair; the stereotypers, paper cutters, machine minders, book-folders, and despatch assistants as active.

Clothing Trades.—The dressmakers and milliners are busy. The boot riveters report employment as improving, and the other boot makers as good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment among the bottle hands is bad; the ropemakers, cork-cutters, organ-builders, dock labourers, millers, coal labourers, builders' labourers, report employment as fair; the weavers, brushmakers, fishermen, and shipwrights as dull.

J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

General.—The returns received from 56 trade societies, with a membership of 17,861, show 1,432, or 8·0 per cent., as unemployed, as against 4,311 (or 22·7 per cent. of the membership) at the end of December.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of the 7,100 union members employed in these trades, from which returns have been received, 1,432 (or 20·2 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 3,699 (or 45·4 per cent. of the membership) at the end of December. Though the engineers' dispute had terminated, it was not possible to reinstate all the workmen by the end of the month, but they have since resumed work. The carpenters and joiners report employment as quiet; the brassfounders and furniture-workers as fair; the engineers and iron-turners as moderate; the blacksmiths, iron shipbuilders, pattern-makers, machine-workers, general labourers and platers' helpers as improved; and the strikers and blacksmiths' helpers, shipwrights and cranemen, firemen and enginemakers and moulders as good.

Linen Trades.—Of the 4,205 members of trade unions engaged in this industry 145 (or 3·4 per cent.) are out of work, as against 151 (or 3·5 per cent. of the membership) at the end of December. The flax roughers report employment as bad; the power loom tenters as dull; the flaxdressers and women workers as fair; the power loom yarn dressers as improving; the beetling enginemakers, linen-lappers, spindle and flyer makers, yarnbundlers and hackle and gill makers as good.

Clothing Trades.—Of the 709 union members in these trades, seven are said to be unemployed. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull; the tailors as quiet, short time still prevailing.

Building Trades.—Of the 2,721 union members in these trades, 329 (or 12·1 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 330 (or 12·2 per cent. of the membership) at the end of December. The plumbers and painters report employment as bad; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as quiet; the hodmen and mill-sawyers and machinists as fair; and the bricklayers as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Of the 596 union members employed in connection with these trades, 60 (or 10·1 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 29 (or 5 per cent. of the membership) at the end of December. The brushmakers and upholsterers report employment as bad; the coachbuilders as dull; the cabinet-makers and packing-case makers as fair; and the coopers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Of the 827 members of trade societies employed in these industries, 45 (or 5·4 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 34 (or 4·1 per cent. of the membership) at the end of December. The letterpress printers report employment as dull; the lithographic artists as fair; the lithographic printers and the bookbinders and machine rulers as good.

Miscellaneous.—In this group of 9 societies, with a membership of 1,703, 71 (or 4·2 per cent.) are out of employment, as against 59 (or 3·5 per cent. of the membership) at the end of December. The paviers report employment as dull; the sailmakers as bad; the carters as quiet; the railway servants and tinplate workers as fair; and the locomotive engine drivers as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders in Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Passage West report employment as dull, with 20 per cent. unemployed; the fitters, turners, brass finishers, smiths, and other engineering branches as bad, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the shipwrights and shipjoiners, riggers and sailmakers as bad throughout the district.

Building Trades.—In Cork and Limerick the masons, stonecutters, plasterers, and bricklayers report employment as good; the carpenters, plumbers and gasworkers as fair; the painters as dull.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as bad; flax, tweed and feather operatives as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The mill sawyers and wood-working machinists report employment as exceptionally busy; the cabinet-makers and upholsterers as fair; the coachmakers and coopers as dull.—*P. O'Shea.*

CHANGES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1895.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

The following figures with regard to the changes in market rates of wages and hours of labour reported in 1895 are sufficient to indicate generally the tendency of the wages market during the year. It is, however, to be understood that these figures are preliminary only. They are based on a summary of the information published month by month in the LABOUR GAZETTE, and will doubtless be somewhat modified as the result of further investigation for the purposes of the Annual Wages Volume now in course of preparation. Agricultural labourers, railway servants and seamen are not included in any of the figures given below:—

Changes in Wages.

During 1895, 732 changes of wages were reported, viz., 528 increases and 204 decreases. The number of persons affected is known in 725 cases.

The gross aggregate number of persons affected by these changes (counting each individual as often as his wages undergo a change) was 1,004,233. Of these, 91,794 were persons affected by increases and 912,439 by decreases. The number of separate individuals whose wages were reported as changed during the year was 440,261, of whom 82,005 gained a nett rise, 354,697 sustained a nett fall, while in the case of 3,559 the wages underwent changes during the course of the year, but stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning. The preliminary figures undoubtedly indicate that the rate of wages as a whole fell in 1895, the 440,261 separate individuals whose wages were changed having sustained, on balance, a nett fall of over 1s. per week. The following table shows the period of the year in which the changes reported became operative:—

Period in 1895 during which changes became operative.	Aggregate Number affected by changes.	
	By Increases.	By Decreases.
1st quarter	4,432	166,050
2nd "	24,396	415,700
3rd "	30,979	108,110
4th "	31,987	222,579
Total	91,794	912,439

It appears from the following summary tables that, while on the whole there was a fall in rates of wages during the year 1895, wages in the building trades continued to advance as in 1893 and 1894. The changes in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group were fairly evenly balanced, with a slight tendency to a decline, though far less marked than in either of the two preceding years. Coalminers' wages show a considerable decline, affecting no fewer than 315,246 separate individuals, mainly in the Northumberland, Durham and South Wales districts. In the textile trades the increases, though not important, overbalanced the decreases, as was the case in 1894. The same was the case in the clothing trades.

(I.) Preliminary statement of aggregate number of persons affected by changes in rates of wages during 1895, so far as particulars have been obtained (each individual being counted as often as his wages undergo a change):—

Groups of Industries.	Gross aggregate Number affected by		
	Increases.	Decreases.	All Changes.
Building	22,981	185	23,166
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	31,581	38,254	69,835
Mining and Quarrying	13,968	859,314	873,282
Textile	11,771	5,636	17,407
Clothing	4,134	20	4,154
Other occupations, so far as reported	7,359	9,030	16,389
Total	91,794	912,439	1,004,233

(II.) Preliminary statement, showing number of separate individuals in various groups of industries affected by changes in rates of wages in 1895, so far as particulars have been received:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Individuals affected by			All Classes of Changes
	Changes resulting in a Nett Increase.	Changes resulting in a Nett Decrease.	Changes leaving the level of Wages the same at end of year as at beginning.	
Building	22,634	185	—	22,819
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	23,471	26,735	3,438	53,644
Mining and Quarrying	13,968	315,462	—	329,430
Textile	10,621	5,536	100	16,257
Clothing	4,134	20	—	4,154
Other occupations, so far as reported	7,177	6,759	21	13,957
Total	82,005	354,697	3,559	440,261

Changes in Hours of Labour.

ALTOGETHER 94 changes in hours of labour, affecting 19,912 persons, have as yet been reported for 1895. The changes in most cases were decreases, as is shown below:—

Limits of Average Amount of Change.	Number of Persons whose Hours were changed by the undermentioned amounts.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Under 2 hours per week	400	8,249
2 hours and under 4 hours per week	17	5,711
4 hours and under 6 hours per week	646	3,537
6 hours and under 8 hours per week	—	861
8 hours and over per week	—	491
Total	1,063	18,849

The changes chiefly affected the building trades, which account for no less than 10,409 persons, of whom all but 473 had their hours shortened during the year. Many of these changes in the building trades were accompanied by upward changes of hourly rates of wages. Of the 1,063 workpeople whose hours were increased, 603 are accounted for by reversions to longer hours from the eight hour day adopted experimentally some time before.

RE-OPENING OF THE PARIS LABOUR EXCHANGE.

The Bulletin de l'Office du Travail for January contains the text of a decree dated December 7th, 1895, providing for the re-opening of the Paris Labour Exchange ("Bourse du Travail"), with a revised constitution. It will be remembered that the Bourse du Travail, which was first opened in February, 1887, was an institution managed by workmen's organisations and subsidised by the Municipal Council, the main object being to find situations for the members of the various trades. On July 6th, 1893, the Labour Exchange was closed by the Government on account of the failure of some of the organisations taking part in it to comply with the law of 1884 on trade associations, requiring the deposit of rules, names of officials, &c. (see LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1893, pp. 67-68). Since then the Exchange has been closed. As reconstituted, the general management of the Labour Exchange will be more directly controlled by the Prefect of the Seine and the Municipal Council, the latter being empowered to make general rules for the internal management of the Exchange, to establish in it a free labour bureau, a statistical bureau, library, &c. All these institutions will be open to all, whether members of unions or not. In the parts of the building assigned to the various workmen's unions, the unions will be free, subject to the general rules of the Municipal Council, to organise their work in their own way. Only workmen's unions, and not employers' associations, are admitted. The unions also receive a voice in the general management of the Exchange, through representation on a consultative committee, composed of ten representatives of trade unions, six members of the Municipal Council, two representatives of the Prefecture of the Seine, and two of the French Labour Department.

TRADE DISPUTES IN 1895.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

The following preliminary figures with regard to the trade disputes of 1895 are mainly based on an analysis of the figures published in the LABOUR GAZETTE from month to month, and are liable to some revision. The figures show a considerable diminution both as compared with 1894 and the preceding year. The total numbers both of disputes recorded and of the persons affected thereby in 1895 were smaller than in 1894. In all, 778 disputes were reported as beginning in 1895. Particulars were obtained with regard to 772 of these disputes, which are estimated to have affected about 243,500 persons, compared with 324,245 persons involved in the 1,061 disputes recorded in 1894, and 636,386 in the 782 disputes of 1893.

These 772 disputes were grouped as follows by industries:—

Trades.	Number reported as beginning during 1895.	
	Disputes.	Persons affected.
	(Preliminary figures.)	(Preliminary figures.)
Building	153	8,900
Clothing	49	55,700
Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding	159	26,700
Mining and Quarrying	177	93,500
Textile	122	51,300
Miscellaneous	112	7,400
Total	772	243,500

The number of disputes reported as settled was 643, leaving 129, of which no settlement is known. Many of these are still in progress or came to an end without a formal settlement. They are estimated to have only affected about 13,200 persons, and are excluded in the following calculation of the success or failure of the workpeople engaged in the disputes of the year.

Grouping the persons engaged in the disputes of the year according to the degree of their success or failure, we find that about 46,200 workpeople, engaged in 258 disputes, were successful; 96,500, engaged in 102 disputes, were partially successful; 72,300, engaged in 195 disputes, were unsuccessful; while in the case of 88 disputes, involving 15,300 persons, the result was indefinite or not reported.

The following table gives the proportion of workpeople who were successful or otherwise in the disputes recorded in each group of trades:—

Trades.	Percentage of Workpeople engaged in disputes in 1895 in the undermentioned trades, who were:			
	Successful.	Partially Successful.	Un-successful.	Result Indefinite or not known.
Building	27.8	14.6	25.5	2.1
Clothing	6.5	83.5	3.8	1.2
Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding	25.6	31.3	32.1	11.0
Mining and Quarrying	22.5	43.4	23.5	10.6
Textile	19.9	5.6	70.9	3.6
Miscellaneous	48.3	7.9	30.6	13.2
All Trades	20.1	41.9	31.4	6.6

Of the 772 disputes reported, 176, affecting 79,200 persons, began in the first quarter of the year; 255, affecting 50,600 persons, in the second quarter; 178, affecting 76,200 persons, in the third quarter; 163, affecting 37,500 persons, in the fourth quarter.

Of the 772 disputes, 563, affecting 177,100 persons, took place in England and Wales; 169, affecting 62,100 persons, in Scotland; and 40, affecting 4,300 persons, in Ireland.

The disputes affecting the largest number of persons were those in the boot and shoe trade, and in the textile trades in Dundee and neighbourhood.

The following comparative table shows the relative degree of success and failure of the workpeople engaged in disputes in the past seven years. It is to be remembered, in comparing the figures, that the 1895 results are

preliminary, and that in the light of further information the percentage described as "indefinite or not known" in that year will doubtless be diminished.

Percentage of total number of workpeople engaged in disputes who were:—	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895*
Successful	28.6	54.4	25.6	27.5	62.9	22.1	20.1
Partially successful	56.2	16.8	36.7	51.4	24.7	34.2	41.9
Unsuccessful	12.0	25.9	34.8	19.9	12.2	42.1	31.4
Result indefinite or not known	3.2	2.9	2.9	1.2	2	1.6	6.6

CLOSE OF THE ENGINEERING DISPUTE.†

UP to the date of issue of the last number of the GAZETTE the efforts made to arrange a satisfactory settlement of the engineers' dispute on the Clyde and at Belfast had not yet succeeded. Informal negotiations were, however, going on between the parties, Lord James and Lord Provost Bell continuing their good offices as mediators. On January 17th advantage was taken by the mediators of a conference of Associated Employers, held at Carlisle, for other purposes, to bring representatives of the disputants into communication with each other. The following agreement was formulated as a basis of settlement to be submitted to the men:—

"FIRST.—The employers agree to give the following advances immediately on work being simultaneously resumed in the shops of the Associated Employers of the Upper and Lower districts of the Clyde and at Belfast, viz.:

- (1) To the Belfast operatives 1s. per week.
- (2) To the Clyde operatives—
 - (a) An advance of 3d. per hour to all who, prior to the stoppage, were in receipt of less than 7d. per hour; and
 - (b) A further advance of 3d. per hour all round. That is to say, an advance of 3d. per hour to all under 7d. and 3d. per hour to all who earned at and above that rate.

"SECOND.—The rate of wages to remain in force undisturbed for a period of six months from December 11th 1895 to June 11th 1896. After May 11th, if any change is demanded, one month's notice to determine the arrangement may be given, the arrangement continuing in force during the said month.

"THIRD.—The word 'operatives' shall include the following classes of tradesmen on the Clyde and at Belfast:—Fitters, finishers, turners, planers, borers and slotters, and shall also include, so far as Belfast is concerned, any pattern-makers, smiths and brassfinishers who are members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers."

This was signed by the president and secretary of each association, and counter-signed by Lord James.

The following addition was made to the agreement:—
"NOTE.—Although not made a formal term of this settlement, the employers and operatives, with the hope of restoring perfect good feeling, will do their best to replace the state of employment in the same condition as it was before the strike and lock-out occurred, neither the employers nor the operatives to be subjected to any exceptional treatment on account of what has occurred."

On January 18th these proposals were submitted to meetings of the men held at Belfast, Glasgow and Greenock, with the following result:—

	For.	Against.	Majority
Glasgow and Clydebank	1,297	430	867
Greenock	432	35	397
Belfast	147	644	497

Taking both districts, the net majority was 767 in favour of acceptance. The vote, however, was not taken as an aggregate decision, each district being bound by its own vote only. The Belfast dispute was therefore still unsettled, and the Clyde employers did not open their works. During the following week a delegate from the executive council was sent to Belfast with instructions that the dispute could not be further prolonged. This intimation the men obeyed under protest, and it was arranged that work should be resumed on Monday, January 27th. As usual after a prolonged dispute there were slight difficulties in a few cases about the simultaneous resumption of work, and, in some instances, there was some difficulty about the apprentices who had come out, but by the end of the month the return to work was general. In Belfast the dispute had lasted slightly over fifteen weeks, and on the Clyde about twelve weeks.

* Preliminary.
† For particulars of the origin and earlier stages of the dispute see GAZETTE for October 1895, page 304; November, page 336; December, page 368; and January 1896, page 16.

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LATEST RESULTS OF THE WORKING OF THE GERMAN INSURANCE LAWS.*

(a) **Accident Insurance.**—The total number of persons insured in 1894 under the Accident Insurance Law was 18,191,747, compared with 18,118,850 in the preceding year. These figures include, in 1894, 658,367 and in 1893, 660,462 persons employed by the State, or the provincial or communal administrations. The number of corporations of employers (*Berufsgenossenschaften*) for effecting this insurance has been the same in both years, viz., 112 (64 industrial and 48 agricultural).

The following table gives information as to fresh accidents reported in 1894, compared with the corresponding figures for the three preceding years, and includes accidents in works carried on by the State, Province or Commune:—

	1891	1892	1893	1894
Fresh accidents reported...	225,337	236,265	264,130	282,982
" " entailing compensation ...	51,209	55,654	62,729	69,619
" " which proved fatal ...	6,428	5,911	6,356	6,361
" " resulted in total and permanent disablement ...	2,595	2,664	2,507	1,784
Persons entitled to compensation through death of relatives, &c.	12,837	11,835	12,763	12,296

The total sum expended in 1894 in compensation for accidents, including those which occurred in previous years, was £2,214,087; the number of persons who received compensation being 396,903, of whom 231,280 received annuities.

The aggregate receipts of the 112 *Berufsgenossenschaften* during 1894 amounted to £2,959,428; the expenses (including £516,159 paid into the reserve fund) to £2,957,866. At the end of the year the balance in hand amounted to £659,349, and the reserve fund to £5,682,176.

For each person insured by the *Berufsgenossenschaften* in 1894 the average expenses of administration amounted to 10.9d.

(b) **Old Age and Invalidity Insurance.**—The total number of persons insured under the Old Age and Invalidity Insurance Law in 1894, according to the estimate of Dr. Bödiker, was 11,510,000, compared with 11,280,000 for 1893, and 11,200,000 for 1892, as estimated by Dr. Zacher.† The following statement shows the total expenditure on Old Age and Invalidity Pensions, and the number and average value of pensions granted by the 31 district insurance offices in 1892, 1893 and 1894.

	Total No. of Pensions at end of Year. (District Offices.) (2)	No. of fresh Pensioners during the Year. (District Offices.) (3)	Expenditure on Pensions. (All Offices.) (4)			Average Annual Value of Pension. (District Offices.) (7)
			From Contributions. (4)	From State Subsidies. (5)	Total. (6)	
Old Age:—			£	£	£	£ s. d.
1892	150,403	42,218	633,077	420,593	1,053,670	7 7 9
1893	166,976	31,176	685,535	432,032	1,117,567	6 10 0
1894	183,168	33,442	739,613	484,109	1,223,722	6 7 0
Invalidity:—			£	£	£	£ s. d.
1892	11,995	16,529	39,622	28,050	67,672	5 14 8
1893	37,815	33,228	153,692	110,450	264,142	5 18 0
1894	74,755	44,397	300,024	208,635	508,659	6 1 0
Total:—			£	£	£	£ s. d.
1892	162,398	58,747	672,709	448,643	1,121,352	—
1893	204,791	64,404	839,227	542,480	1,381,707	—
1894	257,923	77,839	1,039,637	692,744	1,732,381	—

(c) **Sickness Insurance.**—Provisional figures relating to the year 1893 were published in the GAZETTE of May 1895, with a brief account of the various kinds of sick funds.

* (a) Nachweisung über die Gesamten Rechnungsergebnisse der Berufsgenossenschaften, &c. für das Jahr 1894. No. 62. Reichstag 9 Legislatur-Periode, IV. Session, 1895-6; (b) Statistik des deutschen Reichs, Neue Folge, Band 78. Berlin, 1895. Verlag von Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht; (c) Nachweisung der Geschäfts- und Rechnungsergebnisse der auf Grund der Invaliditäts- und Altersversicherungsgesetzes errichteten Versicherungsanstalten für das Jahr 1894. Reichstag Aktenstück No. 80.
† For an account of the nature of the Insurance Laws see GAZETTE of February 1894, page 40.
‡ i.e., persons reported as having sustained accidents.
§ T. Bödiker: Die Arbeiterversicherung in den Europäischen Staaten, Leipzig, 1895. Zacher: Leitfaden zur Arbeiterversicherung des Deutschen Reichs, Berlin, 1893.
¶ Columns 4, 5 and 6 include particulars for the 9 special insurance institutions as well as the 31 district offices. Columns 2, 3 and 7 refer to the district offices only; but these offices cover 11,000,000 out of the 11,510,000 persons insured in 1894.

The following particulars are based upon the final figures relating to sickness insurance in 1893, recently issued by the Imperial Statistical Office.

The total number of persons insured against sickness at the end of 1893 (including miners insured in the *Knappschaftskassen*) was 7,232,854, compared with 6,994,162 at the end of 1892.

The following statement shows the mean membership, cases of sickness, and days of sickness for the various classes of sick funds from 1888 to 1893 inclusive, (exclusive of miners' funds or *Knappschaftskassen*).

Years.	Mean Membership.	Cases of Sickness.		Days of Sickness.	
		Total.	Per 100 Members.	Total.	Per Member.
1888	5,398,478	1,762,520	32.6	29,528,770	5.5
1889	6,144,199	2,042,082	33.2	33,428,682	5.4
1890	6,579,339	2,422,350	36.8	39,176,689	6.0
1891	6,879,021	2,397,826	34.9	40,798,620	5.9
1892	6,955,049	2,478,237	35.6	42,756,026	6.1
1893	7,106,804	2,794,027	39.3	46,199,436	6.5

On an average, from 1888 to 1893, there were 35.4 cases of sickness per 100 members of both sexes per annum. The cases of sickness were more frequent among male than among female members, the corresponding numbers for the two sexes being 36.6 and 31.0 respectively. The average number of days of sickness per member per annum was 5.9, the rate for males being again higher than for females, viz., 6.0 compared with 5.5. The figures (unlike those relating to Austria) do not include confinements.

The following statement gives particulars of the various kinds of sick funds in 1892 and 1893:—

	Classes of Sick Funds.						Total.
	Communal.	Local.	Factory.	Build-ing.	Guild.	Friently So-ciety.	
1892.							
Mean Membership	1,179,845	2,098,378	1,742,838	29,743	76,411	927,834	6,955,049
No. of cases of sick-ness	311,531	1,063,691	694,891	13,761	25,487	368,876	2,478,237
Ditto per 100 mem-bers	26.4	50.7	39.9	46.3	33.4	39.8	35.6
No. of days of sick-ness	5,117,405	18,630,823	11,235,269	229,350	403,067	7,139,112	42,756,026
Ditto per member...	4.3	9.0	6.4	7.7	5.3	7.7	6.1
1893.							
Mean Membership	1,236,736	3,240,371	1,782,614	31,188	90,528	725,367	7,106,804
No. of cases of sick-ness	355,837	1,273,932	815,140	17,354	32,703	299,061	2,794,027
Ditto per 100 mem-bers	28.8	39.3	45.7	55.6	36.1	41.2	39.3
No. of days of sick-ness	5,771,461	21,703,451	12,808,730	269,563	496,822	5,149,499	46,199,436
Ditto per member...	4.7	6.7	7.2	8.6	5.5	7.1	6.5

The receipts of all the above classes of sick funds in 1893 amounted to £6,578,107, the expenses to £6,268,474, of which £5,098,585 was spent on sick and funeral benefits. At the end of the year the reserve fund amounted to £3,799,000.

ARBITRATION, CONCILIATION AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

The New Rules for Arbitration Boards in the Boot and Shoe Trade.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD has given his award (dated Jan. 27th) on the points on which the General Joint Committee, appointed to draw up Revised Rules for Arbitration Boards (pursuant to Resolution iv. of the Board of Trade Terms of Settlement, of April 19th, 1895), were unable to agree. The revised rules have, therefore, been completed, and are now in accordance with the above terms of settlement to be submitted for adoption by the Local Boards, "with or without amendment in matters of detail."

The points dealt with in Lord James's award were the phraseology of the rule limiting the jurisdiction of the Boards with regard to country work (the decision being to incorporate in the rule the actual words of the terms of settlement); the election of Chairman (the decision being that where there is equal voting for two candidates, an employer and a workman, the candidate belonging to the class from which the chairman was not elected in the previous year shall be elected); the admission of the press (to be decided by voting at each meeting); the notice to be given with regard to evidence to be called (six days' notice to be required as to character of evidence and locality), and proposed clauses dealing with the settlement of unauthorised disputes by the chairman, and with the

forfeiture of money deposited under the trust deed. Both these clauses were deleted by the umpire, the latter on the ground that it was unnecessary.

The rules as completed set forth that the Board is "constituted under and bound by the terms of settlement arranged at the conference held at the offices of the Board of Trade," and these terms are set out in a schedule to the rules, the Board having "no power to override or amend such terms of settlement, or to make rules which shall in any way contravene them."

Rule xiv. lays down the various stages of the procedure to be adopted as nearly as possible for the settlement of disputes. The questions are to be dealt with by the following individuals or bodies, each body to succeed the previous one in the event of failure to adjust the points in dispute:—(1) the workpeople and employer; (2) the representatives of the Union and Employers' Association; (3) the Committee of Inquiry; (4) the Board; (5) the Umpire or Arbitrators.

Rule xv. provides that in case of a dispute the previous rates of wages, hours of labour, or other conditions of employment shall continue pending a settlement. In the event of there being no precedent, a provisional resolution may be passed by the Committee of Inquiry, Board, or Arbitrators, without prejudice to either party, and must be observed.

Overtime in the Engineering Trade at Bolton.

A series of conferences have recently been held at Bolton between employers and employees in various branches of the local iron trades. The principal subject of discussion was the question of limitation of overtime. The following resolution was finally adopted:—

"In the case of any firm being a member of the Iron Trades Employers' Association (Bolton branch) employing, on new workmen overtime, any workman so employed who has made in four successive weeks more than ten hours' actual time per week, or more than 40 hours in the aggregate total, shall not be called upon to work for the ensuing two months more than ten hours' actual overtime in any week. Such restriction shall not apply to breakdown work or repairs. Should there be any dispute in a particular case as to the meaning of the terms 'breakdown' or 'repairs,' such dispute shall be submitted to a meeting of representatives of employers and employed, to be called for that purpose."

Amongst other important decisions was one that smiths' strikers should in future be rated for all night work on the same lines as smiths, viz., time and a half.

Tug Boatmen and Trawlermen on the Tyne.

An agreement between owners and tug boatmen and trawlermen on the Tyne which was concluded on November 26th, 1895, came into operation in January. The principal point dealt with in this agreement is the payment of "go-byes," or extra sums of money paid in addition to ordinary or overtime rates. In future a "go-bye" of 2s. per man and 1s. fourth hand will be paid to the crew of a tug sent down to await the arrival of a steamer during overtime hours for the first steamer so towed, or, in the event of their being down more than two consecutive nights without getting anything, for as many steamers as they have been nights down. In the agreement the cases of one boat being replaced by another, taken away before the steamer arrives, getting a second boat's job at a sailing ship while waiting for a steamer, or being ordered to sea with a second tug when two are necessary for a steamer, are also dealt with. The extra remuneration for being away from home attending to stranded vessels, and for journeys to certain ports, is also fixed. The hours for Saturday work on repairs now end at 1 p.m., except in certain cases, instead of at 4 p.m. as formerly. In the exceptional cases provided for, however, overtime is not to be paid until after 4 p.m.

Arbitration in the South Yorkshire Coal Trade.

A coal mining company in South Yorkshire recently opened out a seam of thin coal in the Rockley district. Having failed to agree with the workpeople as to the prices for getting and working the seam, the matter was considered by the South Yorkshire Joint Committee. The latter referred it to four arbitrators, two for each side, with power to call in the Registrar of the Leeds County Court as umpire in the event of disagreement. On January 25th these four arbitrators published their award. The award fixes tonnage and

yardage prices, and a day wage for colliers per day of 8 hours. The wages of trammers and datallers are fixed at the present rate of payment in the other seams of the colliery. The prices fixed are subject to district advances and reductions.

PROPOSED NEW COMBINATIONS IN THE METAL TRADES.

(1.) Metal Rollers and Wire Drawers.

A new alliance of employers and employed in these trades on the lines of the Bedstead Trade Combination was set on foot early in January. Should the proposal be carried, no advance in selling prices will be made without a unanimous vote of the wages board, and such an advance will carry with it an advance in wages in the shape of a bonus. To begin with, there will be a bonus of 10 per cent., which will never be reduced by more than a half. At a meeting of employers at Birmingham on January 9th it appeared that more than two-thirds of the trade would support the proposal. At a joint conference between the employers' committee and representatives of the workmen on February 1st it was agreed that a committee of workmen, consisting of one representative to each 100 employed, should be appointed to act with the secretary of the Metal Manufacturers' Association.

(2.) Tube Makers.

At a meeting of working tube makers on January 29th it was decided to form an association to be called "The National Association of Bedstead and Brazed Tube Makers," with a view to join in a proposed alliance with "The Cased Tube Manufacturers' Association." On February 1st 308 members were enrolled at Birmingham, and a branch has also been opened at Wolverhampton. The employers' association has appointed a committee to draw up a scheme similar in character to the one referred to above.

(3.) Galvanised Hollow-Ware Trade.

A strike of ironplate workers on the Lye, which commenced on September 30th, for a return to the piece list of 1889, terminated on November 25th 1895. The list, less 20 per cent. off baths and 5 per cent. off other articles, was offered by the employers. At a meeting of the Ironplate Workers' Association on November 25th it was resolved that work should be resumed on a temporary arrangement, and that steps should be taken to establish a Wages Board for the Midland District.

On December 6th a meeting of employers of the Birmingham, Lye, Wolverhampton and Bilston districts passed a resolution in favour of the establishment of a Wages Board, and on the following day a meeting of workmen delegates from the same districts appointed a sub-committee "to embody the workmen's ideas on the question."

A further meeting of employers was held on January 7th, when it was resolved that the Board should consist of 12 representatives of each side. The Board has since been formed and the first meeting held, at which, however, preliminary matters only were discussed.

RECENT PROGRESS OF CO-OPERATION.

United Kingdom.—During the past month reports for the fourth quarter of 1895 have been received from 781 co-operative associations for distribution in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 933,075, as compared with 439 associations, with 825,529 members for the third quarter of the year.

The 781 associations show total sales for the quarter* amounting to £7,723,405, and net profits† amounting to £1,095,393, or 14.2 per cent. on the sales.

The volume of trade shows an increase of 7.6 per cent. compared with the corresponding period of 1894, the sales of 587 associations for which the figures for the corresponding period of 1894 are available, amounting to £7,195,515, compared with £6,685,805 in 1894. Of

* In a few cases the report is for a half-year.
† After allowing for interest on capital and depreciation of property.

these, 481 associations show an increase, and 106 a decrease.

England and Wales.—During the month four new co-operative associations for distribution and one for production have been registered, one existing society has opened new premises, and a recently registered tinplate manufacturing society has opened its factory.

Distributive societies at Coleford, and at Kineton, and a coal society at Sheffield have been dissolved or ceased to exist, and two Co-op. Societies have amalgamated. A Cabinet-makers' Society has been converted into a company.

Reports for the fourth quarter* of 1895 from 601 associations for distribution in England and Wales, with a total membership of 799,068, show total sales amounting to £6,278,064, and net profits† amounting to £890,827 or 14·2 per cent. on sales.

Of 450 of the associations for which the figures for the corresponding period of 1894 are available, the total sales amounted to £5,956,597, as compared with £5,604,228 in 1894. Three hundred and fifty-seven of these associations show an increase, and 93 a decrease, the net increase being £352,369 or 6·3 per cent.

Scotland.—Two existing associations for distribution have opened new branches and one a new bakery.

Reports for the fourth quarter* of 1895 from 175 associations for distribution in Scotland, with a total membership of 133,421, show total sales amounting to £1,437,163 and net profits† amounting to £203,973, or 14·2 per cent. on sales. Of 135 of the associations for which the figures for the corresponding period of 1894 are available, the total sales amounted to £1,235,286, as compared with £1,078,183 in 1894. One hundred and twenty-two of the associations show an increase and 13 a decrease, the net increase being £157,103, or 14·6 per cent.

On the 18th January the lasters in the employ of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society again came out on strike in consequence of a dispute with the management as to the responsibility of the men for breakage in materials while being lasted. About 1,000 workers are thrown out of work, directly and indirectly, and the dispute is still pending.

Ireland.—Seven new agricultural and dairying societies have been registered in January, and a new creamery has been opened by the English Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Reports for the fourth quarter of 1895 from five associations for distribution in Ireland, with a total membership of 586, show total sales amounting to £8,175, and net profits† amounting to £593, or 7·3 per cent. on sales.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

From information supplied by the Home Office it appears that 38 cases of lead-poisoning in Factories and Workshops were reported as occurring in January, viz., 21 cases affecting men and 17 affecting women. One case of anthrax (affecting a man) was also reported. The diseases were reported under sect. 29 of the Factory and Workshop Act 1895.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

New Orders of Home Secretary.

UNDER Section 39 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, the Home Secretary has made an order, dated February 11th, directing that different branches or departments of work, carried on in certain classes of factories and workshops, may be treated as separate factories or workshops for the purpose of the employment of women during overtime, provided that each branch is quite distinct as regards rooms, management and persons employed. The following are the classes of factories and workshops to which the order applies:—

- Bleach and dye works.
- Letterpress printing works and the works of lithographers and manufacturing stationers.
- Factories and workshops for the manufacture of wearing apparel.

The Home Secretary has also issued an order, dated February 8th, granting exception to the regulations for limewashing, &c., of factories and workshops, contained in section 33 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, in the case of shipbuilding works, gun factories, engineering and machine shops, or parts of them, which allow at least clear 2,500 cubic feet for each person

* In a few cases the report is for a half-year.
† After allowing for interest on capital and depreciation of property.

employed therein. Power, however, is given to the inspector (if necessary) to require limewashing and washing of any part of such factories, and if the occupier fail to comply within two months, the special exception ceases to apply.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE BELGIAN LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

(1.)—The "Labour Review."

THE Belgian Labour Department has issued the first number of the *Revue du Travail*, which will be published monthly at 15 centimes (about 1½d.). Among the items contained in the present number, which is dated January, and consists of 104 pages, the following may be mentioned:—State of employment in the chief industrial districts (from reports supplied by local correspondents, including trade unions); labour disputes, conciliation and arbitration, and friendly societies in December; latest statistics of trade and shipping, of the General Saving and Pension Fund, and of retail food prices, comparing the prices charged by private traders with those of co-operative societies. Notes on current labour matters in foreign countries appear under the heading, *Chronique du Travail*.

The section devoted to labour legislation is a prominent feature of the *Revue*. It gives lists of the bills and proposals relating to social questions under consideration of the Legislative Bodies at home and abroad, with the text of laws and important bills. Sections are also set apart for recording legal decisions interpreting labour laws, and for monthly returns of prosecutions under the Factory Acts, and of accidents reported to the Factory Inspectors.

(2.)—Report on Invalidity and Old Age Insurance in Germany.

This volume is divided into four parts, the first giving the text of the laws of 1889 and 1891, the second giving an account of the general principles on which the original scheme submitted to the Reichstag was based, and the modifications made therein by the Commission and the Reichstag; the third containing a translation of elaborate memoranda dealing with the financial basis of old age and invalidity insurance, including a mathematical section relating to the probable cost of such insurance; and the fourth dealing with results of the law. This part of the report includes extracts from the official statistics, a précis of the debates in the Reichstag on the subject, and lastly a summary of the inquiry with regard to workmen's insurance in Germany, undertaken by Mr. Graham Brooks, on behalf of the United States Department of Labour. (See fourth special report of the Commissioner of Labour, 1893. Compulsory Insurance in Germany. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1893).

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—A report from Wetaskiwin, which lies north of Calgary in the North-West, points out that land can be bought near the railway for 3 dollars an acre, but that there is very little demand there for ordinary farm labourers or mechanics, and that no one should go there without a capital of £200 if married, and £100 if single; this advice applies equally to many other newly settled districts in the North-West. The Jewish Colony, which was started at Hirsch, in North-West Canada, has proved a failure, and only a few families out of 500 persons now remain. The important coal mining industry at Nanaimo, in British Columbia, has been very slack lately, and many of the miners have been thrown out of employment.

New South Wales.—It is proposed to enlarge the scope of the Government Labour Bureau at Sydney by the establishment of numerous branches in country districts. There is no demand in the Colony for more labour. The Government has thrown open large areas of land for homestead selections, and land can now be had at a very cheap rate.

South Australia.—The Irrigation Colony of Renmark—which is the sister colony to that of Mildura in Victoria—is doing fairly well. Some 900 persons are now settled on it, and the area under orchards,

* *Revue du Travail* Publiée par l'Office du Travail de Belgique. Première Année. Janvier, 1895. No. 1. Brussels: J. Lebegue et Cie, 46 Rue de la Madeleine.
† L'Assurance contre l'Invalidité et la Vieillesse en Allemagne; Ministère de l'Industrie et du Travail, Office du Travail. Brussels: J. Lebegue et Cie., 46 Rue de la Madeleine.

orangeries, &c., increased from 1,535 acres in 1894 to 2,164 acres in 1895. There is no demand for more labour in South Australia, and many persons have left for the goldfields in Western Australia.

Queensland.—The three co-operative village settlements near Roma have been abandoned by the settlers after two years' trial. The settlers attribute their failure to poor soil, drought, distance from markets, and the want of good rules. Two of the village settlements near Gayndah, to the north of Brisbane, have also been abandoned. The demand for labour is improving throughout the country, but there is no special demand at present.

Western Australia.—There is a good opening for miners on the Coolgardie and Murchison goldfields, the average wages being £4 a week; the railway is now within a few miles of Coolgardie.

New Zealand.—With some few exceptions the building and engineering trades in all districts have been well employed, and there has been much more work for unskilled labourers. The commercial travellers, acting for firms resident outside New Zealand, recently struck, as a protest against the poll tax imposed upon them with a view to encourage local trade.

Cape Colony.—Owing to the recent disturbances in the Transvaal, and the return of many persons to Cape Colony, the labour market in Cape Town and other places is in an unsettled condition. Emigrants to the Colony must therefore be prepared for this, and be able to support themselves, if necessary, for some little time after arrival.

Natal.—A report from Pietermaritzburg states that work in the building trades is very good just now.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in January.—Most of the trades which experienced a revival in the course of 1895 continued comparatively well employed in January. Owing, however, to the usual seasonal depression, to stoppages for the purpose of stocktaking, and to unfavourable weather, there has been increased scarcity of employment, a little over 8 per cent. of the Trade Unions making returns (550 Unions with 120,000 members) being reported unemployed in January, compared with a little over 6 per cent. in December. Considerable scarcity of work is said to prevail in the leather-working trades.

Labour Disputes in January.—At the beginning of January 8 disputes remained unsettled since previous months. In the course of January 33 fresh disputes took place, compared with 24 in the preceding month, and 20 in January 1895. Of the fresh disputes 18 were in the textile trades, 5 in the clothing trades, 3 in the metal trades, 2 among woodcutters, and 1 each among chromo-lithographers, porcelain-workers, leather-dressers, imitation diamond makers and navvies. The total number of persons involved in 31 of the fresh disputes for which full particulars were available was 2,621, of whom about 1,300 took part in 15 strikes in the Department of Nord. Only 2 of the fresh disputes affected more than a single establishment. These were strikes of leather-dressers, at Graulhet (Department of Tarn), and of weavers at Tarare (Department of Rhône). The leather-dressers, who numbered 350, belonging to 7 factories, objected to the use of machinery, and were supported by the small masters. Six factories are still closed, the workers' demands having been conceded at one. The weavers, of whom 183 at two establishments left work, struck against a reduction of wages, and submitted to a compromise before the *juge de paix* when they had been out 10 days. Twenty-three disputes were terminated during the month, the workers being successful in 9 and unsuccessful in 6, while 8 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Nine cases of recourse to

* From information supplied by the courtesy of the Office du Travail.

the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration were recorded in January, the workers taking the initiative in five and the *juges de paix* in two; no information on this point has been obtained as to the remaining two. In three cases the proceedings led to the termination of strikes, the *juge de paix* acting as arbitrator in one instance. In five of the remaining cases the proceedings failed in effecting a settlement, while in one case, owing to the refusal of the employer to attend before the *juge de paix*, no proceedings took place. One of the cases in which the conciliation proceedings were successful had reference to a strike of 400 ironfounders, at an establishment at Marpent (Department of Nord), who demanded a minimum wage for piece work. The strike, which began on January 3rd, was settled on January 10th.

Coal Mining in 1894.—The latest statistics of mines, &c., issued by the Ministry of Public Works, give the following figures relating to coal mining in France in 1894, compared with the three preceding years:—

Years	No. of Mines Worked.	Mean No. of Workers.	Output (Tons of 2,204 lbs.).		Average earnings per Worker (all classes) per year.
			Total.	Per Worker.	
1891	296	132,000	26,100,000	197	£ s. d. 48 2 4
1892	298	133,000	26,200,000	197	48 16 10
1893	298	133,000	25,700,000	193	45 16 10
1894	312	135,000	27,400,000	204	40 12 0

GERMANY.

Labour Disputes.—The *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* contained reports, in January, of six fresh disputes, and of three outstanding from previous months. Three of the fresh disputes were in the weaving industry, and one each among metal workers (founders), stonecutters, and cabdrivers. Two of the disputes among weavers occurred in the Rhine Province—at Eupen and Aix-la-Chapelle—and one at Sennheim, in Alsace. At Eupen 1,500 weavers at one factory struck for increased wages and more considerate treatment by their overseers. Through the closing of the factory 400 others were deprived of work. A settlement was effected under which the operatives obtained increased wages, the dismissal of one of the two unpopular overseers, and the recognition of a workers' committee for negotiating direct with the employer in the event of future disputes. Of the other fresh disputes, a general strike of cabmen in Strasburg may be mentioned. It was due to the issue of a police regulation to which the men objected. No settlement had been reported up to the end of January. The strike of cabmen in Berlin, reported in last month's GAZETTE, was declared at an end on January 7th, owing to the want of pecuniary support. Of 5 disputes reported as terminated, 3 ended favourably for the workers, 1 unfavourably, and 1 in a compromise.

Labour Colony of Ankenbuck (Baden).—According to the Statistical Year-book of Baden for 1893*, recently issued, there were, at the beginning of that year, 83 men in the labour colony of Ankenbuck. The number gradually fell to 58 at the end of July and August, rising to 75 at the end of December. The total number of fresh colonists admitted during the year was 249, of whom 170 had undergone imprisonment. Of 256 colonists who left during the year 133 went "on the tramp" and 66 went into situations. The number of relief days was 25,232. The total estimated receipts were £2,278, viz., £1,354 from the colony (including £282 for work performed outside by colonists), and £924 from subscriptions, donations, and subventions. The estimated expenditure was £2,133, including £914 for food, clothing and wages of colonists.

Wage Movement in the Tailoring Trade.—It is said that a large number of persons engaged in the tailoring trade in Berlin are participating in a general movement in progress in this trade in Germany, for improved conditions of work. At six meetings attended by about 5,000 persons (mostly women and girls), held on the 20th of January in Berlin, the chief demands of the workers were declared to be: (1) The erection of workshops. (2) A minimum price list to be modified according to changes of fashions. (3) Payment on Saturdays. (4) The price lists to be exhibited in the workshops. The employers have met and refused these demands.—*Reichsanzeiger*.

Municipal Labour Registries.—Municipal Labour Registries commenced operations in January in Nürnberg, Heidelberg, and Halle.

* Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Grossherzogthum Baden, Sechszwanzigster Jahrgang 1893. Karlsruhe: Macklot'sche Druckerei, 1895.

(Württemberg). The work of the undermentioned municipal registries, for the periods specified, has been as follows:—

Registries.	No of Situations		
	Offered.	Sought.	Filled.
Frankfurt-on-Main (December, 1895) ...	475	800	380
Stuttgart ditto ...	826	1,915	494
Ravensburg ditto ...	69	262	21
Munich ditto ...	1,385	6,395	1,087
Quedlinburg (Sept. 15 to Dec. 31, 1895) ...	101	144	90
Göppingen (Oct. to Dec. 1895) ...	(not stated)	1,059	81

In Württemberg the Clearing House system (see November GAZETTE, page 340) has been in operation since January 1st. The State defrays the cost of telephonic communication and of the interchange, twice a week, of lists of vacant situations between the eight public labour registries of the Kingdom.

It was reported in the GAZETTE of October, 1893 (page 142), that 16 free labour registries were to be established in Lower Silesia in towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants, by order of the Governor of Liegnitz. These registries, which are under control of the police authorities, are said to have proved a failure. Only 12 employers and 63 workers applied to the Liegnitz registry in a period of 18 months.—*Sociale Praxis*, 23-1-96.

SWITZERLAND.

THE following is a summary of the information supplied by the Swiss Workmen's Secretary, and transmitted by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, on January 30th:—

Railway Employees' Wage Movement.—In the GAZETTE for December 1895, page 373, reference was made to the demands of the railway employees. Since then, at a series of meetings, the employees have decided to adhere fully to their demands. The Union now numbers 13,000 members. The term fixed for the reply of the directors to the demands came to an end on February 1st.

Unemployed Insurance.—3,430 persons, of whom about half are married, are at present insured in the relief fund for the unemployed in St. Gall. Of these 2,412 are insured up to 2s. 5d., 920 up to 3s. 2d., and 98 up to 4s. per day. The number insured against want of work in Berne amounted, on January 10th, to 768, of whom 248 are described as out of work.

Workmen's Organisations.—A Union of municipal employees has been formed in Berne, to which the greater number of the workmen in the different branches of the town service belong. Their principal demands are:—(1) a ten hours day; (2) no piece-work; (3) a fortnight's notice; (4) a minimum wage of 3s. 2d. per day for unskilled workmen and 4s. per day for artisans; (5) overtime to be paid at time-and-a-half up to midnight and double time after midnight; (6) the wages to be paid while the workman is doing his military service; (7) the workman to have the right of proposal in the selection of a foreman. Similar Unions exist at Bâle and Zürich. The Berne Labourers' Union, founded by Dr. Wassilieff, the Workmen's Secretary for the town of Berne, at present numbers 800 members, and has sickness and out-of-work funds. A movement undertaken by this Union last summer for increased wages was successful.

Municipal Inquiries as to Dwellings.—Inquiries as to dwellings are about to be carried out by the Municipalities of Zürich and Berne. The Zürich Town Council has voted £1,200 for this purpose.

Forthcoming Assemblies affecting Labour.—At Easter a congress of the Swiss Crafts will be held at Zürich, and the general annual assembly of the Swiss Workmen's League will be held—probably at Winterthur.

BELGIUM.

The following is based on information supplied by the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department:—

Labour Disputes in January.—Seven disputes, involving about 900 workers, were in progress in January, of which 6 were among textile operatives and 1 among hatmakers. The most serious were 2 strikes of textile workers in Ghent, begun in December and ended in the beginning of February, by which 1,200 workpeople, in addition to those on strike, were deprived of work during the whole

of January. Both strikes were unsuccessful. The hatmakers' strike procured them a slight advance in wages.

The Two-loom System in Verviers.—The apparent intention of certain firms in Verviers to introduce weaving on two looms continues to cause trouble with the operatives. Though the employers and workers sent delegates to Yorkshire last year to ascertain whether similar kinds of cloth to those produced in Belgium are woven on the two-loom system by English firms, the matter remained undecided. It has now been resolved by the Federation of Weavers to ascertain this month by a ballot among its members, whether they agree to working on two looms or not. Some of the principal wool manufacturers are establishing factories in Germany and France, close to the frontier, the effect of which will, it is said, be to stop night work in their Belgian mills.

Trade Unions in Ghent.—From a private inquiry made in January by a correspondent of the Belgian Labour Department, it appears that in Ghent, where trade unions are stronger than in any other part of Belgium, there are 42 trade unions, having an aggregate membership of 14,783. Four unions with 811 members are unconnected with any political party.

Shop Regulation Bill.—The Shop Regulation Bill introduced last year by the Government has met with strong opposition in some industrial circles. The Central Committee (*Section Centrale*) of the House of Representatives has, however, adopted the bill.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Labour Disputes.—Accounts of 15 fresh disputes, and of three outstanding from previous months, were noted in Austrian labour papers in January. Five of the fresh disputes were in the clothing trades (including three among boot and shoe makers), three each in the printing and furniture trades, and one each among ironworkers, india-rubber workers, weavers, and brushmakers. The most serious of the fresh disputes of which particulars are reported, was that of 300 ironworkers at an establishment in Vienna, who demanded the dismissal of an unpopular foreman and the introduction of certain reforms relating to health and safety in working. The strike lasted three days and was successful. A movement among smiths and farriers in Vienna, for reduced hours and increased wages, which has been in progress for some months, has caused a number of strikes at small smithies. On January 17th over 100 men were reported on strike, while 24 employers were said to have acceded to the men's demands.

Of 5 disputes reported in January as settled, 4 are said to have ended in complete, and 1 in partial success for the workers.

General Strike of Compositors in Lemberg.—A general strike of the compositors of Lemberg was begun on February 3rd, owing to the rejection of their demand for a revised wage-scale. The dispute arose out of the dissatisfaction of the urban compositors with the scale fixed for the province of Galicia in accordance with the arrangement for uniform wages and hours in the Austrian printing trade. (See December GAZETTE, page 374.) Under this arrangement the minimum wage is lower in the less industrial provinces, and the compositors of Lemberg state that it will cause a reduction in their earnings. It was reported on February 6th that soldiers had been ordered to perform the work of compositors on strike in setting up the Lemberg official gazette. The compositors of Cracow are also said to be preparing to strike.—*Arbeiter Zeitung*, January 16th and February 2nd and 6th.

Weekly day of rest for Hackney Coachmen.—By a decree of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce drivers of hackney coaches and similar vehicles must in future be allowed one day's rest per week.—*Sociale Praxis*.

DENMARK.

Establishment of a Labour Department.*—Under a law, which came into operation on January 1st 1896, a new department has been organised, under the title of State Bureau of Statistics. This department is charged with the general statistical service of the country, and especially with the investigation of questions relating to labour, such as wages and earnings in various occupations, working-class insurance, domestic budgets, savings banks, and people's banks.

* According to information received from the French Office du Travail.

ITALY.

Co-operative Agricultural Colony of Ostia.—The Society of Day Labourers of Ravenna, by whom this colony was founded, was established in 1883 in order to form a common fund to enable it to undertake public and private works on its own account. The members, who, in 1893, numbered 2,248, consist of day labourers, carters, paviors, and sawyers. The works carried out from 1886 to 1893 (both years inclusive) amounted in value to £87,700, a very large proportion being for various public authorities. In 1884, the society undertook a sub-contract for works to the value of £80,000 connected with reclaiming marsh lands at Ostia (where the society has a branch), and other parts of the Province of Rome. From an account of the present condition and prospects of the colony, which appeared in *Credito e Cooperazione* of January 15th, it appears that in 1890 the society obtained from the King the free use of about 1,200 acres of reclaimed land in the neighbourhood of Ostia, at the mouth of the Tiber, for the purpose of establishing a co-operative colony. Three-fifths of the land are used for growing grain, and the rest for pasture. Under the present temporary rules the land is divided into allotments of six to nine acres each, three-fifths of the whole area being used for grain growing, and the remainder as meadow. All members of the society are eligible for admission as colonists, but preference is given to those having families, and of 30 members now in the colony 22 have families. For work connected with grain growing colonists receive a fixed sum per quintal (220 1/4 lbs.) of the produce. For other kinds of work—usually paid for by the day—men earn, as a rule, 2s., women 1s. 2 1/2d., and boys from 9d. to 1s. They are charged 4s. a month for house rent, and 4s. 10d. per *tornatura* (about half an acre) for the use of the stock owned by the colony, to plough their land. When the initial outlay of £7,600 has been cleared, 20 per cent. of the profits will be divided among the colonists, and the rest used, in equal parts, for forming a disabled workers' fund and a colony reserve fund. The colony is stated to be favourably situated, but is at present hampered in its operations through want of capital and of security on which to raise it; for the Society holds no formal deed of lease or conveyance for the land. It is said that want of capital is causing work to be less plentiful in the colony than hitherto, but that colonists have no difficulty in finding employment in the neighbourhood.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

THE following is based on information supplied by Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of January 18th:—

Prevalent Distress.—The winter at Chicago is exceptionally severe. During the first few days of December 465 families, representing about 2,800 persons, applied for relief. This number includes 250 families that have never before applied for relief from the county. The County Commissioners have authorised the County Agent to distribute 125,000 dollars (£26,041) amongst the poor during the winter. The Agent expects to have 10,000 more applications for aid this winter than last.

Recent Labour Disputes.—(1) On December 19th some 5,000 coalminers at Coal Gate, Lehigh, Briar Creek, Krebs, Alderson, Hartshorn and McAlister, in Indian territory, struck for an increase of wages up to 10d. per ton for screen coal, and 7 1/2d. per ton for the mine run. The companies have refused the advance. Since then about 100 of the men have returned to work. (2) 800 stonemasons, belonging to 26 mill shops in Chicago, have struck to ensure the union wage of 16s. 8d. per eight hours day. (3) 600 upholsterers are on strike against a proposal of the employers to return from the 8 hours day to the 10 hours day, and to substitute day work for piece work. (4) 170 filers, framers, frame makers, assemblers and braziers, employed in a bicycle works, have struck work. (5) A proposed strike of 4,000 employees of the Illinois Steel Company has been forestalled by the closing down of the works, with the alleged object of conducting extensive repairs. The men complained that at the present low prices of iron, and the low ratio at which the sliding scale is now fixed, they did not receive living wages.

Labour Disputes of 1895.—Particulars are to hand of the nine most important strikes which occurred in the State of Kansas during 1895. Of 3,225 persons who took part in these nine strikes, 3,023 were miners, and 2,219 were successful.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR JANUARY.

Imports.—The total declared value of the imports during January was £38,473,856, or 4.7 per cent. more than the value for January 1895. The total is also greater than that in January 1894 and 1893.

The following table shows the declared value of the imports, grouped in large classes, for the months ended 31st January 1896 and 1895 respectively:—

Class of Goods.	Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	£ 15,493,407	£ 14,525,094	£ 968,313	—
Metals ...	1,681,443	1,600,662	80,781	—
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances ...	1,639,635	1,277,459	362,176	—
Raw Materials for Manufacture ...	12,190,898	12,318,740	—	127,842
Manufactured Articles ...	6,087,692	5,683,915	403,777	—
Miscellaneous ...	1,380,781	1,337,611	43,170	—
Totals ...	38,473,856	36,743,481	1,730,375	—

The most remarkable decrease was in the import of raw cotton, which decreased in quantity by 1,372,622 cwt., and in value by £1,131,399. Sheep and lambs' wool increased by £238,269. Among articles of food and drink which showed large increases were oxen and bulls £316,015, wheatmeal and flour £298,813, and sugar £265,626. Among manufactured articles the principal increase was one of £186,071, in the value of imports of silk manufactures.

British and Irish Exports.—The total declared value of the exports during January was £21,127,168, an increase of £2,902,932, or 15.9 per cent. over the total for January 1895. The total is also greater than that in January 1894 or 1893.

The following table shows the total declared value of the exports grouped in large classes, for the months ended 31st January 1896 and 1895 respectively:—

Class of Goods.	Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink ...	£ 876,805	£ 731,396	£ 145,409	—
Raw Materials ...	1,531,702	1,308,503	223,199	—
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	10,085,943	9,240,505	845,438	—
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) ...	2,558,834	2,035,598	523,236	—
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,336,415	1,121,417	214,998	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,737,469	3,789,117	948,352	—
Totals ...	21,127,168	18,224,236	2,902,932	—

With the exception of slight decreases in cotton and silk yarn, all classes of textiles have increased—woollen and worsted tissues by £200,414, woollen and worsted yarn by £172,094, and cotton piece goods by £112,943. The exports of all metals increased except tin, the largest increase being that of iron, amounting to £364,986. Coal and patent fuel increased in amount by 593,081 tons, and in value by £183,874.

Re-Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—The value of these for January was £4,825,707, or £938,449 more than the value for January 1895.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom in January from Foreign Countries and British Possessions was 2,499,790 tons, as against 2,403,536 tons in January 1895, an increase of 96,254 tons. Of vessels cleared the tonnage was 2,928,475, or 311,304 tons more than in January 1895, when it amounted to 2,617,171 tons. The tonnage of vessels entered *Coastwise* was 2,736,894 tons, as compared with 2,405,178 tons in January 1895, and of those cleared 2,690,993 tons, as against 2,357,062 tons in January 1895.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton (especially American) during January 1896 were much less than in January 1895 and 1894. The exports and the quantities forwarded from ports to inland towns show, however, very little change. The figures for the three periods are as follows:—

	Imports.		Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.		Exports.
	Bales.	...	Bales.	...	
January 1896 ...	381,640	...	302,662	...	42,578
" 1895 ...	735,704	...	311,703	...	45,231
" 1894 ...	683,286	...	355,803	...	39,061

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways in the United Kingdom, for the five weeks ended February 1st, amounted to £6,533,384, an increase of £533,920, or 8.9 per cent. over the total for the corresponding period of 1895. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,647,372, an increase of £249,036; while the receipts from goods and mineral traffic were £3,886,012, an increase of £284,884.

Fishery Statistics.—The total declared value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during January was £548,238, or 16·7 per cent. more than the value in January 1895.

British Corn.—The following are the prices of British wheat, barley and oats in the last weeks of January 1896 and 1895 respectively:—

Table showing average price per Quarter in- for Wheat, Barley, and Oats in Jan. 1896 and Jan. 1895.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankruptcies gazetted during January was 384, or one more than in January 1895; the number is, however, 53 less than in January 1894, and 25 less than in January 1893.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The total number of British and foreign passengers who left the United Kingdom in January for places out of Europe was 10,190, a number greater by 242 than that for January, 1895.

British and Irish.—Of the above total, 6,968 were of British and Irish origin as compared with 6,999 in January of last year. There were decreases in the numbers going to Australasia, the United States, and British North America, but a considerable increase in the number going to South Africa.

The figures are as follows:—

Table showing emigration statistics by destination for Jan. 1896 and Jan. 1895, including United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, and Other places.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 10,190 passengers, viz., 3,222, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished. This figure shows an increase of 273 on the number in January, 1895.

Alien Immigration.—The total number of aliens who arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during January was 3,725, or 285 more than in January 1895, when the total was 3,440. Those stated to be en route for America numbered 1,231, a decrease of 105, while those not so stated amounted to 2,494 (including 645 sailors), as compared with 2,104 (including 630 sailors) during January 1895.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS.*

THE report of the Departmental Committee on the Importation of Foreign Prison-made Goods was published last month. The Committee find:—

1. That no evidence has been brought before them to show that goods made in foreign prisons are imported into this country in such quantities as to injure British trade generally.

2. That two trades only, the brushmakers and the matmakers, have made serious complaints of injury, and their complaints were founded solely on the importation of Belgian and German goods, showing that British industries in general do not feel any evil results from the competition of the various other trades carried on in foreign prisons throughout the world.

That in the case of the brush-making industry of this country as a whole, the allegations made of serious or lasting injury were not sustained, and in the case of the mat-making industry the injury was found to be but slight.

That it was clearly established that the cheapness of the goods was no proof of their being prison-made, as owing to the cheapness of labour abroad, free labour could effectually compete with prison labour, and consequently if prison-made goods were prohibited the competition of free-labour goods would be quite as formidable.

3. That in the case of brushes it was further proved that brushes could be and were made in England by machinery as cheaply as, or cheaper than, they can be made by foreign prison

* Eyre & Spottiswoode. C—7902 of 1895. Price 1s. 3d.

labour or by any other description of labour. That in the case of mats, it was proved that foreign mats were not made more cheaply in prison than they were made outside. That the depression in the brush trade and mat trade was, so far as it existed at all, only connected with the production of the cheaper descriptions of goods, and that, in the case of the higher descriptions of brushes, it appeared that the production in this country was actually on the increase.

With respect to the instructions directing the Committee to report whether any, and, if so, what steps can be taken effectually to restrict the importation of such goods;

4. Your Committee reply that no cause has been shown for the necessity to take any steps to restrict the importation of prison-made goods, and that if cause were shown no steps can be taken to restrict such importation which would not produce more harm than good.

LABOUR CASES IN JANUARY.

THE following are among the legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month. A general statistical account of prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, will be found on page 57.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Bury County Court, January 13th.—A labourer sued a firm of contractors for £150 damages for injuries sustained while assisting in taking down scaffolding, which had been used for the erection of a chimney. Plaintiff had been engaged at the bottom of the chimney inside, unhooking planks which were being lowered by a fellow-workman and the foreman, under whose orders they were acting.

Oldham County Court, January 16th.—A labourer sued a District Council for damages received when working at the bottom of a shaft in process of sinking. Plaintiff was injured by a "hopnet," or bucket, used for raising dirt from the bottom of the shaft, falling upon him. He alleged that the plant was defective, and that there had been neglect on the part of the three men who had the management of the work.

Swansea County Court, January 22nd.—The plaintiffs, two women, sued a colliery owner for damages, one for the loss of her husband and the other for that of her son. Steam pipes, which emitted a great heat, were carried through the alternative shaft, and while passing through this the men were scalded to death. It was contended, on behalf of the plaintiffs, that the engineman was guilty of a breach of the statutory provisions (under the Mines Regulation Act), because, without any check, he merely assumed for himself that all the men were up, and then left his post for 20 minutes.

Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin, January 23rd.—This was an appeal from the decision of the Recorder, who had dismissed the case. Plaintiff was a labourer employed by a builder. While he was working in a tunnel and using a sledge hammer provided by plaintiff's foreman, a piece of it broke off, and so seriously injured his right eye that he subsequently lost the sight of it.

Bristol County Court, January 30th.—A workman, employed by a firm of corn merchants, claimed £100 as damages for injuries sustained while assisting in shooting sacks down a slide in the

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN JANUARY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing industrial prosecutions under Factory and Workshop Acts, detailing Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, and Total Amount of Costs for 1896 and 1895.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing industrial prosecutions under the Mines Acts, detailing Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, and Amount of Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants for 1896 and 1895.

* One of these cases was not heard owing to the workman having absconded.

III.—Under the Quarries Act.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nil.

IV.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Table showing industrial prosecutions under Merchant Shipping Acts, detailing Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Penalties, and Total Costs for 1896 and 1895.

* One of the defendants was awarded two months' imprisonment with hard labour. In two cases the costs are included in the amount of penalties, and in six cases the fines were imposed with the alternative of imprisonment.

+ One defendant only, who went to prison for two months in default of payment.

V.—Under Trade Union Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nil.

warehouse to the carts below. In the alternative he claimed, at Common Law, £50 damages, and £28 12s. for wages at the rate of 22s. a week from October 11th to January 3rd. There were three floors in the warehouse. Plaintiff was on the second floor and another workman above on the third floor, who was sending sacks down the shoot alternately with the plaintiff. There was some dispute between these two men as to the sending of the sacks down the shoot, and plaintiff had told the man on the third floor not to send any more sacks down the shoot in question but down another one. Subsequently a sack of sharps was sent from the third floor at the same time that a sack of flour was sent from the second floor, and they both got jammed against the heading. The man on the third floor was then told not to throw any more sacks, but while plaintiff stooped across the slide to free the jammed sacks another sack, which had been seen on the edge of the shoot on the third floor, fell upon plaintiff, and so severely injured him that the doctor stated that he would not be able to again follow his employment. It was contended for the plaintiff that some protection should have been provided to prevent such an accident. The Judge found that there was no defect, or negligence on part of the employers, and, therefore, no liability under the Employers' Liability Act. With reference to the claim for wages the Judge held that wages were due to the plaintiff until such a time as notice was given by the employer to determine the contract of employment, and that the sum which had been paid into Court was the right amount. Judgment for defendants, who asked for no costs.

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

City of London Court, January 7th.—A signalman claimed £3 2s. 6d. as damages in lieu of notice. Plaintiff was entitled by the regulations of the company to receive 14 days' notice on being dismissed. His wages were 4s. 6d. a day. Among the conditions of service signed by the plaintiff was the following, "No servant is allowed to trade for himself or others, or to connect himself directly or indirectly with any other business." In the summer of 1895 plaintiff's wife purchased a business with her own money, and attended to it herself. Plaintiff admitted that he had gone to market early in the morning and done other small things for the business, but he denied that he had anything to do with the conduct of it. In November 1895 the managing director of the company informed him that he would be given a reasonable time to dispose of the business. Subsequently the manager discharged the plaintiff, informing him that the carrying on of the business by the wife was a "blind." In the defence the manager stated that as the plaintiff was employed at one of the principal signal stations he did not think it right, having regard to his duty to the public, to permit the plaintiff to visit the market as early as 3 a.m. or 4 a.m., in addition to his ordinary duties. The Assistant Registrar held that the fact of the plaintiff having assisted his wife in a slight way during his own time did not entitle the defendant to discharge him at once. If the company were of opinion that the assistance he gave to his wife interfered with his work as a signalman, they should have given him 14 days' notice. Judgment for plaintiff for £3 2s. 6d.

Hanley Stipendiary Court, January 20th.—A collier summoned an iron, steel and coal company for £3 6s., being a fortnight's wages, in lieu of notice. Complainant was employed as a contractor in a pit. When going to work on a certain day he found his place was not in a safe condition, owing to the absence of timber posts which required setting. The foreman promised to send some timber, but, as it did not arrive, the complainant and other men left the pit. In consequence, complainant was summarily dismissed. The other men were subsequently reinstated. For the defence it was urged that it was the duty of complainant to do the timbering and to make the place safe, the company supplying the material. It was stated that there was plenty of timber in the pit at the time, and the defence contended that there was no justification for the complainant and his men leaving. The magistrate found that the timber was not there to enable the men to put up the posts as required by the Mines Regulation Act. Judgment for the amount claimed, with costs.

(3) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' ACT.

Glasgow Sheriff's Court, reported January 7th.—An unmarried member of a friendly society entitled to a sick benefit having become chargeable to the Parish Council, the Sheriff decided that the member's mother and sister, who were mainly supported by him at the date of his illness, were entitled according to the Act to the benefit of the sick money, notwithstanding the member had become a burden on the parish, in preference to the Parish Council or curator bonis, the latter of whom claimed that the fund should be allowed to accumulate for the member's behoof on his recovery. The Parish Council contended that the mother should first exhaust the other members of her family, who were quite able to maintain her, and that the fund should go to the Council towards defraying the expense of the member's maintenance. The ability and willingness of the family to maintain their mother was not disputed; but it was contended that by Act of Parliament those relatives who were supported by the member at the date of his illness were entitled to the fund.

(4) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

Preston Police Court, January 3rd.—A firm of cotton cloth manufacturers were fined £5 and 10s. costs for exceeding the maximum limit of humidity.

Blackburn Police Court, January 16th.—A firm of cotton cloth manufacturers were fined £5 and 10s. costs for exceeding the maximum limit of humidity.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

THE 11 labour bureaux furnishing returns registered 3,692 fresh applicants for work during January. Work was found through the bureaux during the month for 1,971 workpeople, of which number 1,368 persons were engaged by private employers and 603 by local authorities. In 1,434 cases, however, the engagements were stated to be of a temporary character only. Of the 3,282 workpeople remaining on the register at the end of the month, 2,936 were men, 95 lads and boys, and 251 women and girls.

Comparing the figures of the 8 bureaux which also furnished returns for the corresponding month of last year, a decrease of 1,277 in the number of fresh applicants is shown, the figures being 1,829 in 1895 and 3,106 in 1896.

(1) Work Done in January.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Work-people on Register, No. of Fresh Applicants during Jan., No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities), and Jan. 1896, Jan. 1895.

(2) Previous Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of January.

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

* Particulars relating to men only have been furnished. † Women and Girls are not registered at Hackney, Salford and Plymouth. ‡ Including 50 dressmakers and sempstresses, and 16 shop assistants.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

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

THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of January was 342,282, or 221 per 10,000 of the estimated population. The population is estimated for this purpose on the assumption that the decennial rate of increase between 1881 and 1891 has since been maintained.* (In past tables the 1891 population has been used as the basis.)

Compared with December, the figures show an increase of 2,059 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000. This is a noticeably smaller increase than that of 11 per 10,000, which occurred at the corresponding period last year.

Compared with January, 1895, the number of paupers has decreased by 10,312, or 9 per 10,000 of population after allowing for the estimated increase in the past year. The greatest decreases in the rate were in the Stockton and Tees District, amounting to 39, in West Ham and Bradford amounting to 37 in each case, and in Cork, Waterford and Limerick amounting to 35. On the other hand, in all the Scottish Districts, with the exception of Edinburgh and Leith, there were increases in the rate, the largest being that of 33 in Coatbridge and Airdrie.

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of January 1896, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year, and Rate per 10,000 of Population. Includes sections for ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, OTHER DISTRICTS, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

* In one district—West Ham—where there is reason to believe that the rate of increase has somewhat slackened, the figure has been corrected, having regard to the recorded excess of births over deaths.

† 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.

‡ Exclusive of 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 JANUARY.

THE number of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed by accidents reported in January was as follows:—

Table showing number of workpeople killed by accidents reported in January 1896 and 1895, categorized by Railway Servants, Miners, Quarrymen, Factory and Workshop Operatives, Seamen, and Others.

Of the 4,197 non-fatal accidents reported, 1,088 were to railway servants, 673 in mines, 70 in quarries, 1,965 in factories and workshops, 329 to seamen, and 72 to other workpeople.

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 January 1896.

[The number of servants employed by the railway companies of the United Kingdom was 381,626 on 31st December 1889.]

Table showing Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident, for Railway Servants. Includes categories like Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, etc.

Total for January 1896: 40 Killed, 5 Causing Amputations, 22 Dislocations and Fractures, 96 Contusions, &c., 95 Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, &c., 105 Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, 323 Total of Injuries.

Total for January 1895: 50 Killed, 19 Causing Amputations, 143 Total of Injuries, 295 Total of Injuries.

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 2 servants killed and 765 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during January. 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 previous months.

Miners and Quarrymen.*

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries, during the month of January 1896. [The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 739,097, and in and about quarries as 84,986, in 1894.]

Table showing Cause of Accident, Number of Persons Killed and Injured, for Mines and Quarries. Includes categories like Underground, Surface, Explosives or Blast-ing, etc.

Total for Jan. 1896: 121 Killed, 673 Injured, 8 Total of Persons, 70 Total of Persons.

Total for Jan. 1895: 150 Killed, 388 Injured, Act not in force.

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 January 1896.

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

Table showing Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident, for Factory and Workshop Operatives. Includes categories like Killed, Fractures and Dislocations, Injuries to Head or Face, etc.

Total for Jan. 1896: 62 Killed, 173 Fractures and Dislocations, 79 Injuries to Head or Face, 53 Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes, 5 Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries, 938 Total of Persons.

Total for Jan. 1895: 52 Killed, 1,028 Total of Persons.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,027 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors.

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 January 1896 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours. (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, are not included.)

[The returns of non-fatal injuries are probably far from complete, the tabulation being now made for the first time.]

Table showing Cause and Class of Accident, Number reported as Killed or Injured, for Seamen. Includes categories like On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels, Total in Jan. 1896, etc.

NOTE.—The majority of the non-fatal injuries occurring among the crews of vessels trading within the Home Trade limits are only reported half-yearly, and will be so published.

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 January 1896.

Table showing Nature of Works, &c., Injured, for Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894. Includes categories like Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramway, Tunnel, etc.

Total for Jan. 1896: 4 Killed, 11 Fractures and Dislocations, 44 Other Injuries, 55 Total of Injuries, 1 Killed, 16 Fractures and Dislocations, 17 Other Injuries, 30 Total of Injuries.

Total for Jan. 1895: 6 Killed, 64 Fractures and Dislocations, 64 Other Injuries, 30 Total of Injuries.

NOTE.—The Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, provides that notices of accidents occurring on or after 1st January 1896 in the following employments, scheduled to the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, viz., the construction, use, working or repair of any gaswork, harbour, dock, port, pier and quay, and the construction or repair, by means of a scaffolding, of any building which exceeds 30 feet in height, or use or working of any such building in which more than 20 persons, not being domestic persons, are employed for wages, shall be sent to the Inspector of Factories for the district, and in certain cases also to the Certifying Surgeon instead of to the Board of Trade.

The effect of this legislation has been a considerable reduction in the number of accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, and a corresponding increase in the number reported to H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories.

‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.

(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 fresh disputes occurred in January, compared with 37 in December, and 57 in January 1895. In 46 of these disputes particulars obtained show that 7,363 persons were affected. In the building trades 2 disputes occurred, affecting 38 persons; engineering and shipbuilding trades, 4 disputes with 452 persons; metal trades, 6 disputes with 1,046 persons; mining, 10 disputes, 7 of which affected 1,941 persons; dock, &c. labour, 2 disputes with 50 persons; textile trades, 11 disputes with 2,087 persons; clothing trades, 7 disputes with 1,295 persons; and the miscellaneous group, 8 disputes, 7 of which affected 454 persons.

Causes.—Of the 50 new disputes, 24 arose upon wages, 12 upon matters connected with working arrangements and material, 6 were due to dissatisfaction with action of fellow workpeople, or the employment of non-unionists, 6 arose in defence of fellow workpeople, and 2 upon questions of alleged objectionable action of employers or officials.

The Geographical Distribution of the 50 disputes, with the number of persons affected in each group, was as follows:—Northern counties, 21, 3,841; Midland counties, 8, 671; Western counties and Wales, 5, 896; London, 6, 202; Scotland, 9, 1,753; Ireland, 1 dispute, in which the number of persons affected is not known.

Results.—Thirty-four new and 16 old disputes, involving together 10,805 persons, were settled during January. In 23 disputes, involving 5,914 persons, the workpeople were successful; in 14, involving 2,841 persons, partially successful; in 12, involving 2,026 persons, unsuccessful; and in the remaining case—a dispute affecting 24 persons—the result must at present be classed as indefinite.

Disputes still unsettled.—Thirteen new and 20 old disputes, affecting together 4,594 persons, were known to be still unsettled at the end of January; 4 of these disputes, affecting 69 persons, are in the building trades group, 3 (512 persons) in engineering and shipbuilding, 3 (382 persons) in metal trades, 4 (1,060 persons) in mining, 4 (1,041 persons) in the textile trades, 6 (1,279 persons) in clothing trades, and 8 (251 persons) in the miscellaneous group of industries.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY 1896.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Bricklayers & Plasterers	Willerby, near Hull	Refusal of employer to comply with local working rules as to hours, wages, &c.	1	16	Jan. 30	Jan. ...	Still unsettled.
Plumbers	Edinburgh	Refusal of employer to pay extra rates when men are working more than 2 miles from shop	1	22	13	18	Work resumed on the understanding that the Employers' Association should deal with the by-law in dispute.
Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.							
Fitters and Turners	Dundee	Refusal to work alleged excessive overtime	1	34	25	Feb. 3	Work resumed on the understanding that no overtime should be worked. The youth removed from shop.
Pattern-makers	Blackburn	Against the employment of a youth who was over the age limit for apprentices	1	8	A fortnight in January	Jan. ...	
Holders-up	Wallsend-on Tyne	For increased pay when engaged on "tank" work	1	70 dir. 270 indir.	16	18	Extra remuneration to be paid when working on top of tanks.
Ship-painters	Hebburn-on-Tyne	Against the employment of a man who had not served his time at the trade	1	70	22	24	Man in question discharged.
Metal Trades.							
Vinplate workers	Nantyglo	Against an additional reduction in wages of 10 per cent	1	26	1	...	No settlement arrived at, and works subsequently closed.
Ditto	Near Newport	Against proposed reduction in wages of 25 per cent.	1	70	25	Feb. ...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Llanelli	Against proposed reduction in wages of 12½ per cent.	1	350	...	3	Work resumed at a reduction of 10 per cent.
Ditto	Gorseinon	Ditto	1	200	...	3	Work resumed at the required reduction.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	1	250	...	3	Ditto.
Wire and rolling mill hands	Selly Oak	For re-arrangement of working hours when on short time	1	150	13	14	Men's demands conceded.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Coal Miners and Surface Hands	Allhallows and near Workington	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent. to underground workers, and 5 per cent. to surface hands	2	800	6	16	Reduction accepted.
Coal Miners, colliery engine-men and fire-men	Near Barnsley	Dispute concerning wages and working arrangements	1	364 dir. 84 indir.	20	23	An amicable settlement reported to have been arrived at.
Coal Hewers	South Shields	Men absented themselves from work owing to a dispute as to the delivery of coal to one of their number	1	103	7	7	Hewers summoned and fined 5s. each.
Coal Miners	Bedworth	Alleged unfair suspension of fellow workmen	1	160	13	15	Dispute amicably arranged
Ditto	Bo'ness	Against a proposed reduction in wages of 2d. per ton	1	...	14	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto	Motherwell	Refusal of men to accept an alleged unfair scale of deductions for "dirt"	1	350	20	20	A slightly modified scale accepted.
Ditto	Weststraigs	Dispute as to a new scale of deductions for "dirt"	1	...	Two days in January	...	Settlement arranged.
Ditto	Near Bonny-bridge	Against a proposed reduction of 3d. per ton	1	40	15	28	Work resumed at a reduction of 2d. per ton
Ditto	Tamworth	For increased allowances on account of difficulties in working	1	40	...	...	Allowances satisfactorily arranged.
Drivers	Bloxwich	For an advance in wages	1	...	...	...	A bonus granted.
Dock, &c. Labour.							
Fruit and Yeast Porters	Hull	Refusal of men to load "rullies" after concluding the work of discharge	1	18	11	...	Hands replaced.
Dock Labourers	London, E.	Against reduction in wages of 3d. per ton when discharging cargo	1	32	31	Feb. 3	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Textile Trades.							
Powerloom Overlookers	Preston	Alleged low wages and objectionable conduct of employer	1	9	15	Jan. 16	Wages advanced about 3 to 5 shillings per week.
Cotton Weavers	Barnoldswick	Alleged underpaying	8	713	18	21	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Stockport	Alleged bad material	1	120	20	21	Employer agreed to give the weavers 6d. per loom and to improve material. Firm agreed to pay the prices asked for.
Ditto	Near Haslingden	Ditto	1	100	23	27	The two weavers reinstated.
Ditto	Preston	For reinstatement of two weavers	1	100	27	28	Weavers fined 3d. per loom for leaving work without notice; better material promised.
Ditto	Clayton-le-Moors	Alleged bad material	1	130	27	Feb. 3	
Cotton Weavers	Preston	Alleged bad material	1	420	27	Jan. 30	Firm agreed to meet deputation of the workpeople and to restart the mill at once.
Cloth Weavers	Yeadon	For reinstatement of a discharged weaver	1	150 dir. 150 indir.	20	22	Work resumed unconditionally by all except 8 men who were refused employment.
Dyers' Labourers	Leeds	Alleged victimisation of one of their number	1	24	21	...	Still unsettled.
Flax Dressers	Ditto	Alleged refusal of firm to employ trade unionists	1	11	2	...	Hands replaced.
Bleachworkers	Dundee	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	160	17	29	Work resumed unconditionally.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY 1896—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Clothing Trades.							
Web hands (Hosiery trade)	Nottingham	Against proposed reduction in wages of 12½ per cent.	1	9	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Work resumed on old terms pending the settlement of the general disputes in the hosiery trade (see below).
Framework Knitters (Hosiery trade)	Ditto	Demand for a uniform wages statement	7	140	13	...	Still unsettled.
Hosiery Operatives (Circular Branch)	Ditto	Ditto	7	52	18	...	Ditto.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Glasgow	Refusal of lasters to accept the decision of management as to men's responsibility for breakages in material	1	1,000 dir. & indir.	...	...	Ditto.
Bloggers (seatworkers and solemakers)	Swinton and district	For adoption of a wages statement involving an advance in wages	10	33	13	15	Advance in wages granted:—Seatworkers, 2s. per week (24s. to 26s.); solemakers, 4s. per week (27s. to 31s.). Still unsettled.
Tailors	Bradford, Yorks	Alleged breach of contract by employer in sending work away from shop to unregistered dwellings	1	11	11	...	
Capmakers	London, E.	For reinstatement of workman discharged for alleged inefficiency	1	30 dir. 20 indir.	9	...	Ditto.
Miscellaneous.							
Cabmen	London, E.C.	Against employment of three non-unionists	1	32	...	...	Ditto.
Compositors	Barrow-in-Furness	Against employment of non-unionists	1	8	27	...	Ditto.
Dairy vanmen and yardmen	Dublin	Men discharged after a demand had been made for an increase in wages of 4s. per week	1	...	15	...	Hands replaced.
Fibre-dressers	London, E.	Against introduction of non-unionists	1	8	6	...	No details of settlement.
Fancy Leather Workers	London, E.C.	For reinstatement of a discharged fellow-workman	1	20	4	...	Still unsettled.
Mat and Matting Weavers, etc.	London, S.E.	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	60	1	...	Ditto.
Navvies (tunnelling)	Foyers (Inverness-shire)	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	147	8	9	Work resumed at reduced rates.
Sanitary labourers	Leeds	Against employment of two non-unionists	1	179	14	16	Work resumed on the understanding that the two men should be removed to another department.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	1895	1896	Result.
Building Trades.							
Stonecutters	Dublin	Refusal of employer to supply artificial light to enable the men to work full time	1	25	Nov. 1	Jan. ...	Employer agreed to supply artificial light.
Stonemasons	Gloucester	To compel a union man to pay up his arrears of contributions	1	4	Dec. 18	21	Man in question agreed to pay up his arrears.
Bath Brickmakers	Bridgwater	Refusal to work in an alleged unsafe kiln	1	10	Dec. 4	6	Kiln to be repaired.
Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.							
Engineers, Brass-workers, &c.	Belfast	For an advance in wages of 2s. per week	4	1110	11 Oct.	27	See terms of settlement on p. 49.
Engineers	Clyde District	Lock-out by employers, followed by general strike (see LABOUR GAZETTE for Nov., p. 336; Dec., p. 368; Jan., p. 16; Feb., p. 49)	—	3200	5 Nov.	27	
Metal Trades.							
Anchorsmiths	Gateshead	Against a proposed reduction in piecework prices	1	24	Sep. 18	16	Full details of settlement not yet to hand.
Filesmiths	Birmingham	For advance in wages up to recognised rates	1	13	Dec. 7	9	Advances of 2s. per week granted. An increase of 10 per cent. granted on two classes of stoves.
Range, Stove, &c. Fitters	Larbert	For advance in wages of from 7½ to 20 per cent.	1	36	Oct. 28	6	
Mining & Quarrying.							
Coal Miners	Rotherham	Disputes as to prices to be paid on a change from day to tonnage rates	1	720	Aug. 20	1	Price list agreed upon.
Sett Makers	Creetown, Kirkeudbright-shire	For advance in wages on account of being required to drill their own stone	1	13	Dec. 19	17	Employer agreed to men's terms, and also signed a bill of prices.
Slate Quarrymen	Carnarvon-shire	For advance in wages	1	200	Dec. 30	13	An advance of about 9d. per day granted.
Coal Miners	Lochgelly	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	110	Dec. 30	7	An advance of 2d. per ton given as compensation for a reduction of 50 per cent. in the price for "brushing."
Textile Trades.							
Fustian Weavers	Astley, Leigh	Against proposed reduction in prices	1	134	17 Sept.	4	Broad loom weavers resumed at the old rate of wages, and narrow loom weavers received an advance of 3d. per lb.
Cotton Reelers	Oldham	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	36	21 Nov.	25	Work resumed for a month pending the preparation of a reeling price list by secretaries of employers' and operatives' associations.
Lace Operatives	Nottingham	Against discharge of colleagues, the employer determining to work the machines with fewer hands	1	17	15 June	...	Hands replaced.
Ditto	Ditto	Against stoppages for alleged defective work, and refusal of employer to pay for alterations	1	20	13 July	...	Hands replaced.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in December were still unsettled:—coal miners, Cornsray and Coleford, Glos.; cabinet-makers, Cork; slipper-makers, Waterfoot (since settled 5th February); sett makers, Letham; plasterers, Dublin. The following which commenced before December were also still unsettled:—Fitters, etc., Cardiff and Dowlais; cotton weavers, Barnoldswick; bedstead-makers, Sowerby Bridge; ironfounders, Belfast (since settled, February); carriers, Liversedge; coal miners, Standish, Wigan; packing-case makers, Liverpool; building trade employees, Plymouth; bottle-makers, compositors, and coachmakers, Dublin.

The following disputes commencing in December of which information has only recently been obtained, were also still unsettled:—

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Date of Commence-ment.
Flax Roughers	Belfast	For an increase of 2d. per cwt. of flax roughed	1	29	1895 12 Dec.
Pinplate Workers	Kidwelly	Against a proposed reduction in wages	1	300	16 Dec.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during January affected 144,000 workpeople, the estimated general effect of all the changes being a decrease of less than 2d. per week on this total number. Nearly 11,000 received an estimated average advance of about 1s. 9d. per week, and over 133,000 sustained a decrease averaging about 3½d. per week.

Increases.—The principal increase was in the rates of wages of engineers employed in the shipbuilding yards on the Clyde and at Belfast. On the Clyde an advance of ¼d. per hour has been given to 1,500 men, and ¼d. per hour to 1,700 men; it is also reported that about 2,800 men who were not directly concerned in the recent disputes will receive an advance of either ¼d. or ½d. per hour. At Belfast upwards of 1,000 engineers secured an advance of 1s. per week, and the iron moulders of 2s. per week. Several advances have been reported in the piece rates paid to workpeople employed in various branches of the metal trade in the Midland district of England, viz., 5 per cent. to 1,000 fitting and socket makers in the tube trade; 10 per cent. to 600 doliied chain makers; and 25 per cent. to 100 anchor smiths. In the Textile trades 555 workpeople obtained advances, 263 of these being in the employ of a firm at Dewsbury who have conceded advances of 1s. and 2s. to most of their employees earning less than 25s. per week. In the Clothing trades the cloggers have succeeded in obtaining new and more favourable lists of piece prices in several small towns in Lancashire.

Decreases.—The decreases reported during the month were practically confined to the Coal Mining and Tinplate manufacturing industries. The coal miners affected included 30,000 in Northumberland and 100,000 in South Wales and Monmouthshire, but the amount of the reduction per week was but small in each case.

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, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, COAL MINING, IRON AND STEEL TRADES, METAL TRADES, and TINPLATE TRADE.

* 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 weeks and two winter weeks.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, MISCELLANEOUS TRADES, and SEAMEN.

* The predominant wage, however, remained the same as in the previous month.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JANUARY.

THE 7 cases of changes in hours of labour reported during January affected 1,256 workpeople, of which number 1,236 had their hours of labour reduced. The only case of an increase was due to a re-arrangement of the hours of some boot and shoe operatives near Leeds. In this case it appears that although the hours of labour have been reduced for 180 workpeople from 55 to 54, about 20 female machinists who had hitherto worked 53 will henceforth work the same number of hours as the other workpeople, viz., 54 per week. The other changes include particulars of the adoption of the 48 hours week by a small printing establishment at Glasgow, and of a reduction of 3 hours per week in the working hours of 344 draymen in the employ of the railway companies at Sheffield.

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.						
Brass Workers ...	Rotherham	1st Feb.	208	54	53	1
Ship Joiners ...	The Wear ...	Jan.	300	—	—	25 mins.
Boot & Shoe Operatives	Armley, Leeds	21st Jan.	180	55	54	1
Letterpress Printers, &c.	Glasgow	1st Feb.	8	51	48	3
Draymen ...	Sheffield	3rd Feb.	344	66	63	3
			120	59	54	5
			12	58	54	4
Farriers ...	Manchester	6th Jan.	14	56½	54	2½
			15	55	54	1
			5	59	55½	3½
Shop Assistants ...	Glasgow	Jan.	30	—	—	2
INCREASES.						
Boot & Shoe Operatives	Armley, Leeds	21st Jan.	20	53	54	1

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JANUARY.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in December it will be seen that 5 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 8 Associations for Production, 2 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 19 new Friendly Societies, and 40 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Thirty Building Societies, 6 Industrial and Provident Societies (1 of which has amalgamated with an existing society), and 17 Trade Unions and 1 Federation of Unions 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.*—Bolton Soc. of Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers, Three Tuns Hotel, Bridge Street, Bolton; Ffrwyd Branch of Denbighshire and Flintshire Miners' Fedn., Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Ffrwyd; Liverpool Dry and Tight Coopers' Assocn., 13 Bevington Bush, Liverpool; River Thames Shipwrights' Protective and Benefit Soc., 467 East India Dock Road, Poplar, E.; United Wool Shawl, Fall and Antimacassar T. U. of Hucknall Torkard and district, Coffee Tavern, High Street, Hucknall Torkard. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Whitchurch (Salop), Prov. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 24 & 26 Green End, Whitchurch, Salop; Ripon and District Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 37 Kirkgate, Ripon; Llanelly Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 1 Castle Buildings, Llanelly; Blaenclydach Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 17 Clydach Road, Blaenclydach, Ystradyfodwg. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—It Rose Profit Sharing Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 3 Cuthill Road, Camberwell, S.E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Loughinore Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Loughinore; Ballyvislea Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballyvislea, Emly; Kilross Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kilross; Lagan Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Manorcunningham; Aughnacloy Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd.,

Aughnacloy; Ballybrittas Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballybrittas; Innishannon Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Innishannon.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Lovers of Zion Colonization Soc., Ltd., 35 Fieldgate Street, Whitechapel, E.; Gaping Goose Hotel Permanent Money Soc., Ltd., Gaping Goose Hotel, Oldham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Specially Authorised, 5; Dividing, 6; Working Men's Clubs, 2; Female, 1. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Specially Authorised, 1.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—I.O. Rechabites 8, and 1 District; A.O. Foresters 7, and 1 District; Sons of Temperance, 6; G.U.O. Oddfellows, 3; N.O. Free Gardeners 2 and 1 District; various others, 8. *Scotland.*—I.O. Rechabites, 2. *Ireland.*—I.O. Rechabites, 1.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Notice of dissolution has been received from each of the following:—Ind. Ship, Riverside and General Labourers, Parkers' Row, Dockhead, E.; Natl. Amal. Watchmakers, Jewellers and Kindred Trades, 8 Williamson Square, Liverpool; Non-Freemen of the River Thames, Wharf, Dock and Canal Boatmen Labour Protection Socy, Ida Street, Poplar, E.; Trade Union of Carpenters and Joiners of London and district, Barking Road, Plaistow, E.; Copper Spelter and Alkali Workers', 7 Hall Terrace, Swansea; Cumberland United Enginemens' Association, 10 High Street, Cleator Moor.

The Registry of the following Trade Unions has been cancelled:—Cleveland and District Blast Furnacemen's Assocn., Oddfellows' Hall, Middlesbrough; British Steel Mill and Hammermen's, 48 Malvern Terrace, Brynmill, Swansea; Staffs Potteries Oper. Cratemakers Soc., Hope Street, Hanley; London Soc. of Dairy Utensil Makers, North Street, King's Cross; Elliot Colliery Branch of So. Wales and Mon. Miners' Fedn., Workmen's Hall, New Tredegar; Brit. Nat. Assembly of Knights of Labour, Holly Bush Street, New Town, Cradley Heath; Nat. Federation of Trade Unions of Gt. Britain and Ireland, 100 Abbott Road, Bromley, E.; Liverpool Tailoresses and Machinists' Benefit Soc., Holy Trinity Schoolroom, Wilton Street, Liverpool; Herefordshire Agricultural and General Workers', Kingsland R.S.O. Hereford; Newcastle and District French Polishers, New Bridge Street, Newcastle; Amal. Cornice Pole Workers, Drysdale Street, N., and (by request) Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Land and Labour League, 12 Winsden Road, Luton. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Notice of Resolution to Wind-up has been received from Sheffield Co-op. Coal Supply Soc., Ltd., 151 Spital-hill, Sheffield. The Liquidator's final return has been received for Coleford Equitable Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Gloucester Road, Coleford. Ceased to exist, Kineton Co-op. Ind. and Provident Soc., Ltd., Kineton, Warwick. Dissolved by instrument, Middlesex Mutual Land & Building Soc., Ltd., 30 Theobald's Road, W.C. Registry cancelled upon conversion into Company:—Bath Cabinet-makers' Soc., Ltd., Twerton-on-Avon, Bath. The Wallasey Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 93 Brighton Street, Seacombe, Liverpool, has amalgamated with the Birkenhead & District Co-op. Soc. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—Dissolved by Instrument, 7; Notices received of termination of dissolution, 15; of commencement of dissolution, 6; of termination of winding up, 1; of commencement of winding up, 1.

AGRICULTURAL BANKS.

The balance-sheet and report of the Doneraile Agricultural Bank, the first village bank in Ireland, has been issued. Commencing with deposits amounting to £75, a total sum of £174 was issued during the year 1895 as loans, distributed among 37 borrowers, no second loan being granted until the first had been repaid. At the end of the year £1 12s. 9d. was due as interest on deposits, while the loans due to the bank, with interest, amounted to £73 14s. 4d., and there was a cash balance of £3 8s. 0½d. It is stated that all the loans are of the kind with which agricultural banks are intended to deal, and that all have been and are being repaid with regularity.

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