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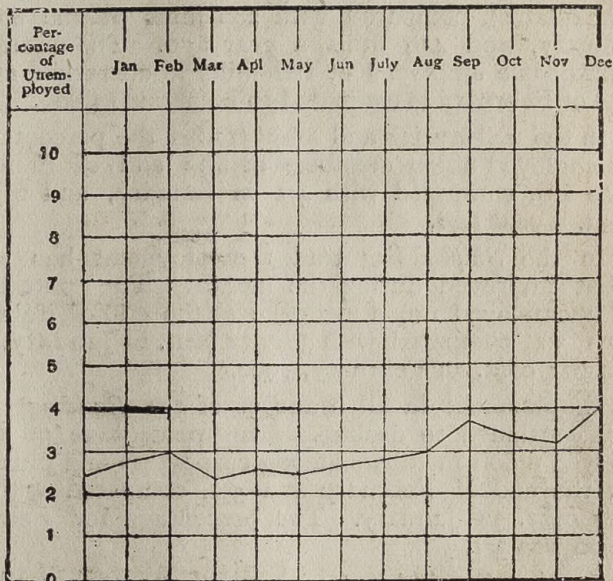
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EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1900-1901.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the Trade Unions making returns at the close of each complete month of 1900 and 1901.

[The thick line applies to 1901, the thin line to 1900.]



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[Based on 2,413 returns, viz.: 1,723 from Employers, 572 from Trade Unions, and 118 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT during February showed but little change when compared with the previous month, but was worse than a year ago. A considerable fall of wages has been reported during the month, mainly in the mining and iron and steel industries of Scotland and the North of England.

In the 143 Trade Unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 543,487, 21,159 (or 3.9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, compared with 4.0 per cent. in December, 1900, and January, 1901, and with 2.9 per cent. in the 137 Unions, with a membership of 524,872, from which returns were received for February, 1900.

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in the four weeks ended February 23rd showed a decline in the average number of days worked per week, but an increase in the number of workpeople employed as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. At collieries at which 476,426 workpeople were employed, the pits worked on an average 5.19 days per week during the four weeks ended February 23rd, as compared with 5.69 days per week a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment shows a decline as compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked by 127 iron mines and open works at which 16,076 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended February 23rd was 5.39 per week, as compared with 5.55 days a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment shows a further decline, and is much worse than a year ago. At the works of 115 ironmasters 288 furnaces employing about 20,500 workpeople, were in blast at the end of February, as compared with 307 at the end of January, and 383 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment is worse than a year ago; as compared with January the number employed shows a decrease, but the average number of shifts worked is greater. At 204 works covered by the returns, employing 78,251 workpeople at the end of February, the total volume of employment (taking into account both the numbers employed and the number of shifts worked) is practically the same as in January, but has decreased 8.0 per cent. as compared with February 1900.

Tinplate Trade.—Employment shows a slight further decline compared with January, and is much worse than a year ago. At the end of February 277 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), compared with 286 mills at the end of January, and 419 mills a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of February is estimated to be about 13,800.

In the **Engineering and Metal** trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 4.0, compared with 4.1 in January, and 2.3 per cent. a year ago.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment has somewhat improved during the month. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 3.2, compared with 3.9 per cent. in January, and 2.9 per cent. in February, 1900.

Employment in all branches of the **Building** trades has continued to decline. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of February was 5.2, compared with 4.7 per cent. in January. The percentage for February 1900 was 3.1.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment has slightly improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 6.4, compared with 7.3 in January, and 6.9 per cent. in February of last year.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has continued to improve slightly. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 3.7, compared with 4.1 per cent. in January, and 4.3 per cent. in February 1900.

Employment in the **Paper** trades has fallen off, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February being 2.6, compared with 1.6 per cent. in January and 2.3 per cent. in February of last year.

In the **Glass** trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 12.4, compared with 9.4 per cent. in February, 1900.

Employment in all branches of the **Leather** trades has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 2.5, compared with 3.5 in January, and 1.3 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trades has on the whole improved and is fairly good.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade is dull; in the ready-made branch, although still dull in some centres, it has improved generally.

Employment in the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade continues good; in the **Weaving** branch it shows a decline and is moderate.

Information respecting factories employing about 75,680 women and girls shows that 88 per cent. of those in spinning mills and 76 per cent. of those in weaving factories were working in factories giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 89 and 86 per cent. respectively in January, and with 99 and 93 per cent. respectively a year ago.

In the **Woollen** trade employment continues fair; in the **Worsted** trade it is still bad; in the **Hosiery** trade it remains slack.

Generally speaking, **Agricultural Labourers** were well employed during the month of February. In some districts a few men, mainly casual labourers, were in irregular work owing to snow and rain.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—During the four weeks ended February 23rd, an average number of 17,138 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 17,482 in the preceding four weeks and 14,207 in February, 1900.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-five disputes began in February, 1901, involving 6,045 workpeople, of whom 4,287 were directly, and 1,758 indirectly affected. The corresponding number of disputes in January was 29, involving 17,754 workpeople, and in February, 1900, 33, involving 11,357 workpeople. Of the 25 new disputes in February, 1901, 2 occurred in the building trades, 5 in the mining industry, 8 in the metal and engineering trades, 4 in the textile trades, and 6 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 29 new and old disputes, involving 7,627 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 11, involving 3,366 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 12, involving 2,644 persons, in favour of the employers; and 4, involving 811 persons, were compromised. With regard to the remaining 2 disputes, involving 806 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during February affected 220,203 workpeople, and their net effect on the weekly wages of these workpeople was a reduction of 2s. 0½d. per head. Of the total number affected 211,861 sustained decreases averaging 2s. 2d. per week, and 8,342 received advances averaging 1s. 5d. per week.

The net result of the changes reported in the previous month (January) was an average decrease of 1s. 8d. per head on the weekly wages of 54,692 workpeople, and during the corresponding month of last year (February, 1900) the net result was an average advance of 1s. 6½d. in the weekly wages of 15,700 workpeople.

The decrease in February, 1901, is mainly accounted for by the reductions which have taken place in the coal mining industry in Durham, Cumberland and Scotland, affecting 196,400 workpeople. Three thousand steel millmen and 8,362 ironmoulders in Scotland have also sustained decreases.

Reductions affecting 195,500 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards. Changes affecting 2,084 workpeople only were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. One change affecting 600 workpeople took effect under a sliding scale, and the remaining changes affecting 22,019 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

South Wales District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under manager of a mine will be held for this district on the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th of May, 1901. Intending candidates should communicate on or before the 4th May with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Robert T. Rees, Glandare, Aberdare.

West Lancashire and North Wales District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under manager of a mine will shortly be held for this district. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King-street, Wigan.

North Staffordshire District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under manager of a mine will shortly be held for this district. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Joseph Knight, Newcastle, Staffordshire.

OUTPUT OF COAL IN 1900.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

AN advance proof has been received from the Home Office of the Tables relating to the output of coal and other minerals, and the number of persons employed at mines under the Coal and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts, during 1900. The figures are subject to correction, and of a preliminary character only, and in the case of several important minerals, large quantities of which are obtained from quarries, do not represent the total production of the minerals for the year. The following figures relating to coal, may, however, be regarded as substantially complete. The Table shows the numbers employed in each inspection district, at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and the output of coal from such mines, comparative figures being given for 1899:—

| Districts. | Numbers employed in Mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act. | | Total output of Coal (in thousands of tons). | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|--|---------|
| | 1900. | 1899. | 1900. | 1899. |
| Newcastle | 82,329 | 77,623 | 24,102 | 23,753 |
| Durham | 85,889 | 82,927 | 24,240 | 24,400 |
| Yorkshire and Lincolnshire... | 101,019 | 95,140 | 28,243 | 26,901 |
| N. and E. Lancashire... | 40,981 | 38,965 | 11,365 | 11,034 |
| Liverpool | 57,115 | 54,091 | 16,587 | 16,548 |
| Midlands | 90,360 | 84,797 | 28,933 | 27,581 |
| N. Staffordshire | 28,236 | 26,404 | 7,082 | 6,799 |
| S. Staffordshire | 28,593 | 27,279 | 9,428 | 9,413 |
| South Western | 51,684 | 47,422 | 13,651 | 13,753 |
| South Wales | 109,042 | 97,456 | 23,302 | 28,639 |
| East Scotland | 58,858 | 53,607 | 19,007 | 17,750 |
| West Scotland | 44,949 | 42,305 | 14,105 | 13,393 |
| Ireland | 997 | 993 | 125 | 125 |
| Total | 780,052 | 729,009 | 225,170 | 220,085 |

In addition to the coal, 13,121,112 tons of other minerals (chiefly ironstone) were also produced in mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act in 1900, compared with 13,233,716 tons in 1899.

It will be seen that the numbers employed have increased in every district, but that the output although it has generally increased, has fallen off in the Durham, South Western and South Wales districts. The last two districts are especially remarkable as the increase in the numbers employed amounts to nearly 12 per cent. in South Wales and 9 per cent. in the South Western districts—increases greater than in any other district except East Scotland. Over the whole Kingdom the number employed has increased by 7 per cent., whilst the output has only increased by a little over 2 per cent.

The numbers employed above and below ground have increased in nearly the same proportion, the former from 146,000 in 1899 to 155,829, the latter from 583,009 to 624,223.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE IN AUSTRIA IN 1898.

The following particulars are based on the statistics relating to workmen's accident insurance in Austria in 1898, published in the *Official Journal of the Austrian Ministry of the Interior concerning Workmen's Accident and Sickness Insurance* for November 15th, 1900.*

Excluding the bulk of the mining and allied trades (in which the old provident funds known as *Bruderverbände* have been retained) there were in Austria, at the end of 1898, 246,050 establishments, with a mean aggregate number of 2,200,112 workpeople insured (either obligatorily or voluntarily) in accordance with the Accident Insurance Laws, compared with 236,413 establishments and 2,077,473 workpeople the year before.

The total wages of the insured workpeople in 1898, according to the returns sent in by the employers for the

* Amtliche Nachrichten des k.k. Ministeriums des Innern betreffend die Unfallversicherung und die Krankenversicherung der Arbeiter. No. 22 (Nov. 15) 1900.

purposes of the Accident Insurance Laws*, amounted to £44,759,200, compared with £41,932,500 in 1897.

Out of a total of 75,156 accidents notified in 1898, 20,976, or 27.9 per cent. (28.4 per cent. in 1897), were accidents entailing compensation under the Accident Insurance Laws, while as to the remaining accidents, the large majority of the injured persons were excluded from the operation of these laws because they recovered within four weeks (during which time they received medical relief and sick pay under the provisions of the Sickness Insurance Law).

The following Table classifies roughly, according to the gravity of their results, the 20,976 accidents notified in 1898 which entailed compensation, the corresponding figures for the years 1893-7 being given for comparison.

| Result of Accidents. | 1893. | 1894. | 1895. | 1896. | 1897. | 1898. |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of Accidents. | | | | | | |
| Death | 649 | 670 | 835 | 929 | 929 | 977 |
| Permanent disablement ... | 3,244 | 3,701 | 4,924 | 5,399 | 5,046 | 5,282 |
| Temporary disablement (over 4 weeks) | 7,008 | 8,181 | 10,636 | 12,216 | 13,686 | 14,717 |
| Total of accidents entailing compensation | 10,901 | 12,552 | 16,395 | 18,544 | 19,661 | 20,976 |
| Proportion of Accidents per 1,000,000 Days Worked.† | | | | | | |
| Death | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Permanent disablement ... | 11.5 | 12.5 | 13.5 | 14.0 | 12.6 | 12.6 |
| Temporary disablement (over 4 weeks) | 24.8 | 27.5 | 29.1 | 31.7 | 34.2 | 35.2 |

Since 1895, the figures are affected by the extension of the insurance obligation to a number of trades previously outside the scope of the law. Most of the people affected by this extension were railway servants.

The number of persons, to whom annuities were granted in 1898 in respect of permanent disablement, or for the loss of their breadwinners through accident, was 6,918 (as compared with 6,549 in 1897) viz., 5,058 (compared with 4,676 in 1897) for the former, and 1,860 (as compared with 1,873 in 1897) for the latter reason. The average value of these annuities was £7 3s. 9d. (as compared with £7 9s. 11d. in 1897), those for disablement being worth £7 12s., and those for loss of a breadwinner £6 1s. 5d. on an average in 1898. At the end of 1898 there were 32,717 persons drawing annuities of one or other of these kinds (as compared with 26,252 the year before), the number and average value of each class of annuity then in course of payment being as shown below:—

| Persons Drawing Annuities. | Amount of Annuities. | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|
| | Class of Annuitant. | Number of Annuitants. | Total. | Average per Annuitant. |
| Widows | 3,506 | £ 24,804 16 8 | 7 1 6 | |
| Children | 5,850 | 26,915 11 8 | 4 12 0 | |
| Parents, &c. | 489 | 2,455 5 0 | 5 0 5 | |
| Invalids (Totally disabled | 1,448 | 32,859 10 0 | 22 13 7 | |
| (Partially disabled | 21,424 | 140,562 1 8 | 6 11 3 | |
| Totals | 32,717 | 227,577 5 0 | 6 19 1 | |

The total income of the accident insurance institutions in 1898 was £949,568 (as compared with £799,368 in 1897), whilst the expenditure exceeded that sum by £55,839 (compared with £118,306 in 1897, and £280,168 in 1896). The chief items of income in 1898 were £851,275, contributions of employers and workpeople (£718,136 in the previous year), and £91,354 interest on investments. The chief items of expenditure were £509,761 set aside as the capital value of annuities accorded during the year, £399,416 actually disbursed during the year in paying compensations for accidents, and £84,075 cost of administration.

* In these returns, the annual earnings of a workman are counted up to £100 only, any excess of annual earnings above that amount being omitted from the calculation. But this does not apply to railway servants, whose entire earnings have to be returned.

† During 1898 the 2,200,112 insured workpeople worked in the aggregate 418,713,000 days.

THE PRICE OF BREAD.

THE Department is again indebted to the principal Co-operative Societies for returns of prices of bread, in continuation of those summarised in the September and December issues of the LABOUR GAZETTE. The 317 returns received give the price of a 4-lb. loaf, of the quality mostly sold by each society, and have been arranged in districts in the following table:—

| District. | Present Price. (1st Mar., 1901.) | | | Price last quarter. (1st Dec., 1900.) | | | Price a year ago. (1st Mar., 1900.) | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|-------|---------------------------------------|----------|-------|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| | High-est. | Low-est. | Mean. | High-est. | Low-est. | Mean. | High-est. | Low-est. | Mean. |
| ENGLAND AND WALES. | d. | d. | d. | d. | d. | d. | d. | d. | d. |
| N. Counties and Yorkshire | 6 | 4½ | 5½ | 6½ | 4½ | 5½ | 6 | 4½ | 5½ |
| Lancs. & Cheshire | 6 | 4 | 5½ | 6 | 4 | 5½ | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| N. Mid. Counties... | 5 | 4 | 4½ | 5 | 4 | 4½ | 5 | 4 | 4½ |
| W. do. do. ... | 5½ | 4½ | 5 | 5½ | 4½ | 5 | 5½ | 4 | 4½ |
| S. do. do. ... | 5½ | 4 | 4½ | 5½ | 4 | 4½ | 5 | 4 | 4½ |
| Eastern Counties... | 5½ | 5 | 5½ | 5½ | 4½ | 5½ | 5 | 4½ | 5½ |
| London ... | 5½ | 5 | 5½ | 5½ | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 4½ | 5½ |
| S.E. Counties ... | 6 | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 4½ | 5 |
| S.W. Counties, Wales and Mon. } | 5½ | 4½ | 5 | 5½ | 4½ | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4½ |
| England and Wales ... | 6 | 4 | 5½ | 6½ | 4 | 5½ | 6 | 4 | 4½ |
| SCOTLAND. | | | | | | | | | |
| N. Counties ... | 6 | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 4½ | 5½ | 6 | 4½ | 5 |
| Eastern Counties* | 6 | 4½ | 5½ | 6 | 4½ | 5½ | 5½ | 4 | 4½ |
| Lanarkshire ... | 5½ | 5 | 5½ | 5½ | 5 | 5½ | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Other Southern Counties ... | 6 | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 5 | 5½ |
| Scotland ... | 6 | 4½ | 5½ | 6 | 4 | 5½ | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| Great Britain ... | 6 | 4 | 5½ | 6½ | 4 | 5½ | 6 | 4 | 4½ |

It will be seen that while there have been slight variations in one or two districts, the price on the whole has remained stationary, both in England and Wales and in Scotland during the past quarter. As compared with a year ago, a rise of ½d. is apparent in the price for England and Wales, as well as in that for Scotland.

Subjoined is a statement of the average "Gazette" price of British wheat, and the average declared value of imported wheat and flour:—

| | 3rd Mar., 1900. | | Week ending— 1st Dec., 1900. | | 2nd Mar., 1901. | |
|--|-----------------|----|------------------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| British Wheat (per quarter) ... | 26 | 4 | 27 | 0 | 25 | 11 |
| Wheat Imports, per cwt. ... | 6 | 7½ | 6 | 11½ | 6 | 10½ |
| Wheat Meal and Flour Imports, per cwt. ... | 9 | 2½ | 9 | 7½ | 9 | 4½ |

CONFERENCE ON CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION.

THE half-yearly meeting and conference of the Labour Association for Promoting Co-operative Production based on the Co-partnership of Labour were held on March 1st and 2nd, at Coventry, under the presidency of Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P. The proceedings commenced with a public meeting, at which an address was delivered by the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P., on the value and importance of workmen sharing in the profits and control of the industries in which they are engaged.

At the conference following, an address was delivered by Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., on Co-partnership in Industry, and was followed by papers on 'The History and Present Position of Labour Co-partnership,' read by Mr. Aneurin Williams, and 'Should Workmen be Partners?' read by Mr. F. Maddison. About 150 delegates from Co-operative Societies and Trade Unions were present.

Connecticut.—The Department has received a copy of the 16th Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics for the year ended November 30th, 1900. The report, in addition to the usual industrial statistics, contains a treatise upon free public employment offices, a list of articles manufactured in Connecticut, a report on strikes, information as to labour organisations, and a description of mills, &c., built during the year.

* Kincardine, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

ACCIDENT, OLD-AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN GERMANY IN 1899.

THE following figures are based on statistics contained in the *Ämliche Nachrichten des Reichs-Versicherungsamts* (the official journal of the German Imperial Insurance Department):—

1.—Accident Insurance.

The mean number of persons insured under the Accident Insurance Laws in 1899 (exclusive of certain classes employed in the building trades, whose number is not known, and for whom special insurance offices are provided) was 18,604,124, as compared with 18,246,013 in 1898. As in previous years, allowance must be made for the fact that some million-and-a-half persons employed both in industry and agriculture are counted twice over. The figures include from four to five millions of persons engaged in agriculture on their own account as farmers, proprietors, &c.

The number of new accidents compensated in each year from 1886 to 1899 (excluding accidents sustained by those insured in the special offices for the building trades) and the nature of their results are shown by the following Table:—

| Year. | Persons who met with Accidents resulting in | | | | Total New Accidents Compensated. |
|-------|---|------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Death. | Permanent Disablement. | | Temporary Disablement. | |
| | | Total. | Partial. | | |
| | NUMBER. | | | | |
| 1886 | 2,716 | 1,778 | 3,961 | 2,085 | 10,540 |
| 1887 | 3,270 | 3,166 | 8,462 | 2,204 | 17,102 |
| 1888 | 3,645 | 2,203 | 11,023 | 4,186 | 21,057 |
| 1889 | 5,185 | 2,582 | 15,377 | 6,516 | 31,019 |
| 1890 | 5,985 | 2,681 | 22,515 | 10,166 | 41,420 |
| 1891 | 6,346 | 2,561 | 27,788 | 13,812 | 50,507 |
| 1892 | 5,811 | 2,640 | 30,566 | 15,807 | 54,827 |
| 1893 | 6,245 | 2,487 | 36,236 | 16,906 | 61,874 |
| 1894 | 6,240 | 1,722 | 38,952 | 21,723 | 68,677 |
| 1895 | 6,335 | 1,768 | 40,527 | 23,937 | 74,467 |
| 1896 | 6,989 | 1,524 | 44,373 | 32,386 | 85,272 |
| 1897 | 7,287 | 1,452 | 46,489 | 33,943 | 91,171 |
| 1898 | 7,848 | 1,109 | 47,764 | 40,053 | 96,774 |
| 1899 | 7,999 | 1,297 | 51,240 | 44,275 | 104,811 |
| | PER 1,000 INSURED. | | | | |
| 1886 | 0.73 | 0.48 | 1.06 | 0.56 | 2.83 |
| 1887 | 0.79 | 0.77 | 2.05 | 0.54 | 4.15 |
| 1888 | 0.75 | 0.21 | 1.07 | 0.42 | 2.32 |
| 1889 | 0.19 | 0.22 | 1.22 | 0.49 | 2.32 |
| 1890 | 0.44 | 0.20 | 1.66 | 0.74 | 3.04 |
| 1891 | 0.35 | 0.14 | 1.54 | 0.77 | 2.80 |
| 1892 | 0.32 | 0.15 | 1.69 | 0.88 | 3.04 |
| 1893 | 0.34 | 0.14 | 2.00 | 0.93 | 3.41 |
| 1894 | 0.34 | 0.10 | 2.14 | 1.20 | 3.78 |
| 1895 | 0.35 | 0.09 | 2.20 | 1.41 | 4.05 |
| 1896 | 0.39 | 0.09 | 2.52 | 1.84 | 4.84 |
| 1897 | 0.41 | 0.08 | 2.59 | 2.00 | 5.08 |
| 1898 | 0.43 | 0.06 | 2.62 | 2.19 | 5.30 |
| 1899 | 0.43 | 0.07 | 2.75 | 2.38 | 5.63 |

So far as concerns the special insurance offices connected with certain branches of the building trades (not included in the above Table), the total new accidents compensated in 1899 were 1,225 in number (resulting in the death of 125 persons, the total permanent disablement of 29, the partial permanent disablement of 598, and the temporary disablement of 473).

The number of persons, for whom compensation with respect to fatal accidents was fixed in 1899, was 16,076 (16,004 in 1898), of whom 5,165 were widows, 10,622 were children, and 289 were parents of the deceased.

The total expense incurred in 1899 in compensating new and old accidents was £3,934,032, as compared with £3,555,436 in 1898. (The expenses of the first 13 weeks after the accident have to be borne by the Sickness Insurance Institutions, and are not included in these figures). The greater part of this amount, viz., £2,859,687, consisted of pensions to persons injured by accidents. The number of persons drawing such pensions in 1899 was 479,593 (as compared with 428,171 in 1898). Each of these persons accordingly received on an average £5 19s. 3d. (£6 os. 1d. in 1898). The sum of £720,244 was spent in paying pensions to the families of deceased workpeople. There were 44,923 widows drawing on an average £6 17s. 5d. per annum each, 77,316 children drawing £5 1s. 8d. per annum, and 2,671 parents, &c., drawing £7 os. 5d. each. Capital sums amounting to £28,085 were paid

to 1,173 widows who re-married—£23 18s. 10d. each on an average.

2.—Old Age and Invalidity Insurance.

The numbers of new pensions granted in 1899 under the Old Age and Invalidity Laws by the 31 district insurance institutions and the 9 special institutions, in which persons employed on railways and in the mining and cognate industries are insured, was 113,981 (17,326 for old age and 96,655 for invalidity).

The number of persons drawing old age pensions during 1899 is stated to have been approximately 213,800, and the number drawing invalidity pensions about 345,200. Out of this total of 559,000 persons, however, about 1,200 are counted twice over, these pensioners having, in the course of the year, had their old age pensions exchanged for invalidity pensions.

The following statement shows the total amount expended upon pensions in each year since the law came into effect, by the whole of the insurance institutions established under its provisions:—

| Year. | Expenditure on Pensions. | | |
|-------------|---|---|-----------|
| | From money contributed by Employers and Workpeople. | State Subvention (£2 ros. per annum per pension). | Total. |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Old Age— | | | |
| 1891 | 462,843 | 302,492 | 765,335 |
| 1892 | 633,077 | 420,503 | 1,053,580 |
| 1893 | 685,535 | 452,632 | 1,138,167 |
| 1894 | 739,613 | 484,109 | 1,223,722 |
| 1895 | 804,639 | 524,179 | 1,328,818 |
| 1896 | 834,931 | 535,716 | 1,370,647 |
| 1897 | 844,073 | 537,142 | 1,381,215 |
| 1898 | 846,164 | 539,780 | 1,375,944 |
| 1899 | 829,638 | 514,636 | 1,344,274 |
| Invalidity— | | | |
| 1891 | 3 | — | 3 |
| 1892 | 39,621 | 28,051 | 67,672 |
| 1893 | 153,692 | 110,451 | 264,143 |
| 1894 | 300,023 | 208,636 | 508,659 |
| 1895 | 459,798 | 316,484 | 776,282 |
| 1896 | 631,808 | 420,251 | 1,052,059 |
| 1897 | 826,635 | 542,661 | 1,369,296 |
| 1898 | 1,056,518 | 681,996 | 1,738,514 |
| 1899 | 1,309,587 | 834,007 | 2,143,594 |
| Total— | | | |
| 1891 | 462,846 | 302,492 | 765,338 |
| 1892 | 672,698 | 448,554 | 1,121,252 |
| 1893 | 839,227 | 560,953 | 1,400,310 |
| 1894 | 1,035,636 | 692,745 | 1,728,381 |
| 1895 | 1,264,437 | 840,663 | 2,105,100 |
| 1896 | 1,469,739 | 955,907 | 2,425,646 |
| 1897 | 1,670,708 | 1,079,823 | 2,750,531 |
| 1898 | 1,902,682 | 1,211,756 | 3,114,438 |
| 1899 | 2,139,225 | 1,346,643 | 3,485,868 |

The law provides for the repayment in certain cases of contributions that have been paid for at least five years by persons who do not ultimately become entitled to benefits. Sums repaid in this way are not included in the above Table. Their total amount in 1899 was £272,334 (£205,156 to women on their marriage and £67,178 to the families of persons who died before receiving a pension).

The average value of the old-age pensions granted in 1899 by the 31 district insurance offices was £7 1s. 7d., compared with £6 18s., the average value of similar pensions dating from 1898. The average value of the invalidity pensions dating from 1899 was £6 11s. 7d., compared with £6 18s. 10d. in the case of similar pensions dating from 1898.

These figures may be regarded as representing the average value of pensions granted under the law, since the bulk of the insured belong to the district institutions (11,075,000 out of a total of 11,585,000 who were insured under the law in 1895).

ONTARIO BUREAU OF LABOUR.

The First Report of the Bureau of Labour of the Province of Ontario, Canada, for the year 1900 contains the results of inquiries made as to earnings, hours of labour, and the general condition and progress of organised labour during the previous five years, and as to strikes and lock-outs occurring during 1899, and up to September 1st, 1900. In response to 340 schedules sent out to labour organisations, 133 replies were received; to 1,000 schedules sent to employers, 300 replies were received. The report also includes a synopsis of the Labour laws of Ontario.

LEAD POISONING.

THE Home Office has published a Return* giving (1) the number of cases of lead poisoning reported in the manufacture of earthenware and china during 1899 and 1900, and (2) the number of persons suspended from working in dangerous processes by the certifying surgeons for the Hanley, Burslem, Tunstall and Stoke districts in the same manufacture during the same period.

The number of cases of lead poisoning reported was as follows:—

| Works under the Special Rules. | 1899. | | | 1900. | | |
|--|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| China ... | 13 | 8 | 21 | 11 | 10 | 21 |
| Earthenware ... | 106 | 83 | 189 | 62 | 67 | 129 |
| Tiles ... | 7 | 21 | 28 | 12 | 15 | 27 |
| Majolica ... | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| China Furniture and Electrical Fittings† | — | 5 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| Jet and Rockingham ... | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Sanitary Ware ... | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Transfers for China and Earthenware ... | 7 | 4 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Totals ... | 135 | 125 | 260 | 103 | 107 | 210 |

From this Table it appears that the number of males reported as affected by lead poisoning declined from 135 in 1899 to 103 in 1900; the number of females from 125 in 1899 to 107 in 1900; a diminution of 32 in the case of males, and 18 in the case of females.

CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PROCESS.

| Occupations. | 1899. | | | 1900. | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Dippers ... | 38 | 17 | 55 | 36 | 5 | 41 |
| Dippers' Assistants... | 13 | 21 | 34 | 9 | 23 | 32 |
| Ware Cleaners ... | 3 | 33 | 36 | 6 | 44 | 50 |
| Glost Placers ... | 57 | 2 | 59 | 35 | 1 | 36 |
| Majolica Painters ... | — | 25 | 25 | — | 8 | 8 |
| Ground Layers ... | 2 | 8 | 10 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Litho Dusters ... | 7 | 4 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Colour Dusters ... | — | 9 | 9 | — | 5 | 5 |
| Others ... | 15 | 6 | 21 | 8 | 13 | 21 |
| Totals ... | 135 | 125 | 260 | 103 | 107 | 210 |

In this Table the decrease is most marked amongst glost placers and majolica painters. An increase is noticeable among ware cleaners.

The certifying surgeons' districts of Hanley, Burslem, Tunstall and Stoke include the whole of the North Staffordshire Potteries (except some small potteries near Congleton), that is, about 46,000 persons employed in the manufacture of china and earthenware, of whom about 4,700 are employed in lead processes. The number of persons suspended from working in dangerous processes in those districts in the manufacture of earthenware and china was 129 (20 males and 109 females) in 1899, and 95 (15 males and 80 females) in 1900. Of the persons suspended in 1899, 27, and of those suspended in 1900, 30, were also reported as cases of lead poisoning and are thus included in the preceding Tables.

The following Table shows the distribution of the suspensions in 1899 and 1900 among the processes in which they occurred.

| Process. | 1899. | | | 1900. | | |
|--------------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Dipping House ... | 19 | 10 | 29 | 13 | 29 | 42 |
| Ware Cleaning ... | — | 34 | 34 | — | 20 | 20 |
| Glost Placers ... | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Majolica ... | — | 26 | 26 | — | 8 | 8 |
| Ground Layers ... | — | 14 | 14 | — | 6 | 6 |
| Colour Dusters ... | — | 16 | 16 | — | 13 | 13 |
| Colour Blowers ... | — | 2 | 2 | — | 4 | 4 |
| Not stated ... | 1 | 7 | 8 | — | — | — |
| Totals ... | 20 | 109 | 129 | 15 | 80 | 95 |

* H. C. 60, 1901 (Eyre and Spottiswoode). Price 1d.

† In 1899 there are included under "Earthenware" probably a few cases in Jet and Rockingham and China Furniture and a few in which the industry is given as "China and Earthenware."

LABOUR DISPUTES IN DENMARK IN 1899.

The Danish Official Statistics of Strikes and Lock-outs for 1899, published in the *Statistisk Aarbog**, show the disputes of that year to have been much fewer in number than in 1898. Owing, however, to the great lock-out which occurred in the summer of 1899 (see *Gazette*, October, 1899, p. 293) the disputes of that year far exceeded those of 1898 in their aggregate extent and duration, as shown by the following Table:—

| Year. | Total number of disputes. | Number of disputes, the number of workpeople taking part in which was known. | Number of workpeople who took part in the disputes referred to in Col. 3. | Number of disputes the duration of which was known. | Aggregate duration in working days of the disputes referred to in Col. 5. |
|-------|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| 1898. | 147 | 121 | 6,787 | 107 | 62,433 |
| 1899. | 98 | 86 | 36,096 | 58 | 2,828,447 |

(It is stated that one of the disputes of 1898, as to the duration of which information is wanting, entailed a loss of from 24,000 to 46,600 working days.)

Both in the foregoing Table and in the following statement, showing the extent to which various groups of trades were affected by disputes in 1899, the "Number of Workpeople who took part in Disputes" represents the maximum number on strike (or locked-out) *simultaneously*.

| Group of Trades. | Total number of disputes. | Number of disputes, the number of workpeople taking part in which was known. | Number of workpeople taking part in the disputes referred to in Col. 3. | Number of disputes the duration of which was known. | Aggregate duration in working days of the disputes referred to in Col. 5. |
|---|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| Building trades ... | 15 | 12 | 272 | 5 | 2,916 |
| Metal and engineering (including electrical installation) ... | 14 | 12 | 475 | 9 | 6,147 |
| Textile trades ... | 2 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 167 |
| Clothing trades ... | 10 | 10 | 2,416 | 8 | 59,590 |
| Seafaring ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3,000 |
| Agricultural labour ... | 3 | 3 | 34 | ... | ... |
| Printing and allied trades ... | 3 | 2 | 595 | 2 | 9,125 |
| Woodworking ... | 6 | 5 | 67 | 3 | 206 |
| Glassmaking ... | 99 | 99 | 2 | 2 | 2,160 |
| Food and tobacco trades ... | 2 | 2 | 118 | 1 | 22 |
| Leather and upholstery ... | 3 | 2 | 24 | 2 | 264 |
| Brushmaking ... | 2 | 2 | 232 | 2 | 2,335 |
| Factory workers (trades not specified) ... | 13 | 13 | 428 | 11 | 21,962 |
| Firemen ... | 5 | 5 | 15 | 4 | 274 |
| Labourers (unskilled) ... | 10 | 10 | 1,404 | 5 | 7,330 |
| Various trades combined...† | 1† | 1 | 30,009 | 1 | 2,712,859 |
| Total ... | 98 | 86 | 36,096 | 58 | 2,828,447 |

The principal causes or objects of disputes in the two years are shown to have been as follows:—

| Year. | Number of disputes, the principal causes or objects of which were as shown below:— | | | | | | Total number of disputes. |
|-------|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Wages. | Hours of Labour. | Working arrangements (rules, &c.) | Personal relations. | Trade Unionism. | Other causes, or causes unknown. | |
| 1898 | 114 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 147 |
| 1899 | 65 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 12 | 98 |

In the two years covered by the Table, 20 disputes were settled by conciliation (all in 1899), and 9 by arbitration (5 in 1898 and 4 in 1899).

* Statistisk Aarbog, 5te Aargang, 1900, published by the Danish Government Statistical Office. C. Videndal Bookselling Establishment, Copenhagen. Price 2 kroner (about 2s. 6d.).

† This was the great lock-out referred to in the text. The maximum number of workpeople taking part simultaneously in each of the different groups of trades involved was as follows:— Building trades, 10,017; metal and engineering (including electric installation) and shipbuilding, 5,622; clothing trades, 2,932; woodworking, 4,732; saddlery and upholstery, 173; enginemen, 78; day labourers, 10,669; female workpeople in various trades, 120; total, 34,342. But this maximum was not arrived at at the same time in each trade.

GERMAN LABOUR COLONIES IN 1900.*

Der Wanderer (the organ of the German Association of Inns for Itinerant Workmen—*Herbergsverein*) contains in its issue for January, 1901, a summary of the work done by the labour colonies in 1900.

The number of the inmates remaining at the end of 1900 in the 32 colonies then existing was 3,258. This compares with 2,982 in 31 colonies at the close of 1899. The number of persons, for whom accommodation existed, was 3,660, as against 3,500 at the end of 1899. The total number of persons admitted in 1900 was 7,494 (7,244 in 1899). The largest number of admissions took place in November, and the smallest in February, the figures being respectively 1,039 and 436. In all, 1,384 persons (compared with 1,158 in 1899) were refused admission into the colonies during 1900 (720 for want of room, 91 as not belonging to the district, 23 as too young or too old, 100 because they were ill, 49 as unfit for work, 28 for intemperance, 177 because their names were on the black list, and 196 on other grounds).

Of the 7,494 persons admitted in 1900, 2,890 had (so far as could be ascertained) never been in a labour colony before; 1,569 had been in a colony once, 998 twice, 661 thrice, 438 four times, 264 five times, 189 six times, and 485 more than six times before.

The following statement classifies the persons admitted to the colonies in 1899 and 1900 according to age:—

| Age. | Persons admitted. | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Number. | | Per cent. | |
| | 1899. | 1900. | 1899. | 1900. |
| Under 15 years ... | 1 | 3 | — | — |
| 15 and under 17 years ... | 22 | 8 | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| 17 " " 21 " ... | 323 | 324 | 4.5 | 4.3 |
| 21 " " 31 " ... | 1,297 | 1,288 | 17.9 | 17.2 |
| 31 " " 51 " ... | 3,993 | 4,156 | 55.1 | 56.5 |
| 51 " " 61 " ... | 1,293 | 1,373 | 17.9 | 18.3 |
| 61 years and over ... | 315 | 342 | 4.3 | 4.6 |
| Total ... | 7,244 | 7,494 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Many persons admitted to the colonies are returned as "workmen" simply. This was the case with 2,212 of the admissions of 1900 (2,173 in 1899). Those, as to whose trade or occupation more precise information was available in 1900, may be grouped as follows:—

| Trade or Occupation. | No. of persons admitted in 1900. |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Building Trades ... | 687 |
| Metal Working ... | 685 |
| Textile Trades ... | 209 |
| Clothing, &c., Trades ... | 441 |
| Paper and Leather Trades ... | 184 |
| Woodworking, Carving, Gilding, &c. ... | 353 |
| Glass, Pottery, Brickmaking, &c. ... | 175 |
| Food, &c., Preparation ... | 431 |
| Agriculture, Gardening, &c. ... | 297 |
| Commerce ... | 368 |
| Officials, Surveyors, &c. ... | 150 |
| Other Trades and Occupations ... | 822 |
| Total ... | 4,430 |

The number of persons, who left the colonies in 1900, was 7,228, (7,065 in 1899), the circumstances, under which they left, being as follows:—

| | No. of Departures. | | Per cent. | |
|--|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 1899. | 1900. | 1899. | 1900. |
| Sent to situations found by Colonies ... | 711 | 707 | 10.1 | 9.8 |
| Went to situations found by themselves ... | 837 | 757 | 11.8 | 10.5 |
| Discharged at own desire... .. | 3,895 | 3,929 | 55.1 | 54.4 |
| Dismissed for inefficiency or misconduct ... | 770 | 890 | 10.9 | 12.3 |
| Discharged for other causes ... | 584 | 669 | 8.3 | 9.5 |
| Left without permission ... | 248 | 240 | 3.5 | 3.3 |
| Died ... | 20 | 16 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Total ... | 7,065 | 7,228 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Of the 3,258 persons remaining in the colonies at the end of December, 1900, 1,531 (48.5 per cent.) had been there less than 2 months; 842 (25.9 per cent.) over 2

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, March, 1900 (p. 71), March, 1899 (p. 63), April, 1898 (p. 102) and March, 1897 (p. 70); also Report on Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed [c.—7182 of 1893], pp. 269-307.

up to 4 months; 362 (11.1 per cent.) over 4 up to 6 months; 291 (8.9 per cent.) over 6 up to 12 months, and 182 (5.6 per cent.) over a year.

The number of days of work performed in all the colonies in 1900 was 677,782 (compared with 635,628 in 1899).

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Northern Counties Bricklayers' Dispute.

Sir John Taylor, K.C.B., the Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade to decide on the question of the proposed advance in bricklayers' wages in the Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead district (see *GAZETTE* for February, p. 42), issued his award on February 16th. The operative clause of the award is as follows:—

"I do now adjudge and determine that the present rate of wages, 10d. per hour, shall remain unchanged, no sufficient reasons having been put before me for its being increased."

The award also states that it was agreed between the respective representatives of the employers and the operatives that all the Union Operative Bricklayers should return to work in all the Northern towns affected immediately the award was given, those in Newcastle, Gateshead and district on the terms of the award and those in the other towns affected on the rules and rates of wages in force prior to the lock-out.

Arbitration in the London Printing Trade.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, Barrister-at-Law, the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade (see *GAZETTE* for February, p. 42), issued his award on March 8th. The following were the proposals put forward by the London Society of Compositors:—

- To reduce the working hours to 48 per week.
- To increase the 'stab rate to 40s. per week.
- To increase book work prices 1d. per thousand.
- To increase overtime rates to 5d. per hour up to 10 o'clock; 7d. per hour up to 12 o'clock; and 10d. per hour after that time. On Saturdays for the first three hours 7d. per hour, after that time 10d. per hour.
- Overtime charges to commence in any case not later than 7 o'clock, and on Saturdays at 1 o'clock.
- Dinner hour charge 6d. extra, members to insist on having a cut for dinner not later than 3 o'clock.
- A guarantee of a quarter per hour for weekly paper hands during the time the line is on.

Having set forth in detail the points to be considered, and given a list of witnesses and others attending the arbitration, the award goes on to say:—

And Whereas there were produced and handed in tables, comparative statements, wage lists, and other documents and papers. And Whereas I have visited the works and examined the books of various printing offices, including Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Messrs. Clowes & Sons, Ltd., Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Messrs. Cassell & Co., Ltd., Messrs. Harrison & Sons. And Whereas I have weighed and carefully considered and closely examined all the evidence and documents brought before me on behalf of the Masters and men respectively, and the complications, difficulties, and complexities involved in the issues laid before me, and have given due regard to the circumstances of the case, and the economical, social, and other facts and arguments arising therein, now, therefore, I the undersigned do make and publish my award that the said questions should be settled as follows:—

- The working hours to be reduced from 54 to 52½ hours per week.
- The 'stab rate to be 39s. per week.
- Bookwork prices to be increased ½d. per thousand.
- Overtime rates to remain the same, save in so far as by the reduction of hours overtime commences after 5½ hours, and the higher rates for overtime are reached more quickly.
- The proposed rule for overtime charges to commence in any case not later than 7 o'clock, and on Saturdays at 1 o'clock is allowed.
- The dinner rate to remain at 4d., but the proposed rule that members should insist on having a cut for dinner not later than 3 o'clock is allowed.
- For weekly paper hands no rule is made as to a guarantee of a quarter per hour during the time the line is on.

And I further award and declare that the existence of current engagements, and the arrangements requisite upon the changes made, and the condition of the trade during the years 1889-1900, as

stated and relied on by the Masters and shown by their books, do require (without any prejudice to further arrangements that may be equitably arranged by both parties with respect to current contracts) that this award is not to commence to be obligatory so far as clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 are concerned until the week following the first pay day in July, 1901, the remaining clauses to take effect in the week following the first pay day in April, 1901. And I further award and declare that any question relating to the construction of this my award is to be referred to me for decision. As witness my hand this eighth day of March, One thousand nine hundred and one.

G. R. ASKWITH.

Signed and published by the above-named GEORGE RANKEN ASKWITH in the presence of

H. VANE STOW,
Secretary, The Master Printers' and Allied Trades Association.

C. W. BOWERMAN,
Secretary, London Society of Compositors.

The following note is appended to the award:—

NOTE TO THE AWARD.

Since the question is not strictly a matter of dispute upon which my definite award is required, I would add, as a note only, that in my opinion the discussion and the documents adduced and books examined clearly show that it is a matter of serious gravity for the London Society of Compositors to consider what steps, if any, can be taken by them for retention of trade in London. The Society might specially consider whether any and which of the rules hamper and restrict the development of branches of their department and of kindred departments, and may tend to drive and is now driving business in which they are interested to the country, and particularly to the continent, and whether any and what revision of rules is desirable. In my opinion, it is clear that the important and grave question of country and foreign competition should be thoroughly examined by the men themselves.

G. R. A.

EMIGRATION FROM BRITISH INDIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the India Office, copies of Tables relating to emigration as carried on under the laws regulating emigration. They take no account of the numbers who leave India as passengers, not having been recruited by emigration agencies for service in the colonies. The Tables also take no account of persons who leave India on pilgrimage to the holy places in Arabia, of whom small but uncertain numbers settle out of India.

The number who emigrated from India during the 20 years 1880-1 to 1899-1900, and the number of returned emigrants during the same period were as follows:—

| | Number Emigrated. | Number Returned. |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Five years ending 1884-85 ... | 82,127 | 29,409 |
| " " 1889-90 ... | 50,225 | 42,075 |
| " " 1894-95 ... | 81,165 | 30,850 |
| " " 1899-1900 ... | 81,007 | 30,351 |
| Total ... | 294,524 | 133,285 |

The mortality amongst emigrants is high in some of the colonies to which they go, and of those who survive a substantial proportion elect to continue to work in the Colony after their term of indenture expires, and many of these never return to India. In Mauritius, for instance, about 69 per cent. of the population (261,222 out of a population of 378,872) are Indian settlers and their descendants; in Demerara a third of the population of the colony consists of Indians; and in Natal, Trinidad, and elsewhere, the settled Indians are increasing in numbers.

There are five places in India from which emigration may legally be carried on: Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and the two French settlements of Pondichery and Karikal. From Bombay emigration ceased many years ago, and general recruiting has never been resumed, labour in the Western Presidency being, on the whole, so well paid that there is but little inducement to emigrate to the colonies which employ coolies. That port and the port of Karachi, however, have recently been used for the shipment of male labourers destined for work on the Uganda Railway who were recruited under

agreements made with or on behalf of H.M. Government. Over 19,000 such labourers, mostly recruited in the Punjab, have left Karachi for that purpose in the last two years. From the French settlements there has been no emigration since 1884, except in one year 1888-9. The port of Calcutta is the most convenient for the shipment of emigrants drawn from the impoverished masses of the thickly populated districts of Oudh, Bihar, and the eastern section of the North-Western Provinces, and the main stream of emigration flows from that region down the Hooghly. Of the persons who emigrated from India in 1899-1900, 9,398 (being 46 per cent.) were shipped from Calcutta, almost all of them from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Bihar. Their destinations were British Guiana, Trinidad, Natal, Jamaica, and Fiji. From Madras 1,109 were shipped during the year, recruited exclusively from the Madras presidency, mostly from the southern (Tamil) districts. These went to Natal. There is a considerable flow of native labourers from Madras to Ceylon and the Straits, but this traffic is not conducted under the provisions of the Emigration Act.

NEW INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED IN 1900.

The following Table showing the number and nature, of the New Industrial Organisations registered in the United Kingdom during 1900, is based upon monthly returns furnished to the Labour Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and shows the number of each of the various classes of organisations registered in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively.

The total number of new organisations registered in 1900 was 831, a decrease of 276 when compared with 1899, and of 105 compared with 1898.

The decrease is spread over all classes of organisations, Trade Societies showing a falling off of 21 compared with 1899, Industrial and Provident Societies of 36, Friendly Societies of 127, new branches of Friendly Societies of 80, and Building Societies of 12.

England and Wales shows a falling off of 21.8 per cent. from 1899, and Scotland and Ireland each about 35 per cent.

TABLE showing the number and nature of New Industrial Organisations registered in 1900 in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, together with the totals for the United Kingdom, and the corresponding totals for the year, 1899.

| Description of Organisation. | England and Wales. | Scotland. | Ireland. | Total Number registered in United Kingdom during 1900. | Corresponding Totals for 1899. |
|--|--------------------|------------|------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Trade Societies:— | | | | | |
| Trade Unions | 30 | 4 | 3 | 37 | 56 |
| Federations | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Employers' Associations ... | 3 | — | — | 3 | 1 |
| Totals | 33 | 4 | 3 | 40 | 61 |
| Industrial and Provident Societies:— | | | | | |
| For Distribution | 27 | 3 | 23 | 53 | 55 |
| Production | 7 | 1 | 31 | 39 | 73 |
| Miscellaneous purposes ... | 20 | 5 | — | 25 | 25 |
| Totals | 54 | 9 | 54 | 117 | 153 |
| Friendly Societies:— | | | | | |
| Ordinary Friendly | 69 | 5 | 7 | 81 | 116 |
| Dividing | 59 | — | — | 59 | 86 |
| Female | 1 | — | — | 1 | 7 |
| Juvenile | 4 | — | — | 4 | 7 |
| Medical | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Benevolent | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| New Orders | 5* | — | — | 5* | 6 |
| Collecting | 6 | 1 | — | 7 | 7 |
| Cattle Insurance | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Specially Authorised ... | 22 | — | — | 22 | 39 |
| Workmen's Clubs | 49 | — | — | 49 | 92 |
| New Branches of existing Friendly Societies | 345 | 64 | 4 | 413 | 493 |
| Totals | 562 | 70 | 28 | 660 | 867 |
| Building Societies:— | | | | | |
| | 13 | 1 | — | 14 | 26 |
| Total Industrial Organisations Registered in 1900 | 662 | 84 | 85 | 831 | — |
| Corresponding Totals for 1899 | 847 | 130 | 130 | — | 1,107 |

*Of these one is a Specially Authorised Society.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases reported in February, especially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

"ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT." The Act provides that if in any employment to which the Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as therein mentioned, be liable to pay compensation.

A workman, employed at the works of an engineering company, was working at an anvil, when two of his fellow workmen, who were engaged in horseplay, stumbled against him, and knocked him over a bucket of water, as the result of which his leg was broken. In consequence of this injury he was incapacitated for 24 weeks from following his employment. He claimed compensation from his employers, and the sheriff-substitute found that the accident arose out of and in the course of the pursuer's employment, and that the defenders were liable to pay him compensation. The case was taken on appeal to the Court of Session and that Court recalled the sheriff-substitute's interlocutor, and dismissed the action with expenses, on the ground that the accident did not arise out of the employment of the pursuer.—*London and Glasgow Engineering and Iron Shipbuilding Company, Limited, v. Falconer, Court of Session, February 23rd.*

"ON OR IN OR ABOUT A FACTORY."

Among the classes of employment, to which the Act applies, is employment "on or in or about a factory." A firm of shipbuilders and engineers had their works situated about one mile by road or about 550 yards in a direct line from a dock. At their works they prepared material, so far as could be done there, for use on ships in the dock, but they did not build or repair ships at their works. A workman, employed by the firm, was punching holes in a plate on board a steamer in this dock, when he fell to the bottom of the hold, and sustained injuries which caused his death. His widow claimed compensation from his employers. The sheriff-substitute held that the deceased workman had been employed by the defenders on, or in or about a factory, and gave decree in favour of the pursuer. But, on appeal by the defenders to the Court of Session, that Court held that the employment of the deceased was not employment on or in or about a factory, within the meaning of the Act; the appeal was accordingly sustained, and the case sent back to the sheriff to be dismissed, the appellants being found entitled to expenses.—*Barclay, Curle & Co. v. Mrs. McKinnon, Court of Session, February 1st.*

ELECTION TO TAKE COMPENSATION UNDER ACT.

A workgirl, employed in a cotton mill, brought an action against her employers claiming compensation for personal injury caused to her by reason of their alleged defect to fence certain machinery. The plaintiff was, in consequence of this injury, an inmate of a hospital for four weeks. During this period her mother received the girl's full wages from her employers; and on leaving the hospital the girl signed a receipt for this money. This receipt was on a form which bore the words, "Workmen's Compensation Act," but the plaintiff said she did not notice these words, and had no intention of surrendering her rights against her employers otherwise than under the Compensation Act. Her solicitor gave notice of the accident to the employers, as required by the Compensation Act, but she did not take any other steps to claim compensation under that Act. The judge asked the jury (as the first among several questions) "Did the plaintiff elect to take her compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act?" The jury gave an affirmative answer to this question, and the judge then said that he would not ask for answers to the other questions, and a verdict was given for the defendants. The defendants, however, expressed their willingness to pay the plaintiff all the compensation which she might be entitled to receive under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and waived their rights to costs, on the understanding that the plaintiff would not appeal from the judgment. By consent of both parties the judge then fixed the compensation which the defendants should pay to the plaintiff.—*Howarth v. Langworthy Brothers, Limited, Manchester Assizes, February 4th.*

SUB-CONTRACTOR'S AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY CONTRACTOR AGAINST CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION.

A firm of contractors entered into a contract with a railway company for the construction of certain works, and they re-let a portion of the asphalt work to a sub-contractor. The specifications and conditions attached to the sub-contract contained a clause to the effect that the sub-contractor should include in his tender insurance of the workmen in his employ, it being a condition that the contractors should not be responsible for any accident occurring to his workmen.

In the course of the work a workman employed by the sub-contractor met with a fatal accident. The widow of this workman made a claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act, to which both the contractors and the sub-contractor were parties. The County Court judge made an award in favour of the widow against the contractors for £234 compensation, together with £31 costs, and dismissed the application against the sub-contractor. The contractors then brought an action against the sub-contractor for damages for breach of contract, claiming the amount of the award

and the costs of the arbitration proceedings. The defendant contended that he had performed any duty imposed upon him by the conditions of his sub-contract by taking out an insurance policy, and that he had never agreed to indemnify the plaintiffs to any further extent for any claims which might be made by the defendant's workmen against the plaintiffs. The judge held that the meaning of the agreement between the plaintiffs and the defendant was that the defendant should take such steps as would prevent any liability falling upon the plaintiffs in respect of any accident which might happen to the defendant's workmen while the contract was being carried out; and accordingly judgment was entered for the plaintiffs for the amount claimed, with costs.—*Neill & Sons v. Hamor Lockwood, Manchester Assizes, February 5th.*

(2) Employers' Liability Act.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS IN DANGEROUS EMPLOYMENT: DUTY OF EMPLOYERS.

An action was brought in a County Court by a boy, aged 12 years, through his father, as next-of-kin, against the boy's employers, railway bookstall proprietors. The plaintiff was employed as a newspaper boy at the defendants' bookstall at a railway station. According to the evidence given on behalf of the plaintiff, he entered the employment on December 5th, 1898, and was instructed in his duties by his predecessor, a boy of the same age as himself. One of his duties was to procure papers from the stall on No. 2 platform, which was a platform surrounded by lines of railway, and deliver them in the town. There was a footbridge over the line, and the public were warned not to cross the metals, but to use the footbridge. The plaintiff, however, and the other newspaper boys were in the habit of crossing by the metals. On February 24th, 1899, on his way from No. 2 platform to the town, he was run over by a passing train and lost his leg. The accident took place at a point 180 yards from the station. The route across the metals was shorter than that by the footbridge. There was evidence that the plaintiff was not warned not to cross by the metals, and that the man in charge of the bookstall knew that he was in the habit of crossing by the metals. There was evidence on the other hand that the plaintiff knew that it was dangerous to cross by the metals. The County Court judge non-suited the plaintiff, who appealed to the King's Bench Division. On behalf of the plaintiff it was contended that the County Court judge was wrong in not leaving the case to the jury, there being evidence that young persons were employed by the defendants in a dangerous employment without proper precautions being taken for their safety in such circumstances as in law amounted to negligence. For the defendants it was urged that the injury was caused by the boy's own wilful act, and that therefore no action would lie, also that the employment in this case was not in itself a dangerous employment, that the special duty imposed on employers employing children in dangerous occupations only attached where the children were not aware of, or could not appreciate, the danger, and that the accident took place outside the railway station and outside altogether of the control of the defendants' manager. The King's Bench Division allowed the appeal, with costs, holding that there was evidence, which it was proper should be considered by the jury, that the defendants' business was not carried on in a proper way, having regard to the class of persons in their employment.—*Robinson v. W. H. Smith and Sons, King's Bench Division, February, 1st.*

(3) Trade Union Acts.

LIBEL IN ORGAN OF TRADE UNION; DAMAGES; LIABILITY OF TRADE UNION FUNDS.

In an action brought by a railway official against the three proprietors and the editor of a newspaper the jury found for the plaintiff for £1,000 damages. The newspaper in question was the organ of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, by which it was founded, and the first three defendants were the trustees of this Society, and were sued as such. When the newspaper was founded, an attempt was made to register it as the property of the Society, but this attempt failing, the paper was registered at first in the names of all these three trustees, and subsequently in the name of one of them as representative proprietor. The question arose whether the funds of the Society could be attached for payment of the damages and costs. It was admitted that this newspaper was started with the sanction of the Executive Committee of the Society; the receipts from and expenditure on the paper appeared in the Society's balance-sheet, in which it was treated as an asset.

It was contended on behalf of the defendant trustees that it was *ultra vires* for the Society to own and conduct a newspaper, and that in any case the funds of the Society could not be attached for the tort. The judge held that Section 9 of the Trade Union Act, 1891, which empowers the trustees of a registered Trade Union "to bring or defend, or cause to be brought or defended, any action touching or concerning the property of the Trade Union," applied to the present case, and that the starting of the newspaper was not *ultra vires* of the Society, one of the objects of the society, mentioned in its rules, being "to improve the condition and protect the interests of its members," and the main object of the paper being such improvement and protection. His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff for £1,000 and costs, and held that the defendants in their position as trustees were entitled to be indemnified out of the funds of the Society. Judgment was entered accordingly against the trustees and the editor of the newspaper, a stay of execution being granted with a view to an appeal.—*Linaker v. Pilcher, Hewlett, and Others, King's Bench Division, February 9th and 11th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, etc., mostly dated January and February last.)

Canada.—The Canadian Department of Labour states: "The reports of the local correspondents disclose a healthy state of industry and trade in all parts of the Dominion, and give decided indications of the likelihood of substantial activity during the coming months. In practically all of the skilled trades, with the exception of those affected by the winter season, the reports show that the numbers employed are large and the wages received good. Even in the case of some of the trades usually affected by the severe weather, it would seem that operations are being carried on in spite of the inclement season. This is true, for example, in the building trades in Ottawa, Hull, Sydney, and several other industrial centres. The traffic on the railways has been very considerable throughout the month, while factories in all parts are, with few exceptions, working full-handed, and several appear to be working overtime. Snow shovelling and the hauling and storing of ice have given employment to large numbers of unskilled workmen. Numbers have been also employed in the work of rock excavation, while there are indications that from the many employed in the woods the cut of lumber may be larger than that of previous years." The dispute in the important boot and shoe trade in Quebec has been settled. A report from New Brunswick states that there is a good demand for farm labourers and domestic servants, but that there are no openings for miners, general labourers or coopers. At Montreal farm labourers and female servants are wanted, but the place is overstocked with general labourers. There is a good demand in Ontario and Manitoba for farm labourers. There is a good demand for miners in British Columbia, and the Algoma district of Ontario, and for coalminers in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

New South Wales.—The disputes between the coalmine owners and men at Newcastle, owing to the men's renewed demands for increased wages, have now continued for a long time, and cause great inconvenience at the mines, in colonial manufactories, and on the railways. There has been a good demand in Newcastle, Lithgow, and the southern mines for coalminers. One report, however, states that there is no demand at Newcastle. There is also a good demand in the colony for bricklayers, carpenters, joiners, and all classes of labour connected with the building trade, particularly plumbers, for female labour in Sydney for the manufacture of men's apparel and women's underclothing, for female servants, and in many country districts for farm labourers. Fares to this and the other Australasian colonies continue to be subject to an extra charge of 10 per cent. owing to the high price of coal.

Victoria.—A report from Bendigo states that there is a large demand for farm labourers and domestic servants, a fair demand for station hands, and no demand for miners. The dispute at the Outtrim coal mines seems now to be settled, the men receiving an increase in wages.

Queensland.—Owing to the drought there is little demand for extra labour in Queensland at the present time, and assisted passages have just been stopped.

Western Australia.—The report of the Labour Bureau for 1900 states, that generally speaking there has been full employment for all classes of workmen throughout the year. Building operations have been brisk, and carpenters, masons, plasterers, etc., have been in demand at Fremantle. Tailors and timberworkers have also been wanted in parts. Unskilled labour was better employed than in the year before. First-class labourers found no difficulty in obtaining regular employment at good wages. The demand for farm workers was considerably beyond the supply. Domestic servants were in constant demand throughout the year; the 50 immigrant girls who arrived from

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

England last July were all engaged in one day. There is no demand, however, for miners anywhere, and least of all at Coolgardie, which is amply supplied with all kinds of labour.

New Zealand.—In Auckland there is a very good demand for bricklayers, a good demand for skilled carpenters only, general labourers, and female servants, a fair demand for plasterers, painters, engineers, bakers, saddlers, and miners, and a dull demand for bootmakers. In Taranaki there is a great demand for competent general labourers for road work, etc.; the sawmilling and building trades are also very busy. In nearly all other parts also of New Zealand, except at Christchurch, the building trades have been very busy, and at Dunedin carpenters have been wanted. In the engineering trades all hands seem fully employed, but there is no special demand for extra men. The clothing trade has been very busy, and at Dunedin "there is still a keen demand for tailoresses." The boot trade also has been brisk, except at Dunedin and one or two other places. Among other industries the freezing works, sawmills, and flaxmills have been busy. In country districts the harvest has been giving plenty of employment.

South Africa.—All persons are again warned against going to South Africa in search of work. Recruiting for single men for the South African Constabulary is still going on at 1, Chapel-place, Delahay-street, Westminster, S.W. Candidates must be from 20 to 35 years of age, and must ride and shoot well. Recruiting for married men has ceased.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

The following Table shows the number of cases* of lead, phosphorus, arsenic and mercurial poisoning and of anthrax reported during February as having occurred in factories and workshops. Of the 64 cases of lead poisoning reported during the month, 14 (13 males and 1 female) occurred in white lead works, and 10 (6 males and 4 females) in the china and earthenware industry, the number of cases in these industries in February, 1900, being 18 and 19 respectively. The deaths of 5 males, 4 from lead poisoning and 1 from anthrax, were reported during the month, as against 1 death (a female) from lead poisoning in February, 1900.

| Disease and Industry. | February, 1901. | | | | Total Feb. 1900. |
|--|-----------------|----------|----------------|----------|------------------|
| | Adults. | | Young Persons. | | |
| | M.† | F.† | M.† | F.† | |
| Lead Poisoning— | | | | | |
| White Lead Works | 13 | 1 | — | — | 14 |
| China and Earthenware | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Litho-Transfer Works | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Red and Yellow Lead Works, Glass Cutting and Polishing, Enamelling of Iron Plates, Electrical Accumulator Works | 4 | 1 | — | — | 5 |
| Manufacture of Paints and Colours | 6 | 1 | — | — | 7 |
| Smelting of Metals, Brass Works | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Sheet Lead and Lead Piping, Printing, File Cutting | 4 | 1 | — | — | 5 |
| Coach Making, &c. | 9 | 1 | 2 | — | 12 |
| Other Industries | 6 | — | — | — | 6 |
| Total Lead Poisoning | 52 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 64 |
| Mercurial Poisoning | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Phosphorus Poisoning | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Arsenic Poisoning | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Anthrax | 4 | — | — | — | 4 |

In addition to the cases included above, 8 cases of lead poisoning (including 1 death) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

North Dakota.—The Department has received a copy of the sixth biennial report of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Labour to the Governor of North Dakota. The report gives statistics of the acreage under various crops, the number of live-stock, etc.

* Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. † Fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. † M.—Males. F.—Females.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in February.*—Nearly 14 per cent. of the 161,922 members of 1,028 Trade Unions, which made returns as to the state of employment on February 15th, were out of work on that date, the proportion for the previous month being a little over 12 per cent., and that for February, 1900, a little over 8 per cent. These figures are exclusive of the Trade Unions of coal miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais districts.

Coal Mining in January.†—The average number of days worked per week by those employed underground in coal mines in January was 5.94, as compared with 5.31 in the previous month, and 5.86 in January, 1900. During the month, full time (6 days and over per week) was worked by 91 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 2 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines. In the previous month, only 4 per cent. worked full time, while 92 per cent. worked from 5 to 6 days per week. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal-owners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines).

Labour Disputes in January.†—Fifty-one fresh disputes, 47 of which involved 16,612 workpeople were reported to the French Labour Department in January. The number of disputes reported in December was 37, in 35 of which 10,089 workpeople took part, while in January, 1900, there were 65 disputes, in 59 of which 20,578 workpeople took part. Of the 51 disputes in January last, 5 occurred in the building trades, 2 in mining, 8 in metal and engineering trades, 12 in the textile trades, 7 in transport and dock labour, 2 each in the pottery and chemical trades, 4 in food, etc., preparation trades, and 3 in hide and skin-working, the remaining 6 disputes occurring in trades not falling within any of these groups. Of 38 disputes of which the termination is reported, 5 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 19 in favour of the employers, and 14 were compromised.

One of the disputes referred to in the foregoing paragraph was a strike of 10,000 miners at Montceau-les-mines (Saône-et-Loire) for increased wages and new working rules. The strike began on January 20th. A committee of conciliation, convened in accordance with the Conciliation and Arbitration Law of December 27th, 1892 (see GAZETTE, August, 1899, p. 232), met, but failed to bring about a settlement, and the termination of the dispute has not been reported up to the time of going to press.

Conciliation and Arbitration in January.†—Eight cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in January. Committees of conciliation were formed in 5 cases, and resulted in the settlement of 2 disputes. In 3 cases the employers declined to accept the proffered mediation.

Calais Lacemakers' Dispute.—In despatches to the Foreign Office, dated February 12th and 25th, Mr. C. A. Payton, H.M. Consul at Calais, reports concerning the termination of this dispute, which began on November 12th, 1900 (see GAZETTE, December, 1900, p. 362), and ended on February 6th, 1901.

The Consul states that the number of the strikers is estimated by a manufacturer to have been about 1,800 at the beginning of the dispute, and about 1,200 towards its end. This is exclusive of 14,000 to 15,000 women, youths, and girls, mostly thrown out of work in consequence of the dispute. The number of the workpeople, who did not join in the dispute, was about 750 at the beginning, and about 1,350 towards the end of the dispute. The demands of the Trade Union, as modified and published on January 24th, 1901, were as follows:—

- (1) Continuous day of 8½ hours. (This was at first 8 hours; the ½ hours were added after a delegation had been to Paris.)
- (2) Twenty per cent. augmentation of the tariff of 1890, and its annexes.
- (3) Fifty centimes (4½d.) per hour for all changes

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department. † Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department.)

beyond 8 hours of work, whatever be the "racks" done in the week.

(4) All hands to go back; no dismissals on account of the strike.

The points most strongly insisted on were Nos. 1 and 4, the men's main contention being that the Law of March 30th, 1900 (see GAZETTE, April, 1900, p. 101) rendered it illegal to work by relays or "quarter shifts."

Previously to the commencement of the dispute, the factories worked nominally 24 hours per day, but virtually 22, in four "quarter shifts" of 6 hours, each man taking two alternate shifts of this kind, making together 12 hours, reduced by rest or meal times to 11 hours.

The manufacturers held that the law did not forbid the relay system for adult labour, except in cases in which the men required the assistance of the "protected labour" of women, youths or girls; so that some factories would be exempt from the law for one class of machinery and within its operation for another.

The factories were closed by general action of the manufacturers on November 23rd, 1900, and were reopened (for work in day-time only) on January 22nd, 1901, with such hands as were then available.

The funds of the Trade Union at the commencement of the dispute were considerable, and they were increased by subscriptions from other industrial centres in France, including £600 to £700 collected by a newspaper; but very little help was received from French labour organisations. With respect to assistance from England, the Consul states that sums were received from the laceworkers and others at Nottingham, from the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, London, from railway servants and boilermakers at Newcastle, and a certain amount from Manchester.

The strike pay was, in the case of men, 12s. per week at the beginning of the dispute, gradually dwindling to 2s. 6d. at the end. To winders or threader-lads 4s. per week down to 10d. was given. To those workpeople, who did not join in the dispute, the manufacturers allowed 16s. per week, while the factories remained closed.

The manufacturers, at a meeting on February 9th, were reported to have agreed not to resume the relay system for the present, and only to work 11 hours per day, with one man to each frame. This modification, it was said, would leave 1,000 to 1,200 men out of work. Subsequently, however, the employers re-commenced the relay system, working 20 hours in 4 "quarter shifts," 2 men taking 2 such shifts each, which made it possible for nearly all the hands then out of work to be employed.

Strike of Dock Labourers at Marseilles.—In despatches to the Foreign Office, dated February 28th and March 1st, Mr. M. C. Gurney, H.M. Consul at Marseilles, reports that British ships were leaving the port unable to load or discharge. Five thousand dock labourers struck on February 28th, and twenty thousand hands in other trades involved were expected to follow almost immediately.

The movement started very suddenly on the evening of February 27th. Enquiries made on the following morning as to the cause of strike showed that, although the first cause was the dissatisfaction of the hands employed by the stevedores of the Messageries Maritimes Steamship Company with several of the wharfingers' foremen, and at the dismissal of several foreign dock-labourers belonging to the International Union, the real cause of the strike was the demand for an eight hours' day for six francs, instead of a ten hours' day, no overtime, and on Sundays and holidays, an eight hours' day for ten francs.

Last summer the men obtained an increase of wages to six francs per diem for ten hours. Rear Admiral Besson, who arbitrated, warned them that they were doing great injury to local trade and would themselves in a very short time be the sufferers.

In the opinion of H. M. Consul, the employers were, at the time of reporting, not likely to give in, and

the movement threatened to take very serious proportions. Work was scarce. A large proportion of the men affected are Italians.

GERMANY.

Employment in January.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the state of employment underwent a further change for the worse in January, the average number of applications for work per 100 situations offered at 71 public employment registries making returns for that month being 165.8, as compared with 161.9 in December, and 126.2 in January, 1900.

Trade Unions of the Hirsch-Duncker Federation.*—The Trade Unions known as "Gewerkvereine (Hirsch-Duncker)" in Germany had an aggregate membership of 91,661 at the end of 1900, as compared with 88,000 in the previous year. The amount of the various benefits paid in 1899 by Trade Unions representing an aggregate of 86,423 members, and by the sick and burial societies affiliated to these Unions was £54,424, and included £45,770 in sick benefit, £4,251 unemployed benefit (including contributions of unemployed members remitted), travelling and emigration benefit, £2,850 funeral benefit, £645 relief in special distress, and £585 dispute benefit.

BELGIUM.†

Employment in December.—In certain districts coal mining suffered a decrease (the first for a considerable period) in activity, due to the high prices maintained by the coalowners, and to the lessened consumption of fuel in metal smelting, the products of which industry, on the other hand, experienced a perceptible decline in price. The engineering trade also experienced a decline, chiefly ascribable to foreign competition. Arms factories, foundries, and enamelled goods factories were quiet on the whole. Sheet glass manufacture continued practically at a standstill, owing to the strike. In the plate-glass trade, the condition was described as feeble, with a poor outlook for the spring.

Having regard to the season, employment continued fairly good in the building trades, but was very scarce in men's garment-making trade. Scarcity of employment also prevailed in the leather and wood trades, while the paper and tobacco trades were busy. Cotton, flax and jute spinners continued well employed, except in the Alost district, where local depression was stated to exist. There was a marked decline in activity in cotton weaving, but the woollen industry showed signs of improving.

Labour Disputes in December.—The disputes reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in December numbered three only. One of these, however, was the dispute in the Antwerp Docks, mentioned in previous numbers of the GAZETTE (January, p. 15, and February, p. 45), and is stated to have involved (so far as could be estimated) about 15,000 workpeople. The two other disputes begun in December were strikes of fur cutters and bookbinders, involving together only 100 workpeople. The strike of sheet glass workers in the Charleroi district (involving some 8,000 workpeople), begun last August, was still in progress at the end of December.

The results of four disputes are reported, all (including that of the Antwerp dock labourers) ending in favour of the employers.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Employment in December.—The returns of the Labour Registries (public and private) furnishing reports to the Austrian Labour Department for December summarised in the January issue of *Sociale Rundschau* (the Journal of that Department) show that the proportion of applications for work rose since the previous month from 150 to 178 per 100 situations offered. Taking the sexes separately, it is found that in December the average number of applications for each situation was 2.6 in the case of male, and 0.9 in the case of female workpeople (1.9 and 1.0 respectively in November).

* *Der Gewerksverein* (the organ of the Federation of "Gewerkvereine, Hirsch-Duncker.") † *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department.)

Employment in January.—The corresponding returns for January show a falling off in the proportion of applicants per 100 situations offered, from 178 to 135. In the case of female workpeople the proportion of applicants per situation offered fell from 0.9 to 0.7, while in the case of males it remained the same as in December, viz., 2.6.

Labour Disputes in December.—Eight disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in December (the same number as in the previous month). The number of workpeople involved in the December disputes was 1,280 (as compared with 1,017 in the previous month). Three of the December disputes were in the metal trades, the remaining 5 being strikes of bookbinders, bone button-turners, cut glass-workers, jute spinners, and forest labourers respectively. Of 7 of the December disputes, of which the results were known, 4 (involving 1,144 workpeople) were decided in favour of the workpeople, 2 (involving 21 workpeople) in favour of the employers, and 1 (involving 82 workpeople) was compromised.

Labour Disputes in January.—A provisional return prepared by the same department gives 15 disputes as having begun in January, the workpeople involved in 13 of these disputes numbering 1,377. The trades affected were as follows: mining, 2 disputes; metal-working and engineering, etc., 5; textile and clothing trades, 2 each; while the occupations of those who took part in the remaining 4 disputes are stated to have been stone-cutting, steam-trawling, reel-making (for textile machinery), and the sale of sewing-machines, respectively. Of 11 disputes, of which the results were known, 2 (involving 116 workpeople) were decided in favour of the workpeople, 5 (4 of which involved 223 workpeople) in favour of the employers, and 4 (3 of which involved 949 workpeople) were compromised.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Labour in Chicago.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated February 11th, 1901, Mr. W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago, reports that the dispute in the building trades of Chicago has at last come to an end, the carpenters' Union, which had held out several weeks after the others had come to an agreement with the employers, having made terms on February 7th, after being out since February 5th, 1900. Many of the men have been working for some time with the tacit consent of the Unions, but they have been receiving considerably less than Union wages. The agreement is for three years, and the Saturday half-holiday (one of the chief stumbling blocks) has been conceded to the men.

The principal provisions in the agreement are: No limitation of a day's work; no restriction on the use of machinery or tools; no restriction on the use of material manufactured by non-unionists, except prison-made; use of apprentices allowed; foreman to be agent of employer instead of Unions; workmen to work for whom they please; employers to be allowed to hire or discharge whom they please; wages to be 1s. 9½d. per hour with half-holiday until April 1st, 1902, and until April 1st, 1903, 1s. 10½d. and half-holiday; the working day to be 8 hours, and men to be paid every week. This agreement is conditional on the withdrawal of the Union from the Building Trades Council. The Unions, which have withdrawn from the Council, have 13,450 members, while those, which remain, have only 5,490.

The only other strike at present going on at Chicago is in one of the large engineering establishments, where the men demand the dismissal of one of the superintendents. The men have been ordered back to work by the labour leaders, but have refused to obey.

During the past year the piano makers were out nearly two months on strike, the blast furnaces and iron works were closed for a time during the high prices

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

† *Sociale Rundschau* (Journal of the Austrian Labour Department).

and consequent want of orders, and the agricultural implement factories were run with a small force for a longer period than usual owing to small demand in consequence of loss of crop in the North West.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN FEBRUARY.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows a decline of half a day per week in the average number of days worked as compared with a year ago, but an increase in the number employed.

Pits employing about 40 per cent. of the workpeople reported on were idle on February 2nd, the day of national mourning. The amount of time lost estimated for the whole number of workpeople was about 0.10 days per man per week.

No trustworthy comparison can be made with January owing to the inclusion of holidays in the returns for that month.

The following Table relating to 1,332 pits, at which 476,426 workpeople were employed, gives the figures upon which the above statement is based.

SUMMARY.

| District. | No. employed in Feb., 1901, at the collieries included in the Table. | Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|------------------|-------------------|
| | | 23rd Feb., 1901. | 24th Feb., 1900. | 19th Jan., 1901.* |
| England and Wales | 433,069 | 5.18 | 5.70 | 4.84 |
| Scotland | 41,702 | 5.26 | 5.38 | 4.43 |
| Ireland | 755 | 5.74 | 5.33 | 4.79 |
| United Kingdom | 476,426 | 5.19 | 5.69 | 4.80 |

The number of workpeople employed at the pits from which returns have been received for both periods, was about 7.4 per cent. greater than a year ago.

In the next Table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 75.1 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in the four weeks ended February 23rd, as compared with 95.6 per cent. a year ago.

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. | February, 1901. | | Corresponding percentages in— | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| | No. of Workpeople employed. | Percentage proportion to total. | February, 1900. | January, 1901.* |
| 24 days (full time) | 22,112 | 4.7 | 36.8 | 0.0 |
| 20 and under 24 days | 335,526 | 70.4 | 58.8 | 46.0 |
| 16 " " 20 " | 87,273 | 18.3 | 4.3 | 45.8 |
| 12 " " 16 " | 25,350 | 5.3 | 0.1 | 7.8 |
| 8 " " 12 " | 2,351 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Under 8 days | 3,868 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Total | 476,426 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The Table below, which gives detailed particulars for different mining districts, shows that in all the districts in Great Britain, the average number of days worked per week was less than in the corresponding period a year ago. In the Fife district the decrease amounted to more than three-fourths of a day per week; in the Northumberland and Yorkshire districts to over two-thirds of a day per week; and in the Nottingham and Leicester, Derbyshire and Durham districts to over half a day per week.

The highest averages during the month were worked in Ireland (5.74 days per week), in the Gloucester and Somerset district (5.62 days), the Lothians (5.61 days), North Wales (5.57 days) and Cumberland (5.50) days. The lowest averages were in the Nottingham and Leicester district (4.70 days), Northumberland (4.79 days), and Fife (4.98 days). In no other district was the average less than 5 days per week.

* The Christmas and New Year Holidays are included in this period.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—COAL AND IRON MINING; PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN FEBRUARY, 1901 AND 1900, AND IN JANUARY, 1901.

| District. | No. employed in Feb., 1901, at the Collieries included in the Table. | Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1901, as compared with | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|------------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| | | 23rd Feb., 1901. | 24th Feb., 1900. | 19th Jan., 1901. | A year ago. | A month ago. |
| ENGLAND & WALES. | | Days. | Days. | Days. | Days. | Days. |
| Northumberland | 36,291 | 4.79 | 5.49 | 4.75 | -.70 | +.04 |
| Durham | 90,935 | 5.10 | 5.63 | 5.04 | -.53 | +.06 |
| Cumberland | 7,058 | 5.50 | 5.73 | 4.92 | -.23 | +.58 |
| Yorkshire | 70,329 | 5.18 | 5.86 | 4.72 | -.68 | +.46 |
| Lancashire and Cheshire | 49,702 | 5.33 | 5.71 | 4.77 | -.38 | +.46 |
| Derbyshire | 37,932 | 5.22 | 5.77 | 4.80 | -.55 | +.42 |
| Nottingham and Leicester | 27,126 | 4.70 | 5.34 | 4.15 | -.64 | +.55 |
| Staffordshire | 26,146 | 5.29 | 5.65 | 4.79 | -.36 | +.50 |
| Salop, Worcester and Warwick | 9,196 | 5.44 | 5.81 | 4.73 | -.37 | +.71 |
| Gloucester and Somerset | 8,679 | 5.62 | 5.84 | 4.97 | -.22 | +.65 |
| North Wales | 11,266 | 5.57 | 5.77 | 5.02 | -.20 | +.55 |
| South Wales & Mon. | 59,279 | 5.37 | 5.83 | 5.04 | -.46 | +.33 |
| SCOTLAND. | | | | | | |
| West Lothians | 22,649 | 5.37 | 5.44 | 4.51 | -.07 | +.86 |
| The Lothians | 4,260 | 5.61 | 5.77 | 4.48 | -.16 | +1.13 |
| Fife | 14,793 | 4.98 | 5.76 | 4.30 | -.78 | +.68 |
| Ireland. | | | | | | |
| Ireland | 755 | 5.74 | 5.33 | 4.79 | +.41 | +.39 |
| Grand Total & Averages | 476,426 | 5.19 | 5.69 | 4.80 | -.50 | +.95 |

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders, and patent fuel during February amounted to 2,771,973 tons, as compared with 3,206,235 tons in January, and 3,333,664 tons in February, 1900.

(b) IRON MINING IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows a decline as compared with a year ago. A trustworthy comparison cannot be made with January, owing to the inclusion of holidays in the returns for that month.

Returns relating to 127 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked by these mines during the 4 weeks ended February 23rd was 5.39, as compared with 5.55 days in the corresponding period in February, 1900. The number of workpeople employed at the mines covered by the returns was 16,076 (or 693 less than a year ago), of whom 57.78 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the 4 weeks, compared with 69.9 per cent. in February, 1900.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:

| District. | No. employed in Feb., 1901, at the Mines included in the Table. | Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1901, as compared with | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|------------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| | | 23rd Feb., 1901. | 24th Feb., 1900. | 19th Jan., 1901. | A year ago. | A month ago. |
| ENGLAND— | | Days. | Days. | Days. | Days. | Days. |
| Cumberland and Lancashire | 5,442 | 5.76 | 5.82 | 5.39 | -.06 | +.37 |
| Cleveland | 6,312 | 5.07 | 5.26 | 5.16 | -.19 | -.09 |
| Lincolnshire and Leicestershire | 673 | 4.61 | 5.87 | 5.10 | -1.26 | -.49 |
| Northamptonshire | 632 | 5.31 | 5.72 | 5.46 | -.14 | +.15 |
| Staffordshire and Shropshire | 1,603 | 5.63 | 5.53 | 5.06 | +.10 | +.57 |
| Other places in England | 63 | 5.65 | 5.10 | 4.64 | +.55 | +1.01 |
| SCOTLAND | 1,252 | 5.48 | 6.00 | 4.75 | -.52 | +.73 |
| IRELAND | 99 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 5.54 | ... | +.46 |
| Total | 16,076 | 5.39 | 5.55 | 5.20 | -.16 | +.19 |

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT shows a further decline as compared with a month ago, and is much worse than a year ago.

At the works of 115 ironmasters covered by the returns received, nineteen furnaces were damped down or blown out in England and Wales, and two were re-lit during the month; while in Scotland two were blown out. Thus at the end of February there were nineteen furnaces less in operation than at the end of January. As compared with February, 1900, a

decrease is shown in every district, the net decrease in Great Britain being 95 furnaces.

The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 288 furnaces in blast at the end of February was 20,500.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast in different districts at the three periods specified:—

| Districts. | Present time compared with a year ago. | | Present time compared with a month ago. | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1901. | |
|---|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|------------|
| | Feb., 1901. | Feb., 1900. | Feb., 1901. | Jan., 1901. | | |
| ENGLAND & WALES— | | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 72 | 95 | -23 | 72 | 80 | -8 |
| Cumberland & Lancs. | 39 | 55 | -16 | 39 | 41 | -2 |
| S. and S.W. Yorks. | 14 | 19 | -5 | 14 | 13 | +1 |
| Lincolnshire | 9 | 16 | -7 | 9 | 11 | -2 |
| Midlands | 72 | 101 | -29 | 72 | 76 | -4 |
| Glamorgan and Mon. | 14 | 21 | -7 | 14 | 15 | -1 |
| Other districts | 7 | 9 | -2 | 7 | 8 | -1 |
| Total England and Wales... | 227 | 316 | -89 | 227 | 244 | -17 |
| SCOTLAND | 61 | 67 | -6 | 61 | 63 | -2 |
| Total furnaces included in returns | 288 | 383 | -95 | 288 | 307 | -19 |

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS* IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in these industries shows a decline in the average number of shifts worked and in the number of workpeople employed as compared with a year ago. As compared with January, the number of workpeople employed has decreased, but the average number of shifts has increased.

Numbers Employed.

At 204 works covered by the returns 78,251 workpeople were employed in the week ended February 23rd, as compared with 79,029 in the week ended January 26th, and 80,202 a year ago.

The following Table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

| District. | Numbers employed in week ended | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1901, as compared with | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| | Feb. 23rd, 1901. | Feb. 24th, 1900. | Jan. 26th, 1901. | a year ago. | a month ago. |
| England and Wales | 65,890 | 67,177 | 66,554 | -1,287 | -664 |
| Scotland | 12,361 | 13,025 | 12,475 | -664 | -114 |
| Total | 78,251 | 80,202 | 79,029 | -1,951 | -778 |

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing about 89 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.24 per man in the week ended February 23rd, as compared with 5.19 in the week ended January 26th, and 5.56 in the corresponding week a year ago.

| Number of Shifts worked. | Number employed in Feb., 1901, so far as returned. | Percentage proportion to Total. | Corresponding percentage in | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | | | Feb., 1900. | Jan., 1901. |
| Under 5 per week | 11,034 | 15.8 | 4.2 | 15.3 |
| 5 per week | 24,550 | 35.1 | 34.6 | 36.4 |
| 5½ per week | 1,395 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| 6 per week | 32,555 | 46.5 | 58.7 | 46.1 |
| Over 6 per week | 459 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| Total | 69,993 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this

* Including iron puddling and rolling, and steel making and rolling.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—TINPLATE WORKS; SEAMEN; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Table worked the same average number of shifts per man as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the people included in the first Table may be estimated at 409,972 in the week ended February 23rd, 409,942 in the week ended January 26th, and 445,557 in the corresponding week a year ago. Thus the volume of employment at the works included in the returns was practically the same as in the week ended January 26th, and 8.0 per cent. less than a year ago.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT at the end of February showed a further slight decline compared with January, and was much worse than a year ago.

At the end of February 32 works, with 159 mills, had all their mills in operation, whilst 26 others had 118 mills only at work out of a total of 172. Thus in all 277 mills were working, compared with 286 mills at the end of January, and 419 mills a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of February is estimated to be about 13,800, or nearly 7,000 less than at the same time in 1900.

The following Table shows the number of mills at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,† at each of the three periods:—

| | No. of Works open. | No. of Mills in such Works | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| | | Working. | Not Working. | Total. |
| Works giving full employment ... | 32 | 159 | — | 159 |
| Works giving partial employment ... | 26 | 118 | 54 | 172 |
| Total at end of February, 1901 ... | 58 | 277 | 54 | 331 |
| Corresponding Total for January, 1901† | 59 | 286 | 48 | 334 |
| Corresponding Total for February, 1900† | 83 | 419 | 68 | 477 |

The Exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above Table are summarised below:—

| | Tinplates. | | | Blackplates. | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Feb., 1901. | Jan., 1901. | Feb., 1900. | Feb., 1901. | Jan., 1901. | Feb., 1900. |
| To United States ... | Tons. 3,504 | Tons. 4,673 | Tons. 4,210 | Tons. 11 | Tons. — | Tons. 211 |
| „ Other Countries | 16,269 | 16,928 | 21,449 | 3,236 | 5,151 | 6,352 |
| Total ... | 19,773 | 21,601 | 25,659 | 3,247 | 5,151 | 6,563 |

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN FEBRUARY.

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

THE number of seamen shipped during February as the crews of foreign-going vessels, from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), was 28,281, or 1,509 more than during February, 1900. At most of the ports reported on, the supply of seamen is stated to have been equal to the demand.

During the two completed months of 1901, 64,790 men have been shipped, as compared with 62,025 in the corresponding period of 1900. The increase occurred chiefly at Liverpool.

* The figures relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates, but also to the manufacture of blackplates.
† It will be understood that, at each of the dates to which the returns relate, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.
‡ Revised figures.

Of the total number shipped during January and February, 10,455 (or 16.1 per cent.) were foreigners, the percentage for the corresponding period of 1900 being 15.1. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

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 February, 1901 and 1900 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the two months ended February in each of these years:—

| Principal Ports. | Number of Men, &c., shipped in February, 1901.* | | | Total in February, 1900.* | | Total number shipped in 2 months ended February.* |
|---|---|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---|
| | In Sailing Vessels. | In Steam Vessels. | Total in February, 1901. | 1901. | 1900. | |
| ENGLAND. | | | | | | |
| East Coast. | | | | | | |
| Tyne Ports ... | 41 | 2,245 | 2,286 | 1,961 | 4,965 | 4,798 |
| Sunderland ... | — | 452 | 452 | 258 | 932 | 739 |
| Middlesbrough ... | — | 107 | 107 | 283 | 364 | 598 |
| Hull ... | — | 572 | 572 | 792 | 1,767 | 2,339 |
| Grimsby ... | — | 17 | 17 | 69 | 68 | 132 |
| Bristol Channel. | | | | | | |
| Bristol ... | — | 221 | 221 | 368 | 718 | 809 |
| Newport, Mon. ... | 20 | 944 | 964 | 683 | 2,027 | 1,726 |
| Cardiff ... | 153 | 3,465 | 3,618 | 3,802 | 9,158 | 9,461 |
| Swansea ... | 82 | 270 | 352 | 898 | 1,181 | 1,295 |
| Other Ports. | | | | | | |
| Liverpool ... | 150 | 9,656 | 9,816 | 7,975 | 20,382 | 17,008 |
| London ... | 206 | 5,158 | 5,364 | 6,991 | 12,383 | 12,409 |
| Southampton ... | — | 2,107 | 2,107 | 1,738 | 4,678 | 4,505 |
| SCOTLAND. | | | | | | |
| Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth | — | 234 | 234 | 518 | 881 | 1,309 |
| Glasgow ... | 42 | 1,854 | 1,876 | 1,818 | 4,261 | 4,029 |
| IRELAND. | | | | | | |
| Dublin ... | — | 82 | 82 | 85 | 293 | 219 |
| Belfast ... | — | 213 | 213 | 205 | 731 | 674 |
| Total, Feb., 1901 ... | 704 | 27,577 | 28,281 | — | 64,790 | — |
| Iditto, Feb., 1900 ... | 872 | 25,900 | — | 26,772 | — | 62,025 |

(g) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN FEBRUARY.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department on the basis of 261 Returns reports as follows:—Although snow and also wet weather interfered in some districts with work on the land such as ploughing, sowing and harrowing, generally speaking agricultural labourers were well employed during the month of February at such work as manure carting and spreading, hedging, ditching, threshing, woodcutting, road-mending, looking after stock, and assisting at lambing. In some districts a few men, mainly casual labourers, were in irregular work owing to unfavourable weather, but their numbers were inconsiderable. A number of employers state that during the bad weather the men were found suitable work under cover as far as possible.

Northern Counties.—In *Northumberland* and *Durham* employment is reported to have been regular during the month of February. Farm work is said to have been interrupted to some extent by bad weather, but as most of the farm servants are hired by the year or half year in these counties, their employment is not affected by the weather. Regularity of work is reported in *Cumberland*. A report from the Cocker-mouth Union says that Spring work is in a forward state. Reports of a similar character come from *Westmorland*. A report from the East Ward Union says:—“The winter on the whole has been an open one, and work has consequently not suffered by unfavourable weather to any great extent.” A report from the Kendal Union refers to some scarcity of men. Reports from *Lancashire* say that employment was generally regular during the month. The supply of labour is said to have been about equal to the demand in the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, and Ulverston, and scarce in the Unions of Preston, and Prescot. A correspondent in the Clitheroe Union writes as follows:—“Employment was much more regular during February (than during the previous month, which was a very wet one. There was a considerable spell of frost during February, and farmers took the opportunity of the ground being hard to cast out manure on to the land. A good deal of fencing has been pushed on with, because before another month the attention of the farmers will be largely taken up with looking after the lambs, which generally make their appearance about the middle of March in this district.”

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

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

In *Yorkshire* in the *East Riding* agricultural labourers were generally well employed. A few casual men were in irregular work for a short time owing to a fall of snow. A report from the Bridlington Union referring to the supply of labour, says, “More plentiful than a year ago. There is a fair supply of married men, but a great scarcity of young men to work horses, such as ploughmen.” In the Howden Union there is said to be “a scarcity of men for threshing purposes, but otherwise plentiful.” In the Patrington Union the supply of labour is said to be generally quite equal to the demand, though in a few parishes extra men for threshing are somewhat scarce. In the Beverley Union the supply of labour is said to be “just about sufficient.” In the Pocklington Union it is said that “the supply of regular labourers is about equal to the demand. A few waggons and young lads to go with horses are wanted.” In the *North Riding* agricultural employment was generally regular. In the Scarborough Union the supply of labour is said to be a little more plentiful. In the Darlington Union a large employer of labour states that men are still very scarce, but that the supply is getting somewhat more plentiful. In the Guisborough Union a correspondent writes: “The supply of men has been better this year than for the last two years. A few labourers are out of work, being discharged from the mines. They are mostly men who left the farms and went to the mines 8 to 12 months ago, and now want to come back.” In the Ripon, and Easingwold Unions the supply is said to be about sufficient for the demand, in the Northallerton Union “short in some parishes” and in the Thirsk Union “scarce.” In the *West Riding* employment was generally regular. In the Unions of *Knarborough* and *Ouseburn* the supply of labour is said to be ample. A correspondent in the Doncaster Union writes as follows: “There is rather a better supply of men than for some months past.” In the Selby Union there is said to be a difficulty in getting men for threshing or any extra work. A correspondent in the Goole Union says that there was a sufficient supply of daily men, but that there is a scarcity of plough-boys, who are usually engaged by the year. He adds that the weather has been favourable for manure leading, potato delivering, and threshing. A correspondent in the Ripon Union writes: “There are just enough men for the work.” In the Wetherby Union the supply of labour is described as short.

Midland Counties.—Employment in *Derbyshire* is reported to have generally been regular. The supply of labour is said to have been scarce in the Union of *Ashbourne*, and in the *Derbyshire* portion of the *Burton-on-Trent* Union (*Derby and Staffs.*). A correspondent in the last-named Union writes:—“Agricultural labourers continue very scarce, and particularly so where no cottages are attached to the holding.” An employer in the Mansfield Union writes that “casual labourers are now plentiful, owing to the collieries working short time.” In *Cheshire* it is reported that agricultural labourers were well employed. A correspondent states that in the *Nantwich* and *Tarvin* Unions female farm servants are very scarce, and that on some farms cheese-making has been given up owing to difficulty in obtaining them. Regularity of employment is reported in *Nottinghamshire*. In the *Bingham* Union a few men are said to have had some irregular work owing to wet weather. A scarcity of men is referred to in a report from the *Basford*, and *Southwell* Unions, and a correspondent states that in the *Retford*, and *Worksop* Unions extra men for threshing were very scarce.

Agricultural labourers in *Leicestershire* are said to have been generally well employed. The supply of labour is reported as about equal to the demand in the *Blaby* Union. In the *Market Bosworth* Union one correspondent says “just sufficient for the time of year.” Another correspondent in a different part of the Union says “hardly sufficient for the present demand.” In the *Market Harborough* Union a report states “there is rather a better supply of labour.” In the *Loughborough* Union, “rather more labourers than we had some time back, but no able-bodied men are out of work.” A correspondent in the *Lutterworth* Union reports that “it is very difficult to get any extra hands.” Regularity of work is reported in *Rutland*. In *Staffordshire* employment is said to have been generally regular. In the *Drayton* Union it is stated that snow and wet weather rather hindered a few men employed at piece work. A scarcity of men is referred to in reports from the *Seisdon*, and *Tamworth* Unions. Employment is reported as regular in *Shropshire* and men rather scarce, especially for extra work such as threshing. Reports of a similar character come from *Worcestershire*. A report from the *Evesham* Union says, however, that “extra men were more easily obtained,” and in the *Upton-on-Severn* Union the supply of men is said to have been “about enough.”

Reports from *Warwickshire* state that agricultural employment was generally regular, and the supply of labour about sufficient. One employer in the *Stratford-on-Avon* Union reports that the supply of labour is very short. Another in a different district close to *Stratford-on-Avon* states that the supply is greater than the demand. A large employer of labour in the *Alcester* Union writes that “there appears to be more labour available now than in 1900.” A report from the *Meriden* Union describes the supply of labour as sufficient. In *Oxfordshire* agricultural labourers are said to have been generally well employed. A correspondent in the *Thame* Union writes that “in the open parishes a few jobbing men were occasionally idle.” He adds, “labour is scarce, especially for cowmen. In the *Headington* Union irregular men are said to have been more plentiful. In the *Witney*, and *Wallingford* Unions some scarcity of men is reported. Regularity of employment is reported in *Northamptonshire*. Reports to this effect come from the Unions of *Brixworth*, *Kettering*, *Potterspury*, *Oundle*, *Wellingborough* and the *Northamptonshire* portion of the *Banbury* Union. A correspondent in the *Kettering* Union writes that “labour is not so scarce owing to the shortening of labour at ironstone mines and factories.” A large employer of labour in the *Wellingborough* Union writes: “The supply of labour is still rather short, but not quite so scarce as a few months ago.” Another correspondent in the same Union writes: “In consequence of the building and ironstone trades being indifferent, there are more men seeking work.” He adds that “employment was afforded by the good root crops, but, on the other hand, the harvest of 1900 being so poor, there has not been so much work in threshing and delivering corn.” A correspondent in the *Oundle* Union writes that “there is not much complaint as to the supply of labour, with the exception of boys, who are unobtainable.”

Agricultural labourers in *Buckinghamshire* are reported to have been well employed and men generally scarce. A large employer of labour in the *Aylesbury* Union writes as follows: “There are just sufficient men to carry on the work. Very few oddmen or boys are to be had anywhere. There is a general scarcity of boys and stockmen.” A correspondent in the *Buckingham* Union writes: “Agricultural labourers are very scarce. No extra men are to be had for threshing, etc. Farmers are obliged to borrow of one another.” A correspondent in the *Wycombe* Union writes: “There is a lot of sewage work being done in the district, and all the strongest labourers leave the farms to do it.” Reports from *Hertfordshire* and *Bedfordshire* state that employment was regular. In *Herts*, in the *Barnet*, *Hitchin*, *Hatfield*, *Hertford*, and *Watford* Unions the supply of labour is said to have been equal to the demand. In the *Buntingford* Union cattlemen are said to be scarce. In *Bedfordshire* in the *Leighton Buzzard* Union a correspondent states that there were plenty of men, and that there was a good deal of employment cutting hedges, ditching, and draining. A correspondent in the *Biggleswade* Union states that the supply of labour is quite sufficient.

Eastern Counties.—In *Huntingdonshire* agricultural employment is said to have been generally regular. Reports from the *Huntingdon* Union and from the *Hunts* portion of the *Thrapston* Union state that the weather was open, and field work was generally carried on without much interruption. A correspondent in the *St. Neots* Union (*Hunts and Beds*), writes as follows:—“The supply of labour is still deficient. The land is very wet and unworkable, and there is little for horses to do. Labourers have been fully employed.” Agricultural labourers in *Cambridgeshire* were generally well employed. In the following *Poor Law* Unions the supply of labour is said to have been about sufficient: *Chesterton*, *Ely*, *Newmarket*, *North Witchford*, *Wisbech*, and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the *Peterborough* Union. In the *Royston* Union a short supply is reported. In *Lincolnshire* employment is said to have been generally regular during the month. The supply of men is reported to have been sufficient in the Unions of *Grantham* (except in the case of boys), *Holbeach*, *Horncastle*, *Lincoln*, *Louth* (casual men very difficult to get), *Sleaford*, and *Spilsby*. In the Unions of *Brigg*, and *Caistor* the supply of labour is said to be short. A large employer in the *Brigg* Union complains especially of the difficulty in getting boys. A report from an employer in the *Lincoln* Union states that at the annual hirings in February the rates of weekly cash wages for “confined men,” e.g., foremen, shepherds, garthmen, and waggons, were 6d. to 1s. a week higher than last year. A correspondent in the *Horncastle* Union states that the wages of these classes generally remained about the same as last year in that district, though in a few special cases a rise of 6d. to 1s. a week was obtained.

Twenty-five reports have been received from *Norfolk* refer-

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

ring to 15 Poor Law Unions. Generally speaking, agricultural labourers were well employed throughout the month, though in certain parishes a few men lost a little time owing to the weather. Although snow and rain interfered with outdoor work to some extent, reports state that farmers generally found their men suitable employment. In the following Unions the supply of labour is said to have been sufficient: Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Guiltcross (short in a few parishes), East and West Flegg, Docking, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Smallburgh, Swaffham, St. Faith's and Walsingham. One report from the Henstead Union says: "Short of good men." Another from a different district in the Union says: "Plenty of odd hands are to be obtained to help with the threshing, etc." A correspondent in the Freebridge Lynn Union writes as follows:—"The snow in the first three weeks, and the rain in the last week, made the ground so wet that little work could be done during the month except in the very light soils." A correspondent in the Guiltcross Union writes as follows:—"We had 24 days snow, and some labourers were out in every parish. Many of the larger farmers kept their men in employment hedging and ditching." A large employer in the Loddon and Clavering Union writes: "Snow and heavy rains prevented much headway being made, but all hand kept on." A correspondent in the Erpingham Union writes: "During a greater part of the month the weather was rough and wild, but no time was lost, all hands being engaged in muck-carting and feeding stock, threshing and sending in corn." A correspondent in the Docking Union writes:—"Snow and frost delayed the preparation of the land for barley and oats, but a lot of manure and earth carting has been done."

Reports from *Suffolk* state that there was, generally speaking, regularity of employment, though a few men lost a little time owing to unfavourable weather. In the following Unions the supply of labour is reported as sufficient: Bosmere and Claydon, Blything, Hartismere, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, and Sudbury. In the Cosford, and Wangford Unions the supply is said to have been about sufficient for ordinary farm work, but there is an insufficient supply for extra work such as threshing, draining, and hedging. A report from the Hoxne Union says "good men are scarce." A correspondent in the Plomesgate Union writes:—"On the whole the weather has been severe, but there has been plenty of work carting manure, threshing, repairing roads, hedging and ditching." A correspondent in the Wangford Union says "The supply of labour was just sufficient for the ordinary work of the month on farms, but there was a difficulty in getting extra labour for threshing or draining or work in woods, such as cutting undergrowth." In *Essex* it is stated that employment with few exceptions was regular during the month. In the following Unions the supply of labour is said to have been sufficient: Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Ongar, and Tendring. A report from the Orsett Union says "barely sufficient."

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment in *Kent* is said to have been generally regular, with few exceptions, during the month in the Unions of Blean, Bridge, Elham, Faversham, Hoo, Hollingbourne, Malling, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tenterden, Thanet and West Ashford. Reports from most Unions say that the supply of men was about sufficient for the demand, but in the Unions of Blean, Bridge, Faversham, and West Ashford a scarcity is referred to. An employer in the Faversham Union writes as follows:—"Acres of underwood will be left because hands to fell it cannot be obtained. There is great difficulty to get sufficient men to work threshing machines. Farms near towns and large villages are better off for hands, though they have none too many, but 'hill farms' in certain parishes are very short." A correspondent in the Malling Union writes: "There is a good deal of agricultural work at this time of year in digging fruit plantations and hop gardens. Owing to frost this was entirely stopped, and in some cases other work could not be found for the men." In *Surrey* employment was generally regular, though in a few districts a small number of men lost a little time owing to snow and frost. A correspondent in the Hambledon Union says: "The supply of labour is very scarce. There are hardly any men for woodcutting." A report from the Dorking Union states that men are scarce.

Agricultural employment in *Sussex* is reported to have been generally regular. In the following Unions men are said to have been scarce: Battle (for extra work such as threshing or woodcutting) Chailey, Cuckfield (in the case of extra hands), Hailsham (in the case of extra men for threshing), Horsham (short of men for woodcutting, hedging, and ditching), Lewes (in the case of stockmen), Petworth (especially cospse men for cutting underwood, &c.),

Ticehurst, and Uckfield. A large employer in the Newhaven Union writes that "men are to be had now except carters and stockmen." A correspondent in the Hailsham Union writes as follows: "The weather was very bad at the beginning of the month, but after the snow and frost went there was plenty of manure spreading. Steady hands are too valuable to be turned off because work is temporarily slack, and there have been very few unemployed." A large employer in the Rye Union writes: "The labourers in this district were employed principally at cutting underwood into hop poles, faggots, thach wood, pea boughs, etc., and they could always be working if the weather was not too rough and wet." Agricultural labourers in *Hampshire* were generally well employed during the month. The supply of labour is said to have been about sufficient for the demand in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge. In the Droxford Union it is reported as "still short." A report from the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union says: "We cannot get extra labour." A correspondent in the Hartley Wintney Union writes: "There are plenty of hands to do ordinary farm work, except milkmen and men to work in the woods, and the latter are very scarce." Employment in *Devonshire* is said to have been generally regular. In the Hungerford, Newbury, and Wantage Unions the supply of men is reported to be scarce.

Ten reports have been received from *Wiltshire* referring to nine Poor Law Unions. The reports state that agricultural labourers were generally well employed. In the following Unions the supply of labour is said to have been sufficient for the work: Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Devizes, Marlborough, Mere, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. In the Unions of Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Pewsey, and Warminster, the supply of labour is said to be short. A correspondent in the Mere Union writes as follows:—"All men and boys fully employed. More cottages are required. Young men wanting to marry must get a cottage or leave the village." A correspondent in the Bradford-on-Avon Union writes: "Generally the weather was all that could be desired; work which was in arrears is now pulling up. All men are in regular work." In *Dorsetshire* employment is said to have been generally regular and men rather scarce.

In *Somersetshire* agricultural employment is said to have been generally regular. Reports to this effect come from the Unions of Axbridge, Bridgwater, Chard, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wells, Wellington, Williton, and Yeovil. In the following Unions the supply of labour is said to be short: Axbridge, Chard, Wells, Wellington, and Williton. In *Herefordshire* agricultural labourers, with few exceptions are said to have been well employed. A correspondent in the Leominster Union writes "A few casual labourers perhaps had some irregular work, but not regular men. Good labour is rather scarce." In *Gloucestershire* employment has been generally regular. Outdoor work was interrupted to a slight extent in some districts by unfavourable weather, but indoor work (threshing chiefly) kept the men employed. Some scarcity of labour is reported in the Unions of Chipping Sodbury, Newent, and Northleach, while in the Unions of Dursley, and Stow-on-the-Wold the supply is said to be about sufficient.

Agricultural labourers in *Devonshire* are said to have been, with few exceptions, regularly employed. A correspondent in the Newton Abbot Union writing at the end of the month states "that the drier weather has helped on all farm labour during the past fortnight," and a report from the Torrington Union, dated February 27th, says "an improvement in the weather has enabled farmers to get on with outdoor work better than for some weeks past." Labour is reported as scarce in the Unions of Axminster, Bideford, Honiton, Kingsbridge, Newton Abbot, South Molton, and Torrington. In the Holsworthy Union, however, the supply is said to be "probably beyond demand." Reports from *Cornwall* state that employment has been generally regular and that labour is scarce. A correspondent in the Truro Union writes that "fewer men are left to work on the land. They go to china clay, brick and railway construction works." In the Liskeard Union the supply of labour is said to be especially short in the case of cattle-men, carters, milkmen and lads.

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves was practically the same as in January and shows an improvement as compared with a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and the

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

principal wharves during the four weeks ended February 23rd was 17,138, as compared with 17,482 in the preceding four weeks and 14,207 in the corresponding period of 1900.

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

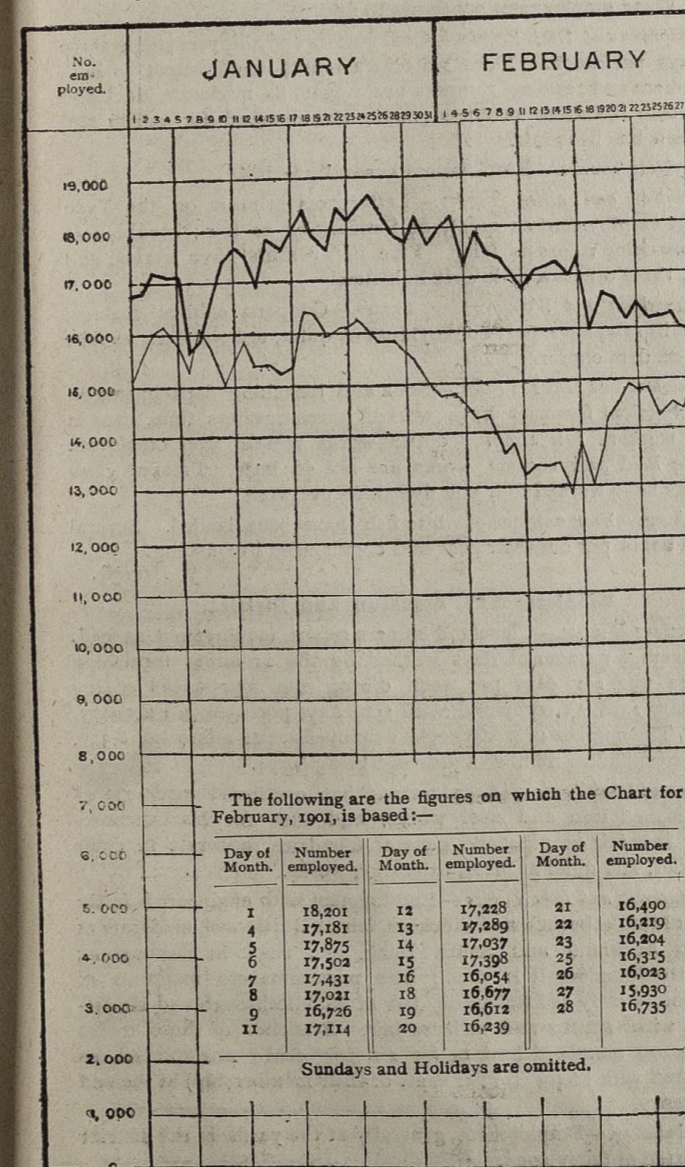
| Period. | Labourers employed in Docks | | | Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns. | Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns. |
|---|--|---------------------|--------|---|---|
| | By Dock Companies or through Contractors | By Ship-owners, &c. | Total. | | |
| Week ended Feb. 2 | 9,089 | 2,616 | 11,705 | 6,269 | 17,974 |
| " " " 9 | 8,284 | 2,329 | 10,613 | 6,477 | 17,290 |
| " " " 16 | 7,572 | 2,375 | 10,447 | 6,573 | 17,020 |
| " " " 23 | 7,265 | 2,543 | 9,818 | 6,594 | 16,407 |
| Average for 4 weeks ended Feb. 23rd, 1901 | 8,008 | 2,643 | 10,651 | 6,487 | 17,138 |
| Average for Feb., 1900 | 5,680 | 2,275 | 7,955 | 6,302 | 14,207 |
| Average for Jan., 1901 | 8,541 | 2,671 | 11,212 | 6,270 | 17,482 |

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in February ranged from 18,201 on the 1st to 15,930 on the 27th.

During February, 1900, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 12,778 on the 15th to 14,976 on the 28th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of January and February, 1901. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1900, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1901, and the thin curve to 1900.]



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on page 86.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN FEBRUARY.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents employment for women in the weaving branch of the cotton trade showed a decline; in the spinning branch it showed little change. In the worsted trade there was a slight improvement. Information has been received with regard to 550 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 94,840 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month, and for a year ago:—

| Trade and Month. | Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | Working full Time throughout the Month. | | Working Short Time during some part of the Month. | Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes. |
| | With Full Employment. | With Partial Employment. | | |
| Cotton Trade—Spinning— | | | | |
| February, 1901 | 88 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| January, 1901 | 89 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| February, 1900 | 99 | — | — | — |
| Cotton Trade—Weaving— | | | | |
| February, 1901 | 76 | 16 | 7 | 1 |
| January, 1901 | 86 | 12 | 1 | 1 |
| February, 1900 | 93 | 6 | — | — |
| Woollen and Worsted Trades— | | | | |
| February, 1901 | 71 | 23 | 5 | 1 |
| January, 1901 | 67 | 23 | 10 | — |
| February, 1900 | 98 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Total of above Trades— | | | | |
| February, 1901 | 78 | 15 | 6 | 1 |
| January, 1901 | 83 | 13 | 3 | 1 |
| February, 1900 | 96 | 3 | — | — |

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton spinning mills reported on is 23,990; of these 88 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 89 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in January, and with 99 per cent. in February, 1900.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton weaving factories reported on is 51,680; of these 76 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 86 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in January, and with 93 per cent. in February, 1900.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 19,170; of these 71 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 67 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in January, and with 98 per cent. in February, 1900.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

General.—On the whole, the state of employment in February remained quiet. Returns from 481 branches of 124 unions, having an aggregate membership of 80,671, show that 3,204 (or 4.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.2 per cent. in January, and 3.4 per cent. in February, 1900.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding* trades remained good. Returns from 159 branches of 30 Unions, with an aggregate membership of 23,783, show that 612 (or 2.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.5 per cent. in January, and 2.0 per cent. in February, 1900. With sailmakers employment remains slack.

The *Building* trades are still quiet in all branches. Returns from 190 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 13,682, show that 676 (or 4.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.1 per cent. in January and 1.7 per cent. in

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

February of last year. The plasterers, plumbers, and stonecarvers describe employment as bad; the carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, and stonemasons as dull; the painters and decorators as moderate.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has slightly improved in some branches, but is still bad. Returns from 46 branches of 13 unions, with a membership of 6,236, show that 508 (or 8.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 10.2 per cent. in January, and 8.8 per cent. in February, 1900.

The *Woodworking* trades are still quiet. Reports from 3 unions, having a membership of 907, show that 36 (or 4.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.1 per cent. in January and 1.8 per cent. in February of last year.

Coopers are rather better employed. Reports from 2 societies, with a membership of 1,084, show that 20 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.1 per cent. in January. In February 1900 practically all the members were in employment.

Employment with *Coachbuilders* and *Wheelwrights* is slightly better. Reports from 13 branches of 7 unions, with a membership of 1,363, show that 28 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.9 per cent. in January, and 2.4 per cent. in February, 1900.

The *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades have been fairly well employed. Returns from 25 unions, with a membership of 24,708, show that 903 (or 3.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.6 per cent. in January. The percentage for February, 1900, was 4.2.

Employment in most branches of the *Clothing* trades was quiet. The West End bespoke tailors have been quiet; the East End bespoke trade is improving; the contract trade is fairly busy; the stock trade good; the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been employed about half the week. Employment with hatters has been slack; with capmakers also slack; fur skin dressers are fairly busy.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with West End hand-sewn boot and shoe makers has been quiet, slightly improving towards the end of the month; with the East End sewround workers bad; with boot and shoe clickers moderate; with boot and shoe operatives quiet.

Employment in the *Leather* trades is rather better. Returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,892, show that 64 (or 3.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.3 per cent. in January. The percentage for February, 1900, was 1.4.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions with a membership of 1,382, show that 134 (or 9.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 10.1 per cent. in January, and 5.0 per cent. in February, 1900.

Hair, Fibre and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 872, show that 54 (or 6.2 per cent.) were unemployed, as compared with 6.3 per cent. in January, and 2.2 per cent. in February of last year.

Gold and Silver Workers are better employed. Returns from 7 unions, having a membership of 1,101, show that 21 (or 1.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.4 per cent. in January, and 2.2 per cent. in February, 1900. Diamond workers are not so well employed.

In the *Tobacco* trades employment is rather better. Returns from 4 unions, having a membership of 2,366, show that 92 (or 3.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.6 per cent. in January, and 7.0 per cent. in February, 1900.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves was 17,138 in the four weeks ending February 23rd, as compared with 17,482 in the preceding four weeks, and 14,207 in February, 1900. Employment in mid-stream has continued fair and steady. With deal and coal porters it has been moderate; with stevedores, winchmen, lightermen and lumpers, and with corn porters on the north side it has been fair; with corn porters on the south side it was slack during the first week, but improved, and was fair at the end of the month. With fruit porters in Thames-street employment was busy the first fortnight, but declined during the second; the average daily number of men employed being 384 in the first fortnight, and in the second 260; the average daily number employed during the month was 322, compared with 387 in January, and 352 a year ago.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland*.—Steam and house coal pits averaged for the four weeks ending February 23rd, 4.87 and 5.11 days per week, as compared with 5.42 and 5.43 days a year ago. Of the 23,950 union miners, 49 are unemployed. *Durham*.—Many of the pits have worked irregularly. House, gas, manufacturing

and coking coal collieries, have averaged respectively 5.03, 5.19, 5.13, and 5.01 days per week, as against 5.49, 5.33, 5.68, and 5.85 days a year ago. At the 137 pits, employing 62,010 men and boys included in the returns, an average of 5.04 days per week was worked for the four weeks ending February 23rd, as against 5.57 days in the corresponding period of 1900. Of the 3,600 coke-yard workers 600 are idle.

Metal Mining.—Lead ore and ironstone miners have been well employed.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarries have worked fairly well. Quarrymen at Blyth are not quite so busy. Two whinstone quarries have worked short time.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Steel smelters have been better employed. Plate mills at Consett and Spennymoor have worked five shifts, and at Newburn four shifts per week. One mill at Jarrow is entirely stopped, whilst another has averaged two days per week. Bar and angle mills have been fully employed. Forges continue fairly busy. Blast furnaces are only moderately employed. In the finished iron and steel works employment is quiet.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne*.—At one or two engine shops night work has been suspended. Employment of copper-smiths and engine-smiths has declined. Employment in the boiler shops, and with yard riveters, and platers, remains good. The 12,950 members of these trades have 242 (or 1.9 per cent.) idle as against 208 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. *On the Wear*.—At most engine shops employment remains good. Boiler shops are still busy. Shipsmiths are steadily employed. Of the 5,263 members of these trades 103 (or 2.0 per cent.) are idle as against 35 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Sailmakers have continued brisk. Employment of drillers and hole cutters has been good; with shipwrights on old work moderate; brassfinishers report a decline. With iron and steel founders in the middle and lower reaches of the Tyne work still remains good; higher up the river short time is worked; on the Wear employment continues to decline.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal porters and shippers still average 5 days per week. Tyne watermen report employment as dull, trimmers and teamers, lumpers and riggers as moderate, dock and quayside labourers as fairly good. The demand for sailors and firemen has been fair.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is dull.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers on the Tyne report employment as quiet, at Sunderland as fair; bookbinders and machine rulers as fair. Five paper mills have worked full time, three others a little over half time.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coopers, cabinet makers, and mill sawyers report employment as quiet, upholsterers as fair. Lathrenders continue slack.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Soda and bleaching departments in the chemical factories have worked three-quarters time, caustic soda workers full time. Copper works remain well employed. White lead and cement works are not so busy. Pressed glass makers have worked four and five shifts per week.

Fishing.—Fair catches of white fish have been landed. Several trawl boats put out their gear and commenced line fishing.

J. Kettleiffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—Cleveland miners report employment as bad. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines furnishing returns was 5.07 days per week during the four weeks ending February 23rd, as compared with 5.26 days per week in February, 1900. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,312, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,774.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment has continued moderate at the finished iron and steel works, and with the blast-furnacemen. It is fair at pipe and general foundries, moderate at chair foundries, and quiet at metal expansion works.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment with engineers is fairly good at Middlesbrough and Stockton, fair at Hartlepool, moderate at Bishop Auckland and South Bank, and slack at Darlington; with ironfounders it is good; with patternmakers moderate at Stockton, steady at Darlington, fair at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool; with smiths and strikers fair. Branches of these trades with 4,479 members have 94 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 86 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Shipbuilding.—Employment generally at the yards in the district is reported as fairly good.

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

Building Trades.—Bricklayers at Hartlepool, Darlington and Stockton report employment as fair; slaters as good; joiners as moderate generally; painters as slack; plasterers as fair; masons as moderate; builders' labourers as fair at Hartlepool, moderate elsewhere.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fair at Hartlepool, quiet at Middlesbrough; dock and riverside labourers as quiet generally.

Miscellaneous.—Cement and concrete workers and letterpress printers report employment as good; millsawyers and woodworking machinists as fair; tailors as slack; cabinet makers as quiet.

A. Main.

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry has been fairly good but is worse than a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ending February 23rd at 21 pits covered by the returns, was 5.50 per week, as compared with 5.73 days a year ago. The number employed at these pits in February was 7,058, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,180.

Iron Mining.—Employment is good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines, though not as good as a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ending February 23rd at the 45 mines from which returns have been received was 5.76 per week, as against 5.82 days a year ago. The workpeople employed at these mines in February, 1901 and 1900, numbered 5,442 and 5,757 respectively.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and Lancashire blast furnaces shows a further decline as compared with January, and remains much worse than in February, 1900. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of February was 39, as compared with 41 at the end of January and 55 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 39 blast furnaces in February was 3,350.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning*.—Employment in Oldham and surrounding districts, as well as in Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Dukinfield, Stockport, Mossley, Rochdale and Milnrow is reported as good; cardroom workers and ring frame operatives are fully employed. Twiners report employment as slack. *Weaving*.—Employment is moderate with weavers, reelers, winders, and beam and sectional warpers; slack with ball warpers.

Woollen and Silk Trades.—Woollen workers in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport districts are reported to be fully employed. Employment in the silk-dressing trade of Rochdale is reported as bad.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the textile machine making trade is reported as bad; at engineering shops as moderate. Brassfounders, iron-grinders and plate and machine moulders report employment as slack; pattern-makers and boiler-makers as good; tool-makers, gas meter makers and tinplate workers as moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment is slack in all sections.

Coal Mining.—During the month of February six days per week were worked at three collieries, and five days per week at a fourth.

T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning*.—Employment in Bolton and immediate vicinity is slightly less active. In Chorley, Bury, Heywood, Westhoughton and Hindley employment is reported as only moderate; in Wigan and surrounding district as fair. Cardroom operatives are reported as less regularly employed. *Weaving*.—A few firms are working short time. In Moses Gate, Walkden, and Farnworth weavers are only moderately employed.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers, roller-makers, iron grinders and spindle and flyer makers are not so well employed; machine fitters and iron moulders are reported as irregularly employed. In Chorley, Wigan and Bury iron workers generally are reported as not busy.

Building Trades.—Employment in most branches continues dull throughout the district.

Coal Mining.—Employment in Bolton, Darcy Lever, and Little Lever continues moderate. In Wigan, Westhoughton and Hindley colliers are fairly well employed, working on an average 5½ days per week.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with gas workers is fair; with carters and lurrymen moderate. Printers, shoemakers and leather workers are not busy.—R. Tootill.

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Weaving*.—Employment in Blackburn is still only moderate. At Burnley and Accrington it is fairly good. At Darwen the mills are working full time. At Colne a slight improvement is reported. At Nelson there is little change. Hard waste weavers are not so busy. Warp dressers in the Nelson and Colne districts are moderately well employed. Winders, warpers and tape sizers throughout the district are fairly well employed. *Spinning*.—Employment is reported as good at Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen. Ring spinners, and card room workers are fully employed. Branches of spinners, twistors and drawers, and warp dressers, with 3,134 members, have 51 (or 1.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 58 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Building Trades.—Employment continues slack generally.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment is reported as slack with engineers, fitters and moulders. The machine shops are less busy.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Employment with coal miners continues good. Quarrymen are working full time.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with tailors is reported as fair; with boot, shoe and slipper makers, and woollen block printers as bad; with letterpress printers as moderate; with calico printers and bleachers as slack; with cabinet makers as quiet.

W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 23,221 members have 1,282 (or 5.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 1,229 (or 5.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers in Manchester, Warrington and Romiley report employment as moderate, in Stockport as declining, in Northwich as good; ironfounders and machine workers as moderate; sheet metal workers in Manchester and Stockport as fair; brass founders and finishers as quiet; iron and steel wire drawers as moderate; smiths and strikers as moderate in Manchester, good at Earlstown, fair in Patricroft and bad in Warrington.

Textile Trades.—Cotton operatives report employment as moderate; silk dressers, silk dyers and power loom weavers as moderate, silk hand loom weavers and silk finishers as good; bleachers, dyers and finishers as moderate.

Transport Trades.—Employment is fairly plentiful.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Coachmakers report employment as bad in private shops, quiet in the railway shops; cabinet makers, French polishers, upholsterers, and coopers as bad; wheelwrights and smiths as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—In the bespoke tailoring department employment is slack, but improving; in the ready-made department it is slack. Shirt and jacket cutters and makers report employment as bad; cloth cap makers as fair; felt hat trimmers and makers as quiet, but improving.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers in Manchester report employment as slightly better, in Stockport and Macclesfield as dull, in Warrington as moderate; electrotypers as not so good; lithographic artists as improved; lithographic printers as bad; bookbinders as busy; pattern card makers as fair.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is quiet.—G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders, whitesmiths and shipwrights report employment as good; brass founders, engine fitters and iron-turners as fair; ironfounders as rather slacker; ship joiners as improved upon repair work, but dull upon new ships; ship painters as improved.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet makers and French polishers report employment as bad; coachmakers as bad, but improving; coopers as fair; mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists as dull.

Transport Trades.—Dock labourers, quay and railway carters, and salt heavers report employment as dull; seamen and firemen as good in Liverpool, fair at Birkenhead; flatmen and coalheavers as fair.

Building Trades.—Employment continues dull.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as dull, but improving; readymade tailoring operatives as fair; boot and shoe makers as rather dull.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report a slight improvement; lithographic printers a decline. Bookbinders and stereotypers are well employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glassmakers and bottle-makers are well employed. Decorative glass workers are slack. Chemical workers are dull.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners continue to average five days per week. Quarrymen are well employed.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from *Winstford* states that employment in the salt trade has continued dull; with moulders it has been fair. Shipwrights, boiler-smiths, fitters and brassworkers have some unemployed, but the rest are working full time. Chemical workers at Middlewich have had normal employment. In both towns employment is dull in the building and fustian cutting trades.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—The brassfounders at Hull report employment as moderate. Otherwise, employment generally at Hull, Beverley, Goole and Grimsby is reported as bad. At Doncaster and Selby it is moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment at Hull is bad with plumbers and painters, moderate with other branches. It is moderate at Goole, Grimsby and Selby, slack at Doncaster, bad at Beverley and Driffield.

Transport Trades.—The seamen and firemen at Hull, Goole and Grimsby, the railway workers at Selby, the lightermen and pit prop workers at Hull report employment as moderate the dock labourers at Hull, Goole and Grimsby as bad.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen report employment as moderate; the steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen as fair at Hull, moderate at Grimsby; the curing house workers and fish trade general labourers as slack.

Sea-crushing, Oil-Cake, Paint and Colour Trades.—Employment in these trades is moderate.

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

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coopers, cabinet makers, and coachbuilders report employment as moderate; the mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists as bad.

Miscellaneous.—The flour-millers report employment as good; the enginemen and firemen, tanners, brushmakers, and bakers and confectioners as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,045 members have 340 (or 4.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 370 (or 4.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and boiler-makers report employment as moderate; ironfounders and blastfurnacemen as quiet; steel workers, machine workers, sheet metal workers and stove grate workers as fair; brassworkers, spindle and flyer makers, wool comb, hackle, and gill makers as slack. At Wakefield employment with engineers and ironfounders is falling off; at Stanningley it is moderate with engineers, slack with boiler-makers.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with wholesale clothiers' operatives is fair; with bespoke tailors slack. Employment in the Leeds and Pudsey boot factories has been fairly good; at Bramley quiet. With Jewish handsewn slippermakers it is moderate.

Textile Trades.—In the Leeds mills employment continues moderate; it is quiet with blanket raisers; slack with linen workers; moderate with warp dressers and twisters; fair with willeyers and fettlers. Dyers generally are only partially employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is quiet.

Mining.—In Leeds employment at the pits has continued good. At Castleford at some pits full time has been worked, at others four and five days.

Leather Trades.—Employment for tanners has declined. It is fair with curriers; slack with saddlers and harness makers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good; lithographers and paper-mill workers as fair.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle makers at Leeds and Wakefield report employment as good; flint-glass makers as fair.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet makers report employment as slack; coachmakers and brushmakers as moderate.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in the piece trade is still bad in Bradford and Keighley, and has not improved in Halifax and Huddersfield. There is, however, a little improvement in woollorting and woolcombing in Bradford.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield, though not good, is a little better. In the heavy woollen trade in Dewsbury and Batley districts it is fair. Carpet weavers are quiet in the Spen Valley and Halifax.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham is still only moderate; at Halifax and Brighouse it is quiet. Dyers report employment as moderate at Bradford, slightly improved at Huddersfield. In the cotton trade it is fair at Huddersfield, quiet at Brighouse and Sowerby Bridge.

Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as declining at Bradford, slightly improved at Keighley, moderate at Huddersfield and Dewsbury; ironfounders as moderate at Dewsbury and Bradford, bad at Huddersfield, good at Keighley, declining at Halifax.

Building Trades.—Employment is quiet throughout the district, and in some towns is reported as bad.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is slightly better with tailors. The printing trades continue quiet. Coal miners and glass workers are fully employed.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 17,187 members have 310 (or 1.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 324 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Branches with 6,969 members have 121 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 140 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Engineers continue well employed. Iron and steel founders report employment as fair in some shops, and moderate in others. Engine men, crane men, boiler firemen and steam hammermen, core makers and machine workers are fairly employed. Boiler makers, wire drawers, and iron and steel dressers, and locomotive engine drivers and stokers report employment as moderate; Siemens steel smelters, Bessemer steel workers, railway-spring makers, stove-grate workers and springsmiths and strikers as slack. At Parkgate, Rotherham and Masbro' employment is slack. At Barnsley it is moderate.

Cutlery and Tools.—Employment is good in the pen and pocket knife and razor trade; fair in table cutlery; moderate in some branches of the file trade. In other branches of these trades employment is slack.

Other Metal Trades.—Braziers, sheet-metal workers, and platers and gilders report employment as good. In other branches employment is slack.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 73 collieries show an average of 5.08 days per week worked, as against 5.94 in February, 1900.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is slack in Sheffield, fair at Normanton, moderate at Barnsley, quiet at Rotherham.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as fair; letterpress printers as moderate.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding.—Railway wagon and carriage builders are fairly well employed. Coachmakers report employment as moderate. At Barnsley boxmakers are busy; cabinet makers are moderately employed; bobbin makers are slack. Mill sawyers and turners report employment as good.

Linen Trades.—Employment has improved, and is now fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is moderate with bespoke tailors and ready-made tailoring operatives. It is quiet with boot and shoe workers.

Glass Trades.—The bottle-makers continue fairly busy. Flint-glass workers are moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers, gasworkers, paviors and colliery surfacemen report employment as fair; farriers, saddlers and harness makers and electrical workers as moderate; upholsterers as slack. At Barnsley paper makers are busy; quilt makers are moderately employed. At Rotherham potters are fairly well employed. In the Normanton district brickmakers, quarrymen and chemical workers are making full time.—*S. Utley.*

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

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 8,369 members have 217 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 267 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as good in Chesterfield and Ripley, moderate elsewhere; brass moulders and finishers, and iron and steel dressers as moderate; ironfounders as good in Butterley, declining in Chesterfield, bad in Derby; boiler-makers as moderate; lace machine builders in Long Eaton, and farriers as good; cycle makers as bad.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 74 collieries employing upwards of 28,000 men and boys show an average of 5.3 days per week worked in February as compared with 5.2 days in February, 1900.

Quarrying.—Employment with limestone quarrymen is reported as moderate; with chert quarrymen as rather slack.

Textile Trades.—Cotton weavers in Glossop and card and blowing room operatives in Hadfield report employment as good; calico printers as quiet; calico engravers as improving; lace workers and elastic web weavers as bad; surgical bandage makers as improved; hosiery workers in Ilkeston and Belper as slack; hard silk winders, doublers and throwers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as dull; factory tailoring operatives as fair; boot and shoe operatives in Chesterfield as moderate; makers of underclothing as good. Employment with milliners and dressmakers is improving.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues dull, except with painters who report it as moderate.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is good with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby, but bad in Long Eaton. Most timber yards are rather slack. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers, bookbinders and machine rulers, report employment as fair; lithographic printers as moderate.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment generally continues dull and shows a decline. It is fairly good at Beeston, but only moderate at Bulwell, Stapleford and Kimberley.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment generally is bad. In the hand-frame branch it shows improvement. It is good with elastic bandage makers and improved with wool shawl makers at Hucknall.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—A further decline is reported from most sections. Lace and hosiery machine builders are not so brisk. Cycle makers, iron founders, boiler makers, tool machinists, fitters and smiths, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, farriers and engine builders report employment as moderate; brass workers and needle makers as slack; blastfurnacemen as bad; electrical workers, carriage straighteners and fettlers as fair. Employment is not so good generally at Grantham, Newark and Mansfield: it is quiet at Retford and moderate at Beeston. Branches with 3,019 members have 115 (or 3.8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 67 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Building Trades.—Employment is moderate in some branches, but dull generally.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is reported as quiet with cabinet makers, upholsterers, basket-makers and packing case makers; as good with coachmakers, coopers and brush-makers; as fair with mill-sawyers and box makers; moderate with wicker workers.

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

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate with bespoke tailors and boot and shoe operatives.

Coal Mining.—Employment has improved. Returns from 30 collieries, employing some 16,000 men, show an average slightly under 4.3 days per week, compared with a little over 4 days per week in the previous month when, however, employment was interrupted by holidays.

Miscellaneous.—Gas workers, colliery engine men and stationary engine drivers report employment as good; bakers as rather slack; female cigar makers as fair; saddlers as good, leather dressers as having declined.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—At Leicester, Hinckley, Northampton and Wellingborough employment is not quite so good. It continues

brisk with the makers of hand and machine-sewn army boots in Northamptonshire.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment has improved in the wholesale clothing trade, but is still slack with bespoke tailors. It is better with corset makers, milliners and dressmakers; good with capmakers; improving with silk-hatters.

Hosiery and Wool-spinning Trades.—At Leicester and Loughborough in the shirt, pant, fancy hosiery, and cardigan and sweater jacket departments workpeople are fairly well employed, but work is dull in the hose and half-hose branches. It is slack with dyers and trimmers, and quieter in the wool-spinning factories.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment is fairly regular at Leicester, quiet at South Wigston, improving at Coalville.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Most branches of the general and electrical engineering trades, except those engaged in the construction of boot and shoe machinery, report employment as quiet. In the cycle making and repairing branches work is fairly brisk.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment has been better with coal miners. It continues regular with stone quarrymen and lime and cement getters, but is duller with ironstone workers and blast-furnacemen.

Printing and allied Trades.—In the letterpress printing trade employment is good at Northampton, moderate at Leicester and Rugby, rather slack at Loughborough. It is not quite so good with lithographic printers.

Building Trades.—With bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, painters and plumbers a further decline is reported.

Leather Trades.—Employment has not improved in the tanning and currying branches of the trade.

Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.—Road bus, and tram car builders are fully employed; work is moderate with carriage body makers. Employment remains quiet with cabinet makers and upholsterers. It is dull with mill-sawyers at Northampton, improving at Leicester.

Miscellaneous.—Employment continues good in most branches of the railway service, and with cigarmakers, saddlers and gasworkers. It is fairly good with bakers, brushmakers, and cardboard box makers; slack with farriers.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Printers and transferrers report a slight improvement. In other branches employment has declined, and employment generally is slack.

Iron and Steel Trades.—A decline is reported by all branches, many being suspended, and short time being worked.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—A general decline is reported throughout the Potteries. At Crewe employment continues fairly brisk. Copper and brass workers at Oakamoor and Froggall, and agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley are busy.

Mining and Quarrying.—Colliers continue well employed. Ironstone miners report a decline. Stone quarrymen continue busy.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade continues fairly good. At Congleton silk spinners, dressers and dyers report a decline; fustian cutters are slack. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers continue fairly busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as slack. At Stafford and Stone boot and shoe makers report an improvement.

Building Trades.—Employment is fairly brisk.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as quiet in the Potteries, good at Stafford; lithographic artists and printers as moderate. Bookbinders and machine rulers are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants are fairly busy. Brushmakers are slack. Gas stokers are busy.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is quiet in all branches of the iron and steel trades. In Shropshire employment in the wire mills and forges has fallen off.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment is fairly good with engineers, and at electrical shops; good with moulders, boiler, bridge, girder, tank, and gasometer makers. At Walsall malleable iron workers are fairly busy. At Madeley and Coalbrookdale employment is fairly good. Cycle and motor makers report no improvement.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MID.; E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with stampers and piercers and makers of plantation and Brazil hoes, heating apparatus, horseshoes and railway material, and with steel forgers at Wednesbury. It is moderate with makers of spring traps, malleable nails and protectors, electrical and gas fittings, nuts and bolts, iron fences and hurdles, stamped and light hollow-ware, gun locks, black castings, builders' ironmongery and spectacle frames, with filesmiths, brassworkers, japanners, galvanisers and tinplate workers, and with chainmakers and strikers at Cradley and iron plate workers at the Lye. Anvil makers at Dudley and anchor smiths at Cradley Heath are better employed. Iron plate workers at Wolverhampton and Bilston are quiet. Employment is slack with makers of latches, keys, locks, tips, tacks, cut nails, and edge tools; with vice makers at Dudley, wrought nail makers at Halesowen, spike and rivet makers at Black Heath, and block chain makers at Cradley Heath. It is bad with tube makers at Wednesbury.

Coal Mining.—The collieries average nearly four days per week on Cannock Chase, four and a half days at Tipton, Oldbury, Dudley, Old Hill, Halesowen and Tamworth, five days in South Shropshire.

Building Trades.—Employment is dull generally.

Glass Trades.—At Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge employment is quiet.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster weavers are busy; spinners are steadily employed; woolstaplers continue quiet. At Bridgnorth employment is good.

Leather Trades.—At Walsall employment is good with female harness stitchers, harness-makers, and brown saddlers; fair with gig saddlers and collar makers; moderate in other branches.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is quiet in ready-made and bespoke tailoring, fair in the boot and shoe trade.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment generally is not good.

C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,186 members have 1,006 (or 4.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 964 (or 4.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Nine branches of engineers return employment as moderate, two as good. Smiths and strikers report employment as good; toolmakers as moderate; patternmakers as quiet; ironfounders as bad. At West Bromwich employment is returned as good; at Redditch and Coventry as moderate. Employment has improved in the cycle industry; it is fair in the motor industry, good with electrical engineers.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment is fair in the brass trade and with copper wire drawers, moderate with metal rollers, quiet with fender and fire brass makers. At Dudley employment in the fender trade is reported as bad.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—Jewellers report employment as fair; silversmiths, electro-platers and Britannia metal workers as quiet.

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of edge tools, wrought iron and steel hinges, and light steel toys, and stove and tinplate workers report employment as good; file cutters, machine-made rivet workers, cut nail makers, nail and odd side casters, cycle tube makers, wrought hollow-ware, and nut and bolt makers as moderate; wire nail makers and iron plate workers as quiet; bedstead makers as bad. At West Bromwich employment in the hollow-ware and spring trades is reported as moderate, in the iron trade as quiet. At Redditch the fish hook makers report employment as moderate; needle makers as improving.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is quiet.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass makers and cutters report employment as quiet; glass bevellers and silverers as bad. At West Bromwich employment is fair.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as quiet; Jewish tailors as bad; boot and shoe makers as quiet.

Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers report employment as good; coopers as fair; cabinet makers, wood-carvers, millsawyers and machinists as quiet. In the railway and wagon shops employment is fair.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with saddlers, gas workers, gas fitters and military gun workers; quiet with letterpress printers, bad with sporting gun makers. In the ammunition branches it is fair. At Coventry it is fair in the watch trade; moderate in the ribbon trade.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and Neighbouring District.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives are not busy in Norwich; in Yarmouth, Cambridge and Lynn employment is fair. Ready-made tailoring factories in Norwich are on full time; bespoke tailors are not busy. Dress, shirt and corset makers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is dull at Norwich, good at Yarmouth and Cromer, fair elsewhere.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Electrical and general engineers, shipwrights and boat builders are well employed.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishing at Yarmouth and Lowestoft is not brisk.

Textile Trades.—Silk and crape factories are on full time at Norwich and Yarmouth. Mat and matting weavers are fairly busy.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers are fairly busy; letterpress printers are quiet; bookbinders are dull.

Miscellaneous.—Dock, wharf and riverside labour is slack; horticultural builders are fairly busy. Flour and oilcake mills are on full time. Sawmills and steam joinery works are not so busy. Employment is good with maltsters and electric light workers; fair with organ builders; slack with jam and confectionery factory workers.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers is good at Beccles and Chelmsford, moderate at Ipswich and Colchester; slack at Halstead and Earls Colne. It is good with boiler-makers, fair with moulders and shipwrights.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade at Ipswich is moderate; with corset makers, dressmakers and milliners it continues good; with wholesale tailoring operatives it is dull.

Textile Trades.—Mat and matting weavers report employment as good at Hadleigh, Long Melford and Lavenham; fair at Sudbury and Glemsford. Employment is good in the silk factories at Halstead and Sudbury; moderate with hand-loom weavers at Sudbury; quiet with furniture silk weavers at Braintree.

Building Trades.—Employment generally remains moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers is good at Ipswich, Chelmsford, Beccles and Bungay; fair at Colchester. Lithographic printers and bookbinders are busy.

Miscellaneous.—General and bricklayers' labourers report employment as fair at Ipswich; slack at Colchester, Chelmsford, and Halstead. Employment is good with maltsters, farriers, brick-makers, cabinet makers, and upholsterers. Shipping and dock labour has been quiet at Ipswich; good at Parkeston.

R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Societies with 11,035 members have 525 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 580 (or 5.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives in Bristol are reported as fully employed; in the Kingswood district there is a slight decline. Bespoke tailors are fairly well employed. Hatters are improving. Wholesale garment makers report a decline.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The brassworkers, ironfounders, engineers, boiler-makers, smiths, and tinplate workers continue well employed. Shipwrights are again slack. Coachmakers at Swindon are on short time.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment continues good in the Somerset and West Gloucestershire coalfields. In the Forest of Dean employment is good in the house coal pits, fair in steam coal pits and stone quarries.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking.—Employment with cabinet makers is reported as fair; with woodcutting machinists and lathe-renders as moderate; with coopers and upholsterers as dull.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment continues good with letterpress printers; with lithographers, bookbinders and machine rulers it is fair.

Transport Trades.—Shipping and dock work in Bristol and at Gloucester has been slack. Railroad men report employment as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The brushmakers report employment as fair; the cloth weavers as dull; the cocoa and chocolate, and tobacco workers as good; the silkworkers as improving; the bakers and confectioners as slack.—J. Curle.

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

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Tin and copper miners continue well employed. In granite, slate, and limestone quarries work is quiet, except in the western quarries, where it continues fair. China clay workers are not so well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment is good with engineers in Plymouth, Devonport, Exeter, and Newton; fair at Camborne and Redruth. Boiler-makers, ironfounders, iron and steel shipbuilders and shipwrights report employment as good in Government yards, as fair in private yards, but quiet with shipwrights; pattern-makers and caulkers as steady; brassworkers as fair; tinplate workers as good. Branches with 2,926 members have 14 unemployed, as compared with 17 at the end of January.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and plumbers report employment as moderate; in other branches employment generally is dull. Branches with 3,812 members, have 132 (or 3.5 per cent. unemployed, compared with 227 (or 5.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with tailors is quiet. In the clothing and shirt and collar factories a little improvement is reported. Boot and shoe makers are quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is fair with letterpress printers; moderate with lithographic printers and paper-rulers; improved with bookbinders. Work is reported as steady in paper mills.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and wood-working machinists report employment as still bad; with cabinet makers, upholsterers and French polishers work is dull.

Dock and Quayside Labour.—Ordinary general work on the quays has been moderate and regular; with fish packers and carriers, coal lumpers and grain carriers it has been fair.

Fishing Industry.—In the first week fishing was hindered by rough weather, but since then some good catches have been made of herrings, mullet and bass. Trawlers and hookers have done well; drift boats have not been so successful.

Miscellaneous.—Brickyard labourers and excavators and navvies are well employed. Brushmakers are quiet, but report a little improvement. Coachbuilders are dull. In market and fruit gardens work is improving.—W. Hedge.

WALES.

North Wales District.

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

Quarrying.—Employment at the slate quarries in the Festiniog district is reported as moderate. Employment is good at the granite set and freestone and lime and road stone quarries.

Building Trades.—At Wrexham and Oswestry the bricklayers report employment as fair; joiners and painters as slack. At Llandudno employment is fair with painters, improving with joiners.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is fair with the engineers and steelworkers, and with wagon builders at Ruabon; it is good with spelter workers, and enginemen, and with the ironfounders at Wrexham.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment in the woollen and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire has been fairly well maintained. The bespoke tailors at Wrexham report employment as quiet, at Bangor as improving, at Carnarvon as slack.

Printing Trade.—The letterpress printers report employment as good at Wrexham; fair at Carnarvon and Oswestry.

Brick and Terra Cotta Trades.—Employment continues slack. G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—In all districts the collieries (except where disputes are pending) have worked regularly.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been less brisk. Pitwood, iron ore, and general imports have been a good average. Timber and corn porters have been quiet. General hoblers and labourers of all classes have had good average employment. The shipment of crews has been less brisk. Boiler-scruffers and ship cleaners and painters report employment as good.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment throughout the district is only moderate, some works with tin bar mills having stopped, and little or no overtime being worked in the mechanical departments.

Ship Repairing and Engineering Trades.—Employment generally has

fallen off. Boiler-makers and shipwrights report employment as moderate; shipjoiners as bad. In the engineering factories in the inland and colliery districts employment is declining. Branches of the engineers and ironfounders with 3,248 members have 72 (or 2.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 54 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Building Trades.—Employment is bad at the ports, moderate in the inland districts. Branches of carpenters and joiners, painters, and plumbers, with 2,143 members, have 187 (or 8.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 204 (or 9.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Miscellaneous.—Patent fuel workers report employment as good at Swansea, moderate elsewhere; wagon builders and repairers, lithographers, letterpress printers and bookbinders as good; metal-lurgical and chemical workers as dull.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.—Employment in this industry showed a slight further decline compared with January, and was much worse than a year ago. At the end of February 265 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), as compared with 275 at the end of January, and 406 at the end of February, 1900. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of February is estimated to be about 13,200.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 12,971 members have 496 (or 3.8 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of January.

Coal Mining.—In West Lothian employment is fairly regular, although at a few of the collieries idle days have occurred through want of wagons. In Mid and East Lothian fully 30 per cent. of the miners have been idle one and two days per fortnight.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 29 mines employing 3,241 workpeople show that 2,599 were employed in mines working full time, and 642 in mines working 22 and under 24 days during the four weeks ended February 23rd.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,173 members have 83 (or 3.8 per cent.) idle, as against 79 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Branches in Falkirk with 3,678 members have 67 (or 1.8 per cent.) idle, as against 51 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 600 members have 34 (or 5.7 per cent.) idle, the same number as at the end of January.

Textile Trades.—Employment is good with all the branches of the woollen industry in Hawick, Selkirk and Galashiels. The hosiery workers are quiet.

Building Trades.—The glaziers and painters report employment as fair; other branches as bad. The number of unemployed is still large.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,144 members have 86 (or 7.5 per cent.) idle, as against 112 (or 9.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as bad, the coal porters and dock labourers as fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,365 members have 41 (or 1.7 per cent.) idle, as against 24 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors and shoemakers report employment as bad; the bakers, glass makers, glass cutters, carriers and sett makers as fair; the saddlers as good.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment is still quiet. Branches with 15,185 members return 649 (or 4.3 per cent.) as idle, as against 685 (or 4.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues quiet. Branches with 32,507 members return 1,135 (or 3.5 per cent.) as idle, as against 1,193 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is still dull.

Mining.—In Dumbartonshire miners are working 11 days per fortnight. In Stirlingshire many collieries are only working four days per week. In Lanarkshire employment is fairly good, with some time lost through want of wagons. In Ayrshire coal and ironstone miners are working full time.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors, machinists and pressers, clothiers' operatives and slipper makers report employment as dull; mantle

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

makers and boot and shoe operatives as improved; knee shoe makers as quiet.

Textile Trades.—Employment is reported as dull with weavers, calender men, beamers, dyers and calico engravers. At New Mills it is dull, but improved with lace workers; good in other branches. At Kilbirnie, Greenock and Port Glasgow it is good. Paisley thread mills are still working short time.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as slightly improved; bookbinders, electrotypers, stereotypers and lithographic artists as fairly good.

Glass Trades.—Bottle makers and flint-glass makers are busy. Flint glass cutters and decorative glass workers are dull.

Transport Trades.—Tramway men and railway men are well employed. Hackney carriage drivers, seamen, firemen and dock labourers have all been dull.

Miscellaneous.—Settmakers, curriers, brushmakers, saddlers, potters, pipe makers and finishers, spindle and flyer makers, gilders, paviors, labourers, stone-ware throwers, scale beam makers and cigarette makers are busy. Basket makers and bakers are dull.

A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry is good on the whole, although with some firms weavers have not been so steadily employed. In the linen trade it has somewhat improved, and work is fairly satisfactory.

Coal Mining.—In the Fifeshire collieries employment is less steady. Returns from collieries employing 12,259 workpeople give an average of 5.0 days per week worked during the four weeks ended February 23rd, as compared with 4.2 days per week in January, in the beginning of which month the miners had a week's holiday.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment is dull in most sections of the engineering trade. At the shipbuilding yards there is still scarcity of work. Branches of societies with 2,197 members have 152 (or 6.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 169 (or 7.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—Employment in the building trades continues dull. In the furnishing trades it is still quiet. Branches of societies with 1,783 members return 208 (or 11.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 201 (or 11.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Dock Labour.—There has been less activity at the harbour, and employment with dock labourers has been but moderate.

Fishing Industry.—The weather has again interfered with the haddock fishing. The salmon fishing has been prosecuted with moderate success.

Miscellaneous.—In the printing and allied trades employment has been fairly good, in the tailoring trade dull; in the boot and shoe trade fair. Floorcloth and linoleum workers report employment as good; bleachers as moderate.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 4,592 members have 271 (or 5.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 247 (or 5.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

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

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners report employment as dull; masons, plumbers and painters as bad; slaters as quiet.

Transport Trades.—The railway workers report employment as good; dock labourers as dull.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders report employment as bad; engineers, iron-moulders and patternmakers as dull; blacksmiths, shipwrights, brassfinishers and horseshoers as fair; tinsplate workers as good. Branches of societies with 1,312 members have 73 (or 5.6 per cent.) idle, as against 72 (or 5.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

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

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

Fishing.—In February, at the Port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 91,215 cwt., valued at £58,042, an increase both in quantity and value as compared with January.

Miscellaneous.—The upholsterers report employment as quiet; sawmillers, cabinet makers and gasworkers as good; saddlers as dull; combmakers, general labourers, and hackney carriage drivers as fair; bakers as bad.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—The carpenters report employment as fair, bricklayers as moderate; painters, stonecutters, plasterers and paviors as bad; plumbers as unsettled.

Metal Trades.—The boiler-makers and steam-engine makers report employment as good; brassfounders, whitesmiths and tinsmiths as fair; engineers, ironfounders and smiths as moderate; electric workers as bad.

Woodworking Trades.—Coopers and saddlers report employment as good; sawyers, coachmakers and wagon builders as fair; upholsterers as quiet; lathsplitters as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers are fairly busy. Lithographers report employment as bad, bookbinders as dull, stereotypers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in all branches of the clothing trades is dull.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with bakers, confectioners and sugar boiler's is fair; with mineral water operatives bad. The railway-men, grain and general labourers report employment as regular.

E. L. Richardson.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches of societies with 8,706 members have 220 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 223 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Employment generally is dull.

Linen Trade.—Societies with 3,845 members have 58 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 63 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The powerloom tenters report employment as bad; women textile workers as dull; beetling engine-men as quiet; flax dressers and flax roughers as moderate, yarn dressers and linen lappers as fair, hackle and gill makers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches of societies (excluding the carpenters and joiners who are still affected by a dispute) with 1,653 members, have 293 (or 17.7 per cent.) out of employment. Nearly all sections report employment as bad.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches of societies with 859 members, have 49 (or 5.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 74 (or 8.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The cabinet makers and coachbuilders report employment as bad; coopers as quiet; mill-sawyers and upholsterers as dull; French polishers and packing case-makers as fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 892 members have 75 (or 8.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 58 (or 6.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; lithographic artists, engravers and designers as slack; letterpress printers as moderate; bookbinders and machine-rulers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as improving; the boot and shoe operatives continue quiet.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,894 members have 53 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 55 (or 3.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The bakers, butchers, carters and municipal employees report employment as fair; the locomotive engine drivers and railway servants as good.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Employment is reported as good with boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders; fair with all branches of the engineering trade, shipjoiners, riggers and sailmakers.

Building Trades.—The carpenters, joiners, and stonecutters report employment as moderate; masons, plasterers, plumbers and gas-fitters as dull.

Woodworking Trades.—The mill sawyers and wood-working mechanists, coach makers, cabinet makers, and coopers report employment as dull.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed, and feather operatives report employment as fair; ready-made and bespoke tailors, boot and shoe operatives as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Bakers and confectioners, dock and quay labourers, and hackney car drivers report employment as bad; railway and tramway, harbour and corporation employees as fair.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

(Based on information furnished by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.) THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during February was 327, or 103 less than in January, and 44 less than in February, 1900.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary Table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,485,461 persons (according to the latest available figures), 298 were reported killed, or 53 less than in February, 1900, and 7,816 injured by accidents, as compared with 7,339 reported injured in February, 1900. These figures give one death in February, 1901, for every 18,408 persons employed in those industries. During the two completed months of 1901 720 persons were reported killed and 15,866 injured, as against 712 reported killed and 14,332 injured in the corresponding period of 1900.

In the remaining occupations included in the Tables, 29 persons were reported killed, and 1,017 injured in February, as compared with 20 killed and 941 injured in February, 1900.

SUMMARY TABLE.

| | Killed. | | Injured. | | Number Employed according to latest Returns. |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| | Feb., 1901. | Feb., 1900. | Feb., 1901. | Feb., 1900. | |
| Railway Service— | | | | | |
| Accidents connected with movement of vehicles | 30 | 47 | 394 | 452 | 534,141 |
| Other Accidents | 3 | 3 | 872 | 983 | |
| Total Railway Service | 33 | 50 | 1,266 | 1,435 | 534,141 |
| Mines | 77 | 84 | 360 | 344 | 814,517 |
| Quarries (over 20 feet deep) | 5 | 8 | 96 | 82 | 97,995 |
| Shipping | 126 | 140 | 199 | 326 | 231,784* |
| Factories | 57 | 69 | 5,895 | 5,152 | 3,807,024 |
| Total of above | 298 | 351 | 7,816 | 7,339 | 5,485,461 |
| Workshops | — | — | 24 | 23 | Cannot be stated. |
| Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 23, 25 | 21 | 17 | 820 | 739 | |
| Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 | 7 | 2 | 164 | 160 | |
| Railway Contractors' Servants | 1 | 1 | 9 | 19 | |
| Grand Total | 327 | 371 | 8,833 | 8,280 | |

DETAILED TABLES.

| | Killed. | | Injured. | | Total. |
|--|---|--|---|--|--------|
| | By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles. | By other accidents on the Companies' Premises. | By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles. | By other accidents on the Companies' Premises. | |
| Railway Service— | | | | | |
| Brakemen and Goods | 2 | 84 | — | 20 | 104 |
| Guards | — | — | — | 63 | 63 |
| Engine Drivers | 1 | 26 | — | 60 | 87 |
| Firemen | 1 | 53 | — | 60 | 113 |
| Guards (Passenger) | 1 | 12 | — | 6 | 18 |
| Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) | 9 | 10 | 1 | 97 | 107 |
| Porters | 3 | 57 | 1 | 191 | 248 |
| Shunters | 1 | 67 | — | 14 | 81 |
| Miscellaneous occupations | 12 | 85 | 1 | 421 | 506 |
| Railway Contractors' Servants | 1 | 3 | — | 6 | 9 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 31 | 397 | 3 | 878 | 1,275 |
| Total for February, 1900 | 48 | 466 | 3 | 995 | 1,454 |

| | Underground. | | Surface. | | Total. |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Killed. | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. | |
| Mines— | | | | | |
| Explosions of Firedamp | 1 | 17 | — | — | 17 |
| Falls of ground | 29 | 137 | — | — | 166 |
| Shaft accidents | 9 | 10 | — | — | 19 |
| Miscellaneous | 26 | 142 | 12 | 54 | 196 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 65 | 306 | 12 | 54 | 360 |
| Total for February 1900 | 77 | 496 | 7 | 48 | 344 |

| | Inside. | | Outside. | | Total. |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Killed. | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. | |
| Quarries over 20 feet deep. | | | | | |
| Explosives or Blasting | 1 | 5 | — | 1 | 6 |
| Falls of ground | 2 | 19 | — | — | 19 |
| During Ascent or Descent | — | — | — | — | — |
| Miscellaneous | 2 | 59 | — | 12 | 71 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 5 | 83 | — | 13 | 96 |
| Total for February, 1900 | 8 | 72 | — | 10 | 88 |

| | Construction or Repair. | | Use or Working. | | Total. |
|---|-------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|--------|
| | Killed. | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. | |
| Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894— | | | | | |
| Bridge | — | — | — | — | — |
| Canal | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Railway | 1 | 76 | — | — | 77 |
| Tramroad | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tramway | — | 7 | — | 25 | 32 |
| Tunnel | 3 | 25 | — | — | 28 |
| Other Works | 1 | 25 | — | 2 | 27 |
| Traction Engines | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 5 | 135 | 2 | 29 | 164 |
| Total for February, 1900 | 2 | 135 | — | 25 | 160 |

| | Killed. | | Injured. | | Total. |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|
| | By Wreck or Casualty. | By other Accidents. | By Wreck or Casualty. | By other Accidents. | |
| Shipping*— | | | | | |
| On Trading Vessels— | | | | | |
| Sailing | 40 | — | 15 | 1 | 55 |
| Steam | 23 | 8 | 45 | 177 | 185 |
| On Fishing Vessels— | | | | | |
| Sailing | — | 1 | — | 2 | 3 |
| Steam | 3 | 1 | — | 9 | 10 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 66 | 10 | 60 | 189 | 199 |
| Total for 3 months Dec. 1900 to Feb. 1901 | 259 | 21 | 200 | 773 | 794 |
| Total for 3 months Dec. 1899 to Feb. 1900 | 145 | 12 | 190 | 813 | 835 |

| | Males. | | Females. | | Total. |
|---|---------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Killed. | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. | |
| Factories— | | | | | |
| (a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons— | | | | | |
| Adults | 47 | 1,416 | 3 | 150 | 1,566 |
| Young Persons | 7 | 433 | — | 112 | 545 |
| Children | — | 14 | — | 3 | 17 |
| Total | 54 | 1,863 | 3 | 265 | 2,128 |
| (b) Other Accidents— | | | | | |
| Adults | — | 3,131 | — | 70 | 3,201 |
| Young Persons | — | 530 | — | 31 | 561 |
| Children | — | 3 | — | 2 | 5 |
| Total | — | 3,664 | — | 103 | 3,767 |
| Total Factories— | | | | | |
| February, 1901 | 54 | 5,527 | 3 | 368 | 5,895 |
| February, 1900 | 68 | 4,846 | 1 | 306 | 5,159 |

| | Males. | | Females. | | Total. |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Killed. | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. | |
| Workshops— | | | | | |
| Adults | — | 15 | — | 4 | 19 |
| Young Persons | — | 3 | — | 2 | 5 |
| Children | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total Workshops— | | | | | |
| February, 1901 | — | 18 | — | 6 | 24 |
| February, 1900 | — | 21 | — | 2 | 23 |

| | Males. | | Females. | | Total. |
|--|---------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Killed. | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. | |
| Factories & Workshops (classified by trades). | | | | | |
| Textiles— | | | | | |
| Cotton | 1 | 243 | 1 | 98 | 341 |
| Wool and Worsted | 1 | 80 | — | 47 | 127 |
| Other Textiles | 1 | 66 | 1 | 46 | 112 |
| Non-Textiles— | | | | | |
| Extraction of Metals | 2 | 80 | — | 1 | 91 |
| Founding and Conversion of Metals | 6 | 80 | — | 4 | 86 |
| Machines, Engines and Engineering | 5 | 1,293 | — | 2 | 1,295 |
| Ship and Boat Building | 16 | 819 | — | — | 819 |
| Wood | 1 | 216 | — | — | 216 |
| Chemicals, &c. | 3 | 148 | — | 5 | 153 |
| Other Non-Textile Industries | 18 | 1,729 | 1 | 171 | 1,900 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 54 | 5,545 | 3 | 374 | 5,919 |
| Total for February, 1900 | 68 | 4,867 | 1 | 308 | 5,175 |

| | Males. | | Females. | | Total. |
|--|---------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Killed. | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. | |
| Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 23, 25 | | | | | |
| Docks, Wharves and Quays | 6 | 365 | — | — | 365 |
| Warehouses | 2 | 297 | — | — | 297 |
| Buildings to which Act applies | 13 | 132 | — | 4 | 136 |
| Laundries | — | 10 | — | 12 | 22 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 21 | 804 | — | 16 | 820 |
| Total for February, 1900 | 17 | 710 | — | 29 | 739 |

| | Construction or Repair. | | Use or Working. | | Total. |
|---|-------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|--------|
| | Killed. | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. | |
| Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894— | | | | | |
| Bridge</ | | | | | |

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1901.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during February affected 220,203 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes was a decrease of 2s. 0½d. weekly per head. Of this number 211,861 sustained decreases averaging 2s. 2d. per week, and 8,342 received advances averaging 1s. 4½d. per week.

The net result of the changes reported in the previous month (January) was an average decrease of 1s. 7½d. per head on the weekly wages of 54,692 workpeople, and during the corresponding month of last year (February, 1900) the net result was an average increase of 1s. 6½d. in the weekly wages of 15,700 workpeople.

The decrease in February, 1901, is mainly accounted for by the reductions which have taken place in the wages of coal and ironstone miners in Durham, Cumberland and Scotland, affecting 196,400 workpeople. Three thousand steel millmen and 8,362 ironfounders in Scotland also sustained decreases.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 195,500 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards. Changes affecting 2,084 workpeople only were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. One change, affecting 600 workpeople, took effect under the operation of a sliding scale, and the remaining changes, affecting 22,019 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Summary for First Two Months of 1901.—For the two months, January and February, 1901, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported to have received advances or sustained decreases is 273,728 (as compared with 708,900 for the corresponding period of 1900). Of these 11,403 obtained a net average increase of 1s. 6½d. weekly per head, and 262,325 sustained a net average decrease of 2s. 1¼d. weekly per head. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of 1s. 1¼d. weekly per head, as compared with an increase of 1s. 4½d. weekly per head in the corresponding period of 1900. It must be remembered, however, that in these computations the advances of wages to miners in the Federated Districts of England and Wales arranged last August, and which took effect in January and February, are not included.

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

| Locality. | Occupation. | Date from which change takes effect in 1901. | Approximate Number of workpeople affected by | | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.) | Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*† | | Increase or Decrease in a full week.*† | |
|---|--|--|--|------|---|---|---------------|--|-----------|
| | | | Inc. | Dec. | | Before change. | After change. | Increase. | Decrease. |
| 4 Increases—937 Workpeople. BUILDING TRADES. 2 Decreases—850 Workpeople. | | | | | | | | | |
| Newcastle-on-Tyne | Builders' Labourers | 25 Feb. | 457 | ... | Advance of ½d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.) | 24 6½ | 26 7½ | 2 0½ | — |
| Hartlepool | Plumbers | 23 Feb. | 70 | ... | Advance of ½d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.) | 37 6½ | 38 7½ | 1 1½ | — |
| Leeds | Plumbers | 1 Mar. | 275 | ... | Advance of ½d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.) | 34 5½ | 36 5½ | 2 0½ | — |
| Manchester | Glaziers and Cutters (Stained glass works) | 1 April | 135 | ... | Minimum hourly rate of 8½d. per hour agreed to. | — | — | — | — |
| Dumfries | Stonemasons | 2 Feb. | 150 | ... | Decrease of ½d. per hour (8d. to 7½d.) | 32 10½ | 30 9½ | — | 2 0½ |
| Dundee | Stonemasons | 16 Feb. | 700 | ... | Decrease of ½d. per hour (9d. and 8½d. and 8d.) | — | — | — | 2 0½ |

| Locality. | Occupation. | Date from which change takes effect in 1901. | Approximate Number of workpeople affected by | | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.) | Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*† | | Increase or Decrease in a full week.*† | |
|--|---|--|--|------|--|---|---------------|--|-----------|
| | | | Inc. | Dec. | | Before change. | After change. | Increase. | Decrease. |
| 1 Increase—4,000 Workpeople. COAL AND IRONSTONE MINING. 4 Decreases—196,400 Workpeople. | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumberland | Coal Miners—Underground | 18 Feb. | 5,500 | ... | Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving wages 60 per cent. above standard | — | — | — | — |
| | Surface Workers | 18 Feb. | 1,500 | ... | Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving wages 17½ per cent. above standard | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | Coal Miners | 11 and 18 Feb. | 100,000 | ... | Decrease of 1½ per cent., leaving wages of deputies, underground men, mechanics, enginemen, cokemen and banksmen 63½ per cent. above standard of November, 1899; and of other surface workers 50½ per cent. above standard | — | — | — | — |
| | Deputies | 11 and 18 Feb. | 2,900 | ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Somersetshire (Radstock District) | Coal Miners—Underground and Surface Workers | Feb. | 4,000 | ... | Advance of 5 per cent. under Conciliation Board, making the wages of hewers 52½ per cent. above standard of 1888 | — | — | — | — |
| | Coal Miners—Underground | 6 Mar. | 70,000 | ... | Decrease of 25 per cent. under Conciliation Board, leaving wages of hewers 75 per cent. above standard of 1888† | — | — | — | — |
| Scotland | Surface Workers | 6 Mar. | 13,000 | ... | Decrease of 4d. per shift | — | — | — | — |
| | Enginemen | 6 Mar. | 2,000 | ... | Decrease of 6d. per shift | — | — | — | — |
| Scotland | Ironstone Miners | 1 Feb. | 1,500 | ... | Decrease of 1s. per day | — | — | — | — |

| Locality. | Occupation. | Date from which change takes effect in 1901. | Approximate Number of workpeople affected by | | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.) | Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*† | | Increase or Decrease in a full week.*† | |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|------|---|---|---------------|--|-----------|
| | | | Inc. | Dec. | | Before change. | After change. | Increase. | Decrease. |
| Increases—Nil. IRON AND STEEL TRADES. 6 Decreases—5,043 Workpeople. | | | | | | | | | |
| Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland | Steel Melters & Pitmen | 3 Mar. | 967 | ... | Decrease of 5 per cent. | — | — | — | — |
| | Gasproducers | 3 Mar. | 200 | ... | Decrease stated to average 2½ per cent. | — | — | — | — |
| Barrow-in-Furness | Steelworkers—Rail Millmen | Feb. | 600 | ... | Decrease of 13 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 46 per cent. above standard | — | — | — | — |
| | Blastfurnacemen | 8 Feb. | 200 | ... | Decrease of 3d. per day | — | — | — | — |
| Derby | Steel Melters | Feb. | 36 | ... | Decrease of 5 per cent. | — | — | — | — |
| Wrexham | Blastfurnacemen | 16 Feb. | 40 | ... | Decrease of 5 per cent. | — | — | — | — |
| Scotland | Steel Millmen | 18 Feb. | 3,000 | ... | Decrease of 5 per cent. under Conciliation Board | — | — | — | — |

| Locality. | Occupation. | Date from which change takes effect in 1901. | Approximate Number of workpeople affected by | | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.) | Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*† | | Increase or Decrease in a full week.*† | |
|---|--------------|--|--|------|--|---|---------------|--|-----------|
| | | | Inc. | Dec. | | Before change. | After change. | Increase. | Decrease. |
| Increases—Nil. ENGINEERING TRADES. 2 Decreases—5,362 Workpeople. | | | | | | | | | |
| Aberdeen | Ironmoulders | 15 Feb. | 152 | ... | Decrease of 2d. per hour off time, and of 2½ per cent. off piece rates | — | — | — | — |
| Dundee, Carnoustie & District | Ironmoulders | 15 Feb. | 323 | ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dunfermline, Alloa & Stirling | Ironmoulders | 15 Feb. | 127 | ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kirkcaldy District | Ironmoulders | 15 Feb. | 60 | ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Edinburgh | Ironmoulders | 15 Feb. | 530 | ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Glasgow and other towns in West of Scotland | Ironmoulders | 15 Feb. | 4,000 | ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Falkirk | Ironmoulders | 1 Mar. | 3,170 | ... | Decrease of 2d. per hour off time, and of 2½ per cent. off piece rates | — | — | — | — |

* Exclusive of overtime.
† Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the Table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer and two winter weeks.
‡ In Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan, the percentage above standard is 2½ per cent. less, viz., 72½ per cent.

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

| Locality. | Occupation. | Date from which change takes effect in 1901. | Approximate Number of workpeople affected by | | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.) | Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.* | | Increase or Decrease in a full week.* | |
|--|---|--|--|------|---|--|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | Inc. | Dec. | | Before change. | After change. | Increase. | Decrease. |
| 1 Increase—40 Workpeople. MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES. 2 Decreases—1,193 Workpeople. | | | | | | | | | |
| Birmingham | Cased Tube and Stair-rod Makers | Feb. | 600 | ... | Decrease in bonus of 5 per cent. (12½ to 7½) under Wages Board | — | — | — | — |
| Derby | Farriers—Firemen | 16 Feb. | 40 | ... | Advance of 1d. per hour (7d. to 8d.) | 32 8 | 37 4 | 4 8 | — |
| South Staffordshire | Doormen | 2 Mar. | 593 | ... | Advance of 1d. per hour (6d. to 7d.) | 28 0 | 32 8 | 4 8 | — |
| | Fender and Fire-Iron Makers | 2 Mar. | 593 | ... | Decrease of 10 per cent. | — | — | — | — |
| 3 Increases—187 Workpeople. EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. 1 Decrease—13 Workpeople. | | | | | | | | | |
| Dundee | Stonedressers | 22 Feb. | 13 | ... | Decrease of about 10 per cent. | — | — | — | — |
| Cork | Caretakers (School) | 4 Feb. | 17 | ... | Advance of about 1s. 9d. per week | — | — | — | — |
| | Cleaners (School) | 18 Feb. | 58 | ... | Advance of 6d. per week | 7 6 | 8 0 | 0 6 | — |
| Cork | Sewermen, Scavengers and Quarry Labourers (Corporation) | 18 Feb. | 58 | ... | Advances of 1s. and 2s. per week. Minimum weekly wages after change 17s. | — | 17 0 | — | — |
| | Labourers (Harbour Commission) | 25 Feb. | 15 | 10 | Advance of 1s. per week | 16 0 | 17 0 | 1 0 | — |
| 9 Increases—3,228 Workpeople. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Decreases—Nil. | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunderland and Seaham Harbour | Glass Bottle Makers (dark metal workers) | 4 Feb. | 374 | ... | Advance of 1s. per week on standard weekly wages to Makers, Blowers and Gatherers, and an increase of 5 per cent. on "overwork" rates | — | — | — | — |
| Sunderland | Carters and Rolleymen | 27 Jan. | 500 | ... | Advance of 1s. per week | 23 0 | 24 0 | 1 0 | — |
| Bradford | Woolsorters | 9 Feb. & 2 Mar. | 125 | ... | Advance of 2s. per week to 45 men, and of 10d. per week to 80 | — | 30 0 | — | — |
| | Letterpress Printers | 16 Feb. | 285 | 132 | Advance of 2s. 6d. per week | 33 0 | 35 0 | 2 0 | — |
| Sheffield | Bookbinders and Machine Rulers | 16 Feb. | 132 | ... | Advance of 2s. 6d. per week | 32 0 | 34 6 | 2 6 | — |
| | Book Finishers | 16 Feb. | 8 | ... | Advance of 2s. 6d. per week | 34 0 | 36 6 | 2 6 | — |
| Stafford | Boot and Shoe Makers | 1 Feb. | 80 | ... | Advances of from 10 to 12½ per cent. in piece price rates | — | — | — | — |
| London | Ivory, Hard Wood and General Turners | 18 Feb. | 14 | ... | Advance of about 2s. per week | — | — | — | — |
| London, E.C. | Carmen | 5 Feb. | 400 | ... | Advance of about 4s. per week | — | — | — | — |
| London, E. | Carmen | Jan. | 100 | ... | Advance of 2s. per week to one horse drivers, and of 4s. to two horse drivers | — | — | — | — |
| London, E. | Yardmen | Jan. | 10 | ... | Advance of 2s. per week | 24 0 | 26 0 | 2 0 | — |
| London, E. | Boot and Shoe Operatives (Jewish) | 3 Feb. | 1,560 | ... | Advance of from 3d. to 6d. per doz. pairs, stated to be equal to an increase of from 10 to 12½ per cent. | — | — | — | — |

* Exclusive of overtime.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—During February 12,120 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, or 100 less than in February, 1900. Comparing the two completed months of 1901 with the corresponding period of 1900, there is an increase of 3,217, viz., from 21,797 in 1900 to 25,014 in 1901.

British and Irish.—Of the 12,120 passengers in February, 6,610 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 577 as compared with a year ago. For the two months of 1901 the total number was 14,253, as compared with 12,731 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 1,522.

The following Table gives the figures for the different periods:—

| Destination. | Total for two months ended— | | Total for two months ended— | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | Feb., 1901. | Feb., 1900. | Feb., 1901. | Feb., 1900. |
| United States | 3,605 | 4,093 | 6,086 | 6,983 |
| British North America | 147 | 462 | 348 | 646 |
| Australasia | 912 | 931 | 2,409 | 1,612 |
| South Africa | 944 | 741 | 2,583 | 1,590 |
| Other places | 1,002 | 960 | 2,127 | 1,900 |
| Total | 6,610 | 7,187 | 14,253 | 12,731 |

Foreign.—The remainder of the 12,120 passengers in February, viz., 5,510, were foreigners or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 477 as compared with February, 1900. For the two months ended February, their number was 10,761, as against 9,066 in the corresponding period of 1900, the difference being chiefly due to an increase in the numbers proceeding to British North America and the United States.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during February was 7,820. Of these, 3,313 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 3,176 so stated in February, 1900. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,507 (including 1,123 sailors), the corresponding figure for February, 1900,

being 4,130 (including 1,077 sailors). The figures for February 1901 and 1900, and also for the two months ended February in each year are as follows:—

| | February, 1901. | | February, 1900. | | Total for two months ended | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| | Feb., 1901. | Feb., 1900. | Feb., 1901. | Feb., 1900. | Feb., 1901. | Feb., 1900. |
| Allens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom | 4,507* | 4,130† | 8,537* | 8,253* | — | — |
| Allens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom | 3,313† | 3,176 | 5,637 | 4,785 | — | — |
| Total | 7,820 | 7,306 | 14,174 | 13,038 | — | — |

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1901.

The changes in hours of labour reported in February affected 1,535 workpeople, whose working time was reduced on the average by 2½ hours per week.

| Locality. | Occupation. | Date from which change takes effect in 1901. | Approximate number of workpeople directly affected. | Hours of labour in a full week.† | | Extent of Decrease per week. |
|-------------|--|--|---|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| | | | | Before change. | After change. | |
| Guisborough | Horse Drivers at Iron Mines | 11 Feb. | 9 | 52 | 49½ | 2½ |
| York | Letterpress and Lithographic Printers, Bookbinders, and Machine Rulers | 1 May | 116 | 54 | 52 | 2 |
| Lancashire | Glass Bottle Makers | 4 Feb. | 1,410 | 5½ | 48½ | 3 |

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,123 in February 1901; 1,077 in February, 1900; and 2,328 and 2,333 respectively for the two months ended February in each year.
† Exclusive of overtime.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-five fresh disputes were reported as having begun in February, 1901, compared with 29 in January, and 33 in February 1900. In these 25 disputes, 4,287 workpeople were directly and 1,758 indirectly affected, a total of 6,045, which compares with 17,754 in January, and 11,357 in February 1900.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 2 disputes took place, involving 415 workpeople; in the coal-mining industry 5 disputes, involving 1,785 workpeople; in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades 8 disputes, involving 2,091 workpeople; in the textile trades 4 disputes, involving 772 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades 6 disputes, involving 982 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 25 disputes, 3 arose on demands for advances, and 6 on objections to reductions in rates of wages. Seven disputes arose on other wages questions, 4 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 5 from other causes.

Results.—Sixteen new disputes, involving 3,952 workpeople, and 13 old disputes, involving 3,675 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 29 new and old disputes terminated, 11, involving 3,366 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 12, involving 2,644 persons, in favour of the employers; and 4, involving 811 persons, resulted in compromise. With regard to the remaining 2 disputes, involving 805 persons, certain points are still under consideration. At the end of February 31 old disputes were reported to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 7,500 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The aggregate duration in February of all the disputes, new and old, was about 230,000 days, compared with 350,000 in January, 1901, and 70,000 in February, 1900.

| Locality. | Occupation.* | Number of Workpeople Affected. | | Date when Dispute began. | Duration of Dispute in Working Days. | Alleged Cause or Object. | Result. |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| | | Di-rectly. | Indi-rectly.* | | | | |

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY, 1901.

| | | 2 Disputes. | | BUILDING TRADES. | | 415 Workpeople affected. | |
|----------------------|---|-------------|-----|---|-----|---|---|
| Aberdeen ... | Plasterers ... | 115 | ... | Feb. 25 | ... | Against proposed reduction in wages from 8½d. to 7½d. per hour | No settlement reported. |
| Dundee ... | Carpenters and Joiners | 300 | ... | 16 | 1 | Against proposed reduction in wages from 9d. to 8d. per hour | Notice of reduction withdrawn. |
| | | 5 Disputes. | | MINING. | | 1,785 Workpeople affected. | |
| Whitehaven ... | Coal Miners ... | 510 | ... | 25 | 2 | Against proposed change in system of shifts ... | Work resumed on employers' terms. |
| Dewsbury ... | Coal Hewers, Hurriers, Daymen, &c. | 350 | ... | 7 | ... | In sympathy with other workpeople in same employ, who struck work on January 3 (see February GAZETTE, p. 64) | No settlement reported. |
| Wakefield (nr) | Surfacemen and Other Colliery Workpeople | 130 | 500 | 18 | 1 | For payment of the 5 per cent. advance ... | Advance granted. |
| Pontardawe (near) | Coal Miners ... | 126 | ... | 22 | ... | For alteration in gauge of screen ... | No settlement reported. |
| Kirkintilloch (near) | Coal and Ironstone Miners | 79 | 90 | 25 | ... | Dispute arising out of altered conditions of work and rearrangement of rates | No settlement reported.† |
| | | 8 Disputes. | | METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. | | 2,091 Workpeople affected. | |
| West Hartlepool | Riveters, Platers, Caulkers, Cutters, & Helpers | 500 | 200 | 28 | 2 | Claim by riveters for special allowances over and above piece work rates on certain work | Work resumed pending reference to Conciliation Board. |
| Whitehaven ... | Furnacemen, &c., Blacksmiths, Joiners, Fitters, &c. | 65 | 15 | 2 | ... | Against proposed reduction in wages of 25 per cent. | No settlement reported. |
| Goole ... | Shipwrights ... | 33 | ... | 14 | ... | Against performance by boiler-makers of work claimed by shipwrights | No settlement reported. |
| Frodingham ... | Heaters (in steel works) Assistant Heaters, Enginemen, Rollers, &c. | 2 | 49 | 4 | 9 | Against proposed reduction in wages ... | Heaters' contracts superseded by tonnage rates, and wages of assistants paid direct by employers. |
| South Staffordshire | Fitting and Socket Makers (Tube trade) | 750 | ... | 25 | ... | Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent. | No settlement reported. |
| Gorseinon ... | Tube Workers ... | 56 | 64 | 12 | 6 | For reinstatement of discharged workman ... | Discharged man reinstated and work resumed men paying cost of police court summonses for breaches of contract. |
| Landore ... | Ironmoulders and Other Workpeople | 28 | 173 | 6 | 10 | Refusal to work with a certain man ... | Men replaced. Work resumed, cause of dispute subsequently removed. |
| | | 4 Disputes. | | TEXTILE TRADES. | | 772 Workpeople affected. | |
| Haslingden ... | Cotton Weavers ... | 150 | ... | 6 | 1 | Alleged bad material ... | Better material promised, and temporary advance in prices granted on certain sorts as compensation. |
| Ilkeston ... | Lace Makers, Menders, Winders, Threaders, &c. | 20 | 50 | 11 | ... | Against stoppages of wages (afterwards refunded) for alleged bad work. The men subsequently demanded adoption of trade union price list | No settlement reported. |
| Belfast ... | Winders, Weavers, &c. (Linen) | 36 | 240 | 9 | 3 | Alleged false charge made by an overseer against a winder | Amicable settlement effected. |
| | | | | | | Against imposition of fines by employers for leaving work without notice | Wages paid in full. |
| | | 6 Disputes. | | MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. | | 982 Workpeople affected. | |
| Nottingham ... | Boot and Shoe Operatives | 98 | 8 | 4 | 6 | Against employment of a non-unionist, and on account of other grievances | Non-unionist joined the union; other matters amicably arranged. |
| London, W.C. | Carters ... | 33 | ... | 4 | 1 | For advance in wages ... | Advance granted. |
| London, S.E. | Boot Lasters, Finishers, Repairers, Glovers, Clickers, Sockers, &c. | 157 | 129 | 15 | 8 | Discharge of three workmen, alleged to be because of their action in dispute as to quantity of work required to be done | Men resumed work on advice of trade union officials, and agreement subsequently made as to quantity of work to be done. |
| Rochester (near) | Cement Workers ... | 400 | ... | 15 | ... | Against proposed reduction in piece rates ... | No settlement reported. |
| Newlyn | Carters ... | 11 | ... | 6 | 14 | For advance in prices ... | Work resumed at old rates. |
| Cork ... | Gasworkers ... | 146 | ... | 27 | 3 | Alleged wrongful dismissal of three men ... | Amicable settlement effected. |

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
† A return received too late for inclusion in the statistical computations for this Table states that the dispute was settled by compromise on 9th March.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

| Locality. | Occupation.* | Number of Workpeople Affected. | | Date when Dispute began. | Duration of Dispute in Working Days. | Alleged Cause or Object. | Result. |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| | | Di-rectly. | Indi-rectly.* | | | | |

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE FEBRUARY, 1901, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

| | | 7 Disputes. | | BUILDING TRADES. | | 2,996 Workpeople affected. | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|-----|------------------|-----|--|--|
| Newcastle, Gateshead, and District | Builders' Labourers and Bricklayers | 202 | 90 | 1900 April 30 | — | For advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour and a code of working rules | Advance granted of ½d. per hour, with code of working rules. |
| | Bricklayers ... | 305 | ... | June 2 | 225 | For advance in wages from 10d. to 11d. per hour | Dispute referred to Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade, who decided that wages should remain as before. For further particulars see p. 75. |
| Northumberland, Durham, and Cleveland | Bricklayers, Labourers, Stonemasons, &c. | 800 | 300 | 1901 Nov. 26 | 76 | General lock-out to enforce settlement of above-mentioned strike | Work resumed on old terms. |
| Cromer ... | Carpenters and Joiners | 24 | ... | 1901 Jan. 21 | — | For advance in wages from 7d. to 7½d. per hour and code of working rules | Work resumed on employers' terms. |
| Girvan ... | Painters ... | 17 | ... | 1900 Jan. 1 | 36 | As to allowance of travelling time on outside work | Proposal withdrawn. |
| Glasgow ... | Carpenters and Joiners | 1,000 | ... | 1900 Jan. 15 | — | Against proposed reduction in wages from 10d. to 9d. per hour | Work resumed at old rates, and new code of rules agreed to. |
| Dublin ... | Plumbers ... | 260 | ... | 1900 Nov. 23 | 59 | For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and against other alterations in working rules | |
| | | 6 Disputes. | | OTHER TRADES. | | 679 Workpeople affected. | |
| Leeds ... | Boot and Shoe Operatives | 26 | ... | 1901 Jan. 30 | 3 | Workpeople claimed payment for waiting outside works beyond usual starting time | Work resumed unconditionally. |
| Bolton (near) | Coal Miners ... | 99 | 7 | 1900 Jan. 24 | 9 | Men alleged that general advances had not been fully paid | Work resumed pending decision of Conciliation Board. |
| Preston ... | Cotton Spinners, Piecers, Creelers, Cardroom Hands, Weavers, &c. | 51 | 400 | 1900 Dec. 20 | 52 | Alleged grievances as to material and wages ... | Temporary advance in wages on certain machines. |
| Glossop ... | Sett and Kerb Makers | 17 | ... | 1901 Jan. 1 | 36 | For advance in wages ... | Modified advance granted. |
| London, E.C. | Carmen ... | 56 | ... | 1900 Dec. 17 | — | For advance in wages ... | Most of the men replaced and finding work elsewhere, a few resuming work on old terms. |
| London ... | Wood Turners and Sawyers | 23 | ... | 1900 Oct. 8 | — | Because of discharge of certain men ... | Amicable arrangements made for resumption of work. |

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

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 1,191 retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,618,553, show total sales for the fourth quarter of 1900, amounting to £12,283,177, as compared with £11,160,706 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Of these societies 947 show an increase, 240 a decrease; and 4 the same amount of sales as in the previous year, the net increase for the United Kingdom being £1,122,471, or 10.1 per cent.

The total amount paid to members as dividend on purchases during the quarter was £1,667,431, compared with £1,496,875 in the corresponding period of 1899, an increase of 11.4 per cent.

Returns from the four wholesale societies for the same period show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £6,180,100, as compared with £5,596,887 in the corresponding period of 1899, an increase of 10.4 per cent. The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish wholesale societies amounted to £1,076,365, as compared with £914,102 in the corresponding period of 1899, an increase of 17.8 per cent.

The last report of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society shows that at the end of 1900 its members consisted of 1,078 co-operative societies with an aggregate membership of 1,249,091; a total share, loan, reserve, and insurance capital of £3,187,945; and distributive sales during the year amounting to £16,043,889,—an increase over 1899 of £1,831,514, or 12.9 per cent.

The report of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society shows that its members consisted of 320 employees, and 288 co-operative societies with an aggregate membership of 251,376. The total share, loan, reserve, and insurance capital of the Society amounted to £1,676,765; and the distributive sales during 1900 to £5,463,631—an increase over 1899 of £449,442, or 8.9 per cent.

The 320 employees held £5,246 of the paid-up shares and £14,820 of loan capital.

The bonus on wages paid to employees of the society during the year amounted to £9,938, an average of 8d. in the £.

The following Table, based on reports and balance-sheets supplied direct to the Department, shows the

progress in trade of the wholesale and retail distributive societies grouped by districts:—

| Description of Societies and Districts. | Societies making Returns. | | Sales. | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | No. | Member-ship. | In 4th quarter of | | Increase in 1900 compared with 1899. | |
| | | | 1900. | 1899. | Amount. | Per cent. on Sales. |
| Retail Distributive Societies. | | | | | | |
| ENGLAND AND WALES:— | | | £ | £ | £ | |
| Northern Counties | 119 | 216,182 | 2,067,030 | 1,843,726 | 223,304 | 12.1 |
| Yorkshire ... | 184 | 308,216 | 2,228,055 | 2,092,681 | 135,374 | 6.5 |
| Lancashire and Cheshire | 179 | 392,942 | 2,883,421 | 2,685,036 | 198,385 | 7.4 |
| North and West Midlands Counties | 148 | 178,353 | 1,078,047 | 969,299 | 108,748 | 11.2 |
| South Midland and Eastern Counties | 106 | 81,541 | 463,193 | 425,101 | 38,092 | 9.0 |
| London (12 mile radius) | 38 | 41,041 | 223,968 | 189,041 | 34,927 | 18.5 |
| South Eastern Counties | 49 | 45,972 | 249,131 | 223,203 | 25,928 | 11.6 |
| Southern and Western Counties | 59 | 56,948 | 251,005 | 220,080 | 30,925 | 14.1 |
| Wales and Monmouth | 45 | 18,911 | 171,547 | 128,043 | 43,504 | 34.0 |
| Total—England and Wales | 927 | 1,340,106 | 9,615,397 | 8,776,210 | 839,187 | 9.6 |
| SCOTLAND—North | 101 | 102,726 | 888,881 | 803,644 | 85,237 | 10.6 |
| South | 152 | 173,451 | 1,762,363 | 1,565,791 | 196,572 | 12.6 |
| Total—Scotland | 253 | 276,177 | 2,651,244 | 2,369,435 | 281,809 | 11.9 |
| IRELAND ... | 11 | 2,270 | 16,536 | 15,061 | 1,475 | 9.8 |
| TOTAL RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES | 1,191 | 1,618,553 | 12,283,177 | 11,160,706 | 1,122,471 | 10.1 |
| Wholesale Societies. | | | | | | |
| ENGLAND AND WALES:— | | | £ | £ | £ | |
| Distributive Departments | 1,078* | 1,249,091* | 4,648,654 | 4,174,303 | 474,351 | 11.4 |
| Manufacturing Departments | | | 615,160† | 524,836† | 90,324 | 17.2 |
| SCOTLAND:— | | | £ | £ | £ | |
| Distributive Departments | 288* | 251,376* | 1,484,465 | 1,384,954 | 99,511 | 7.2 |
| Manufacturing Departments | | | 461,205† | 389,266† | 71,939 | 18.5 |
| IRELAND:— | | | £ | £ | £ | |
| Butter Agency (Distribution) | Not stated. | | 43,940 | 34,310 | 9,630 | 28.1 |
| Agricultural (Distribution) | 29* | 3,323* | 3,041 | 3,320 | 279† | 8.4 |

* Number and membership of federated societies.
† Transfers from manufacturing to distributive departments.
‡ Decrease.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

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

The number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of February was 346,114, corresponding to a rate of 212 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1901.

Compared with January, 1901, an increase is shown of 7,468 in the number relieved, and of 5 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Increases in the rate are shown in thirty-one of the districts, the largest being in Dublin (13 per 10,000), West Ham (12), Central London (10), Hull (9), and Leeds (8). Two districts (Barnsley, and Paisley and Greenock) show decreases in the rate per 10,000, and in the remaining two districts the rate remains the same.

Compared with February, 1900, the number of persons relieved has increased by 7,437, and the rate per 10,000 by 3. In seventeen districts increases are shown, the most marked being in Manchester (19 per 10,000), West Ham (16), and Bradford and Dublin (13 each). Sixteen districts show decreases, the largest decreases being at Belfast (14 per 10,000) and Wigan (13). In the remaining two districts the rate per 10,000 shows no change.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of February, 1901 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of estimated population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February the 8 Bureaux furnishing Returns registered 1,626 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,387 in February, 1900, an increase of 239. Work was found by these Bureaux for 866 persons, of whom 649 (464 males and 185 females) were engaged by private employers, 95 (including 80 engaged by clearing snow) by Local Authorities, and 122 by the Salvation Army. The number engaged by private employers in February, 1900, was 418.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of February was 1,035, as against 962 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in February.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during Feb. 1901, Feb. 1900, No. of Situations offered by Employers during Feb. 1901, Feb. 1900, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux: Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during February, 1901.

Table with columns: Engaged by Private Employers (Men, Women and Girls), Engaged by Local Authorities (Men, Women and Girls), Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities (Men, Women and Girls), Grand Total for 8 Bureaux.

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

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of Month (Feb. 1901, Feb. 1900), Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls, Grand Total for 8 Bureaux.

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities. † Of these, 154 were stated to be engaged as boardmen and bill distributors. Note.—The Labour Bureaux formerly managed by the Vestries of Islington and Hackney have now been closed.

FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Summary for February.

The trade returns for February, 1901, show an increase as compared with the corresponding period of 1900 in the value of the Imports from foreign countries and British possessions, and in the Exports of Foreign and Colonial merchandise, but a decrease in the Exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures.

The Imports for February, 1901, were valued at £39,714,439, as compared with £37,644,808 for February, 1900, an increase of £2,069,631, or 5.5 per cent., and the Exports amounted in value to £27,003,743, as against £28,795,174 in February, 1900—a net decrease of £1,791,431. The Exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures alone were valued at £21,037,455 in February, 1901, and £23,219,849 in February, 1900—a decrease of £2,182,394, or 9.4 per cent. The value of Foreign and Colonial merchandise exported in February, 1901, shows an increase as compared with February, 1900, of £390,963, or 9.4 per cent.

Imports.—The following Table shows the value of the imports for February, 1901, as compared with February, 1900, according to the different categories of merchandise:

Table with columns: Category, 1900, 1901, Increase, Decrease.

The imports of wheat in February, 1901, show an increase of 1,355,510 cwt. in quantity, and £496,672 in value, as compared with February, 1900. Wheat meal and flour has increased 192,856 cwt. and £100,880; barley has increased 512,370 cwt., and £124,313; oats, 383,090 cwt., and £260,272; peas, 14,080 cwt., and £13,803; maize or Indian corn 1,382,850 cwt., and £379,315; oatmeal, 10,600 cwt., and £9,754; maize meal or Indian corn meal 18,470 cwt., and £8,068. The imports of raw cotton have increased 31,385 cwt. in quantity and £551,369 in value, and flax, hemp, jute, silk, (thrown), and goats' wool (mohair), also show increases in quantity and value, the increase in jute being 21,949 tons and £273,809. On the other hand, the imports of raw silk and sheep or lambs' wool show decreases in both quantities and values—the falling off in the latter article being to the extent of 12,761,899 lbs. and £1,175,308, the chief decreases being found in the imports from Russia, France, Turkey, British East Indies, Australia and "other countries," while the value of the imports from British South Africa have increased from £74,205 in February, 1900, to £150,011 in February, 1901. Other raw materials in general show decreases in quantity and value, the chief exceptions being wet hides, resin, stones and sawn wood.

Exports.—The following Table shows the value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month ended February, 1901, as compared with a like period of 1900, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:

Table with columns: Category, 1900, 1901, Increase, Decrease.

The exports of coal, coke, and fuel in February, 1901, show a decrease of 561,691 tons in quantity and £536,779 in value as compared with February, 1900, and the exports of sheep and lambs'

wool show a decrease in quantity of 1,187,800 lbs. and in value of £44,549.

The exports of cotton yarn have decreased 1,063,900 lbs. in quantity, but increased £25,694 in value, and the exports of cotton piece-goods have decreased 12,892,900 yards in quantity, but increased £234,372 in value. Jute yarn has shown an increase in quantity and value, and jute piece-goods have increased in quantity 2,407,000 yards and in value £22,253. Linen yarn and piece-goods, silk, thrown twist or yarn, woollen and worsted yarn, alpaca and mohair yarn, woollen and worsted tissues, wool flannels and woollen carpets have all decreased in both quantity and value.

Tonnage of Shipping Entered and Cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during February, 1901, amounted to 2,439,353 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,988,964 tons, as against 2,335,776 tons entered and 3,098,619 tons cleared in February, 1900. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during February, 1901, amounted to 2,373,662 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,337,998 tons, as against 2,311,161 tons entered, and 2,287,687 tons cleared in February, 1900.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February 626 fresh applications for work were registered by eight Bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns, and 772 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 206 persons, of whom 118 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

The Returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency, and the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the eight Bureaux during February. A Return from the Dundee Labour Bureau is appended, but not included in the summaries.

WORK DONE IN FEBRUARY.

Table with columns: Bureau/Occupation, No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily).

The number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 677 to 568, and the number of servants applying from 391 to 326; the number engaged for permanent employment rose from 88 to 93. The number of fresh applications from employers for dressmakers and milliners fell from 88 to 53, and the number requiring such situations from 80 to 58; the number engaged through the Bureaux fell from 41 to 30. Of the 38 obtaining clerical work, only 8 were engaged permanently. Of the 33 persons wanting situations at the Dundee Labour Bureau, 17 were mill and factory operatives, and 14 were charwomen; the 7 persons obtaining work were mill and factory operatives.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS.

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN FEBRUARY.

(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 February it will be seen that 2 Trade Unions, 5 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 3 Co-operative Associations for Production, 3 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 23 Friendly Societies, 29 branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 4 Building Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during the month. Two Trade Unions, 1 Co-operative Society, 123 Friendly Societies (including 111 branches), and 10 Building Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Dewsbury Federated Builders' Labourers Protective Accident and Burial Soc., Turk's Head Hotel, Wellington-road, Dewsbury; Hackney and London District House Decorators Trade Soc., Plough Inn, Homerton, N.E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies. (A) *Associations for distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Leicestershire Agricultural Soc., Ltd., 36, East Bond-street, Leicester; London and Suburban Householders Co-op., Coal Soc., Ltd., 28 Lonsdale Chambers, Chancery Lane, W.C.; Burslem Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 8 Newcastle-street, Burslem. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Shanagolden and Foynes Co-op. Poultry Soc., Shanagolden, co. Limerick; Lucan and District Co-op. Soc., the Store, Lucan, co. Dublin. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Halifax Joiners and Builders Ltd., Sovereign street, Halifax. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Kiltoghert Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Kiltoghert, co. Leitrim; Barnacoola Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Johnston's Bridge, Dromod, co. Leitrim. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Warren Hotel Loan Soc., Ltd., Sir John Warren Hotel, Ilkeston; Old Shildon Workmen's Club and Institute, Ltd., Club House, Old Shildon, New Shildon, co. Durham; Crook and District Constitutional Working Men's Club, Ltd., 7, Church-street, Crook, co. Durham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 5; Dividing, 2; Orders, 1; Collecting, 1; Specially authorised, 4; Working Men's Clubs, 5. *Scotland.*—Specially authorised, 1. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Specially authorised, 3. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—28. *Scotland.*—1. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—3. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—1.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Assd. Cement Merchants of London, 47, Belvedere Road, S.E.; Middleton Operative House Painters' and Plumbers' Soc., Suffield Arms, Middleton, Manchester. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Pennybridge Equitable Co-op. and Industrial Soc., Ltd. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 3; Dividing, 1; Female, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 1. Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 4. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 2; Branches, 111. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 1; notice of commencement of dissolution, 2; notice of termination of dissolution, 7. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of February, and also during the two completed months of 1901, with comparative figures for 1900:—

| | Month of February. | | Two months ended February. | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| | 1901. | 1900. | 1901. | 1900. |
| Imported | Bales. 299,151 | Bales. 308,366 | Bales. 754,214 | Bales. 674,326 |
| Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns | 262,539 | 272,030 | 558,246 | 615,916 |
| Exported | 23,723 | 32,641 | 49,741 | 71,122 |

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended March 2nd, amounted to £6,162,608, an increase of £147,921 (or 2.5 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,377,412, an increase of £132,095, and those from goods and mineral traffic, £3,785,196, an increase of £15,826.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during February was £674,096, an increase of £79,931, as compared with February, 1900. In England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, there were increases of £25,496, £47,803 and £6,632 respectively.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during February numbered 337, being 33 less than in February, 1900, 3 less than in February, 1899, and 11 less than in February, 1898.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN FEBRUARY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

| Nature of Offence. | Cases taken. | Con- victions. | Amount of Penalties. | Amount of Costs. |
|---|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| By Owners, Managers, &c.: | | | | |
| Neglecting to Limewash | 2 | 2 | £ 3 0 0 | £ 0 16 0 |
| Neglecting to maintain reasonable temperature | 1 | 1 | 0 10 0 | 0 10 0 |
| Neglecting to Fence Machinery | 19 | 17 | 79 5 6 | 17 3 0 |
| Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates | 28 | 28 | 18 15 0 | 12 18 11 |
| Illegal Hours or Times of Employment— | | | | |
| Before or after the legal hour | 67 | 67 | 61 0 0 | 40 6 3 |
| During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals | 52 | 50 | 24 5 0 | 24 15 2 |
| Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted | 11 | 11 | 5 0 0 | 5 6 6 |
| On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays | 7 | 7 | 12 5 0 | 1 15 0 |
| At night | 23 | 23 | 22 16 0 | 9 7 0 |
| Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. | 2 | 2 | 0 15 0 | 1 8 2 |
| In factory or workshop and in shop beyond total legal period | 2 | 2 | 3 0 0 | 0 19 0 |
| Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.— | | | | |
| Not keeping Registers | 22 | 16 | 9 9 6 | 6 13 11 |
| Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts | 15 | 14 | 5 8 0 | 3 15 0 |
| Not sending Notices required by Act | 4 | 4 | 5 18 0 | 2 5 6 |
| Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars for Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules | 11 | 3 | 1 10 0 | 5 1 6 |
| By Workmen— | | | | |
| Failure to maintain fencing of machinery | 1 | 1 | 0 10 0 | 0 15 6 |
| Making false entry in Register | 1 | 1 | 3 0 0 | 1 0 6 |
| By Parents— | | | | |
| Conniving at personation of young person | 1 | 1 | 1 0 0 | 0 14 0 |
| By others— | | | | |
| Personation of H.M. Inspector | 1 | 1 | * | 0 2 6 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 278 | 252 | 258 7 0 | 136 19 1 |
| Total for February, 1900 | 189 | 180 | 138 4 0 | 69 10 4 |

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

| Nature of Offence. | Prosecu- tions. | Con- victions. | Cases with- drawn. | Cases dis- missed. | Amount of Fines and Costs. |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| UNDER THE MINES ACTS. | | | | | |
| By Owners, Managers, &c.: | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | 15 | 6 | 9 | — | £ 108 11 0 |
| By Workmen: | | | | | |
| Safety Lamps | 1 | 1 | — | — | 0 10 0 |
| Shot-firing and Explosives | 2 | 2 | — | — | 1 15 0 |
| Timbering | 2† | 1 | — | — | 2 0 0 |
| Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c. | 13 | 13 | — | — | 17 6 6 |
| Riding on Trams | 10 | 10 | — | — | 6 13 0 |
| Miscellaneous | 29 | 25 | 3 | 1 | 35 6 6 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 72 | 58 | 12 | 1 | 172 2 0 |
| Total for February, 1900 | 81 | 22 | — | 9 | 47 16 0 |
| UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT. | | | | | |
| By Workmen: | | | | | |
| Explosives and Blasting | 2 | 2 | — | — | £ 1 7 0 |
| Total for February, 1901 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 1 7 0 |
| Total for February, 1900 | 6 | 4 | — | 2 | 11 12 0 |

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

| Nature of Offence. | Prosecu- tions. | Convic- tions. | Total Penalties. | Total Costs. |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| By Owners or Masters of Ships— | | | | |
| Submersion of disc | 2 | 2 | £ 200 0 0 | £ 14 14 0 |
| Excessive deck cargo | 1 | 1 | 15 0 0 | 0 7 6 |
| By Seamen and others: | | | | |
| Neglecting to deliver up wreck to Receiver | 1 | 1 | 2 7 0 | 0 16 0 |
| Assaulting Board of Trade Con- stable | 1 | 1 | † | — |
| Total for February, 1901 | 5 | 5 | 217 7 0 | 15 17 6 |
| Total for February, 1900 | 9 | 9 | 39 2 0 | 4 9 0 |

* Three months' hard labour.
† In one case defendant did not appear and a warrant was issued for his apprehension.
‡ One month's imprisonment.