

# LABOUR GAZETTE

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

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. VIII.—No. 3.

MARCH, 1900.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

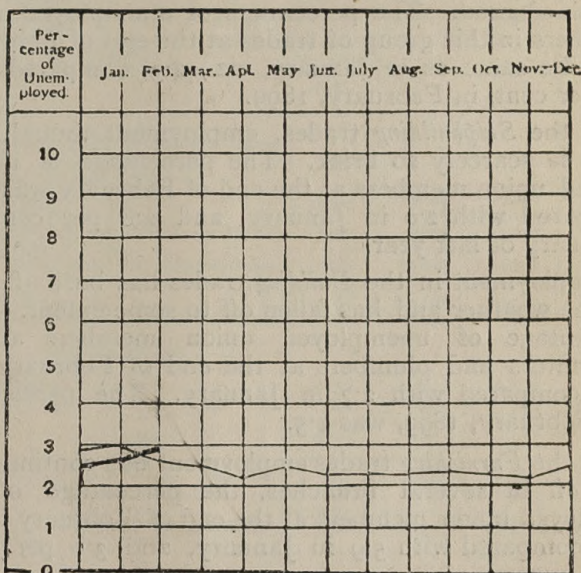
## CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

Employment Chart, 1899-1900	...	...	...	65
State of the Labour Market in February	...	...	...	65
<b>Special Articles and Reports—</b>				
ACCIDENTS TO WORKPEOPLE IN 1899...	...	...	...	67
STRIKE OF COALMINERS IN AUSTRIA ...	...	...	...	67
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS BILL, 1900 ...	...	...	...	68
AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN DECEMBER, 1898 AND 1899 ...	...	...	...	69
THE WORKING OF THE ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE LAWS IN AUSTRIA IN 1897 ...	...	...	...	69
GERMAN LABOUR COLONIES IN 1899 ...	...	...	...	71
LABOUR DISPUTES IN AUSTRIA IN 1898 ...	...	...	...	72
DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES ...	...	...	...	71
NEW INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS REGISTERED IN 1899 ...	...	...	...	70
RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS...	...	...	...	72
<b>Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—</b>				
<b>REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES</b>				
COAL MINING ...	...	...	...	77
IRON MINING ...	...	...	...	77
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE ...	...	...	...	77
IRON AND STEEL WORKS ...	...	...	...	78
TINPLATE WORKS... ..	...	...	...	78
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR ...	...	...	...	79
SEAMEN ...	...	...	...	78
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR ...	...	...	...	81
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES ...	...	...	...	81
<b>DISTRICT REPORTS</b>				
LONDON ...	...	...	...	82
ENGLAND: Northern Counties ...	...	...	...	82
Lancashire ...	...	...	...	83
Yorkshire ...	...	...	...	84
Midland Counties ...	...	...	...	85
Eastern Counties ...	...	...	...	86
South Western Counties ...	...	...	...	86
WALES ...	...	...	...	87
SCOTLAND ...	...	...	...	87
IRELAND ...	...	...	...	88
<b>Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—</b>				
COLONIES... ..	75	SWITZERLAND ...	...	76
FRANCE ...	75	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ...	...	76
GERMANY... ..	75			
<b>Miscellaneous Reports for February—</b>				
LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR ...	...	...	...	73
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS ...	...	...	...	96
FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM...	...	...	...	95
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES...	...	...	...	91
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION ...	...	...	...	95
<b>Statistical Tables for February—</b>				
TRADE DISPUTES ...	...	...	...	92
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES ...	...	...	...	90
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR ...	...	...	...	91
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ...	...	...	...	89
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS ...	...	...	...	96
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX ...	...	...	...	93
LABOUR BUREAUX...	...	...	...	94
PAUPERISM ...	...	...	...	94
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS ...	...	...	...	93
<b>Notes and Reviews—</b>				
OUTPUT OF COAL AND NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN COAL MINES IN 1899—PRELIMINARY FIGURES ...	...	...	...	66
REPORTS OF THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL AND LABOUR STATISTICS OF THE STATE OF MAINE, U.S.A., FOR 1899	...	...	...	68
ILLINOIS BUREAU OF LABOUR STATISTICS ...	...	...	...	96
EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES ...	...	...	...	91

## EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1899-1900.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each complete month of 1899 and 1900.

[The thick line applies to 1900, the thin line to 1899.]



## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[Based on 2,332 returns, viz.: 1,648 from Employers, 571 from Trade Unions, and 113 from other sources.]

LITTLE change has taken place in the general state of employment during February, most of the principal industries being still busy. The percentage of unemployed returned by Trade Unions is somewhat higher than last year, but with that exception is lower than at the corresponding period of any year since 1891.

In the 137 Trade Unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 524,872, 15,114 (or 2.9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, compared with 2.7 in January, and with 2.6 per cent. in the 123 unions, with a membership of 491,790, from which returns were received for February, 1899.

**Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment in February was exceptionally good, the average time worked by the collieries included in the returns being higher than any previously recorded in the six years during which these statistics have been compiled. The average time worked by these collieries, at which 448,888 workpeople were employed, was 5.69 days per week in the four weeks ended February 24th, as compared with 5.63 days per week a year ago.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good, but is not so good as a year ago. The average number of days worked by mines and open works at which 16,627 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended February 24th, was 5.55 days per week, compared with 5.86 days a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment continues better than a year ago. At the works of 116 ironmasters, 383 furnaces were in blast at the end of February, employing about 25,887 workpeople, as compared with

381 furnaces with 25,917 workpeople employed at the end of January, and 376 furnaces with 24,632 workpeople employed at the end of February, 1899.

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Employment is practically the same as at the end of January; it continues to compare favourably with a year ago. At 209 works covered by the returns, 82,698 workpeople were employed in the week ended February 24th, 82,400 in the week ended January 27th, 1900, and 80,092 in the week ended February 25th, 1899, the average number of shifts worked being 5.56, 5.58, and 5.60 respectively.

**Tinplate Trade.**—Employment shows little change, and is considerably better than a year ago. At the end of February 418 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates) employing 21,183 workpeople. These figures compare with 418 mills employing 21,060 workpeople at the end of January, 1900, and 356 mills employing 17,720 workpeople at the end of February, 1899.

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of February was the same as in January, viz., 2.3, compared with 2.4 per cent. in February, 1899.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades, employment though still good is scarcely so brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 2.9, compared with 2.0 in January, and 2.8 per cent. in February of last year.

Employment in the **Building** trades has been affected by the weather and has fallen off to some extent. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of February was 3.1, compared with 2.7 in January. The percentage for February, 1899, was 1.5.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment has continued to fall off in several branches, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February being 6.9, compared with 5.9 in January, and 3.0 per cent. in February, 1899.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has remained fairly steady, though the latter is not so busy. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 4.3, compared with 4.2 in January, and 3.5 per cent. in February of last year.

In the **Paper** trade employment has remained good, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February being 2.3, compared with 2.4 in January, and 3.2 per cent. in February, 1899.

In the **Glass** trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 9.4, compared with 11.5 in February, 1899.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has continued to improve, and is now brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 1.3, compared with 1.8 in January. The percentage for February, 1899, was 3.6.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trade has improved and is fair on the whole.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade continues dull; in the ready-made branch it has improved and is good generally.

Employment continues very good in the **Spinning and Weaving** branches of the **Cotton** trade. Information respecting **Cotton** factories employing about 83,800 women and girls shows that 99 per cent. of those in **Spinning** mills, and 93 per cent. of those in **Weaving** factories, were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 97 and 92 per cent. respectively in January, and with 90 and 81 per cent. respectively a year ago.

Employment in the **Woollen and Worsted** and **Hosiery** trades continues very good.

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—Employment at the docks and wharves is better than a year ago, but not so good as in January. During the four weeks

ended February 24th, an average number of 14,207 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 15,762 in January, and 13,836 in February, 1899.

**Agricultural** employment was much interrupted in February by snow and rain, and a good many men, chiefly extra hands, were in irregular work, but in no particular district were any considerable number reported to have been out of employment.

**Trade Disputes.**—Thirty-three fresh disputes occurred in February, 1900, involving 11,357 workpeople, of whom 8,698 were directly and 2,659 indirectly affected. The corresponding number of disputes in January was 37, involving 11,305 workpeople, and in February, 1899, 36, involving 5,348 workpeople. Of the 33 fresh disputes in February, 1900, 3 occurred in the building trades, 3 in the coal mining industry, 4 in metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 21 in textile trades, and 2 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 32 new and old disputes, involving 11,500 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 12 involving 2,871 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 5, involving 1,822 persons, in favour of the employers; and 12, involving 3,126 persons, were compromised. With regard to the remaining 3 disputes, involving 3,681 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in the rates of wages of about 15,700 workpeople were reported during February, of which number 14,200 received advances, averaging 1s. 11d. weekly per head, and about 1,500 sustained decreases, averaging 2s. 0½d. weekly per head. The net result was an increase of about 1s. 6½d. per head in the weekly wages of the 15,700 workpeople affected. The principal increases were in the coal mining, iron and steel, and metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades; the principal decreases were in the building trades. Changes affecting about 200 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. One change, affecting 2,600 workpeople, was arranged by a Wages Board, and the remaining changes, affecting about 12,900 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

OUTPUT OF COAL, AND NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN COAL MINES IN 1899.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

An advance proof has been forwarded by 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 1899. 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 output, and numbers employed in each inspection district at mines, under the Coal Mines Regulation Act. It will be seen that between 1898 and 1899 the total output has increased from 202 to 220 million tons, or by about 9 per cent., and the numbers employed from 707,000 to 729,000, or by about 3 per cent. Owing to the great coal dispute in South Wales, the figures for some districts in 1898 were abnormal, and those for 1897 have been inserted for comparison. The increase of output in 1899 compared with 1897 is about 9 per cent., and of number employed about 5 per cent.

Districts.	Number employed.			Total Output of Coal (in thousands of tons)		
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Newcastle ... ..	72,223	73,736	77,623	21,768	23,005	23,753
Durham ... ..	80,599	81,184	82,927	23,810	24,372	24,406
Yorkshire and Lincolnshire	89,782	91,452	95,140	24,049	25,631	26,901
N. & E. Lancashire ... ..	38,945	38,732	38,965	10,439	10,897	11,034
Liverpool ... ..	54,359	53,799	54,091	15,299	16,627	16,545
Midlands ... ..	80,322	82,314	84,797	23,298	25,768	27,581
N. Staffordshire ... ..	24,639	25,272	26,104	6,434	6,652	6,799
S. Staffordshire ... ..	25,970	25,923	27,279	9,316	9,421	9,413
South Western ... ..	45,760	46,471	47,422	12,478	9,442	13,735
South Wales ... ..	92,624	94,938	97,456	25,510	19,860*	28,659
West Scotland ... ..	39,215	40,433	42,305	12,606	13,216	13,993
East Scotland ... ..	49,754	51,569	53,607	16,387	17,021	17,750
Ireland ... ..	1,013	981	993	135	130	125
Total ... ..	695,213	706,894	729,009	202,119	202,042	220,085

\* Affected by prolonged trade dispute (April to September).

ACCIDENTS TO WORKPEOPLE IN 1899.

I.—FATAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople reported as killed during 1899 by industrial accidents was 4,416, or 418 more than in 1898, 386 more than in 1897, and 265 more than in 1896. Of the 4,416 deaths in 1899, 4,145 occurred in connection with industries employing (according to the latest returns) 5,447,140 workpeople. The average death rate for the year in these industries is thus about 76 per 100,000 persons employed. In the case of the industries in which the remaining 271 fatal accidents occurred the number employed is not known.

The number of persons employed in 1899 in the principal industries dealt with is not yet available, and the death rate for that year is, therefore, based on the numbers employed in 1897 and 1898. It is probable that the numbers engaged have increased to some extent since then, and the death rate quoted for 1899 would accordingly appear to be somewhat too high, but on the other hand the total number of deaths in 1899 is based on preliminary figures, subject to revision, and the revised figures usually show some increase over the preliminary figures.

In the following table the industrial accidents causing death are analysed according to classes of industries. The table shows for each class both the absolute number of deaths from industrial accidents, and the proportion of such deaths per 100,000 workpeople employed, for each of the years 1896 to 1899:—

Industry.	Number employed according to latest returns.	Total number of deaths in				Annual death-rate in 1899 per 100,000 employed.
		1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	
Shipping ... ..	230,372	1,818	1,642	1,598	1,839	798
Mines:—						
Underground ... ..	587,207	935	875	806	846	144
Surface ... ..	153,828	130	104	135	120	78
Total mines ... ..	741,125	1,065	979	941	966	130
Quarries (overcast, deep)	134,478	124	123	134	117	87
Railway service ... ..	534,144*	490	566	342	543	103
Factories ... ..	3,807,024	1,490	513	575	675	18
Total for above industries	5,447,140	3,987	3,823	3,790	4,145	76
Workshops ... ..						
Works under Secs. 22 and 23 of Factory Act, 1895	Cannot be stated	1106	142	150	190	Cannot be stated.
Under Notice of Accidents Act		58	62	56	75	

It will be seen that the highest death rate in 1899 was, as usual, amongst seamen, where it amounted to 798 out of every 100,000 employed. Amongst miners, the rate per 100,000 was 144 for underground workers, and 78 for surface workers; amongst quarrymen it was 87, and amongst railway servants 103. In the case of factory operatives, the death rate was 18 per 100,000 employed.

If we turn to the actual number of deaths shown in the above table, it will be observed that, with the exception of quarrymen and surface workers at mines there is an increase in the number of deaths recorded for each class of workpeople in 1899, as compared with 1898. The marked increase in the number of seamen killed, is attributed principally to wrecks or casualties occurring amongst merchant vessels in the first half of 1899, while the increase in the number of fatalities amongst underground workers at mines is mainly made up of a rise in the number of deaths amongst metalliferous miners (as distinct from coal miners).

\* Excluding contractors' servants. A small number of these persons is, however, included in the total number of deaths for each year.

† Including a few persons in Workshops.

‡ Included with accidents to factory operatives.

II.—NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.

Non-fatal accidents occurring to workpeople employed in factories and workshops, and on railways are reportable when they are of such a nature as to prevent the injured person from performing his ordinary work on any one of the three days following that on which the accident took place. This definition also applies to injuries reportable under the Notice of Accidents Act of 1894. There is, however, no definite minimum fixed in the case of non-fatal accidents in connection with mines, quarries, and shipping, and these groups of industries cannot, therefore, be compared as regards the number of non-fatal accidents reported. In the following table, therefore, no attempt has been made to show the proportion of accidents in the several trades to the numbers employed:—

Industry.	Number of persons reported as injured.			
	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Industries in which the "3 days" limit is in operation.				
Factories and workshops:—				
Factories ... ..	29,251	35,447	49,290	60,689
Workshops ... ..	135	76	131	152
Works under sections 22 and 23 of Factory Act, 1895 ... ..	3,710	4,293	7,410	9,047
Total, factories and workshops	32,961	39,816	56,835	69,888
Railways ... ..	14,110	14,402	12,979	15,399
Works under Notice of Accidents Act	1,139	1,154	1,491	2,358
Other Industries.				
Mines:—				
Underground ... ..	5,426	4,164	3,845	3,867
Surface ... ..	647	600	563	584
Total mines ... ..	6,073	4,764	4,408	4,451
Quarries ... ..	931	1,126	1,434	1,155
Shipping ... ..	2,258	2,643	2,722	2,777
Total, above industries	57,472	63,995	79,869	96,028

With the exception of quarrymen, all classes of workpeople included in the above table show increases in the numbers reported as injured by accidents in 1899, as compared with 1898, the largest increase being among those reported as injured in factories and workshops. Taking the whole of the industries dealt with, the number reported as injured in 1899 is 16,159 more than in 1898, 32,123 more than in 1897, and 38,556 more than in 1896.

It may be added that fuller details of accidents in 1899, with comparative figures for a number of years, will appear in the "Abstract of Labour Statistics" which will shortly be issued by the Board of Trade.

STRIKE OF COALMINERS IN AUSTRIA.

THE following account of the coal strike in Austria is based on memoranda received through the Foreign Office, dated February 1st, February 15th and March 1st, from Mr. A. Percy Bennett, H.M. Commercial Attaché at Vienna.

The strike began on a small scale early in January at certain pits on the borders of Moravia and Silesia, and has since developed into the greatest strike which has ever taken place in Austria.

The men's demands were at first limited to an increase of wages, but subsequently included the following:—(1) Eight-hours' shift (bank to bank) in place of the ten-hours' system at present in force; (2) the fixing of a minimum wage; (3) weekly instead of monthly settlements of wages accounts; (4) free light; and (5) a general increase of wages.

Various steps have been taken by the Government with a view to bringing about a compromise. The Minister of Agriculture (whose department administers the Mining Code) issued a semi-official *communiqué* calling upon the governing Authorities in the coal-

producing districts to see that nothing was done to prevent either owners or men from submitting their differences to the legally-constituted Boards of Conciliation. These Boards were permanently established by a law of 1896, and consist of representatives from both the capitalist and mining classes, who are elected for a period of three years, and whose duty it is under certain conditions to settle any differences that may arise from time to time between capital and labour, provided these differences assume a general character in the district concerned. (For an account of the Law of 1896, see GAZETTE, April, 1897, p. 104.)

None of the Boards of Conciliation were successful in effecting any settlement. Sundry concessions were offered to the miners, but a most determined stand was taken against their principal demand, viz., the introduction of the eight-hours' shift.

Various other measures have been taken by the Government in respect to the strike. Inspectors have been commissioned to visit the districts affected for the purpose of obtaining information on the spot, and reporting as to the grounds upon which the miners base their demands. The Minister of Justice visited Moravia to confer with the strike leaders, whilst a high official of the Ministry of Agriculture was sent to Bohemia.

A special commission consisting of the heads of various ministerial departments under the presidency of the Premier, has been holding daily conferences in Vienna in connection with the strike. On January 20th, the Ministry of Agriculture conceded an eight-hours' day (from January 1st, 1901) and weekly payments of wages to the workpeople in the Government lignite mines in Brüt. Finally, the Government announced its intention to appoint a commission to draft a Bill for the reduction of the working day in coal mines.

On February 7th, at the meeting of the Conciliation Board for the Mährisch-Ostrau district (where some 21,000 are on strike) the employers offered a number of concessions, including a 12 per cent. increase of wages. At a meeting of the men which took place on the following day, resolutions were carried to the effect:—

(1) That the intention of the Government to summon a commission to draft a Bill destined to shorten the coalminers' working day could not be accepted as offering a satisfactory settlement of the strikers' just demands, inasmuch as there could be no guarantee that the Bill so drafted would become law.

(2) That no minor concessions, such as increases of wages, free lights, etc., would induce the strikers to return to work until the question of the eight-hours' shift was satisfactorily settled.

On the meeting of the Reichsrath on February 22nd eight urgency motions were immediately brought forward by the Social-Democratic Party demanding the immediate introduction of the eight-hours' shift in the coal mines of the Empire. The debate on these motions was concluded at a sitting of the Reichsrath on February 28th, when it was unanimously agreed to refer the motions in question to a Social-Political Committee. It was further agreed that a report on the whole subject of mining hours should be drawn up by this committee and submitted to the Reichsrath by March 12th.

Out of an approximate total of 110,000 coalminers in Austria, 90,000, belonging to the mines of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, are said to be on strike.

**Report of the Bureau of Industrial and Labour Statistics of the State of Maine, U.S.A., for 1899.**—This, the thirteenth annual report, gives particulars of the principal industries of the State, special attention being devoted to the lumber and pulp and paper industries. It is stated that the conditions of labour have been very satisfactory during the year, employment being plentiful and labour disturbances few and of brief duration. The report of the Inspector of Factories, Workshops, Mines and Quarries, is bound up with the report. The Inspector states that the increase in the number of children employed is much smaller than that of adults.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS BILL, 1900.**

THE Factories and Workshops Bill, which has been introduced by the Home Secretary, proposes several alterations in the present law, of which the most important are as follows:—

**Regulations for Dangerous Trades.**—The Bill proposes to substitute, for the present method of establishing special rules in dangerous or unhealthy trades by means of arbitration, a new procedure.

Under the existing law rules are established separately for each factory and workshop, with the result that diverse rules may be in force in the same industry and even in factories where the circumstances are exactly similar. Every occupier has a separate appeal to arbitration against any new rules, and hence, by the proposal of special rules for any industry, the Home Office may find itself involved in a separate arbitration with each occupier. In the arbitration one of the arbitrators is appointed by the person or persons interested, and the appointment of umpire is subject to his consent. On the other hand, the present procedure allows the occupiers a public hearing of their objections after the rules have been definitely formulated.

In place of this procedure:—

The Bill provides for the establishment of general regulations for the whole of a defined class of factories and workshops, with, if necessary, defined exceptions.

While preserving the right of the occupiers to object, and to have their objections heard judicially in open court, it gives the Secretary of State the power of appointing the referee by whom the objections would be heard. The referee will be an independent person, selected by the Secretary of State, in no way concerned either with the Factory Department, which proposes the rules, or with the trade, which objects to them.

This referee will hear all persons entitled to object to the proposed regulations, and will then give a general decision applicable to the whole trade.

The power of making rules is, at the same time, extended to meet the case of tenement workshops, where, under the existing law, no one can be made responsible for not enforcing the rules; and it is also made clear that the rules can prohibit the use of any particular material, and can modify statutory rules, if they stand in the way of more effective precautions.

**Sanitation.**—The existing provision with regard to the prohibition of home work in places injurious to health can only be put in force if both the two following conditions are satisfied, (1) there is danger to the health of the persons employed, and (2) there is danger to the general health of the district. The Bill proposes to abolish the necessity for the fulfilment of the second of these conditions, which has hitherto rendered the provision in the Act of 1895 inoperative.

**Safety.**—(a) Children are prohibited from cleaning under moving machinery if it is possible for them to come into contact with the machinery.

(b) Steam boilers are required to be provided with proper safety valves and gauges; to be cleaned and examined internally by a competent person once in three months; and to be examined internally and externally by a competent engineer once in six months.

(c) The provisions respecting means of escape from fire are strengthened.

**Employment.**—The age at which children may first be employed in a factory or workshop is raised from 11 to 12, thus making the law for Scotland and Ireland the same as that in England.

In certain occupations of a special character it is proposed to allow the employment of women in two shifts under stringent restrictions.

Additional regulations are made with regard to the employment of persons in a factory or workshop and a shop on the same day.

**Laundries.**—With the view of simplifying the law, it is proposed to repeal the present provisions relating to laundries and to empower the Secretary of State by an order to apply to laundries, with or without modification, such of the provisions of the Factory Acts as are applicable. The existing exemptions are retained.

**Particulars.**—Power is given to the Secretary of State to extend the provisions of the Particulars section to outworkers.

**Emergency Processes.**—The existing unlimited exemptions for certain processes, e.g., jam-preserving and fish-curing, are repealed; and the Bill, while providing exemptions for emergency processes, i.e., processes which must be immediately carried out to save perishable materials from spoiling, confines the exemptions strictly to such processes, and limits them to a relaxation of the restrictions in relation to the hours of work prescribed by the Acts.

Other provisions of the Bill empower the Secretary of State to determine by Order what accidents shall be reported to the factory inspectors and certifying surgeons, and to require reports of particular classes of accidents, whether injury is caused to any person or not.

The definitions of "non-textile factory" and "workshop" are extended to include places, other than laundries, where articles are cleaned.

**AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN DECEMBER, 1898 AND 1899.**

INFORMATION has been received from a number of correspondents in England as to the rates of weekly cash wages paid to ordinary agricultural labourers,\* exclusive of piecework earnings, and all extra allowances in cash or kind, in December, 1899, compared with December, 1898.

The general effect of the returns is to show that there has been an upward movement in agricultural wages.

It has been assumed for the purposes of calculation that where the predominant rates of wages of ordinary labourers have changed in a district, a similar change has taken place in the wages of all classes of agricultural labourers. Although, strictly speaking, this assumption is not absolutely correct in all counties, it may be said that the wages of shepherds and of men in charge of horses and cattle roughly follow the movement in the wages of the ordinary labourers, although they do not necessarily change by the same amount, nor do the changes always take place at the same time.

The following table shows the number of agricultural labourers (according to the Census of 1891) in the Poor Law Unions reported on, grouped by districts, and also by the extent to which the rates of weekly cash wages are stated to have changed in December, 1899, as compared with 1898:—

Districts.	No. of Poor Law Unions reported on.	Number of Agricultural Labourers in Poor Law Unions in which there has been—					
		No change	Increase per week of				Total.
			6d.	1s.	1s. 6d.	2s.	
Midland Counties ...	32	41,720	—	5,962	—	—	47,682
Eastern Counties ...	41	58,358	1,660	39,534	3,400	—	102,952
Home Counties ...	15	18,049	—	5,821	1,418	—	25,288
Southern and South-Western Counties	48	50,189	1,312	5,261	—	2,787	59,549
Total ...	136	168,316	2,972	56,578	4,818	2,787	235,471
Percentage ...	—	72.5	1.8	24.0	2.0	1.2	100.0

It will be seen from this table that, out of the total number of agricultural labourers, namely, 235,471, in

\* Men not exclusively engaged with the charge of animals, such as shepherds, cattlemen, carters and waggons.

the Unions reported on, 168,316 (or 71.5 per cent.) were in Unions where there was no change in the predominant rates of wages, and 67,155 (or 28.5 per cent.) were in Unions in which the wages rose, the changes ranging from 6d. to 2s. a week. Much the greatest proportion of the labourers whose wages were increased received a rise of 1s. per week. Such labourers represented 24.0 per cent. of the total number in the Unions to which the returns relate, and, in the Midland counties the increases recorded were all of this amount. The total increase in the weekly wages if spread over all the labourers in the Unions reported on amounts to an average rise of over 3d. per week.

The greatest number of changes took place in the Eastern counties. Of the 67,155 labourers in Unions in which the wages rose, 44,594, or 66.4 per cent., were in the Unions in these counties.

The Northern counties have been excluded from these calculations, as the greater number of labourers there are hired by the year or half-year. Wages in these counties in 1899 have been well maintained, and at some of the hiring fairs there has been an upward tendency (see LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1899, p. 196; December, 1899, p. 358).

**THE WORKING OF THE ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE LAWS IN AUSTRIA IN 1897.\***

**I.—Accident Insurance.**

EXCLUDING the bulk of the mining and allied trades (in which the old provident funds known as *Bruderladen* have been retained) there were in Austria, at the end of 1897, 236,413 establishments, with a mean number of 2,077,473 workpeople subject to the Accident Insurance Laws, compared with 224,307 establishments and 1,974,644 workpeople the year before.

The total wages of the insured workpeople, according to the returns sent in by the employers for the purposes of the Accident Insurance Laws,† amounted to £41,932,500, as compared with £39,507,500 in 1896.

Out of a total of 69,283 accidents notified in 1897, 19,661 (28.4 per cent.) 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 4 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 19,661 accidents reported in 1897, which entailed compensation, the corresponding figures for the years 1892-6 being given for comparison:—

Result of Accidents.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	Number of Accidents.					
Death ...	574	649	670	835	929	929
Permanent disablement; ...	2,530	3,244	3,701	4,924	5,399	5,046
Temporary disablement (over 4 weeks) ...	6,318	7,008	8,181	10,636	12,216	13,686
Total of accidents entailing compensation ...	9,422	10,901	12,552	16,395	18,544	19,661
Proportion of Accidents per 1,000,000 Days Worked.‡						
Death ...	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3
Permanent disablement; ...	9.4	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.0	12.6
Temporary disablement (over 4 weeks) ...	23.6	24.8	27.5	29.1	31.7	34.2

\* Amtliche Nachrichten des K.K. Ministeriums des Innern betreffend die Unfallversicherung und Krankenversicherung der Arbeiter. Nos. 23 and 24 (Dec. 1 and 15) 1899.

† 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.

‡ The Report for 1897 does not give separate figures as to total and partial permanent disablement. It is stated that it has been found that it is practically impossible to make this distinction with accuracy in annual reports.

§ During 1897, the 2,077,473 workpeople worked in the aggregate 399,587,100 days.



LABOUR DISPUTES IN AUSTRIA IN 1898.\*

THE figures relating to strikes and lock-outs hitherto published by the Austrian Government and summarised in the LABOUR GAZETTE, and the "First Annual Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics" have been incomplete in so far as they did not include disputes occurring in the mining and cognate industries. These disputes are now, for the first time, included in the report for the year 1898 recently issued.

The amended aggregate figures relating to strikes in all industries (including mining) in Austria, for each year back to 1894, are as follows:—

Table with 4 columns: Year, No. of Strikes, No. of workpeople affected by strikes, directly & indirectly, No. of working days lost through strikes, by workpeople directly & indirectly affected.

The extent to which various groups of trades were affected by strikes in 1898, as compared with 1897, will be seen from the following Table:—

Table with 7 columns: Group of Trades, Total, Proportion per cent. of all Strikes, Per cent., Total, Days lost by strikers, Proportion per cent. of all days lost by strikers, Per cent.

In the following Table the strikes of the two years 1897 and 1898 are grouped according to their objects. In the case of strikes with two or more objects, the same workpeople are counted under each object:—

Table with 3 columns: Objects or Demands, 1897, 1898. Categories include Wages, Hours of Labour, Working Arrangements, Other Objects.

As regards lock-outs (which are shown separately from strikes in the Austrian statistics) the report states that none took place in 1898. There were 11 lock-outs in 1897, 10 in 1896, and 8 in 1895, most of them due to unauthorised absence from work on the 1st of May.

\* Die Arbeitseinstellungen und Aussperungen in Oesterreich während des Jahres 1898. Published by the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce, Vienna, Alfred Holder L. Rothenthurmstrasse, 15. These statistics relate to Austria as distinct from Hungary.

In the following statement the strikers are classified according to the results of the strikes in which they were engaged-in 1898, compared with 1897:—

Table with 6 columns: Result, 1897 (Strikes, Strikers Number, Per cent.), 1898 (Strikes, Strikers Number, Per cent.).

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Renewal of Trust Deed in the Boot and Shoe Trade.

RESOLUTION 6 of the Terms of Settlement of the general dispute in the boot and shoe trade of 1895, agreed to at the Conference at the Board of Trade, declared "that it is desirable and necessary to provide financial guarantees for duly carrying out the provisions of this agreement, and existing and future awards, agreements and decisions of boards, arbitrators, or umpires, so long as they do not contravene the provisions of this agreement; and that a scheme be at once prepared for depositing certain sums in the hands of trustees for that purpose."

In order to give effect to this clause a trust deed was entered into on March 8th, 1898, between the representatives of the Incorporated Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, by which the sum of £2,000, half being contributed by each party, was vested in three trustees. This deed was entered into for a period of two years, and the question of renewing these arrangements for a further period has been engaging the attention of the parties.

The question was submitted last month to a ballot of the Union, when the voting was as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: In favour of renewal, Against, Majority in favour.

The Employers' Federation are also stated to be prepared to renew the trust deed, and steps are being taken accordingly.

Arbitration in the Tin Plate Trade at Morrilton.

On February 3rd, a dispute arose between a firm of tinplate manufacturers at Morrilton and their employees. In all, about 300 workpeople were affected. The men asked for the reinstatement of three men, and the return of 2s. 6d. deducted from the wages of certain men, alleged to be a fine for refusing to do certain work. Other demands had reference to the payment for iron hooping, lapping down and pickling, and to the speed at which the tinning machines, known as "patent pots," should be worked. After the dispute had lasted about a week, work was resumed, the matters in dispute being referred by agreement to 6 arbitrators, 3 representing each side. On February 16th, these arbitrators, without calling in an umpire, issued their award.

They decided that two of the men should be reinstated when casing had to be done, if they were available, and that the third should be employed as long as the work on which he was engaged should be continued. With regard to the alleged fine, they decided against its return, it having been paid to others for labour originally contracted for with the men from whom it had been deducted. They further agreed that the operations of iron hooping, lapping down and pickling, should be paid for in accordance with the custom of

the trade, and that the speed of the "patent pots" should be equal to that at other works in similar conditions.

Mediation in the West Hartlepool Timber Trade.

Four labourers employed by a firm of timber merchants and sawmill owners at West Hartlepool were dismissed for refusing to work on the afternoon of Saturday, January 27th, at the order of their foremen, a misunderstanding having arisen as to their rate of pay for so doing. Accordingly the whole of the labourers struck work for their reinstatement, the sawmill operatives being thrown out by the strike. In all, over 100 persons were directly or indirectly affected. On February 1st a conference was held between representatives of the firm and the men, the Mayor of West Hartlepool acting as mediator. An agreement was signed in which the firm state that they never had any intention of asking the men to work overtime without extra pay, and the men's representative expresses regret for the refusal of the men to work, and undertakes that in future there shall be no stoppage until the complaint has been laid before the firm. The firm accordingly agree to reinstate the dismissed men. Work was resumed on February 2nd.

Arbitration in the Nottingham House Painting Trade.

The house painters of Nottingham having applied for an advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, and the employers having put in a counter demand for certain alterations in the working rules, the questions at issue were referred to the arbitration of Mr. J. A. Simpson. The Arbitrator has decided against both claims, and the working rules and rate of wages therefore remain unchanged during the ensuing year.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

"ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT"; "SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT."

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; and that, if it is proved that the injury to a workman is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of that workman, any compensation claimed in respect of that injury shall be disallowed. The widow of a miner, who lost his life by an accident, claimed on behalf of herself and her children compensation from his employers. On the day of the accident the miner was working in a certain level, the way for the men to get from which to the upper level was a ladder. There was also a sump shaft with a cage working in it, which led from one level to the other, and was used for raising the lead ore. The cage was worked by an engine on the higher level, some way from the top of the shaft, so that the engineman could not see the bottom of the sump shaft. For this and other reasons it was dangerous for the men to go up and down by the sump shaft, and they knew that this was not the proper way for them to ascend or descend, but there was no notice posted up prohibiting them from going up or down the shaft, which they frequently did, but not when any of the mine officials were present. The engineman was ordered not to wind the men up the sump shaft; but after he had left off work, frequently one of the men would go up by the ladder and then wind the rest up by means of the engine. On the day of the accident the deceased called to a boy to wind him up, but the boy refused, saying that he would only wind up the tools. The deceased got into the cage and called to the boy to wind up, but the boy thought that he was winding up tools only. When the cage was near the top, the deceased called out "Higher up"; the boy became confused, and pulled the wrong lever, with the result that the cage fell down the shaft, and the man was killed. The County Court judge found that the accident arose out of, and in the course of the employment of the deceased, and that he was not guilty of serious and wilful misconduct, and made an award in his favour. The employers appealed; but the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that the questions raised in the appeal were questions of fact, and not of law. There was plenty of evidence upon which the County Court judge could find that the accident arose out of and in the course of the employment; nor could the Court say that there was no evidence upon which the judge was entitled to find that the accident was not attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the deceased.—Douglas v. United Miners Mining Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, February 19th.

WHAT IS A "FACTORY."

The Act applies "only to employment by the undertakers as hereinafter defined, on or in or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work, and to employment by the undertakers as hereinafter defined on in or about any building which exceeds 30 feet in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding, or being demolished, or on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power, is being used for the purpose of the construction, repair, or demolition thereof." In the Act, "Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895.

By the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, Section 23, certain provisions of the Factory Acts are applied to "every dock, wharf, quay, and warehouse, and, so far as relates to the process of loading or unloading therefrom or thereto, all machinery and plant used in that process."

The widow of a workman, who was killed by accident in the course of his employment claimed compensation from his employers. The deceased was, with others, working in the discharge of a ship belonging to the defendants. This ship was lying in a dock, moored to the quay. The cargo, which was in bags, was being discharged from the hold on to the quay by means of the dock company's hydraulic crane, which was placed on the quay. The crane was worked by the defendants' men. The bags were sent up from the hold by men stationed there, one of whom was the deceased. The men in the hold made up sets of 15 bags each, which they laid across a rope strop. They then fastened the strop on to the hook of the runner of the crane, which then hoisted the set out of the hold and landed it on the quay. The deceased and another man were making up a set, and had got 12 bags across the rope strop, and were in the act of putting another bag on to the 12 bags, when a bag fell from behind upon the deceased and so injured him that he died. When this bag fell, the runner of the crane was not attached to the strop, but was at that time ashore. The County Court judge made an award in favour of the plaintiff, and, on appeal, the Court of Appeal confirmed his decision, holding that, notwithstanding the fact that the runner of the crane was at the time of the accident ashore, and not on board the ship, the deceased was employed about a factory, within the meaning of the Act, and dismissing the appeal.—Lawson v. Atlantic Transport Company, Court of Appeal, February 5th.

In another case compensation in respect of personal injury by accident was claimed by a workman employed by a firm of ship chandlers (which supplied stores, and also undertook the painting of ships) under the following circumstances. The owners of a steamship, which was in a dock for the purposes of repair, and which at the time of the accident was actually in course of being repaired, her machinery being used in the performance of work necessary for the repairing of the ship, employed the workman's employers to paint the inside of the ship, which for this purpose was moored alongside the quay of the inner dock. That dock was practically surrounded by warehouses, and cranes were placed at intervals along the dock quays for loading and unloading ships. In order to do this painting, it was necessary to remove the ship's ballast; and, as the ship chandler firm did not do this work, another firm undertook to do it, borrowing, however, some men (including the applicant) from the ship chandler firm and paying the men so borrowed. The ballast was removed by being put into a bucket in the hold, this bucket being hoisted and lowered into a barge floating alongside by means of a steam crane on board the ship. The applicant was employed in the hold in loading the bucket, and was injured by the bucket swinging across the hold. He claimed compensation from his employers, also making the firm to whom they had lent him respondents; the former firm claimed indemnity against the latter, in case they were held liable to the applicant. The County Court judge made an award in favour of the applicant against his employers, and held that they were not entitled to be indemnified by the other firm. The man's employers appealed, contending that the dock was not a factory within the meaning of the Compensation Act. It had been held by the County Court judge that the dock was a factory, because it came within section 93 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878. That section defines "non-textile factory" to include any premises or places named in Part II. of the Fourth Schedule to the Act, "wherein, or within the close or curtilage or precincts of which, steam, water, or other mechanical power is used in aid of the manufacturing process carried on there." Among the premises named in Part II. of the Schedule in question is "shipbuilding yards," that is to say, any premises in which any ships, boats, or vessels used in navigation are made, finished, or repaired." The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that the dock was not a shipbuilding yard, within the meaning of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878.—Spencer v. Livett, Frank, and Son, and others, Court of Appeal, February 5th.

In a third case a workman claimed compensation from his employers, stevedores, in respect of injuries sustained by him while loading a steamer at a dock. In the loading operations the work was done entirely by the aid of the steam winch on board the vessel, the cranes on the dock not being used. The sheriff-substitute held that the employment of the workman was not employment on, or in, or about a factory, within the meaning of the Act, and made an award in favour of the defendants. The pursuer appealed; and the Court of Session dismissed the appeal.—Patrick Healy v. James Macgregor and Ferguson, Court of Session, February, 21st.

## "EMPLOYMENT BY THE UNDERTAKERS."

The term "undertakers" is defined by the Act to mean in the case of a factory "the occupier thereof within the meaning of the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1878 to 1895." A company owning a factory contracted with a master joiner to do certain work there. While this work was being carried out, a workman, employed by the joiner on the job, met with an accident causing personal injury. He claimed compensation from his employer, who gave notice of a claim for indemnity to the company. The County Court judge made an award in favour of the applicant against the company, who appealed. On the appeal the company and the master joiner were represented, but not the workman. On behalf of the company it was contended that the company were not liable, because the workman was not in their employment. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, and ordered judgment to be entered for the company, such judgment not to be drawn up for three weeks, and notice of what had been done to be given to the workman, so that he might come before the Court and mention the case if he so wished. If he did not, then the order entering judgment for the company would be drawn up.—*Herron v. Charnley, the Rhea Fibre Company, Limited, third parties, Court of Appeal, February 17th.*

## BUILDING "BEING CONSTRUCTED": "UNDERTAKERS."

The widow of a workman, who was killed by falling from a scaffold during the course of his employment, claimed compensation from his employers, a firm of painters and decorators. A firm of builders had contracted with the building owner to construct a theatre, power being reserved in the contract for this owner to put part of the work of fitting up and decorating the inside of the building into the hands of another contractor. The owner contracted with the employers of the deceased to do this work, this contract including the putting up of a ceiling, the erection of a proscenium, and the fixing of the private boxes with columns, caps, etc. At the time of the accident the theatre was an incomplete building, exceeding 30 ft. in height, and was being constructed by means of a scaffolding. The scaffold, from which the deceased fell, was erected by the firm of builders. He was engaged in painting the ceiling, and was walking on the scaffolding, when one of the planks gave way, and he fell to the floor and was killed. The employers of the deceased denied liability on the ground that his employment was not one to which the Act applies, alleged that the firm of builders were responsible for the defects in the scaffolding, and gave them a notice of a claim to indemnity. The matter came in the first instance before an arbitrator, who made an award against the employers of the deceased in favour of the applicant, but stated a case for the opinion of the County Court judge, submitting the following questions:—(1) Whether the employers of the deceased were undertakers in the construction of a building within the meaning of the Act (*i.e.*, "the persons undertaking the construction"); (2) whether the employment, in the course of which he met with this accident, was employment to which the Act applies. The County Court judge set aside the award of the arbitrator, with costs, on the ground that, although the respondents were undertakers engaged in the construction of a building within the Act, yet painting the ceiling was not an employment within the Act. The applicant appealed; and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding, that the work, which the employers of the deceased contracted to do, included, not alone decoration pure and simple, but also structural work, and was the construction of a substantial part of the theatre, that they were therefore undertakers, within the meaning of the Act, and that the employment of the deceased was accordingly employment to which the Act applied, it being immaterial what particular sort of work the workman was doing at the time of the accident.—*Mason v. A. R. Dean, Limited, Court of Appeal, February 17th.*

In another case a builder and contractor entered into a contract with a building owner to construct a building. This builder then made a sub-contract with a master painter to do the whole of the painting of the building. A workman, employed by the master painter upon this painting work, was engaged in painting the roof, and was standing on scaffolding belonging to the builder, which was used in the construction of the building. A plank broke, and the workman (with another working at the same job) fell, and was killed. The widow of the deceased claimed on behalf of herself and her children compensation from the master painter. The County Court judge held that the master painter was an undertaker, within the meaning of the Act, and that the painting on which the deceased was engaged (the painting of a new building) was "construction," and he made an award in favour of the widow. The master painter appealed; and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that, whether the painting work in this case was "construction" or not, the employer of the deceased was not an undertaker within the meaning of the Act, being merely a person who had made a sub-contract to do part of the work with a contractor having a contract with the building owner for the construction of the entire building. A similar application for compensation in respect of the death of the fellow-workman of the workman first referred to (who had been killed by the same accident) had also been made, and the County Court judge had made an award against the same employers. In this case also the employers appealed, and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal.—*Cass v. Butler, & Crouther v. Butler, Court of Appeal, February 24th.*

## UNDERTAKERS: SUB-CONTRACTORS.

Section 4 of the Act provides that, "where, in an employment to which this Act applies, the undertakers as hereinafter defined contract with any person for the execution by or under such contractor of any work, and the undertakers would, if such work were executed by workmen immediately employed by them, be liable to pay compensation under this Act to those workmen

in respect of any accident arising out of and in the course of their employment, the undertakers shall be liable to pay to any workman employed in the execution of the work any compensation which is payable to the workman (whether under this Act or in respect of personal negligence or wilful act independently of this Act) by such contractor, or would be so payable if such contractor were an employer to whom this Act applies. Provided that the undertakers shall be entitled to be indemnified by any other person who would have been liable independently of this section. This section shall not apply to any contract with any person for the execution by or under such contractor of any work which is merely ancillary or incidental to, and is no part of, or process in, the trade or business carried on by such undertakers respectively." A railway company contracted with a firm of signal makers to fit up new signals in connection with some new sidings which the company were making. The company never themselves construct new signals, though they have a staff for maintaining signals. During the progress of their contract one of the firm's workmen was killed while at work fitting wires, being knocked down by a train. His widow and children claimed compensation from the railway company. By the Act, "Undertakers" in the case of a railway means the railway company." The sheriff-substitute found that Section 4 of the Act did not apply to the present application, in respect that the railway company were not the principal contractors in connection with the fitting up of the signalling apparatus, and that they had not a sub-contract with the signal-making firm within the meaning of the section, and that, even if the section applied, the work in question was merely ancillary or incidental to, and was no part of, the business carried on by the company. He accordingly found that the company were not liable, and he dismissed the application, and found the applicants liable in expenses. The matter then came, on appeal, before the Court of Session, the questions stated for the Court being—(1) Whether the company were, in terms of Section 4, liable as undertakers, within the meaning of that section, to make compensation to the applicants, and (2) Whether the work, in the execution of which the deceased was engaged at the time of the accident was merely ancillary or incidental to, and no part of, or process in, the trade or business carried on by the company. The Court of Session answered the first question in the affirmative, and the second in the negative, and remitted to the sheriff to fix the amount of the compensation to be paid, the applicants being allowed expenses. The Court held that the question was, whether the Company were the undertakers. If they were, then the workman might pass over his employer and come to them. Whether the company were undertakers, depended upon whether the employment of the deceased was employment on or in or about a railway. It was on or in or about a railway, and the company were undoubtedly completing the equipment of the railway. With regard to the second question, the equipping of signals was just part of the enterprise of the railway, without which they could not carry on their business. Accordingly, the work, in the execution of which the deceased was engaged, was not "merely ancillary or incidental to, and no part of, or process in, the trade or business carried on by the" railway company.—*Mary Ann Carson or Burns v. North British Railway Company, Court of Session, February 20th.*

## WEEKLY PAYMENT DURING INCAPACITY: NEGLECT TO FOLLOW DOCTORS' INSTRUCTIONS.

The compensation provided by the Act, where total or partial incapacity results from the injury caused by an accident, is a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding 50 per cent. of the workman's average weekly earnings before the accident. A collier in the employment of a colliery company met with an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, the result being a severe fracture of the shoulder. The accident happened on October 25th, 1898, and the fractured shoulder was put by the surgeon into splints, in which it remained until December, 1898. On their removal the collier was told by the surgeon to move his arm as much as he could, and directions were given to him as to the manner of doing so. Subsequently he was examined by other surgeons, and again directions were given to him as to how he should move his arm. The collier claimed compensation from the company; and the case was heard in June, 1899. At that time the joint was reported to be stiff, and the applicant was, therefore, in a condition which disabled him from earning full wages. The company paid him one-half of his earnings before the accident until March 27th, 1899, when the payment was stopped, because in the opinion of the surgeons his incapacity after that date was solely due to his neglect to follow the directions given him. The County Court judge found that the applicant did not carry out the instructions of the surgeons, and that, if he had followed them, there was every reason to believe that he would have been fit for work on March 27th, 1899; that the applicant was of very nervous temperament, and that this constitutional and natural nervousness, intensified to some extent by the accident, was the reason why he did not carry out the directions of the medical men, and that this neglect had delayed his recovery, and was the cause of his present inability to work; that his neglect to obey the instructions was not the result of wilfulness or carelessness, but was due to the nervous condition, which he appeared to have been unable to control. In these circumstances the judge awarded the collier a weekly sum equal to one-half of his earnings before the accident from March 27th, 1899. The company appealed, contending that they were not bound to pay the collier a weekly sum in respect of an incapacity to work caused, not by the accident, but by his own neglect to follow the doctors' instructions. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal.—*Smith v. Coed Talon Colliery Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, February 5th.*

## (2) Trade Union Act.

## LEAVING WORK WITHOUT SANCTION OF COUNCIL OF TRADE UNION: TOTAL EXCLUSION FROM BENEFITS BY RULES.

The trustees of a coal miners' trade union took out a summons to determine a point in the construction of the rules of the society. The defendants were the treasurers of the society, made party as representing one of the lodges. The rules state among the objects of the association " (3) To protect all lodges and members unjustly dealt with by their employers or managers in any respect whatever," and provide that, " (22) The committee shall have power to grant money in deserving cases and when appeals are made to the association for support, but not more than £5 shall be granted in any case till after the approval of the lodges. All applications for grants for any person or persons must be first made to the executive committee before being sent to council programme. . . . (50) No lodge in this association shall give any notice of a strike, or of an intended alteration in the hours or conditions of labour until its case has been laid before a council or committee meeting for their examination and approval. (51) Any lodge or number of men in a lodge ceasing work without the consent or approval of either the committee or council meeting, the lodge shall forfeit all claims on or protection from this association. (52) Any lodge in this association having ceased work or having been locked-out, and having complied with rules 46, 47, and 50, shall be paid per member the sum of 10s. per week." The hewers belonging to the lodge in question, having had a dispute with their employers in respect to the conditions of labour, left their work, and the lodge held a meeting and resolved not to begin work again except in a certain contingency. Application was made to the executive committee for strike pay, and refused on the ground that rule 50 had not been complied with. At a meeting of the council it was moved that the members of this lodge have a grant equal to a lock-out allowance. The chairman ruled the motion out of order; but his ruling was challenged and reversed, and the motion was carried. The summons raised the following questions: Can the trustees act upon the resolution of the council making the grant above mentioned, and make the payments mentioned in that resolution without incurring personal responsibility? Can the treasurer act upon such resolution, and make such payments without incurring personal responsibility? If the treasurer proposes to act upon such resolution and make such payments, will the trustees be justified in abstaining from all interference, or will they thereby incur personal responsibility? In case it should be held that such resolution was irregularly passed, would such a resolution, if regularly passed, be within the powers (a) of the council, or (b) of the association? The Court gave judgment for the trustees, holding that, although the language of rule 3, defining the objects of the association, included the men to whom it was proposed to make these grants, yet they were excluded by rule 51. That rule could not be limited to mean that they should forfeit only the absolute right to have 10s. a week under rule 52. The men were excluded from all protection by the association, and they could not be deemed legally or properly objects of the benefits of the association.—*In re Durham Miners' Association, Chancery Division, February 8th.*

## 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.**—Intending emigrants should prepare to start in three or four weeks' time. The chief demand is for farm and general labourers, skilled miners, and domestic servants.

**New South Wales.**—At Sydney the building trade has been moderately active during the summer, and there has been an increased demand for labour. There is a fair demand for female servants, carpenters and station hands at Bourke. At Young there is a fair demand for miners and female servants; at Hillston, Orange, Queanbeyan, and Armidale, there is a demand for female servants only.

**Victoria.**—A report from Melbourne states, "Mechanics are now fully employed in all trades, especially the iron trade, at wages slightly higher than formerly." The building trade also has been busy, and the wages of carpenters, bricklayers, and masons have increased to 9s. a day. The strike of engine drivers at the Bendigo mines has ceased; in future all will be paid the standard wages of 50s. a week. A report from Carisbrook states that there is no demand for any kind of labour there.

**South Australia.**—A report from Port Pirie in the North states that there is a limited demand for mechanics at 10s. per day of eight hours, and a fair demand for general labourers at 10d. to 1s. per hour, and for female servants at 8s. to 12s. per week.

**Queensland.**—There is a good demand for farm labourers and ploughmen, for female servants, and in the South for carpenters, engine fitters, and some other mechanics.

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

**Western Australia.**—In the annual report of the Government Labour Bureau for 1899 it is stated that, as far as the Bureau was concerned, no really able-bodied man, honestly desirous of finding employment, remained idle for a very lengthened period. There was a considerable demand for farm labourers throughout a portion of the year. It was difficult to find employment for clerks, accountants, book-keepers, and that class of labour. At the end of the year stone-masons, carpenters, engine-drivers, and general labourers were in demand at East Coolgardie; really good men could get work at Perth; there was some demand for miners and general labourers in the Yalgoo district; labour was in good demand at Southern Cross; and female servants were wanted in several parts. In other places the supply of labour was sufficient.

**New Zealand.**—At Auckland, the timber industry continues to be very prosperous, and sawmill hands, carpenters, etc., are fully employed; the building, engineering and boat-building trades also have been busy. The building and engineering trades have been busy also at Napier, Masterton, Greymouth, Christchurch, Invercargill, and at Dunedin, where good hands in the engineering trade have been very scarce. The clothing trade is very busy in many parts, and at Wellington order shops and factories have been nearly all working overtime. Ordinary labourers have had no difficulty in finding work.

**South Africa.**—Persons are warned against going to South Africa, as long as the war lasts, in search of work.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

## FRANCE.

**Coal Mining in January.\***—The average number of days per week worked by those employed underground in coal mines in January was 5.86 (compared with 5.52 in the previous month, and 6.00 in January, 1899). During the month, full time (six days and over per week) was worked by 80 per cent., and from five to six days by 13 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines; the percentages in the previous month being 28 and 69 respectively. The above particulars are supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the coal mines).

**Factory Inspection and Trade Unions.**—The French Minister of Commerce, Industry, Posts, and Telegraphs has, under date of January 19th, addressed letters to the superintending inspectors of factories and workshops and to the secretaries of Trade Unions and Labour Exchanges respectively, with the object of promoting co-operation between the inspectors and these organisations, which is desirable for the purpose of securing fuller information with respect to the infringement of the Factory Laws than can be obtained from individual workmen. Instructions are given that each factory inspector shall put himself into communication with the secretaries of Trade Unions and Labour Exchanges in his district, requesting them to bring to his notice infractions of the law, and reporting to them the results of the visits paid in consequence of information received from them. In his letter to the labour organisations the Minister recognises the value of the assistance which these bodies have occasionally rendered to the inspectors, and expresses the hope that their co-operation may in future be obtained in a systematic manner.

## GERMANY.

**Strike of Coalminers in Saxony.**—In a dispatch to the Foreign Office, dated February 25th, Sir A. Condie Stephen, H.M. Minister-Resident at Dresden, reports the collapse of a strike of coalminers of the Zwickau and Oelsnitz districts of Saxony, which began on February 14th, and caused considerable anxiety and a certain amount of inconvenience. It is stated, that the price of coal reached unprecedented heights; that,

\* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, January and February, 1900.







EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Union (*Oxon and Berks*) employment is said to be regular. An employer, referring to the parish of Thame, in the Thame Union, states that there were some farm hands idle throughout the month owing to the weather, while a correspondent in another district of this Union writes as follows: "The deep snow and rain were against employment upon the land, but I heard of no able-bodied men being out of work in consequence of the weather. Cowmen are more difficult to retain, and the drain of labourers for the war and home defence will be more felt in the spring and summer. No spring corn has been sown." Though outdoor employment was interfered with to a considerable extent in *Northamptonshire*, labourers were not usually much out of work. In a good many districts men are reported to be scarce. Reports have been received from the Unions of Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, and Wellingborough, and from the *Northamptonshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon, Northants, and Warwick*). In the Hardingstone and Kettering Unions the wet weather is said to have much interfered with ploughing and seeding. A correspondent from the Potterspury Union states that during the wet weather it was difficult to find work for the men. A large employer of labour in the Wellingborough Union writes as follows: "The very wet weather has retarded work and thrown most farmers rather backward, but this does not affect the regularity of employment, very few regular men having to lose any time even in wet weather." Another report from the same Union states that a few men engaged on piece-work were in irregular work, also that in consequence of the frost, bricklayers' labourers were at liberty for farm work and also for removing snow from roads. Agricultural labourers in *Huntingdonshire* and *Bedfordshire* were in irregular work to some extent owing to wet weather. Reports have been received from *Huntingdonshire* from the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neot's (*Hunts and Beds*), and from *Bedfordshire* from the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton. A correspondent in the Huntingdon Union writes as follows: "The weather has been unfavourable for the usual work, but men have been kept on to secure them for the spring work." A correspondent in the St. Neot's Union states that all outdoor work was at a standstill, that large tracts of land are flooded, and that work is much behindhand. Employers in the Bedfordshire Unions state that the land was impossible to work during February, and that ploughing and spring sowing is much in arrear.

**Eastern Counties.**—Reports from *Essex* state that a certain number of agricultural labourers lost time owing to the wet weather in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Dunmow, Maldon, and Orsett. In the Colchester, Halstead, and Tendring Unions work is said to have been generally regular. In *Suffolk* the bad weather greatly interfered with outdoor work, and some men lost time in a good many districts, but not to any great extent. Several employers state that farm work is in arrears. Reports have been received from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lotingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. A large employer in the Bosmere and Claydon Union writes: "We have about sufficient hands. A long spell of wet weather begins to make it difficult to find suitable work for the men."

In *Norfolk* employment out of doors was frequently rendered impossible by the rain and snow, and in some districts labourers had irregular work, though it is stated that a number of employers found their men as much work as possible under cover. A good many labourers were suffering from influenza during the month. Reports have been received from the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, and Walsingham. A correspondent who is not an employer of labour himself, writes from the Guiltcross Union, "There has been a downfall of snow, and this impeded work generally. Many labourers have had only partial employment. The better class of farmers always find their men work in bad weather, and they would number two or three in every parish." An employer writing from the same Union says that at the end of the month half the labourers were in irregular work, owing partly to wet weather and partly to influenza. Employers state that work is in arrears, spring sowing delayed, and threshing at a standstill.

Reports from *Cambridgeshire* state that work was fairly regular with few exceptions in the Unions of Chesterton, North Witchford, and Wisbech, and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Cambs, Hunts, Lincoln, and Northants*). A report from the last-named district says that a lot of land was under water, but that

agricultural labourers found employment on a railway in course of construction. In *Lincolnshire* employment is said to be regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Caistor, Grimsby, Gainsborough, Lincoln, Louth, Stamford, Spilsby, and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Lincoln and Notts*). An employer in the Lincoln Union says that "labour is so scarce there was no loss of employment even during the inclement weather."

**Home Counties.**—In *Buckinghamshire* employment is said to have been generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. In some districts work was considerably interrupted, especially where there were floods. Reports of a similar character come from *Berkshire* from the Bradfield, Newbury, and Wantage Unions. Some men were in irregular employment in certain parishes in the Wantage Union. Reports from *Surrey* state that there was some irregularity of work owing to bad weather. Reports have been received from the Unions of Farnham, Godstone, Hambledon, and from the *Surrey* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants and Surrey*). A large employer of labour in the Godstone Union writes that "We are still short of men for threshing. Wet weather has stopped hedging, but I employed the men in the barns." Some agricultural labourers in *Kent*, chiefly extra men, were in irregular work in February owing to the impossibility of getting on to the land. Reports have been received from the Unions of Bleas, Cranbrook, Eastry, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Maidstone, and Tenterden. Farm work is said to be backward. A good deal of ploughing has to be done, and spring sowing is in arrear. Labour in several Unions is scarce. A large employer in the Hoo Union states: "We keep all employed, and have some trouble to get men for the threshing machine." In *Hertfordshire* reports from the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, St. Albans, and Watford, state that with few exceptions labourers were regularly employed, and that men are scarce owing, to some extent, to the calling up of the Reserves and Militia. A report of a similar character comes from the Barnet Union of *Middlesex*.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Reports from *Sussex*, from the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield, state that generally speaking agricultural labourers lost but little time, notwithstanding the excessive wet. Reports from the Cuckfield and Hailsham Unions state that woodcutters and other men on piece-work lost time. Several employers state that farm work is in arrears. A large employer of labour in the Rye Union writes: "All hop work is backward owing to the great amount of rain. In this neighbourhood, when fine weather does set in, all hands will be wanted for digging, dressing, poling, etc., as well as for putting in spring corn." In *Hampshire* reports from the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Kingsclere, Lyminster, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and from the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants and Surrey*) state that generally speaking the labourers regularly attached to the staff of a farm were continuously employed. In the Havant Union it is stated that all jobbing men, and those employed with steam-threshing machines did little or nothing during the month, though all ordinary workmen received full pay. In *Dorsetshire* agricultural labourers are said to have been generally regularly employed in the Unions of Blandford, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne; and in *Wiltshire* in the Unions of Bradford-on-Avon, Amesbury, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. A number of reports both in Wilts and Dorset refer to a scarcity of labourers. In the Salisbury district this is partly attributed to the calling up of the Reserves and Militia, and partly to the construction of a railway on Salisbury Plain. In the Chippenham Union, however, a report states that a good many men were in irregular work owing to the bad weather.

Agricultural labourers in *Gloucestershire* are said to have lost some time in some districts, but no report refers to any considerable number of men being in irregular work. Reports have been received from the Unions of Barton Regis, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Thornbury, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Wheatenhurst. Reports of a similar character come from *Herefordshire* from the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (*Hereford and Monmouth*), Ledbury, and Ross. Farm work in both counties is said to be in arrear. Reports from *Somersetshire* state that agricultural employment was generally regular in the Unions of Bridgwater, Chard, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wincanton, Wells,

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

and Yeovil. Several reports state that labourers are scarce. An employer in the Yeovil Union reports as follows: "A very wet and changeable month, no getting the teams on wet clay land. Fortunately the dry autumn enabled the farmers to get nearly all the land ploughed." An employer in the Clutton Union states that "the weather—rain, snow, frost and fog—has completely stopped all tillage operations during the last ten weeks, and the sowing of barley, oats, peas and beans has not even commenced." In *Devonshire* employment is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Torrington, and Tavistock, and in *Cornwall* in the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton. Several reports from Devonshire and Cornwall refer to a scarcity of labour. A report from Camelford Union states that the slate quarries take any surplus labour. A correspondent in the Stratton Union expresses the opinion that the scarcity of labour is due in a considerable measure to an insufficiency of cottage accommodation.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women has continued good in all branches of the textile trades. Information has been received with regard to 608 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 105,550 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month, and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full time.		Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—Spinning—</b>				
February, 1900	99	—	—	1
January, 1900	97	2	—	1
February, 1899	90	8	2	—
<b>Cotton Trade—Weaving—</b>				
February, 1900	93	6	—	1
January, 1900	92	8	—	—
February, 1899	81	17	2	—
<b>Woollen and Worsted Trades—</b>				
February, 1900	98	1	1	—
January, 1900	96	3	1	—
February, 1899	74	13	10	3
<b>Total of above Trades—</b>				
February, 1900	98	3	—	1
January, 1900	95	5	—	—
February, 1899	82	14	3	1

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 27,570; of these, 99 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 97 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in January, and with 90 per cent. in February, 1899.

**Cotton Trade.—Weaving.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 56,250; of these 93 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 92 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in January, and with 81 per cent. in February, 1899.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 21,730; of these, 98 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 96 per cent. in January, and with 74 per cent. in February, 1899.

(ii) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves was better than a year ago, but not so good as in January.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, during the four weeks ended February 24th, was 14,207, as compared

with averages of 15,762 in the preceding four weeks, and 13,836 in the corresponding period of 1899.

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

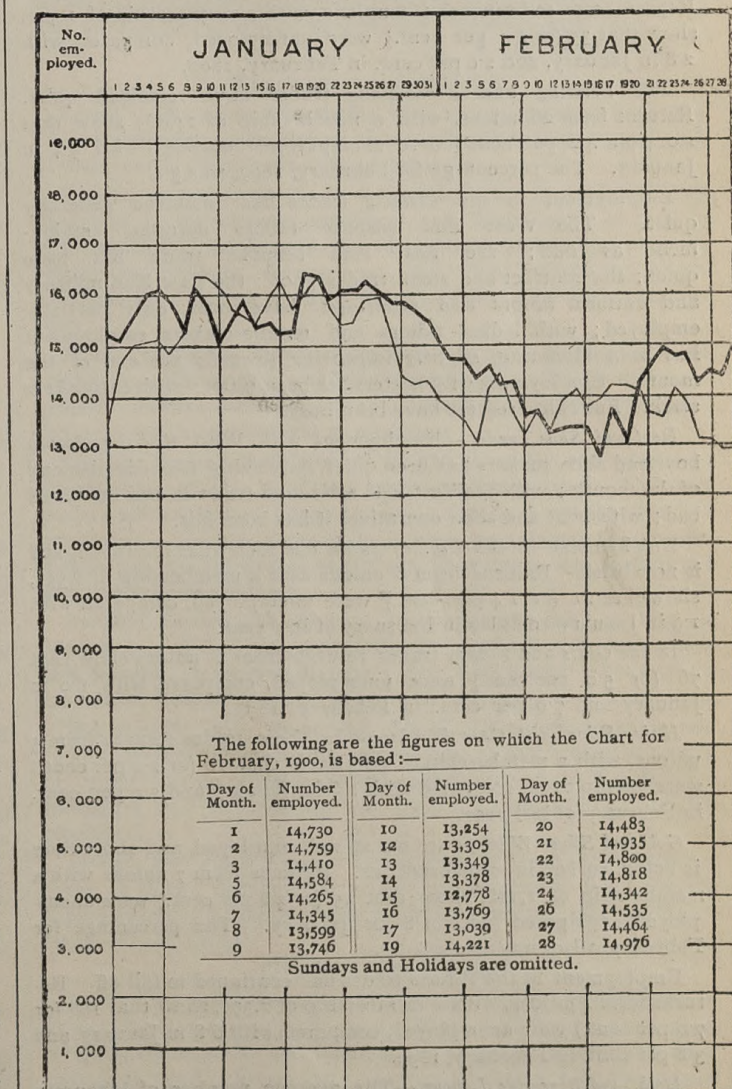
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Feb. 3	6,222	2,391	8,613	6,381	14,994
" " " 10	5,778	1,913	7,691	6,274	13,965
" " " 17	5,106	1,910	7,016	6,254	13,270
" " " 24	5,414	2,887	8,301	6,300	14,601
Average for 4 weeks ending Feb. 24th, 1900	5,630	2,275	7,905	6,302	14,207
Average for Feb., 1899	5,432	2,515	7,947	6,389	13,836
Average for Jan., 1900	6,798	2,772	9,570	6,198	15,768

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves during January and February is shown on the chart below. The numbers in February ranged from 12,778 on the 15th to 14,976 on the 28th.

During February, 1899, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 14,482 on the 7th to 12,923 on the 28th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of January and February, 1900. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1899, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1900, and the thin curve to 1899.]



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on page 82.

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

**DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.**

**LONDON.**

*General.*—The state of employment during February remained on the whole good. Returns from 455 branches of 120 unions having an aggregate membership of 77,558, show that 2,670 (or 3·4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 3·5 in January and 2·7 per cent in February, 1899.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding* trades has remained good. Reports from 147 branches of 28 unions with an aggregate membership of 21,684, show that 434 (or 2·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·1 per cent. in January, and 2·5 per cent. in February of last year.

The *Building* trades continue well employed in most branches. Returns from 181 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 12,624, show that 209 (or 1·7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·3 in January and 0·6 per cent. in February, 1899. The carpenters and joiners, plasterers and stone-carvers describe employment as fair; the bricklayers and plumbers as moderate; the stonemasons and painters and decorators as dull, the latter as improving.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades is dull. Reports from 44 branches of 11 unions with a membership of 7,117, show that 623 (or 8·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 9·0 in January and 4·6 per cent. in February, 1899.

The *Woodworking* trades continue well employed. Reports from 3 unions with a membership of 705, show that 13 (or 1·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·7 per cent. last month.

*Coopers* still remain busy. Reports from 2 societies with a membership of 1,055, show that in February, as in January, practically all the members were employed. In February, 1899, the percentage of unemployed was 1·5.

*Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights* are rather better employed. Reports from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,442, show that 35 (or 2·4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·8 in January, and 2·0 per cent. in February, 1899.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades have remained quiet. Returns from 26 unions, with a membership of 24,083 show that 1,014 (or 4·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·4 in January. The percentage for February, 1899, was 3·4.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades has remained generally quiet. The West End bespoke tailors describe employment as dull; the East End bespoke trade has been quiet; the contract and stock trades good; the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been only partially employed; with ladies' tailors and mantle-makers employment has been moderate, slightly improving towards the end of the month. Employment with hatters has been quiet; with capmakers slack. Fur skin dressers have been busy.

*Boot and Shoe Trades.*—Employment with West End handsewn boot and shoe makers has been quiet, improving towards the end of the month; with the East End sewn round trade it has remained bad; with boot and shoe operatives it has been fair.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has somewhat improved, and is now brisk. Returns from 6 unions with a membership of 1,551, show that 21 (or 1·4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·9 in January and also in February of last year.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions show that 76 (or 5·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6·0 in January and 7·6 per cent. in February, 1899.

*Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.*—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 901, show that 20 (or 2·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·8 in January and 2·0 per cent. in February of last year.

*Gold and Silver Workers* are not so well employed, and short time is being worked in some branches. Returns from 7 unions with a membership of 1,116, show that 25 (or 2·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·8 in January. The percentage for February, 1899, was also 1·8.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades has continued to fall off. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,396, show that 168 (or 7·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6·8 in January, and 3·8 per cent. in February, 1899.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 14,207 in the four weeks ended February 24th, as compared with averages of 15,762 in January and 13,836 in February, 1899. Employment in mid-stream has been fair during the month. With stevedores

and coalporters it has been fairly good; with lumpers, lightermen, winchmen, and corn porters moderate. The fruit porters in Thames-street have been well employed, the average daily number employed being 352, compared with 375 in January.

**ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.  
Tyne and Wear District.**

*Coal Mining.—Northumberland.*—Steam and house coal pits have averaged 5·42 and 5·43 days per week during the four weeks ending February 24th. Of the 24,940 union miners, deputies, mechanics, engine and firemen, 4 are unemployed. *Durham.*—All collieries have worked well. Manufacturing, house, gas and coking coal pits have averaged 5·68, 5·49, 5·33 and 5·85 days per week respectively, as against 5·25, 5·24, 5·02 and 5·43 days for the four weeks ending January 20th. The returns received from 127 pits employing 61,806 men and boys, show that the average number of days worked per week was 5·57, as compared with 5·23 days in January. Of the unemployed union miners there are 84 (or 0·13 per cent.) in receipt of "stoppage relief," as against 74 (or 0·11 per cent.) the previous month. The 9,165 union colliery deputies, enginemen, mechanics and cokeyard workers have 7 members idle.

*Metal Mining.*—Lead miners are fairly busy, one mine having again started work. Iron ore miners are well employed.

*Quarrying.*—At most of the quarries in Stanhope and Frosterley employment has been irregular owing to bad weather; one limestone quarry remains entirely idle. In Gateshead, Blyth and district some quarries have been laid off a week.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.*—The ordnance works are exceedingly brisk. Scarcity of castings and forgings is somewhat interrupting employment in a few engine shops. Copper smiths are still slack. Repair work has been busier. At most of the shipyards work has been at a standstill through stormy weather. Of the 12,648 members of these trades 403 (or 3·2 per cent.) are out of work as against 290 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) in January. *On the Wear.*—Forges are working double shifts, and ship smiths remain steadily employed. One or two engine shops are ahead of their work; others are moderately busy. Branches of these trades with 5,216 members have 216 (or 4·1 per cent.) unemployed as against 85 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) in January. Branches of pattern-makers, iron and steel moulders, with 1,740 members have 25 (or 1·4 per cent.) idle. Ship joiners on the Tyne are fairly employed; on the Wear they are rather slack. Employment of sailmakers on both rivers remains steady. The 1,220 union drillers and hole cutters return 93 (or 7·6 per cent.) as idle. Steel smelting shops and plate mills have worked full time; angle mills five shifts per week. Chain and anchor smiths are fully employed; brass-finishers fairly so.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Tyne watermen, lumpers, and quay-side labourers report employment as moderate; trimmers and teamers on both rivers as fairly good; coal-porters and shippers as averaging full time. The demand for sailors and firemen has not been so good. Tugboat men on the Wear have been all employed.

*Building Trades.*—All branches of these trades continue dull.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as unsettled by a dispute at Newcastle, as moderate at Sunderland; bookbinders as good. Three paper mills have worked full time; five others have averaged a little over half-time.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Branches of cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and mill-sawyers, with 732 members, have 31 (or 4·2 per cent.) unemployed. Employment with coopers continues quiet; with lathrenders moderate.

*Chemical and Glass Trades.*—Employment in copper works is less steady owing to scarcity of ore. At one or two chemical factories want of coal has hindered employment, otherwise the bleaching-powder departments are busy. White lead and cement-workers and bottle-makers are busy.

*Fishing.*—Employment has been interrupted by stormy weather. J. Ratcliffe.

**Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.**

*Ironstone Mining.*—The Cleveland miners report employment as continuing fairly good, although 8 or 9 mines have been working one day per week short. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines furnishing returns was 5·26 per week during the 4 weeks ended February 24th, as compared with 5·81 days per week a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at these mines was 6,781, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,742.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Employment continues good through-

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

out the district at iron and steel works, blast-furnaces, bridge works, metal expansion works, pipe and general foundry works. At chair foundries it continues moderate.

*Engineering.*—Employment with the engineers is reported as moderate at Stockton, South Bank, Bishop Auckland and Darlington; and fair at Hartlepool. Ironfounders, pattern makers, smiths and strikers report employment as good generally throughout the district. Branches of these trades with 4,384 members have 85 (or 1·9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 49 (or 1·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Shipbuilding.*—The yards are reported as having plenty of work in hand, but owing to the weather employment has been slack. Shipjoiners report employment as only moderate. Except for the weather, employment has been fair with shipwrights; good with smiths and strikers.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate, and dock labourers as slack, both at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. Riverside labour is fairly good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment has been interfered with by the weather, but is otherwise good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Printers report employment as good; cement, pulp and concrete workers as fairly good; sawmill and woodworking machinists as moderate; cabinetmakers as dull; tailors as quiet; saltworkers as improving slightly.—A. Main.

**Cumberland and Barrow District.**

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

*Coal Mining Industry.*—Employment at the Cumberland coal mines is good, though not so good as a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended February 24th at the 21 pits covered by the returns was 5·73 per week, as compared with 5·82 days a year ago. The number of workpeople employed in February was 6,185, as against 6,545 a year ago.

*Iron Mining.*—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines continues good, though not so good as a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended February 24th, at the 44 mines from which returns have been received, was 5·82 per week, as compared with 5·96 days a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 5,752, the corresponding number a year ago being 5,963.

*Pig Iron Manufacture.*—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces continues good, and is better than a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of February was 55, the same number as in January, and 7 more than in February, 1899. The estimated number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 4,471, being 6 more than at the end of January, and 589 more than a year ago.

**LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.**

**Oldham and District.**

*Cotton Trade.—Spinning.*—Employment remains about the same, and is reported as good in Oldham and neighbourhood, Stockport, Mossley, Rochdale, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, and Droylsden. Cardroom workers, ring frame spinners and throstle frame tenters report employment as good, with full work. Employment in the twinning branch is fairly good in Oldham and district; reelers report employment as moderate. *Weaving.*—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as good in calicoes; as moderate in velvets; and as bad in fustians. Beam and sectional warpers and ball warpers report employment as slack.

*Woolen and Silk Trades.*—Employment with woolen workers is good in Rochdale and Milnrow districts, moderate at Stockport. With silk dressers at Rochdale it continues moderate.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment is reported as good in engineering works; as slack in machine shops. Brassfounders, boiler-makers, ironfounders, and pattern-makers report employment as good; gas-meter makers, tinplate workers, and plate and machine moulders as moderate; irongrinders and toolmakers as slack.

*Building Trades.*—Painters are slack. In other branches employment is moderate.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns received from three collieries show that employment continues good, full time being worked by the miners. T. Ashton.

**Bolton and District.**

*Cotton Trade.—Spinning.*—In Bolton and the surrounding district, Moses Gate, Farnworth, Pendlebury, Leigh, Bury and Chorley employment is reported as very good, the mills generally working full time. Cardroom operatives also report employment as good in

Bolton, Bury, Chorley and immediate district. *Weaving.*—Weavers in Bolton are fully employed on plain goods; a slight improvement is reported in the fancy goods trade.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—Employment in the iron trade generally has improved slightly. Machinemen and steam engine makers are reported as fairly well employed. In Bury, Wigan, Ince, Hindley and Chorley employment continues fairly active. Forgemens and steel smelters report employment as a little better.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is reported as fairly good in Bolton; moderate in Farnworth; good in Wigan; and as still slack in Chorley, except with painters and decorators.

*Coal Mining.*—Coal miners continue well employed throughout the district, an average of over 5 days per week being worked.

*Miscellaneous.*—Tanners, leather workers, printers, cloggers, shoemakers and tramway men are reported as fairly well employed. R. Tootill.

**Blackburn, Burnley and District.**

*Cotton Trade.—Weaving.*—Employment continues good throughout the district. In many cases there is a scarcity of weavers, due to some extent to sickness. In the hard waste trade, little overtime is being worked; some departments are already on short time. Twistlers and drawers, winders and warpers and tapesizers continue well employed; warp dressers are rather slack, with complaints regarding bad material. *Spinning.*—Spinners again report employment as good; ring spinners and cardroom workers throughout the district are busy. Branches of spinners and twisters and drawers with 2,956 members, have 74 (or 2·5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 108 (or 3·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Building Trades.*—Employment with painters, masons and brick-setters is slack; with plumbers it continues fair.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—Employment continues fair.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment with coal miners is again reported as good. Stone quarrymen are slack.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cabinetmakers report employment as quiet; brick-makers as moderate; letterpress printers as good; calico printers, and woollen block printers as moderate; tailors as still slack. W. H. Wilkinson.

**Manchester and District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies with 22,651 members have 639 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 618 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers report employment as moderate in Manchester, Stockport, and Warrington; as good in Northwich; boiler-makers, ironfounders, brassfounders, and finishers, smiths and strikers, wire-weavers, and wheelwrights and blacksmiths as good; sheet metal workers as fair; wire drawers as not busy.

*Textile Trades.*—Cotton operatives report employment as moderate. Silk workers, although not busy, are fairly well employed. Fustian cutters are busy. Bleachers, dressers, dyers and finishers report employment as moderate.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the bespoke and wholesale departments of the tailoring trade continues slack. Felt hat makers are not busy. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is improving. Shirt-makers are fairly busy; cap-makers and mantle-makers report employment as moderate but improving; waterproof garment makers are slack.

*Building Trades.*—Bricklayers report employment as dull in Manchester and Stockport, moderate in Northwich; carpenters and joiners, plasterers, plumbers and bricklayers' labourers as moderate; stonemasons and painters as bad.

*Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.*—The upholsterers and Jewish cabinetmakers report employment as bad; other branches of cabinetmakers, French polishers and coopers in Manchester, Stockport and Warrington are busy. Coachmakers are fully employed.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as slack; lithographic artists and printers as fair; electrotypers as busy; bookbinders as moderate; pattern cardmakers as slack.—G. D. Kelley.

**Liverpool and District.**

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—Boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders report employment as fairly good; brass and ironfounders, shipwrights, whitesmiths and hammermen as good; drillers and hole-cutters as steady; fitters and turners as moderate; ship joiners and painters as unsettled. The number of ships engaged upon transport work is causing a lack of employment in most companies.

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

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as fairly good; lithographic printers as dull; bookbinders as fair; stereotypers as good.

**Building Trades.**—Plumbers and painters report employment as dull; joiners and carpenters as quiet; other branches as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors report employment as dull, but improving; the ready-made branches as fair; boot and shoe makers as moderate.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet makers, French polishers, coachbuilders and woodworking machinists report employment as fair; upholsterers as moderate; coopers as good.

**Transport Trades.**—Seamen and firemen report employment as good; dock labourers as dull, the displacement of tonnage engaged in transporting troops being felt. Mersey flatmen report employment as quiet; Mersey quay and railway carters as steady; coal and salt heavers as dull.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners report employment as fair, averaging five days per week. Quarrymen continue well employed.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Glass bottlemakers and glass workers and decorators report employment as fair; chemical workers as moderate.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from *Winsford* states that employment in the salt trade has slightly improved. In the building trades it is reported as dull at Winsford, but at Middlewich. Moulders at Winsford, and boat builders, boiler-smiths and brassworkers in both towns have full employment. Fustian cutters are busy.

## YORKSHIRE.

## Hull and District.

**Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Shipbuilders are well employed on the construction of the smaller class of vessels, but slack on the larger class. Employment is good in the engineering works, boiler-shops and on general repairs. Sailmakers report employment as good. At Selby and Goole employment generally is good; at Grimsby, Beverley, and Doncaster moderate. Shipwrights at Grimsby report employment as bad.

**Building Trades.**—Employment at Hull is moderately good, but outside employment has been interrupted by bad weather. It is good at Selby; fair at Grimsby and Goole; moderate at Beverley and Doncaster; bad at Driffield.

**Transport Trades.**—The seamen and firemen and the railway workers report employment as good; the dock labourers as moderate at Hull and Goole, bad at Grimsby.

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

**Seed crushing, Oil Cake, Varnish, Colour, and Paint Trades.**—Employment in the seed-crushing and oil cake mills, and in the oil refining, varnish, colour, paint, and tar distillery works continues good.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—At Hull the lithographic printers and bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good, the letterpress printers as bad. Letterpress printers at Doncaster are well employed.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—At Hull the mill-sawyers and wood machinists report employment as fair; the coach-builders, coopers, and cabinetmakers as moderate. The coach-builders at Doncaster are well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—At Hull the brushmakers report employment as good; the tanners, leather lace cutters and belt makers as fair; the bakers and confectioners as moderate; the Jewish tailors, pressers and machinists as bad.—*W. G. Millington.*

## Leeds and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies with 8,129 members have 188 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, the same proportion as at the end of January.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment at Leeds is good with engineers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, steel workers, and blast-furnacemen; improved with spindle and flyer makers, and brass-workers; fair with pattern makers and machine workers; moderate with stove grate and tinplate workers. At Wakefield engineers and ironfounders are fully employed. At Stanningley and Rodley employment with ironfounders and boiler-makers is moderate.

**Clothing Trades.**—In the Leeds ready-made tailoring factories employment has been brisk; in the Jewish workshops however it is reported as slack. Bespoke tailors are quiet. In the Leeds boot

factories employment is fair; at Heckmondwike, good; at Pudsey, steady. Jewish slipper-makers are slack.

**Textile Trades.**—In Leeds, employment in the mills has been generally good; at Wakefield fairly good. Dyers are moderately employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment has been only partial, owing to the weather.

**Mining.**—Full time continues general.

**Leather Trades.**—Employment is fair with tanners, belt makers and lace cutters, good with curriers, moderate with leather shavers. Saddlers and harness makers are busy, owing to army work.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as fairly good; lithographers and bookbinders and machine rulers as moderate. Employment in the paper mills continues good.

**Glass Trades.**—Glass bottle-makers report employment as good at Leeds and Wakefield, moderate at Castleford; flint glass makers as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment with brushmakers is good; with coachmakers slack; with cabinetmakers and terra-cotta workers only moderate.—*O. Connellan.*

## Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment continues fairly good in Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, and the Worth Valley. In the Huddersfield district two or three firms are working short time in some departments, and overtime in the worsted trade seems to be stopped for the present, except in one or two firms making khaki cloths for Government contracts. Wool-sorters still report employment in Bradford as good, and wool-combers as fairly good, but wool-combing in the Haworth district is reported as quiet.

**Woolen Trade.**—In the Huddersfield district some of the mills are still working overtime, and one or two night and day, another firm being added to this list. There is some difficulty in getting night workers.

**Other Textile Trades.**—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham, Brighouse and Halifax is still fairly busy. In the cotton trade it is reported as good. Dyers at Bradford report employment as busy; at Huddersfield as fair.

**Metal Trades.**—The engineers report employment as good at Bradford and Halifax; moderate at Keighley and Huddersfield; at Dewsbury it is fair. Ironfounders report employment as good at Bradford, Keighley, Halifax and Huddersfield.

**Building Trades.**—Except with painters employment continues good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Bespoke tailors continue slack. Letterpress printers, lithographers and bookbinders remain fairly busy.

A. Gee.

## Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 13,304 members, have 118 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 130 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—Boiler and girder makers, wire drawers, railway spring makers, and machine workers report employment as fairly good; stovegrate workers as quiet, but improving; bath makers at Rotherham as moderate. Engineers, ironfounders, armour plate workers, shot and shell makers, and iron and steel workers are busy throughout the district. Branches with 6,374 members have 46 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 71 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—Employment is good in the razor and file trades; fair in the pocket-knife, saw, and tool trade; moderate in the table-knife trade and with haft and scale pressers and handle and scale cutters.

**Other Metal Trades.**—All branches of the silver and Britannia metal trades report work as slack. Brass workers are only moderately employed in Sheffield; at Rotherham an improvement is reported.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 62 collieries employing upwards of 46,000 men, show an average of 5.94 days per week worked during February as against 5.17 in January.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is fairly good in Sheffield and Rotherham, slack in Barnsley.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Employment is good in all branches.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Railway wagon and carriage builders, cabinetmakers, box and bobbin makers report employment as good; coachmakers as fair.

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

**Linen Trade.**—Employment is moderate.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors report employment as bad in the bespoke branch, moderate in the ready-made branch. Boot and shoe makers are quiet.

**Glass Trade.**—Flint glass workers and bottle makers are busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Railway workers are busy. Brickmakers, chemical workers, and papermakers are well employed. Potters are fairly busy. Quiltmakers are slack. Quarrymen have been affected by the weather.—*S. Utley.*

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## Derbyshire District.

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,293 members have 42 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 84 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

**Engineering and kindred Trades.**—The engineers at Derby, Chesterfield and Burton report employment as good, elsewhere as moderate; brass moulders and finishers as moderate; iron-founders and boiler-makers, puddlers, merchant iron rollers, malleable iron-workers, farriers, iron and steel dressers as good; lace machine builders in Long Eaton as good; cycle workers as improving.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 69 collieries, employing upwards of 25,500 men show an average of 5.3 days per week worked, as against 5 days in January.

**Quarrying.**—Limestone quarrymen are fairly well employed; chert quarrymen are busy.

**Building Trades.**—Carpenters and joiners and bricklayers report employment as moderate, stonemasons as moderate or fair, painters and decorators as good, plasterers as quiet.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment is good with cotton weavers, surgical bandage makers, hard silk winders, drawers and doublers; moderate with elastic web weavers; good with lace workers, hosiery workers, dyers and bleachers, calico printers and engravers.

**Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders; with coopers it is improving slightly. Most timber yards are fairly well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment is reported as slack with bespoke tailors. Factory tailoring operatives continue fully employed. Boot and shoe operatives in Derby and Chesterfield report employment as moderate; dress and mantle makers as fair.

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

## Nottingham and District.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment generally has improved. It is good in the principal branches at Nottingham; improved at Beeston; fair at Bulwell and Stapleford.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment continues good throughout the district.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers report employment as moderate at Nottingham, Mansfield and Beeston; fair at Newark, and good at Grantham; boiler-makers as good at Nottingham, moderate at Newark; brassfounders as quiet; cycle-makers and machine workers as fair; the other branches as good generally. Branches with 3,361 members have 61 (or 1.8 per cent.) unemployed compared with 64 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment continues good throughout the county. Collieries employing some 16,000 men have worked an average of 5.4 days per week during the month.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported as dull with joiners, painters and plumbers; as good with bricklayers, slaters and tilers and masons; as not so brisk with plasterers.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Coachmakers report employment as good at Nottingham, quiet at Newark; coopers and boxmakers as good; packing-case makers as not so good; cabinetmakers as moderate; upholsterers as rather quiet.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Nottingham and Retford; lithographic artists and lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders as fairly good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as not so brisk at Nottingham, as moderate at Hucknall and Mansfield; bespoke tailors as quiet; tailoring operatives as good. Mantle-makers are busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Gasworkers report employment as fair; colliery enginemmen, stationary engine drivers, engine and crane-men as good; bakers as fair; cab and hackney drivers as quiet; female cigar makers as fair.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

## Leicester and Northampton District.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment is fairly good at Leicester, Higham and Rushden; moderate at Northampton; improving at Hinckley and Kettering.

**Other Clothing Trades.**—Wholesale clothiers report employment as good; bespoke tailors as slack. It is improving with milliners; quiet with silk and felt hatters; and fairly good with capmakers. Corsetmakers and dressmakers are fully employed.

**Hosiery and Wool Spinning.**—Hosiery workers throughout the district are making full time. Employment continues brisk with dyers and trimmers. In the wool spinning factories workpeople are fully engaged.

**Elastic Web Trade.**—Employment with cord and braid workers is good. In the shoe-web branch no improvement is reported.

**Engineering Trade.**—Engine builders, winders, and machine builders at Loughborough and Northampton are slack; cycle-makers rather better employed. Otherwise employment generally is good.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Employment continues good in the South Leicestershire coal mines, and with limestone and ironstone workers.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—At Leicester letterpress printers are not so fully employed; at Loughborough, Northampton and Rugby work is fairly regular. Lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is rather slack with bricklayers; dull with painters; good with stonemasons; moderate with joiners, plumbers and plasterers.

**Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.**—Employment is good with French polishers; slackening with cabinetmakers and upholsterers. It is fairly good with coachmakers at Leicester, and moderate at Northampton. Tram and road car builders are working overtime. Railway wagon builders report employment as good.

**Leather Trades.**—Curriers and leather dressers are well employed at Leicester and Northampton, but work is still slack with tanners at Market Harborough.

**Miscellaneous.**—With railway servants employment is rather slack at Rugby, but continues good elsewhere. With cigar-makers, basket-makers, farriers and boxmakers it is good; with mill-sawyers moderate.—*T. Smith.*

## Potteries District.

**Pottery Trades.**—Hollow-ware pressers report employment as good. Sanitary pressers report a slight decline. Flatpressers continue busy. Throwers, turners and handlers in the electrical department, and printers and transferrers report an improvement. Other branches continue well employed.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—A further improvement has taken place in both branches.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers, boiler-makers and moulders in North Staffordshire continue busy. Employment is good at Crewe, Oakmoor, Froghall, Rugeley and Uttoxeter. At Stafford it continues moderate.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Throughout North Staffordshire coal and ironstone miners continue busy, and at Cheadle improvement is reported. At Alton and Hollington employment in the stone quarries has been interfered with by the weather.

**Textile Trades.**—At Leek employment in the silk trade maintains the improvement recently reported. At Congleton silk dressers, pickers, throwsters, and dyers are fully employed; fustian cutters continue busy. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives are working well.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors report employment as slack. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford have been better employed.

**Building Trades.**—Joiners have been fairly busy. Other branches have been affected by the weather.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a slight decline. At Stafford employment continues good. Lithographic artists and printers are moderately busy. Bookbinders and machine-rulers continue busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Railway servants are busy. Brushmakers report employment as poor. Gasworkers are well employed.—*I. S. Harvey.*



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

Glass Trades.—Flint glass cutters and makers report employment as hardly so good; decorative glass workers as fair; glass bottle makers are fully employed.

Transport Trades.—Railway men and tramway men are busy. Carters and hackney carriage drivers have been less busy; sailors and firemen and dock labourers are dull.

Miscellaneous.—French polishers, brushmakers, tobacco pipe makers and finishers, sett makers, paviors, saddlers, scale beam makers, potters, spindle and flyer makers, cork cutters, and general labourers are busy. Gilders and calico engravers are quiet.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute and linen mills and factories continues good, with a scarcity of workers in certain departments.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the collieries throughout Fifeshire remains steady. Returns from pits employing 12,358 workpeople show an average of 5.6 days per week worked during the four weeks ending February 24th.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment is moderate in engineering shops, fairly good at the shipbuilding yards. Branches of societies with 2,229 members return 65 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 58 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—Employment has been affected in the building trades by the weather and the masons' dispute. Cabinetmakers and upholsterers are still slack. Branches, excluding masons, with 1,137 members report 57 (or 5.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 62 (or 5.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Dock Labour.—Employment has been slack.

Fishing.—Fishing operations have been interrupted by bad weather.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders continue steadily employed. Tailors report an improvement. Boot and shoe makers continue fairly well employed. Bleachfield workers and floorcloth and linoleum-makers are still busy.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,574 members have 529 (or 8.0 per cent.) idle, as against 413 (or 6.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

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

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

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

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,391 members have 28 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 38 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The boiler-makers, iron and steel shipbuilders, hole-cutters and drillers report employment as moderate; shipwrights and pattern-makers as fair; engineers, tinplate-workers, blacksmiths, brass-finishers and horse-shoers as good and ironmoulders as fairly good.

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

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

Fishing.—In February at the Port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 60,028 cwts., with a value of £43,714, a decrease both in quantity and value as compared with January.

Miscellaneous.—The combmakers and sawmillers report employment as good; bakers, upholsterers, and cabinet-makers as fair; hackney carriage drivers and saddlers as dull.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with bricklayers; fair with slaters and tilers, plasterers, and glaziers; improving with painters; dull with carpenters and joiners.

Iron Trades.—Employment is returned as good with the iron-

founders, boiler-makers, whitesmiths and electricians; fair with the brassfinishers and moulders; dull with the engineers, tinsmiths, and gasfitters.

Woodworking Trades.—The upholsterers and saw mill machinists report employment as bad. In other branches it is fair.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The tailors report employment as dull; the silk weavers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—The lithographic printers report employment as bad; other branches as fair. Branches with 1,461 members have 106 (or 7.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 103 (or 7.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle-makers, dockers, railway servants and general labourers report employment as good; the bakers, paviors and stationary engine drivers as fair.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 8,543 members have 223 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of January. The blacksmiths, smiths' helpers and strikers, ironfounders, engineers and furnishing trades report employment as moderate; carpenters and joiners as quiet; brassfounders, machine workers, enginemen, cranimen and firemen as fair; boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, drillers and holecutters, steam-engine makers, pattern-makers, shipwrights, tinplate workers, general labourers and platers' helpers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,001 members have 47 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 33 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The beetling enginemen, flax roughers and yarn bundlers report employment as fair; the flax dressers, hackle and gill makers, linen lappers, tenters, yarn dressers and women workers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches of societies with 1,987 members have 140 (or 7.0 per cent.) unemployed as against 158 (or 8.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, and house painters, report employment as bad; plumbers as dull; hodsmen as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches of societies with 808 members have 54 (or 6.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 66 (or 7.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. French polishers report employment as bad; upholsterers and mill-sawyers as dull; cabinetmakers as quiet; coachbuilders as improving; coopers and packing-case makers as fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 900 members have 62 (or 6.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 63 (or 7.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; letterpress printers as dull; bookbinders as quiet; lithographic artists as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors are fairly employed. The boot and shoe makers are slack.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,945 members have 58 (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 52 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Employment amongst the carters is moderate; with bakers, butchers, railway servants and municipal employees fair; with locomotive engine drivers and paviors good.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as good in Passage West and Haulbowline, fair in Cork; all branches of the engineering trade as good in Cork, fair in Limerick and Waterford; shipwrights and sailmakers as moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is slack except with plumbers and gasfitters in Cork, and stonecutters, who report it as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and wood-working machinists, cabinetmakers, packing case-makers, and coopers report employment as quiet; coachmakers as moderate; corkcutters as dull.

Printing.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair in Cork, Limerick and Tralee, quiet in Waterford.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with flax, tweed and feather operatives throughout the district is steady; with boot and shoe operatives and tailors it continues dull.

Miscellaneous.—Gasworkers, railway and tramway employees and stationary enginemen report employment as good; general quay labourers, coal porters and bakers as dull.—P. O'Shea.

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 371, or 22 less than in January, and 33 less than in February, 1899.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,447,140 persons (according to the latest available figures), 352 were killed, and 7,358 reported injured by accidents in February, as compared with 379 killed and 6,949 reported injured in February, 1899. These figures give one death in February, 1900, for every 15,475 persons employed in those industries. During the two completed months of 1900, 714 persons were reported killed and 14,363 injured, as against 781 reported killed and 13,658 injured in the corresponding period of 1899.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 19 persons were reported killed, and 922 injured in February, as compared with 25 killed and 924 injured in February, 1899.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Table with 6 columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, and sub-columns for Feb. 1900, Feb. 1899, Total. Includes Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, Workshops, and Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23.

DETAILED TABLE.

Table with 6 columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, and sub-columns for By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles, By other accidents on the Companies' Premises, Total. Includes Railway Service, Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23.

Table with 3 columns: Industry, Underground, Surface, Total. Includes Explosions of Firedamp, Falls of ground, In shafts, Miscellaneous.

Table with 3 columns: Industry, Inside, Outside, Total. Includes Explosives or Blasting, Falls of ground, During Ascent or Descent, Miscellaneous.

Table with 6 columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, and sub-columns for By Wreck or Casualty, By other Accidents, Total. Includes Shipping (On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels), Total for February, 1900, Total for 8 months Dec. 1899, to February, 1900, Total for 3 months Dec. 1898, to February, 1899.

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Males, Females, Total. Includes Factories (Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons, Other Accidents), Total Factories—February, 1900, February, 1899.

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Males, Females, Total. Includes Workshops (Adults, Young Persons, Children), Total Workshops—February, 1900, February, 1899.

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Males, Females, Total. Includes Factories & Workshops (classified by trades), Total February, 1900, Total February, 1899.

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Males, Females, Total. Includes Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23 (Docks, Wharves and Quays, Warehouses, Buildings to which Act applies, Laundries), Total for February, 1900, Total for February, 1899.

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Construction or repair, Use or Working, Total. Includes Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 (Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, Tramway, Tunnel, Other Works, Traction Engine), Total for February, 1900, Total for February, 1899.

\* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1898, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year. † Accidents during the working of railways, being reportable under other Acts, are not notified under the Act of 1894. ‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. § Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1900.

(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 about 15,700 workpeople. The net effect of all the changes on the wages of those affected was an increase of about 1s. 6½d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 5,900 coal-miners in Cumberland; to 555 engineers at Bradford; to 2,600 bedstead workers at Birmingham; and to 1,018 gas-workers at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Decreases.—The principal decreases were those sustained by 1,450 building trade operatives in Scotland.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 200 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. One change affecting 2,600 workpeople was arranged by a Wages Board; and the remaining changes, affecting about 12,900 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Summary for First Two Months of 1900.—For the two months, January and February, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 708,900. Of these 707,050 obtained a net average increase of 1s. 4½d. weekly per head, and 1,850 sustained a net average decrease of 2s. 1¼d. weekly per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 1s. 4½d. weekly per head in the wages of the 708,900 workpeople affected.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week. Sub-sections include BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE, METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, and TEXTILE TRADES.

\* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer and two winter weeks. ‡ A system has also been introduced by which a man who is advanced from one grade to the next receives an increment of 1s. per week every six months until he reaches the maximum of that grade.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week. Sub-sections include EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, MISCELLANEOUS TRADES, and SEAMEN.

Rise in Agricultural Wages.—In some of the districts of Dorset, Kent and Hampshire wages of agricultural labourers were increased 1s. per week; in parts of Cheshire, Cumberland, Hampshire and Yorkshire wages were advanced from 1s. to 2s. per week. (For further particulars, see p. 79.)

Erratum.—The numbers of clickers and pressmen at Bristol affected by the advance in minimum rates on 1st Jan. were incorrectly stated in the February GAZETTE: the figures should have been 75 and 25. † Exclusive of overtime.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1900.

Only two cases of changes in hours of labour, affecting 607 workpeople, were reported during February, the reductions averaging 0.41 hours per week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Reduction per week.

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 1900, with comparative figures for 1899:—

Table with columns: Imported, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Exported, Bales, 1900, Bales, 1899, Bales, 1900, Bales, 1899.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended March 3rd, amounted to £5,994,303, a decrease of £84,721 (or 1.4 per cent.), as compared with the corresponding period of 1899. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,231,362, a decrease of £59,229, and from goods and mineral traffic £3,762,941, a decrease of £25,492.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during February was £594,164, a decrease of £8,098, as compared with February, 1899. In England and Wales and in Ireland there were decreases of £7,765 and £2,654 respectively, while in Scotland there was an increase of £2,321.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during February, numbered 370, being 30 more than in February, 1899, and 22 more than in February, 1898 and 1897.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

South Wales District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Under Manager of a Mine will be held on the 15th and 16th May, 1900, and an Examination for First Class Certificates of Competency as Manager of a Mine will be held on the 17th and 18th May, 1900. Intending candidates should communicate on or before the 30th April, 1900, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Robert T. Rees, Aberdare.

Liverpool District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under Manager of a Mine will shortly be held. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 15, King Street, Wigan.

\* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the hours for five summer and two winter weeks.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty-three fresh disputes were reported as having begun in February, 1900, compared with 37 in January, 1900, and 36 in February, 1899. In these 33 disputes 8,698 workpeople were directly and 2,659 indirectly, a total of 11,357, which compares with 11,305 in January, 1900, and 5,348 in February, 1899.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 3 disputes took place, involving 640 workpeople; in the coal mining industry, 3 disputes, involving 2,574 workpeople; in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 4 disputes, involving 3,042 workpeople; in the textile trades, 21 disputes, involving 4,854 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades, 2 disputes, involving 247 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 33 disputes, 25 arose chiefly on wages questions, 3 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 3 on questions of working arrangements, and 2 on other questions.

Results.—Twenty-nine new disputes, involving 10,683 workpeople, and 3 old disputes, involving 817 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 32 new and old disputes terminated, 12, involving 2,871 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 5, involving 1,822 persons, in favour of the employers; and 12, involving 3,126 persons, resulted in compromise. With regard to the remaining 3 disputes, involving 3,681 persons, certain points are still under consideration. At the end of February, 9 old disputes were reported to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 1,000 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The aggregate duration in February of all the disputes, new and old, was about 70,000 days, compared with 90,000 in January, 1900, and 118,000 in February, 1899.

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

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY, 1900.

Table for Building Trades (3 Disputes, 640 Workpeople affected) and Coal Mining (3 Disputes, 2,574 Workpeople affected).

Table for Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding Trades (4 Disputes, 3,042 Workpeople affected).

Table for Textile Trades (21 Disputes, 4,854 Workpeople affected).

Table for Textile Trades (continued) and other trades.

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

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued.)

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

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY, 1900—(continued.)

Table for Miscellaneous Trades (2 Disputes, 247 Workpeople affected).

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE FEBRUARY, 1900, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for disputes terminated in February 1900.

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

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February 595 fresh applications for work were registered by eight bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns, and 784 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 202 persons, of whom 102 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 showing work done in February by bureaux, categorized by bureaux and occupations.

The applications for domestic servants fell from 745 in January, to 596 in February, the number of servants applying falling from 350 to 301; but the number engaged through the bureaux fell very slightly, from 108 to 102. The demand for dressmakers and milliners fell from 63 to 58; and the supply from 86 to 76; the number engaged through the bureaux rose, however,

from 21 to 46. Out of 34 openings for superintendents, (of which 12 were at the Central Bureau), only 4 were filled.

Of the 56 situations offered at the Dundee Labour Bureau, 36 were for mill and factory operatives. Of the 22 who obtained situations, 10 were domestic servants; 6 were charwomen, and 6 were mill and factory operatives.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following table shows the number of cases (fatal and non-fatal) of lead, &c., poisoning, and of anthrax reported during February, as having occurred in factories and workshops. 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. Of the 67 cases of lead poisoning reported during the month 18 (15 males and 3 females) occurred in white lead works and 19 (7 males and 12 females) in the china and earthenware industry, the number of cases in these industries in February, 1899, being 32 and 28 respectively.

One death in the china and earthenware industry was reported during the month.

In addition to the cases included in the table, 7 cases of lead poisoning were reported among journeymen painters and plumbers, not strictly under the Factory Acts. In three of these cases lead poisoning is stated to have been a contributory cause of death.

Table showing diseases and industry with columns for Adults (M, F), Young Persons (M, F), Total, and Total Feb. 1899.

\* M.=Males. F.=Females.

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 in February was 338,677, corresponding to a rate of 209 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1900.

Compared with January, 1900, there is an increase of 4,852 in the number relieved, and of 3 in the rate per 10,000 of population. Twenty-seven of the districts show increased rates, the largest increases being in the Dublin and Hull districts (12 per 10,000), Manchester and Coatbridge and Airdrie (8), and Central London and Edinburgh (7). In five districts the rates have decreased slightly, and in three districts there is no change.

Compared with February, 1899, the number relieved shows a decrease of 3,296, and the rate per 10,000 of the population a decrease of 5. The rate has decreased in 25 districts, the most marked falling-off being in the Stockton-on-Tees district (36 per 10,000), Bristol (28), Leicester (25), Wolverhampton (16), and Barnsley, Belfast and Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts (14). Increased rates are shown in nine districts, the largest occurring in the Dublin district (26 per 10,000), Coatbridge and Airdrie (17), West Ham (14), and Galway (8). In one district (Manchester) no change in the rate is shown.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of February, 1900 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of estimated population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with month ago, A year ago.

\* 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 10 bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,778 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,813 in February, 1899, a decrease of 35. Work was found during the month for 1,829 persons, of whom 486 (327 males and 159 females) were engaged by private employers, 1,113 by Local Authorities, and 230 males by the Salvation Army.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of February was 1,330, as against 1,500 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in February.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications offered by Workpeople during (Feb. 1900, Feb. 1899), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Feb. 1900, Feb. 1899), No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities) (Feb. 1900, Feb. 1899).

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during February, 1900.

Table with columns: Category (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities), Occupation, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total.

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

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of (Feb., 1900, Feb., 1899), Grand Total for 10 Bureaux.

\* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities. † Including 986 clearing snow.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Summary for February.

The trade returns for the month of February, 1900, show an increase as compared with the corresponding month of 1899 in the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, and in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, but a decrease in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise. The imports for February, 1900, were valued at £37,604,808, as compared with £35,539,109 in February, 1899, an increase of £2,065,699, or 5·8 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £28,795,174, as against £25,260,516 in February, 1899—an increase of £3,534,658, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures alone were valued at £23,219,849 in February, 1900, and £19,382,406 in February, 1899—an increase of £3,837,443, or 19·8 per cent. The value of foreign and colonial merchandise exported in February, 1900, shows a decrease as compared with February, 1899, of £302,785, or 5·1 per cent.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for February, 1900, as compared with February, 1899, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table with columns: Category (Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning, Substances, Oils, Raw Materials for Manufacture, Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles), Month ended Feb. 28th (1899, 1900), Increase, Decrease.

The decrease in articles of food and drink is principally due to the smaller quantity of corn imported. Wheat has decreased by 1,345,100 cwt. in quantity and £491,626 in value; wheat meal and flour by 969,554 cwt. in quantity and £468,497 in value, and barley by 846,990 cwt. in quantity, and £234,036 in value. Maize or Indian corn also shows a decrease in quantity and value of 1,221,940 cwt. and £286,946 respectively.

With regard to the imports of raw materials for textile manufactures, the imports of raw cotton show a decrease of 367,602 cwt. in quantity, but an increase of £272,058 in value. Flax also shows a slight decrease as regards quantity (210 tons), but an increase in value of £30,904. Sheep or lamb's wool shows the large increase of 21,899,806 lbs. in quantity and £1,372,192 in value, the imports in February, 1900, from Australasia alone having more than doubled in value as compared with February, 1899. The value of the imports of South American wool is also nearly twice as much, while the value of wool from British South Africa has, from obvious causes, decreased from £321,082 in February, 1899, to £74,205 in February, 1900.

Exports.—The following table shows the value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month ended 28th February, 1900, as compared with a similar period of 1899.

Table with columns: Category (Animals living, Articles of Food and Drink, Raw Materials, Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, Yarns and Textile Fabrics, Metals, Articles Manufactured therefrom, Machinery and Ships, Machinery and Millwork, Ships, new (not registered as British), Miscellaneous), Month ended Feb. 28th (1899, 1900), Increase, Decrease.

The exports of coal, coke, and fuel have increased 136,816 tons in quantity, and £1,051,182 in value.

The exports of cotton yarn show a decrease in quantity of 3,799,200 lbs., but an increase in value of £16,936. Cotton piece-

goods have increased 5,117,800 yards in quantity and £350,332 in value, larger shipments of these goods having been made to Belgium, Dutch East Indies, China, Japan, Straits Settlements, and Australasia. Jute yarn and piece-goods show a decrease, but increases in both quantity and value are found under the headings of linen and worsted yarn and woollen and worsted tissues.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared With Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month of February, 1900, amounted to 2,336,634 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,098,619 tons, as against 2,401,135 tons entered, and 3,134,289 tons cleared in February, 1899. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during February, 1900, amounted to 2,311,161 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,287,687 tons, as against 2,404,819 tons entered, and 2,377,668 tons cleared in February, 1899.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—During February 12,244 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, or 1,871 more than in February, 1899. Comparing the two completed months of 1900, with the corresponding period of 1899, there is an increase of 2,813 viz., from 19,025, in 1899, to 21,838 in 1900.

British and Irish.—Of the 12,244 passengers in February, 7,216 were of British or Irish origin, or 584 more than a year ago. The most noticeable increase occurs in the number proceeding to the United States, while those going to South Africa show a marked decrease.

For the two months of 1900, the total number of British and Irish origin was 12,779, as compared with 12,593 in the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 186.)

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

Table with columns: Destination, February, 1900, February, 1899, Total for two months ended (February, 1900, February, 1899).

Foreign.—The remainder of the 12,244 passengers in February, viz., 5,028, were foreign, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 1,287 as compared with February, 1899. This is mainly accounted for by the increase in the number proceeding to the United States.

The total number of foreigners, &c., passengers who left the United Kingdom during the two completed months of 1900, was 9,059, as compared with 6,432 in the corresponding period of 1899. The numbers proceeding to the United States in the two periods were 6,064 and 3,881 respectively.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during February was 7,307; of these, 3,176 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 1,711 so stated in February, 1899. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,131 (including 1,078 sailors), the corresponding figure for February, 1899, being 3,699 (including 1,005 sailors). The figures for February, 1900 and 1899, and also for the two months ended February in each year are as follows:—

Table with columns: Destination, February, 1900, February, 1899, Total for two months ended (February, 1900, February, 1899).

\* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,078 in February 1900; 1,005 in February, 1899; and 2,336 and 2,188 respectively, for the two months ended February in each year.



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.
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>				
Neglecting to Limewash ...	1	1	£ 0 0	£ 7 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	11	11	36 12 6	5 11 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	33	33	25 4 0	17 4 0
<i>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</i>				
Before or after the legal hour ...	79	79	16 10 0	18 6 0
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	7	7	1 15 0	3 8 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	4	4	7 0 0	0 19 0
At night ...	6	4	3 0 0	2 8 10
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	4	4	0 17 6	0 19 0
<i>Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &amp;c.—</i>				
Not keeping Registers ...	17	14	14 1 6	6 15 0
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	6	6	4 2 6	1 13 0
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	5	5	9 10 0	2 6 6
Making false entry in Register ...	1	1	1 0 0	0 17 0
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 2 6
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ...	7	6	6 0 0	5 10 6
Prosecutions under Cotton Cloth Factories Act, 1889 ...	3	—	—	0 11 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts ...	2	2	10 1 0	1 1 0
<b>By Parents:—</b>				
Connivance at personation of young persons	2	2	1 0 0	1 10 0
<b>Total for February, 1900...</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>138 4 0</b>	<b>69 10 4</b>
<b>Total for February, 1899 ...</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>151 18 0</b>	<b>70 17 4</b>

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.
<b>UNDER THE MINES ACTS.</b>					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>					
Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c. ...	1	1	—	—	£ 12 0 0
Ventilation ...	1	—	—	1	—
Shafts and Manholes ...	2	1	—	1	6 11 6
Miscellaneous ...	3	2	—	1	11 6 0
<b>By Workmen:—</b>					
Safety Lamps ...	2	2	—	—	1 18 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	2	—	—	2	—
Timbering ...	5	5	—	—	4 10 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	4	4	—	—	4 8 6
Riding on Trams ...	4	4	—	—	4 15 0
Miscellaneous ...	7	3	—	4	2 6 6
<b>Total for Feb., 1900 ...</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>47 16 0</b>
<b>Total for Feb., 1899 ...</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>57 2 6</b>
<b>UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.</b>					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>					
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c. ...	1	1	—	—	£ 1 8 0
Fencing ...	3	3	—	—	10 4 0
Other Special Rules ...	2	—	—	2	—
<b>Total for Feb., 1900 ...</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11 12 0</b>
<b>Total for Feb., 1899 ...</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3 16 6</b>

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.
<b>By Owners or Masters of Ships:—</b>				
Submersion of Disc ...	1	1	£ 25 0 0	£ —
<b>By Boarding-House Keepers:—</b>				
Illegal Supply ...	8	8	14 2 0	4 9 0
<b>Total for Feb., 1900 ...</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>39 2 0</b>	<b>4 9 0</b>
<b>Total for Feb., 1899 ...</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11 0 0</b>	<b>4 7 0</b>

Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics.

The tenth biennial report of this body has been forwarded to the Department. It consists of two parts, the one giving the results of an investigation into the private and municipal ownership of gasworks, waterworks, and electric and power plants, and the other dealing with public employment offices or labour bureaux in the various states of the Union and in certain foreign countries, including Great Britain.

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 5 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 5 Co-operative Associations for Production, one Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Society, 8 Friendly Societies, and 35 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during February. One Trade Union, 10 Industrial and Provident Societies, 14 Building Societies, and 27 Friendly Societies (including 8 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.—England and Wales.**—Scarborough Builders' and General Labourers' Union, Friendly Societies' Hall, North-street, Scarborough; Liverpool French Polishers' Association, 201, London-road, Liverpool; Liverpool Section of the Amalgamated Society of Boot and Shoe Makers, 64, Great Newton-street, Liverpool; Notts Lace and Net Dressers' Assoc., 1, King John's Chambers, Nottingham; National Amal. Association of Nut and Bolt Makers, 63, Vicar-street, Dudley. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.**—Llanberis, Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Co-operative Stores, Llanberis, Carnarvon; Llanrug Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Llanrug, Carnarvon; **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Athlone Co-op. Poultry Federation, Athlone, co. Westmeath; Erne Co-op. Poultry Soc., Ltd., Bellell, co. Fermanagh; **(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.**—Basford Wickerwork Manufacturers' Assoc., Ltd., Rock Works, Stockhill-lane, Old Basford, Nottingham; Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers, Ltd., Prospect-street, East Kirkby, Nottingham. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Glarryford Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Glarryford, co. Antrim; Drumaal Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Randalstown, co. Antrim; Knockcroghery Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Knockcroghery, co. Roscommon. **(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.**—Temperance Male Nurses and Masseurs Co-op., Ltd., 15, Great Marylebone Street, London, W. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.**—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Specially Authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 1. **Scotland.**—Ordinary Friendly, 1. **Ireland.**—Ordinary Friendly, 1. **(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.**—23. **Scotland.**—9. **Ireland.**—3.

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

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.—England and Wales.**—Chesterfield and District Working Men's Unionist Assoc., Old Feathers Inn, Chesterfield. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.**—Dissolved by Instrument: Gayton Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 5, High-street, Gayton; Eighth Albion Ind. and Prov. Land Soc., Ltd., 2, County Buildings, Hull. Registry cancelled by request.—Metropolitan Window Cleaners', Ltd., 5, Curlew-street, Horselydown, S.E.; Clipstone Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Church-street, Clipstone; Bradford Mutual Coal Supply Assoc., Ltd., 240, Sunbridge-road, Bradford; Sheffield House Painting and Decorating Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 18, Cemetery-road, Sheffield. Liquidators' final return received.—Paddock Friendly Co-op. Trading Soc., Ltd., East-street, Paddock, Huddersfield; Primrose Hill Workingmen's Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 2, Primrose Hill, Huddersfield; Swansea and South Wales Land Soc. Ltd., 14, Fisher-street, Swansea; Converted into a company—Canterbury Co-op. Tanners, Ltd., 25, Stow-street, Canterbury. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.**—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 8; Dividing, 2; Branches none. Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 6; Juvenile 1; Specially Authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Branches, 8. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Building Societies.—England and Wales.**—By instrument of dissolution, 4; notice of commencement of dissolution, 1; notice of termination of dissolution, 7. **Scotland.**—By instrument of dissolution, 1; notice of commencement of winding-up, 1. **Ireland.**—None.