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THE Labour Gazette

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.]

JANUARY 1894.

[No. I.—Vol. II.]

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LONDON :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
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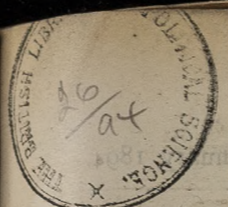
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JANUARY 1894.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT,

BOARD OF TRADE,

43, PARLIAMENT STREET, S.W.,

15th January 1894.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

In comparing the statistics of employment at the end of December with those for the previous month, it must be borne in mind that from various seasonal causes employment is usually somewhat slack at the close of the year, and moreover, that the Christmas holidays, which have a tendency to disturb trade for a time, have this year in many cases been extended beyond the usual period. It is probable, therefore, that the returns from trade societies for December afford a less accurate index than usual of changes in the labour market.

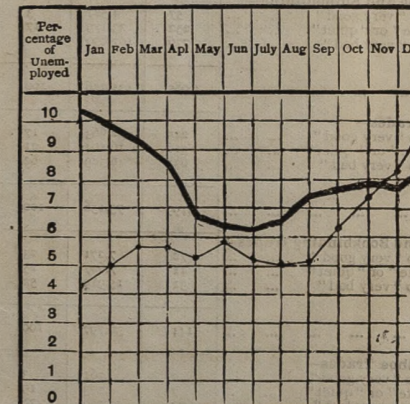
Though (probably for the reasons assigned) the proportion of unemployed in the trade societies making returns has risen to some extent, it is considerably lower than in the corresponding period of last year, when, partly owing to the stoppage in the Cotton Trade, the percentage was higher than at any period since the returns were first made in 1886.

Of the 32 trade societies with an aggregate membership of 336,337 making returns, 26,452, or 7.9 per cent., are reported as in receipt of unemployed benefit at the close of December, compared with 7.3 per cent. for November. For the 26 societies, however, which have made returns since May, the percentage of unemployed is 8.4, compared with 7.8 per cent. for November, and with 10.2 per cent. for the 23 societies from which returns were received in December 1892.

As in previous numbers, a chart is inserted, which enables the percentages of unemployed shown in the monthly returns to be compared with those for last year.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1892 and 1893. Unions which began to make returns since May 1893 are not included in this chart.

The thick line applies to 1893, the thin line to 1892.



Some slight improvement appears to have taken place in the Shipbuilding Industry during the month, due to some extent to the necessity for repairs arising out of the recent stormy weather.

The Steel and Iron Trades continue depressed, though scarcely so much so as last month, the termina-

The December number completed the first volume of the GAZETTE. Though the publication of the GAZETTE only began in May 1893, it has been thought desirable that the first volume should only consist of eight numbers, in order that each subsequent volume may correspond with the calendar year.

An index to the first volume is now in the printers' hands, and will be distributed with the February number of the GAZETTE.

An account is given on another page of the changes now being introduced by the War Office in the hours of labour at the Ordnance Factories, whereby over 14,000 employees will in future have their hours reduced to 48 per week.

A new feature in the present number is the account on page 12 of the past month's operations of some of the principal permanent Labour Bureaux.

The reports which appeared in the last two numbers of the GAZETTE with regard to the rates of wages at the recent Autumn Hirings of farm labourers are supplemented in the present number by a statement of the actual rates at which a certain number of labourers were hired in a selected district of Yorkshire. The particulars have been obtained by direct inquiry by the Department.

The Reports and recommendations of the Committees appointed by the Home Secretary to investigate the conditions of certain unhealthy trades, viz., potteries, chemical works and lucifer match works, are summarised on another page. The report on leadworkers was dealt with in the December number. A summary is also given of a recent notification, with regard to dangerous and unhealthy trades, issued by the Home Office.

The General Report of the Registrar-General on the census of 1891 has just been published. The Report is too important in its bearing on labour questions to be dealt with adequately in a single review. In the present number attention is confined to those parts of the Report which deal with overcrowding and single-room tenements.

The Department was represented at the Conference of the Board of Trade at Leicester on January 6th and 8th, at which several matters were subjected to arbitration. Notice of its proceedings is given on another page.

tion of the Scottish Coal Dispute having had a beneficial effect upon the trade of that country, while in certain other districts some revival is reported.

The Engineering Trade, notably on the Tyne, is still very depressed, the percentage of trade union members unemployed in this district amounting to 23.5.

Reports from most districts describe the condition of the Building Trades as quiet, though fairly good for the time of year, the percentage of unemployed shown by the trade societies having risen from 3.7 to 5.8.

The Furnishing Trades have not maintained the improvement of last month, the percentage of unemployed returned having increased from 5.4 to 6.8.

The Printing and kindred trades continue depressed, the temporary improvement that took place during November having ceased, with the result that the percentage of unemployed members of unions has risen from 3.8 to 6.1.

The depression in the Ready-made Clothing Trade is still very marked, and the Bespoke Trade is also quiet, as is usual at this season of the year.

Little alteration is reported in the Cotton Trade, which still continues brisk, nearly every other branch of the Textile Trades remaining depressed.

With some exceptions (e.g., in the Bristol District) the Mining Industry is reported to be brisk, a complete resumption of work having practically taken place.

Employment for seamen has been scarce at most of the principal ports.

In some places, including the Thames and the Tyne, there has been a falling-off in the employment of dock and riverside labour during the month, but at Cardiff such work has been steady, and at Liverpool and Glasgow an improvement is reported.

Of the 32 societies making returns, six describe trade as "good," and 26 as "bad," though a more hopeful tone pervades many of these reports than has been the case for some months past.

Table with 5 columns: Description of Trade by Branches, December (Branches, Members), Per. centage of Members for Dec., Per. centage of Members for Nov.

The number of fresh disputes that have arisen during the month is smaller than in any previous month of the year, being 23 compared with 35 in November, and 24 in December, 1892.

The changes in wages reported during December have been comparatively unimportant. The miners at non-associated collieries in West Scotland have lost the advance of 1s. per week which they temporarily obtained during the continuance of the strike of miners at associated collieries in West Scotland.

The number of bankrupts gazetted during the month was 412 as compared with 387 in December 1892. British emigrants from the United Kingdom for places out of Europe in December numbered 6,073, compared with 8,293 in December 1892.

The statistics of pauperism for December again show an increase in most of the selected industrial districts of the United Kingdom when compared with those for November. The total number relieved in the selected districts on one day in the second week of December was 339,038, or 232 per 10,000 of population, as compared with 334,065, or 228 per 10,000 in November.

The following table summarises the detailed table on p. 12, and will be found useful for comparative purposes. Comparative Table showing the number of Paupers per 10,000 of Population in selected industrial districts on a given day in October, November and December in 1893 and 1892, respectively.

Table with 7 columns: District, 1893 (October, November, December), 1892 (October, November, December).

II.—LONDON.

(1) STATISTICS OF TRADE SOCIETIES.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—A further decline in the condition of these trades has taken place during the month, 58 branches of 7 unions, with an aggregate membership of 10,364, returning 1,008 (or 9.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 8.7 per cent. last month, and 8 per cent. for October.

Building Trades.—Apart from seasonal causes, bricklayers and masons continue busy, while other branches show a steady decline, which is particularly noticeable in the case of the carpenters and joiners.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—These trades continue in the same depressed condition which has characterised them for several months.

Only one branch with 700 members describe trade as "good," while no less than 17 with 2,519 members describe it as "bad."

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Although this is usually one of the best months of the year for the London Printing Trade, the returns to hand show that in 10 societies with 17,121 members no less than 1,044 (or 6.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.7 per cent. last month, and 6 per cent. for October.

(2) DOCK EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

Taking the whole month through, the state of employment for dock labourers has been about the same as for November, the average number employed by the three Dock Companies* being estimated at 7,144, compared with 7,151 in the previous month, and 7,376 in December 1892.

Table with 4 columns: Week in December, 1893, 1892. Rows: 1st week, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, Average for December, Ditto for November.

The fall of employment is usual at the end of the year, as is shown in the following Chart, which (as in last number) compares the daily number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during the last two months of the years 1893 and 1892.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of November and December 1893.

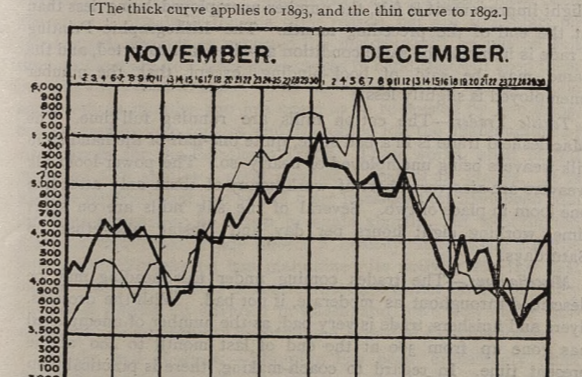


Table with 6 columns: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed. Includes a note: 'Sundays and Holidays are omitted.'

To go into further detail, it is reported that work in the up-town tea warehouses and at the fruit wharves was very brisk during a considerable part of the month, owing to the Christmas season, though it fell off towards the close of the month.

* Viz., London and India Docks Joint Committee (excluding Tilbury), Millwall and Surrey Commercial. The figures include labourers employed through contractors.

wharves generally employment has not been so good, numbers of men being idle. On the whole, employment has been fair at the East and West India and Millwall Docks. A dispute on a wages question began at a wharf at Limehouse in the middle of the month.

(3) EMPLOYMENT AND DISTRESS IN LONDON.

So far as can be judged from the information supplied, there has been little change during the month in the amount of distress in various London districts owing to want of employment. The Tailoring and Slipper Trades in East London have been very depressed, painters' and builders' labourers have suffered from the usual seasonal slackness, and there has been distress among casual and waterside labourers.

It is reported that 17 London local authorities are maintaining labour registries, mostly of a temporary character, for the enrolment of names of unemployed persons in their districts, and that six of these authorities are also assisting some of the unemployed by the provision of work.

The Mansion House Committee on the Unemployed (the appointment of which on October 31st was mentioned in the November GAZETTE) presented its report to the Conference on December 28th. Generally speaking, the report is adverse to the institution of unremunerative and artificially-created relief works.

"Such work, however, should, as a rule, be placed on the open market." The Committee consider that the improvident, idle and vicious can be adequately dealt with by the Poor Law, and that the more provident should be dealt with privately and thoroughly by a strengthening of existing relief agencies.

(4) PAUPERISM IN LONDON.

The pauperism returns for London districts again show an increase in the number relieved on a given day when compared with November, the number being 106,376 or 253 per 10,000 of population in the middle of December, and 102,453 or 243 per 10,000 in November. The increases have been greatest in the Southern and Central districts.

Table with 6 columns: District, In-door, Out-door, Total. Rows: West District, North, Central, East, South, West Ham.

III.—PROVINCIAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Durham.—The Durham Coal Trade is in a normally good condition. The pits are working regularly on full time. Of the pitmen slightly over 2 per cent. are unemployed.

Northumberland.—The Northumberland colliers still keep well employed. The pits are working practically 11 days per fortnight. Less than 1 per cent. of the pitmen throughout the county are unemployed.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades—On the Tyne.—Trade continues depressed and prospects are not encouraging. Repairs and renewals have kept several engine shops and yards fairly well employed. Employment, however, amongst both iron shipbuilders and engineers still shows a downward tendency. The number out of work in connection with the former trade is 1,229, or 23.3, as against 211 per cent. in November. The number and percentage of engineers in receipt of out-of-work benefit have also increased to 1,082, or 23.8, as compared with 22.4 per cent.

On the Wear.—Shipbuilding maintains its normal condition, but future prospects are not very bright. Engine builders are in much the same position as in November. Of the engineers, 196, or 14 per cent., of the shipbuilders, 500, or 19.1 per cent. are unemployed, as against 13.1 and 17.2 per cent. respectively in November; this is due to causes peculiar to the period of the year. The shipwrights are slightly better employed; the moulders are very slack. The pattern-makers have a little over 10 per cent. out of work on both rivers. The shipyard joiners are depressed, with an average of 4.4 per cent. unemployed on both rivers, Sunderland being exceptionally depressed. The iron and steel plate mills are working full time with one or two exceptions.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment for coal porters and riverside labourers in general has slightly fallen off, especially in the lower reaches of the Tyne, owing to some displacement of labour and a lessened demand for shipping.

Building Trades.—Building operations during the month have proceeded fairly well. The joiners and plasterers continue busy; bricklayers and masons are not so well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Work in chemical factories is quiet. There is a lessened demand in the Glass and Bottle Trade. There is much distress and want of employment amongst the labouring population in both districts. The City Council of Newcastle have found work for many at tree-planting and excavating.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Oldham, Bolton and District.

Textile Trades.—In the principal sections this industry maintains a fairly satisfactory position. The proportions of unemployed, both among the Oldham and Bolton cotton spinners, have fallen during the month. Weaving continues brisk, with the exception of the velvet and fustian branches, both of which are depressed, short time being worked in many instances. Notwithstanding the generally prosperous condition of these trades, disputes between employers and operatives have been plentiful. In several cases notices to leave work have been tendered, but in only one has a cessation taken place; in the others, terms of settlement have been arranged without a stoppage. With the exceptions mentioned all the mills are working full time.

Iron and Steel Trades.—With the commencement of the recent coal dispute, this industry was completely disorganised, and for three or four months operations were suspended. With the re-opening of the collieries the trade has regained its normal position. As there are several hundred men engaged in this section of the Iron Trade, the re-opening of the works has had a sensible effect in relieving the tension on the number of unemployed in these districts.

Engineering and Machine Trades.—Engineering has shown a marked improvement this month. Certain branches of the Machine Trades which have been slack for many weeks are now becoming busier, and the prospects for the coming year are more promising.

Building Trades.—The various branches of these trades are, as a matter of seasonal necessity, quiet, but no feeling of depression exists as regards the future.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The interests of the many small trades and handicrafts which are carried on in these districts are so bound up in the larger industries of cotton and iron, that the well-being of the latter is fairly reflected in the former, and on the whole the present condition of employment, all round, is much better than it has been for some time past.—*J. T. Fielding.*

Burnley, Accrington and District.

Textile Trades.—The improvement shown in the Cotton Trade during the past few months has hardly been maintained during December; nevertheless, the looms are fully employed, except a few engaged in weaving coarse counts of weft, which are temporarily on short time. Manufacturers as a rule are still well supplied with orders. Disputes have arisen during the month at Harwood, Rishton and Croston; the one at Harwood, though in the first place affecting only the workpeople at one firm, now threatens to extend to the whole district. The winders and beamers' dispute in the Burnley district is yet no nearer a settlement, with the exception

that a few individual employers have made concessions in the winding department. During the month a uniform list for the payment of warp dressing has been agreed upon by the Employers' and Warp Dressers' Associations.

Printing Trades.—The Letterpress and Lithographic Trades have been fully occupied during the month in consequence of an election in the district; but, independently of this, work is moderately fair, and only a small percentage of men are unemployed.

Iron Trades.—In the Iron Industry one extensive machine firm has stopped a large number of men, besides extending the usual period allowed for Christmas holidays; the consequence is that work is at present difficult to get, but it is believed that the depression is only of a temporary nature. In a few engineering firms overtime has been worked in some departments in consequence of repairs being required during the holidays. Taking the Iron Trade all round work is far from brisk, and a large percentage of men are unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The workmen engaged in the Building Trades have been moderately employed, though in some branches a number are out of work, which is to be expected at this season of the year. The Tailoring Trades are rather dull. In the Calico Printing Trades the men are fairly well employed.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers describe trade as bad, the number unemployed being about the same as last month. The steam-engine makers report trade as moderate, with 4½ per cent. unemployed, slightly more than in November. Other branches of the Iron Trade are in practically the same condition, with a slight increase in the number of unemployed, chiefly owing to the holidays, which this year in a number of firms are longer than usual, some being closed for twelve days. No improvement in trade is manifest amongst the boiler-makers, although the number of unemployed has not increased, whilst amongst the brass-founders and finishers nearly double the number are unemployed.

Building Trades.—All branches of the Building Trade are in a somewhat depressed condition at this time. The joiners, bricklayers and plasterers report trade as moderate, with a slight increase in the number unemployed amongst the plasterers and the joiners. The plasterers at Bury have given notice for an advance of wages of 1d. per hour, the notice to expire in June. The present rate for plasterers is 8d. per hour.

Printing and Kindred Trades.—In the Letterpress Printing Trade a slight improvement is felt, the number unemployed being less than at the end of the preceding month. The Lithographic Printing Trade is in much the same condition as when last reported, and the same may be said of book-binding, except that the number unemployed is slightly less.

Textile Trades.—The cotton mills are running full-time. The Macclesfield trade is in a bad state, quite one-half of the hand-loom silk-weavers being unemployed or nearly so. The power-loom silk weavers are also very short of work, many of them only attending one loom in place of two. Several of the silk mills are on short time, working eight hours per day and closing altogether on Saturdays.

Miscellaneous.—The trades coming under this heading may be described throughout as moderate, if not bad. With the dressers, dyers and finishers, trade is very bad, as the number of unemployed has gone up from 300 at the end of last month to 400 at the present time. In regard to coach-making, there is practically no change to report, trade remaining in a very indifferent condition. The fustian cutters are very short of employment, many of them not making more than 5s. per week. Other industries generally are in a depressed condition, but this is to some extent owing to the season of the year, and an improvement is expected.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—There has been a marked improvement in the condition of dock labour during December, especially the last two weeks. The influx of shipping with cotton cargoes has been so great that shippers have been inconvenienced for lack of dock accommodation. There has been an exceptional demand for dock labour in comparison with December 1892. This may be accounted for by the large consignments of cotton to Liverpool. There has also been a slight diversion of labour owing to the opening of the Ship Canal, as a number of skilled men have been sent from here to discharge ships at Salford Docks. The Mersey watermen have not yet recovered from the effect produced by the coal dispute, but the majority are fairly well employed. Seamen and firemen show a slight falling off owing to the laying up of some of the large passenger steamships. Wages remain the same as in the previous month.

Chemical, Copper and Glass Industries.—Trade in St. Helens and Widnes is quiet in almost every branch, and a considerable number of men usually employed in chemical works are out of employment. The sheet and plate glass and glass bottle makers are very slack.

Mining.—The Coal Mining Industry in the Liverpool district is brisk, many of the collieries are working continuously with double shifts of men. A partial stoppage of tin works in Flintshire is reported.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—There has been a slight improvement in the employment of engineers owing to the laying up of some of the large Atlantic liners for necessary repairs; this has also been the case with the boiler makers and riveters, though a considerable percentage are on the vacant books. At least ten per cent. of the engineers are unemployed. The brass finishers, metal planers and slotters, are still in some firms working three-quarter time; the pattern-makers show a slight improvement; the ship painters are very slack. A considerable number of ironfounders in the Liverpool district are still unemployed, their position being much the same as in November. In St. Helens the ironfounders report trade as brisk during the early part of the month, but quiet during the latter part.

Building Trades.—A marked falling off is noticeable in the Building Trades, especially in the Birkenhead neighbourhood, where all branches are remarkably quiet. The prospects on the Liverpool side, however, are much better, and two large firms have conceded an advance of 2s. per week to their joiners. The bricklayers and plasterers are only moderately employed, and the painters are very slack.

Railway and Canal Industries.—The employment on railways and canals shows a marked improvement, and is rapidly assuming the position occupied previously to the coal stoppage. Immediately after the settlement, the rush of orders and the finishing of incomplete orders had the effect of making trade busy for a brief period; now a slight falling off is just perceptible.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing Trade is reported as quiet; the Tailoring Trade as only moderate, with a tendency to improve towards the close of the month. The bakers and confectioners report no change.—*J. Sexton.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Owing to the holidays it is rather difficult to gauge the real state of the trade of the district. The Barrow steel works were totally closed on December 23rd, and will not re-start until January 15th, when it is expected some extra workers will be employed. Shipbuilders and engineers have been almost at a standstill for the same reason, but are to re-start on January 3rd, when it is expected the majority will be put on full time, as there are now some good orders in hand that will keep them busy for some time to come. The engineering works sold by public auction three months ago are again to be re-opened by two firms, one for engineering repairs and the other for the manufacture of steel barrels for the Petroleum Trade. These works, when in full operation, will employ a good number of men of all grades. It is likewise reported that two of the blast furnaces that have been idle for some time are to be blown in again shortly. At Workington the Iron and Steel Trade shows a healthy appearance for the future, and Whitehaven has maintained its activity for the past month. The coal miners of that district are rather unsettled; they have been refused an advance in wages, and have now under consideration the advisability of forming a Board of Conciliation.

Shipping and Railways.—Shipping has been exceedingly quiet during the month, causing great distress amongst those who depend for a living on the loading and discharging of cargoes. Railway traffic has improved considerably lately, so much so that the employees will start working full time on resuming after the holidays.

Building Trades.—The Building Trades are rather slack, as is usual during the winter months. The joiners are slack, with a good number still out of employment. The painters, plumbers, slaters and plasterers are only moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and kindred Trades are rather dull. The paper and pulp works are still busy. The bakers, confectioners and millers are fully employed. It is anticipated that a fresh start will soon be made in wagon building under a new company, with good orders in hand. The flax and jute works are constantly taking on a few fresh female workers as required, and are expected in a short time to be again in full swing.—*J. D. Cowper.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Shipbuilding Trades.—The improvement reported in December has been maintained, and the prospects for the new year are more hopeful. Nearly all the yards in the district are now working and several are busy, the only place where they are at a complete standstill being Whitby. Orders for three steel steamers have been

obtained at a yard at which there has been a dispute during the month, the men objecting to working three-quarter time. The dispute is, however, now ended, and it is hoped that the full complement of men will soon be employed.

Engineering.—There is no improvement in engineering, the number of unemployed still reaching nearly 10 per cent., but it is reported one or two firms at the Hartlepoons have received some good orders, and the prospect for the spring is therefore better.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The better feeling in the Iron and Steel Trades continues; the steelworkers are fairly busy and at one works at Eston, a large mill which has been standing most of the year is expected to start shortly, giving employment to one or two hundred men. The Finished Iron Trade also shows some signs of a stoppage in the downward tendency which has continued so long; but considerable friction still exists respecting the attempted revision of the sliding scale, and fears are entertained that trouble may result. The bridge works are very slack; some are nearly at a standstill, very few of the men being at work; some of the foundries also are only moderately employed. The Cleveland Ironmasters' returns are again favourable; one of the three new furnaces opened has been put on Cleveland iron, and two on hematite. This should improve the demand for labour, both at the furnaces and the ironstone mines, where work has been very slack during December, very few of the miners having worked more than four days per week.

Miscellaneous.—The Building, Printing and other Trades are about the same as last month.—*A. Main.*

Leeds and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—There is no change for the better to report in the Engineering Trades, and owing to slackness the holidays have been of a very extended character at some establishments; about 20 per cent. are unemployed. The ironfounders have been rather slacker, if anything, with several firms discharging men. The steelworkers are better employed than has been the case for a long period, and a blast furnace has been blown in, which had been damped down for some months. The stove-grate workers are fairly busy.

Clothing Trades.—The Ready-made Clothing Trade is very slack, with a large number unemployed. Only one or two of the principal firms have worked full time, the majority ranging from 30 to 12 hours per week. Bespoke tailoring is also quiet. Employment in the Boot and Shoe Industry fell off considerably at the close of the month. The operatives have been unsuccessful in their attempt to get a uniform charge for putting in a row of brass nails. The arbitrator's decision will mean a reduction to the employees at a number of firms where the price asked for had hitherto been paid. On the other hand, the decision of the arbitrator for the abolition of the charges for shop rent and lighting will be equivalent to a direct advance of 1s. per week to many.

Textile Trades.—These are bad, with a large quantity of machinery standing idle; there was a slight improvement in woollens at the end of the month.

Glass Bottle Trade.—Very few men are now out of work in any branch of this industry, and most firms have been making up for the period of inactivity during the coal dispute.

Building Trades.—Most of the Building Trades are rather quiet, the bricklayers and labourers having a considerable proportion unemployed. The joiners are slack, as usual at this period, with about 7 per cent. unemployed.

Leather Trades.—In the tanyards most of the workmen have been on short time, and although the number of unemployed is not large, yet men out of work find it exceedingly difficult to get work. Leather shavers report employment as very good.

Miscellaneous.—Some firms in the Printing Trade have been rather busier during the month, but the number of unemployed in this and kindred trades is still exceptional. The dyers continue very slack; also the cabinet-makers and brushmakers, the latter having nearly twice as many unemployed as in December of last year.

A report from Wakefield states that trade generally is rather depressed in that city, and a large number are unemployed. The engineers, moulders, tailors and dyers are very badly employed. Glass-blowers, moderate for the time of year. Wire-drawers are fairly brisk. The miners are working full time. The printers are slack, as also the Building Trades.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Textile Trades.—The Woollen Trade in and around Huddersfield is still rather quiet, and on the whole is slacker than last month. In some exceptional cases overtime has been worked during the month, but the majority are working less than 56½ hours. The holidays have consequently been prolonged more than usual, and instead of the two days generally observed at this season, many have had three days, and some the whole week. The Heavy

Woolen Trade of Batley and Dewsbury is still suffering from the depression, and many firms are only working short time. The Worst Coating Trade continues to be worse than the Woolen Trade, not only in Huddersfield, but in the Halifax and Bradford districts; in fact, Bradford workmen assert that the Textile Trades have not been so bad for a long time. The holidays have been pretty much the same in Halifax, Bradford and Huddersfield, as in the Woolen Trade. The Silk Trade is rather quieter in Brighouse than last month, and it is no better in Huddersfield and Halifax. The Cotton Trade is still very brisk in Brighouse, overtime being worked, while in other districts things do not seem so good.

Miscellaneous.—The Engineering Trade is no better than last month in any part of the district, and in some parts not quite so good. This applies also to the Iron Trade generally. Printing, Cabinet-making and Tailoring are bad, but the Building Trade is moderate considering the time of year. The Wire Drawing Trade is still rather quiet. No special steps have been taken in Bradford or in Huddersfield to find work for the unemployed.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—The collieries, with a few exceptions, are now in full swing again, many of them pulling more to bank than they have ever pulled before. Nearly all that have re-started since the close of the dispute are working full time. The coalowners are said to have agreed to ask for 1s. 6d. more per ton from the railway companies above the contract prices of last June. There is a fairly good demand for coke, and the prospects for the year are brighter. There are still about 1,400 to 1,600 miners who have not resumed work, but many of these expect to get work early in the new year, either at their own or at other collieries. The Yorkshire miners have paid their levies as well as their contributions remarkably well, and this has enabled the Association to give strike pay to all men who have failed to obtain work since the close of the dispute. The men who were thrown out owing to disease among the pit ponies have now returned to work; while unemployed they received the same pay as the colliers out of work through the coal dispute. At the annual meeting of the Council of the Association it was agreed to increase the contributions of members from 6d. to 1s. per week for three months. It was also decided to discontinue the contingent fund established in January 1893.

Iron Trade.—There are indications of improvement in the trade. A good run on locally-produced pig-iron is expected. More is being done in the Stove Grate Trade and other light branches of work, and the heavy trades also seem to be improving.—*J. Wadsworth.*

Sheffield and District.

The Christmas holidays in Sheffield are always of a protracted character, in many cases beginning on December 22nd and lasting until January 2nd.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Armour plate and ship-boiler plate makers continue very slack. In steel castings there is an improvement. The demand for Bessemer and Siemens steel billets has increased. The improvement in the Steel Wire Trade continues. There is also increased activity in the Railway Tire and Axle Trade. The Railway Spring Trade still continues very slack. The steel smelters report themselves as fairly well employed. The ironfounders on the whole continue slack, although several firms making the Heavy Pipe Trade a speciality are fully employed. During the month several furnaces producing foundry pig, which had been blown out during the coal difficulty, have been again put in blast. In stove grates, boilers, baths and general builders' ironmongery there has been little doing, partly owing to the season. The makers of crucible cast steel have been fairly well employed, and a hopeful tone as to the future prevails. The forges and rolling mills engaged upon file, tool and rod steel have been fairly well employed up to Christmas, but owing largely to repairs and stock-takings have not yet recommenced work.

Machine and Implement Trades.—The engineers and tool-makers continue very slack. The Saw, Razor and Scissors Trades are very slack, but with the two latter a more hopeful tone prevails. Owing to the weather the skate-makers are fully employed. The edge and carving tool-makers and the patent shear-makers are fairly busy. In files there is a fair amount of trade being done. The table-knife cutlers complain of slackness, and the steel fork-makers of severe competition. The spring-knife cutlers are very slack, many being on half-time, especially on the commoner qualities.

Miscellaneous.—The Building Trades are at present much quieter. Although the Silver Trade improved a little, it has been unusually quiet for the time of year. The Electro and Britannia Metal Trades, though better on the whole than the Silver Trade, have been considerably quieter than usual. The Sheffield Corporation are still employing a number of the unemployed on relief work; the men taken on are married men with families and householders.—*S. Utley.*

Hull and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—A fair proportion of the men usually employed in the shipbuilding and engineering yards have steady employment, but there is little reduction in the numbers who have to depend upon casual work. The recent stormy weather has caused the repairing department to be fairly brisk; but this work is very irregular.

Dockside Labour.—All things considered, employment at the docks is no worse than usual during the winter. The regular steam-boat trades have been very fair for freights and cargoes. A number of vessels that usually do not come to Hull have had their cargoes consigned here, and in consequence of the fine open weather, the lower ports in the Baltic have remained open. Employment as usual is very intermittent, and even if it were more regular, the demand for labour would be far below the supply. Great difficulty still exists in getting coal for outward cargoes. A good number of vessels employed during the summer months in trading to St. Petersburg and Cronstadt, together with others carrying on the passenger and cargo trades with the Northern part of Norway, are laid up in the docks. Employment in this class of labour is, however, no worse than usual in the Humber ports during the winter months.

Seamen.—The same causes have affected the employment of seamen. The percentage employed is equal to the average during the winter months. The Humber ports are not so dependent as formerly upon the Baltic and Northern European ports, owing to their increased trading to the East Indies and Southern European ports.

Fishing Industry.—Up to the present time the catches of fish and the earnings of the men have been about equal to the average. This is an industry in which the number of unemployed is fairly stationary. Some of the fishing vessels sailing out of the small ports north of the Humber have been landing good catches of fish, but the men's earnings are stated to suffer through lack of railway facilities. The casualties and loss of life during the present winter have been very severe.

Seed-crushing, Oil and Colour Trades.—The seed-crushing mills have been doing a little better, but not so well as usual in the winter. The demand for cotton-seed cake is improving, but that for linseed cake is very quiet. The mild season enables the farmer to keep his cattle out grazing. The paint and colour works are very slack.

Building Trades.—Employment for bricklayers, masons, slaters and plasterers still continues good. The carpenters and joiners are not so well off, about 13 per cent. being unemployed. Painting as usual at this season is depressed.

Although employment in this district seems no worse than usual at this time of year, the workers are still suffering from the effects of the dock and coal disputes. Much distress and destitution exists, and great sickness prevails; and the bulk of the men dependent upon shipping are only casually employed.—*W. G. Millington.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The Iron Trade was very active before Christmas, and overtime was worked. The puddlers, blast furnacemen, mill rollers and steel workers have maintained their improved position. The engineers and constructive machinists are tolerably well employed, with about 34 per cent. signing the vacant book, and a slight improvement is reported by the toolmakers and machinists. The tank and boiler-makers, bridge and girder constructors, gasometer erectors and colliery air-tube makers, are fairly well employed. The heavy ironfounders are also reported to be well employed.

Hardware Trades.—There is no improvement in the Nail, Nut and Bolt, Chain or Lock Trades, except in the demand for cheap iron padlocks for export. The Brass and Copper Trades, the tinplate and iron-plate workers also remain depressed. Improvement is reported in the Iron Safe Trade, and amongst the light ironfounders, hollow-ware casters and the metallic bedstead makers. The galvanizers, japanners, enamellers and gas and steam tube makers are busy, and the improvement has been maintained amongst the edge tool and agricultural implement makers, and has extended to the wire-workers and iron hurdle-makers. The vice makers and anvil smiths are short of work, whilst the vermin trap and axle makers have improved, and some good orders have been secured by the corn and coffee grinding mill makers. Trade has declined amongst the makers of builders' ironmongery and heating appliances, but has improved amongst the cycle manufacturers.

Building Trades.—There has been a slight decline, and in all branches a few men are unemployed. The bricklayers, carpenters, and plasterers report trade as fair; the masons, painters and decorators as declining; the plumbers, wood sawyers and machinists as good, and the builders' labourers as moderate. The

brickmakers have been well employed. The carpenters and joiners of Burton-on-Trent have given notice for an advance of wages on May 1st.

Miscellaneous.—There has been a slight improvement in the Boot and Shoe Trade, and some of the men have been at work full time. The colour, oil and varnish workers are fairly busy, and the slight improvement in the Printing Trades has been maintained. The railway men, carriers and canal boatmen have been more fully employed. The Clothing Trade is very depressed, but the coach-builders, wheelwrights and smiths are fairly well employed. The improvement in the Glass and Electrical Trades has continued. The bakers and confectioners have been very busy, and the flax and hemp spinners moderately so. The harness makers and saddlers are quiet on home work, but fairly busy on export work, but the brown saddlers are very slack. The cabinet and furniture-makers have been better employed, and the prospects of the carpet weavers of Bridgnorth and Kidderminster are brighter.—*W. F. Mea.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—There is no change since last report. The American trade, orders for which should now be coming in, is almost at a standstill through the tariff question. At the close of the month manufacturers were engaged in their annual stock-taking, and consequently the workpeople were largely unemployed.

Iron and Coal Trades.—The Iron Trade seems to have taken a turn for the better, a steady tone having been maintained; considering the time of the year orders have come in fairly well. The Pig-iron Trade is improving, and prices show a gradual upward tendency. Colliers are fairly well employed, and there is a steady demand for all kinds of coal.

Engineering and Ironfounding.—The engineers report trade as very bad, with no immediate prospect of an improvement; short time prevails in most shops, and fully 10 per cent. are unemployed. The ironfounders report a similar condition of things, a great number being on the unemployed list.

Miscellaneous.—The mildness of the season has caused Joiners', Bricklayers' and the Building Trades generally to be fairly busy, there having been no stoppage of out-door work during the month; about 10 per cent. are out of work. The wood-sawyers and machinists report trade good for the time of year. Letterpress printers state that trade is about the same as last month—moderately busy, but the completion of the registration work will throw about 8 per cent. on the unemployed list. Lithographic artists and designers report trade as very bad. Coachbuilders state that work is but moderate in private shops, and that at the Railway Works short time prevails.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Birmingham and District.

General.—The manufactories in Birmingham were almost universally closed during the whole of the last week of the year; and the general slackness of trade gave no opportunity of working overtime for a week or two before the holidays as is usually the case. The great variety of industries in Birmingham makes it always difficult to say whether trade generally is either good or bad; and the prevalence for such a long time past of short orders (*i.e.*, for small quantities of goods for current requirements only, to be executed promptly), makes the state of any particular industry vary from week to week. Producers of articles of luxury, who look for brisk trade in view of the holiday season, have this Christmas been generally but little busier than at other seasons, while the contraction in other trades has been rather more marked than usual.

Brassworkers, Copper-smiths and Lamp Makers.—Steam-fitting work is steady. Chandelier work is rather better than last month; common gas-fittings are good, and electrical fittings improved. Cabinet brass-founding, which usually employs 10,000 workers, is exceptionally depressed. There has been some little expansion lately in the manufacture of brass clocks and inkstands. The copper-smiths have experienced an exceptional dearth of trade. Many have been suspended, and the remainder have had generally but little to do. Lamp makers are beginning to work on cycle lamps. Railway work has a little fallen off; also domestic lamps.

Bedstead Making.—The condition of this trade has varied during the month, but there has been more or less short employment reported at most factories. The home trade has been much below the average.

Engineers, Tool Makers, Machinists and Metal Rollers have been, with comparatively few exceptions, fairly well employed up to the holidays. One or two factories are busy, and there is a good reserve of work in hand. Metal rolling is inactive for the season.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—Jewellers experienced a slight improvement at the beginning of December, which was not maintained. This applies to the general trade in medium and

common jewellery, on which a vast number of workers are employed. The few who are engaged in best work have found fuller employment at good wages. Silversmiths have been having good work on articles "suitable for presents." Electro-platers have as a rule been fairly employed, and have some work in hand.

Tube and Wire Drawing.—Tube drawing is not up to the average, except in cased tubes. A slight improvement in iron tubes for cycles is perceptible. Wire-drawing is also below the average. Wire-working and weaving are still rather brisk.

Glass Workers are only busy on lamp work. Blowers on table ware are very short of work. Sheet and plate-glass workers have had short employment, but there has been a slight improvement towards the end of the month.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Notwithstanding the open weather the Building Trades complain of short employment. Plumbers' work is steady. The Cycle Trade has been a little busier, and fittings are being made pretty largely in readiness for next season's demand; the trade at Coventry has recently been unsatisfactory, but appears steadier in Birmingham. Gun Makers still find employment on common qualities of sporting guns for export. The home trade for best work is flat. The Cut Nail Trade shows steel nails are most in request. Wire nails are becoming more in demand. Saddlers complain of bad trade generally, and of long depression in brown saddlery; but in cycle saddles there is some activity. Steel-pen making is fairly busy. Tinplate workers are very fairly occupied; the out-of-work percentage is low. Japanners are fairly well employed. Safe-makers have been busy for some time past. The Boot and Shoe Trades, though still depressed, show no backward tendency. Button-making has been fairly steady during the month.

Iron Trade in South Staffordshire.—This trade is still greatly in suspense, waiting for the final settlement of coal prices. All work came to a standstill with the holidays, and just previously there was a little pressure—most mills and forges making good, if not full time. It is difficult to forecast the prospects of this trade. Pig iron, such as finished iron makers use, is coming in from Derbyshire and other places. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is the smallest known for many years.

Coal Mining.—The pressure upon the collieries in this district has gradually abated, down to the Christmas week. But the trade is still unsettled, and will be till the new Conciliation Board gets to work.

Other Trades in South Staffordshire.—There is no special change to report; heavy iron-workers are still engaged on old contracts, and enquiries for chains and cables point to good prospects for a spring trade. Galvanizers have plenty to do; and workers in enamelled iron are still very busy. The nut and bolt workers expect better trade. All other industries are suffering depression.—*W. J. Davis.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The trade has been even more depressed than in November. No branch reports any change for the better; the levers branch never was worse, quite 30 per cent. of the operatives being unemployed, and the remainder being on short time; the warp lace branch has 10 per cent. out of work.

Hosiery Trade.—There is no improvement to report in this trade. Short time is the rule in every branch. In the circular hosiery branch operatives engaged on wool shirts and pants are better employed; but there is a general lack of employment both in factory and warehouse. Griswold knitters continue well employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The number of engineers unemployed has increased to 12 per cent. The fitters and pattern-makers are only moderately busy. The hosiery machine builders are very slack; the lace machine builders are fairly well employed. Generally, the trade is worse than last month. The cycle branch is busy, and is the only one where an improvement has been experienced. The tool machinists report trade as very bad, with 15 per cent. unemployed. The ironfounders have 25 per cent. out of work. The iron dressers report a slight improvement, and have no unemployed. The sinker-makers continue busy. The bobbin and carriage hands report about 5 per cent. out of work. Carriage straighteners and brass workers are fairly busy. The blast furnacemen are very slack.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners return 16 per cent. out of work. The bricklayers and masons are not so busy; the plasterers and plumbers continue well employed. Quite 20 per cent. of the painters are still unemployed. Labourers report trade as bad.

Railways and Coal Industry.—Railway men are fairly busy. At Colwick and Netherfield very few men are out of employment. The collieries throughout Notts. are fairly well employed, with one exception, owing to a breakage in machinery.

Printing Trade.—The lithographic printers report trade as moderate; the letterpress printers as bad. The bookbinders are not so busy as usual at this period of the year, but have no men out of employment. The lithographic artists report trade as worse than at any period within seven years.

Woodworking and kindred Trades.—The mill sawyers have about 9 per cent. unemployed. The wheelwrights have about 10 per cent. unemployed, with several on short time. The coach-builders continue depressed. Perambrot-makers are fairly busy, and also the French-polishers. Cabinet-makers report declining trade, but no unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton doublers are working short time. Both male and female cigar-makers report trade as slack. The farriers are very short of work, having about 8 per cent. unemployed. The gasworkers are fully employed. The brickmakers are fairly busy. The tailors are rather slack, but several firms are working full time. The brushmakers report trade as only moderate. The basket-makers return trade as slack, but with no unemployed. Casual and unskilled labourers are very slack.—*W. L. Harstaff.*

Derbyshire District.

Coal Mining.—Coal miners in this district are now working full time, very few men remaining out of employment; a good business is being done in coke. Mineral traffic on the railways is exceedingly heavy. Railway men of every grade in traffic departments have all been reinstated.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Derby the improvement in the Iron Trade has scarcely been maintained. Engineering and machinery works are slightly worse off, about 10 per cent. being unemployed. The iron moulders remain very dull; the brass moulders and finishers are brisk. The Stovegrate Trade has fallen off considerably, nearly 15 per cent. being unemployed. In the Belper District the same trade is brisk. Bridge, girder and boiler yards are only moderately busy, about 8 per cent. of the boiler-makers being idle. The rivet-makers are fairly well employed. In the district of New Mills all engineering firms are in full work. In the Long Eaton District trade is very bad, except with wagon builders, who are brisk. In the Chesterfield District about 5 per cent. are out of work, and trade is also very bad in Ripley. Glossop is quoted as moderate. Lead and malleable iron workers are fairly well employed. The Iron Wire Trade is rather quiet.

Building Trades.—Trade with the bricklayers has been better. The dispute which commenced in June has been settled and work resumed. The carpenters, joiners and stonemasons report trade as moderate. The quarrymen and stonedressers, and the cement and plaster workers, are fairly well employed. Most timber yards are fully employed. There is no improvement amongst the painters and decorators, nearly 40 per cent. being idle. The plasterers are in a similar condition. The plumbers are very short of work. The sawyers and wood workers' machinists are fully employed. The trade in the Long Eaton District is improving.

Textile Trades.—The Lace and Silk Trades are improving in Derby. In the Belper District frame-work knitters are very slack; the cotton mills are only moderately busy. The Lace Trade in the Long Eaton District is very depressed, about 10 per cent. being unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—Hide and skin workers are very brisk; the Leather Trade is rather dull. The chemical workers are fully employed; the letterpress printers moderately so; the lithographers and bookbinders are dull; the paper-makers report trade as moderate; the paper bag-makers are fairly employed; the elastic web and surgical bandage-makers are well employed; the jewellers and silversmiths are fairly brisk; the paper-stainers and colour-mixers very slack. The bespoke department of the Tailoring Trade is declining; the basket-makers are brisk; the brush-makers quiet; and the bakers and confectioners very busy; flour milling is fairly busy. Dyers and bleachers in the Belper District are very dull, many working short time; the gas workers are fully employed; the organ builders are quiet; railway carriage builders are still only working from four to five days per week; the Coach-building Trade in private shops is also very dull.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Trade prospects are brightening, and most of the shoe firms in the neighbourhood of Leicester have orders which will shortly enable them to employ their full complement of workpeople. In the Northampton District, the men engaged on army contracts are busy, and shoe manufacturers there anticipate a busy spring season. Leather merchants are doing a larger turnover, and both tanners and curriers are busier than last month. The notices served on the Northampton shoe manufacturers to provide workshops for the whole of the rivetters and finishers came into operation on 1st January. Nearly all agreed to do so, but

some of the firms have been unable to make the necessary workshop accommodation, and the executive of the Workmen's Union has, in a few special instances, arranged for an extension of time. In about 20 other cases, where no attempt has been made to comply, a strike to enforce the Union's conditions has been the result, affecting about 100 workers.

Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Trades.—Owing to the mild weather, most hosiery firms found themselves with heavier stocks than usual at the end of the year. Production is now chiefly directed to light fancy articles, particularly merino and cashmere goods for the spring trade, on which some firms are busy. The outlook for the New Year is generally encouraging. An army contract for the supply of shirts and pants, secured by a hosiery firm at Loughborough, will give immediate employment to a number of hand-frame knitters in that district, who have been very slack for some time. The Wool and Yarn Trades show signs of revival; more business is now being transacted and prices are hardening.

Engineering Trade.—Business is moderately good in most departments of the Engineering Trade, and employment fairly regular. The output of the shoe-machinery firms in this district is still on the increase, and all engaged in this particular branch are fully employed. Ironworkers are also well employed.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and labourers are only moderately engaged. Large numbers of painters and general labourers are still out of work. With plasterers work is pretty regular, but more carpenters and joiners are out of employment than last month.

Mining and Quarrying.—The South Leicestershire colliers continue to be fully employed, and the output is kept fairly equal to the demand. In the stone quarries trade remains good, the output large, and employment regular.

Miscellaneous.—The year has been a bad one for the Elastic Shoe Web Trade. Business has been unprofitable, and employment both short and irregular. Prospects, however, are slightly more encouraging. There is also a more healthy demand for braids, cords and other elastic web fabrics. No great improvement can be reported in the Wholesale Ready-made Clothing Trade. Bespoke tailors have, however, been slightly busier. Trade is moderate with jobbing printers and bookbinders, only a few workmen being actually without employment. It is fairly good with cigar-makers, basket-makers, hatters, cabinet-makers and the General Furnishing Trades. Agricultural labourers have had more regular work in consequence of the open season.—*T. Smith.*

Bristol, Somerset and Gloucestershire District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—In Bristol the "indoor" system of working was entered upon on January 1st. The majority of employers had provided proper workshops, and as the operatives are almost unanimous in favour of the system little difficulty is expected in bringing about the change. An improvement in trade has shown itself with some firms, and a good spring season is anticipated. In the district of Kingswood trade continues fairly good.

Clothing Trade.—There is a slight improvement with some of the firms in the wholesale clothing line, which it is expected will develop into a good season's trade. The bespoke tailors are now slack, being in most cases on three-quarter time.

Woollen Trade.—The Trowbridge Woollen Trade continues very depressed, the mills are running short time, and many of the weavers have not had a turn for weeks past.

Building Trades.—A large percentage of the painters, decorators and bricklayers are unemployed; of the carpenters and joiners 3 per cent. are out. The masons and plasterers are very dull. The plumbers and electric wire workers are busy. The painters and decorators of Bath have given notice for an advance in wages of 1d. per hour from May 1st.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—Shipwrights report that for the past five months scarcely any work has been on hand, and at present there is no prospect of improvement. The boiler-makers and rivetters have 25 per cent. out of employment, and many others are upon short time. Work also continues scarce with the ironfounders, who have 15 per cent. unemployed. Engineers and other kindred trades have about 7 per cent. unemployed.

Mining and Quarrying.—The Coal Trade of Radstock (Somerset) has been good during December. There are, however, 340 men and boys still out of employment through the partial closing of some pits. In Dean Forest trade also has been good. The miners in this district have by a majority of four to one voted against a continuance of the sliding scale agreed upon in September last. Consequently notice has been given to the employers to terminate the existing arrangement at the end of June. In the Bristol District a large number of miners are still unemployed, and much distress prevails. Trade is very slack at the West Gloucestershire stone quarries, and the Brick and Tile Industry in the district has not improved.

Shipping.—Dock labourers have had a steady run of work during the month, principally on grain cargoes; sailors and firemen are not so well employed.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Shipping and Mining.—Shipping is reported to be very depressed, causing many vessels to be laid up in the docks for want of freights; there is also a noticeable absence of vessels in port. The seamen complain of slackness, a great number being unable to obtain berths. The dock labourers also have been to a great extent unemployed. The tin miners are reported as slack throughout Cornwall.

Engineering and Building Trades.—Engineers and shipbuilders report trade as very moderate. The masons, bricklayers and plasterers now show a decline, as there are a good many out of employment owing to the season of the year. The carpenters, joiners and plumbers are fairly well employed. The painters are very slack, and report trade bad.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot Trade is reported as very slack in the district for the month. The tailors report trade as bad, both in the bespoke and ready-made departments.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers are not very busy, but may be considered as fairly well employed. Enforcement of the Statute for the closing of bakehouses at 1.30 on Sundays, which was granted by Plymouth last month, has also been obtained in Stonehouse and Devonport. Unskilled labour continues very slack, large numbers of men willing to work are out of employment. Cabinet-makers and upholsterers are reported as very slack. The Labour Registry continues to report a large number on the books, principally of unskilled labourers, and a number are being employed daily in sawing and chopping wood for sale.—*J. Welland.*

Cardiff and District.

Engineering and Ship-repairing.—During the latter part of the month there has been a very perceptible improvement in trade, especially in connection with the engineering and ship-repairing yards. Taking the average for the month the number of unemployed is less than one-half of what it was in November.

Shipping Industries.—Coal and other shipments have been much the same as in November—satisfactorily brisk. The import trade of timber and of iron ore is not much altered, and may be described as moderate. The number seeking employment at the docks, especially towards the end of the month, was considerably less than in the previous month. The seamen and firemen have maintained the same wage standard.

Metal Trades.—The Iron, Steel, Tinplate and Copper-smelting Industries are in much the same condition as last month, but preparations are being made for the re-opening of tin and steel works which have been closed for some time. There have been few disputes during the month, and the greatest strain in that direction has been in connection with the Tinplate Industry; the dispute at Pontymister has assumed a very serious character.

Building Trade.—The trade generally is good, and the books of the skilled branches show a slight diminution in the number of unemployed; this may be taken as giving a fairly correct index of a corresponding decrease amongst the unskilled workmen.—*T. Davies.*

South Wales Mining Districts.

Coal Mining.—The trade for the past month has been very brisk. All the collieries have been working full time, and the prices for immediate shipment remain firm. Colliery owners are very hopeful, notwithstanding the reluctance of the buyers to make large contracts forward. The pending arbitration between the colliery owners and the Home Office in regard to the proposed new code of special rules is engaging the attention of mining experts very much at present.

Tinplate Trade.—The tinplate workers are in great distress. Demands for reductions in wages have been made by the employers and have been withstood, the uniform rate remaining unchanged. Scores of men have done little, if any, work for several months, and hundreds of others have had to find employment outside their trade.—*W. Evans.*

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The compositors, machinemen and stereotypers report trade as improved, the bookbinders, lithographic printers and lithographic artists as much the same as in November; returns from six branches show 2.4 per cent. idle.

Building Trades.—The masons and bricklayers report trade as fair, with no idle men; the joiners, plasterers, slaters, plumbers and glaziers as quiet, and the lath-splitters as bad; returns from eight branches show 3.7 per cent. out of work. The painters report trade as bad, with 30 per cent. of their numbers idle.

Coal Mining and Mineral Oil Trades.—The Coal Trade in the Lothians continues brisk, and employment for miners is expected to remain steady for some time. In Mid and East Lothian the dispute near Dalkeith has ended, the miners having agreed to keep the mines going eleven days per fortnight by taking their idle day in sections. About 50 miners in East Lothian who did not participate in the last advance of 10 per cent. have recently obtained it. In West Lothian a small dispute—a continuation of the late general one—is in progress. Those who got the advance of 1s. per day during the recent dispute have since lost it. The Mineral Oil Trade is in a prosperous condition at present, all sections of the workers being well employed.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—The pattern-makers, engineers, blacksmiths and coppersmiths report trade as still bad, though there is a slight improvement in the Leith branches. The brassfounders and tinsmiths are about the same as last month; nine branches return 6 per cent. on the idle roll. The iron-moulders report trade as slightly improved, though still bad. The shipbuilders have been fairly well employed on repairing work; the boiler-makers have no idle men, but the shipwrights return 12.5 per cent. unemployed.

Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.—The cabinet-makers report trade as dull; the French-polishers and upholsterers as bad; returns from three branches show 6.6 per cent. on the idle roll.

Miscellaneous.—The carpet-weavers, saw-mill operatives, sett-makers, horseshoe-makers, gilders and brushmakers report trade good, with few idle men. The paper-making and india-rubber trades are described as, on the whole, fair. The bakers have been well employed. The coopers report a further improvement. The flint-glass makers and cutters report trade as fair, the stoneware throwers, tailors, shoemakers, skimmers, tanners, curriers, coach-builders and saddlers as bad; returns from eight branches show 6.5 per cent. out of work. The Town Council are endeavouring to ascertain the number of unemployed men in the city.—*J. Mallinson.*

[CORRECTION.—The reference to the shoemakers in last month's GAZETTE should have stated that the improvement in their trade had not been maintained.]

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Mining.—The trade in Ayrshire has been well sustained since the termination of the recent dispute. The extra 1s. per day conceded at certain collieries during the dispute has been taken off. In Lanarkshire the demand for all sorts of coal has not diminished to any extent since work was resumed. At all the works where the advance of 1s. was granted it has been withdrawn. In Stirlingshire the same reduction has been made. Trade is brisk at Maryhill. Notice of a reduction of 1s. per day has been made on the iron ore miners, which will reduce their wages to the level of the early part of the year.

Shipbuilding.—Although there is not much briskness in this industry, and matters are always at a standstill at the end of the year, there seems to be a hopeful spirit amongst the men. Shipwrights report that trade has been much the same as last month, but that they expect a number to be started on full time after the holidays.

Steel and Iron Trades.—The steel smelters and the millmen report that the steel works have been able to re-start, and the usual holidays have been dispensed with. Since the close of the dispute, 32 furnaces have been re-lit, making 43 in all. The blacksmiths report that trade has been rather falling off, with an increase of unemployed; this position, however, is more due to the existing difficulties with other trades than to a scarcity of work in their own. The Trade Society has been bearing the present strain upon it without any difficulty. The iron moulders report no change. The tinplaters have a considerable number idle. The iron dressers report trade during the month as very bad. The position of the blast furnace men is reported to be better, as a considerable number of furnaces are being re-lit. The file-cutters report that trade still continues good; they have no unemployed. The scale-beam and weighing machine makers are also brisk. The range-stove and ornamental fitters report that range-fitting during the month has been comparatively dull. The tool makers and machinists, and the sewing machine and cycle makers report that all branches are very quiet.

Building Trades.—The joiners, masons and slaters report trade as fairly good; the sett makers as exceptionally good for the season. The bricklayers and paviors report trade as very dull; the plasterers as improved, with no members idle; both house and ship painters are very slack, not more than one-third being employed.

Furnishing Trades.—The plate-glass workers have been dull, with few men wholly unemployed, but the majority partially so. The gilders have very few idle men, as this is their busy season. The upholsterers report no improvement.

Woodworking Trades.—The coopers report trade as very bad, with a considerable increase in the numbers unemployed. The saw-mill operatives have three-fourths of their men on short time, and 10 per cent. out of work. The basket-makers are all at work, but the prospects are not good.

Textile Trades.—The warpers report trade as very bad. The power-loom beamers and the pattern weavers as rather dull.

Clothing Trades.—The shoemakers and boot and shoe riveters report some improvement, and the tailors that trade is very bad.

Shipping.—The sailors and firemen report a slight improvement, but are still very quiet. The dock labourers are considerably better off.

Miscellaneous.—The printers have not been very busy, and the bookbinders have also been quiet. The stoneware throwers report no improvement; two firms are standing idle and two others are on half-time. The coachmakers have still 5 per cent. unemployed, with little prospect of improvement. The saddlers have been fully employed. The hackney carriage drivers are in the same position as before. The bakers are still very slack. The tobacco pipe makers are steadily employed, and have been so for the last three years. The spindle and flyer-makers have been working overtime ever since the end of October. The general labourers report that work with them is still fairly good.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Jute and Linen Trades.—Although no pronounced improvement in these industries has yet taken place, the prospects are much brighter. Several firms have increased the working hours, bringing them nearer the maximum. Advantage has been taken by several firms of the holidays for alterations and repairs of machinery, but the majority of the larger firms have unexpectedly curtailed the usual holidays, much under what has been customary in past years. The Lochee Works in most cases are now working full time. In the Linen Trade of Dunfermline, a marked impetus is reported to have taken place, and the demand for workers has improved. Everything points to an improvement in the Textile Industries of this district.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—These various trades show no marked improvement, the large percentage of unemployed remaining about the same.

Building Trades.—Owing to the weather, large numbers of outside workers have been temporarily thrown out of employment. The masons, plasterers and plumbers are fairly well employed, other branches have a considerable percentage of idle men, but not more than is usual at this season.

Fife and Kinross Coal Trade.—There is no alteration, the satisfactory state of affairs reported last month still continuing.

Miscellaneous.—In the Printing and kindred Trades there is not more than the average amount of work at this particular season, the number of unemployed being slightly in excess of recent years. No improvement has taken place in the Tailoring and Boot and Shoe Trades since last report, and slackness still prevails. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are only fairly busy.—*R. D. B. Ritchie.*

Aberdeen and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—There is a slight improvement since last month, and a few more hands are finding employment, but the returns show that there are still about 29 per cent. of the shipwrights unemployed. The iron shipbuilders and boiler-makers are better employed, as a good deal of repairing work is being done. The ironmoulders are also better employed, and have now only 20 per cent. idle. The engineers and blacksmiths are still dull, and a number of the tinplate workers have not found employment since the close of the herring fishing in August.

Building Trades.—House building is busy, and masons, plasterers and slaters are fully employed. A dispute which has been pending for some time between the carpenters and joiners and their employers has reached a crisis, and the employees of 48 firms are "out" against a reduction of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour, and the abolition of the existing bye-laws. A proposal has been made to refer the matter to the chairman of the Conciliation and Arbitration Board, but the employers have not yet agreed to this course.

Quarrying.—The monumental masons are still very dull; the idle roll has been increased considerably by the return of a number of men from America.

Textile Trades.—The Woollen Trade is fairly good, the Cotton Trade is good, and the Linen Trade is fair. None of the firms carrying on these trades have resorted to short time this year, and on the whole trade has been good throughout. The Jute Trade is still dull.

Fishing.—The catch of fish landed for the past month has been less than for some months back, but good prices were obtained.

Miscellaneous.—Combmaking is dull. Coachbuilding is fair. The Boot and Shoe Trade is fully up to the average, and prospects are good. The tailors are very dull. Papermaking is fairly good. The letterpress printers are fairly well employed. General labourers are far in excess of the demand.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building, Woodworking and Iron Trades.—A slackness has been experienced throughout the Building Trade, and an additional number of men have been thrown out of work, but the plasterers still report trade as fair, and the lath splitters also. As a result of the slackness in the Building Trades there are many labourers unemployed. The upholsterers are fairly employed. Work is bad in the Cabinet-making Industry. The coopers are kept fairly going, but employment has been very bad in the Engineering, Whitesmith and Boiler-making Trades. Work keeps steady with the coach-builders and kindred industries, but the saddlers are dull.

Food and Clothing Trades.—The confectioners are busy, as are also the bakers and mineral water operatives. The members of the Journeymen Butchers' Society, the provision assistants, grocers' assistants and shop assistants generally, were busy at the beginning of the month for the Christmas trade, but a slackness has now set in. Employment is fair among the hotel and club assistants. Business is moderate in the Tailoring and Bootmaking Industries, while work with the corkcutters and basket-makers is slack.

Printing and Allied Trades.—Work may be described as good among the members of the Dublin Typographical Society, still the number signing the unemployed roll (99 for the month) cannot be considered small at this time, and of this number 34 were entitled to out-of-work benefit. The Lithographic Trade is also slack, with several members unemployed. In the Bookbinding and Paper-ruling Industry work is fair. The stereotypers and electrotypers have all their members employed.

Fishing Industry.—This industry has been seriously interfered with owing to the recent storms, the boats being badly damaged; the owners being poor a subscription list has been opened for repairs before they can again go to sea, and in consequence a large number of fishermen are idle.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle-makers, tram-men and railway servants are fairly well employed. Employment has been fair among the cab and carmen, but very slack among the quay labourers. Employment is still scarce among seamen. Work among the seamstresses and dressmakers has been slack, and in consequence compulsory holidays have been enforced.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

The returns for the month of December received from 76 branches of societies, with a membership of 18,523, show 1,392, or 7.5 per cent., to be unemployed at the close of the year.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Of the 8,986 members of the various trade societies in these industries, 1,094, or 12.2 per cent., are unemployed, as against 830 last month. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders having received from their employers notice of a 5 per cent. reduction on their wages from January 1st, a strike has arisen. The blacksmiths' helpers, enginemen and crane-men report trade as quiet; machine workers, carpenters and joiners, cabinet-makers, polishers and shipwrights as very quiet; the pattern-makers as middling; the boiler-makers as very slack; the brass-founders and the labourers as very dull; and the engineers and ironfounders as bad.

Building Trades.—The returns from the eight branches in this industry show that out of 2,563 organised workers, 161 are unemployed, as against 132 in November. The carpenters and joiners report trade as very dull; bricklayers, bricklayers' and plasterers' assistants and painters as dull; the plumbers as quiet; the plasterers and mill-sawyers as fair, and the paviors as good.

Linen Industry.—Out of 3,151 members of societies in this industry, only 60, or 2 per cent., are unemployed, as against 351 in November, though a great many are only working three-quarter time. This large decrease in the number of unemployed is mainly amongst the flax roughers. The yarn dressers report trade as very bad; the power-loom tenters as dull; the bobbin turners as quiet; the beetling enginemen, flax dressers, flax roughers, and hackle and gill makers as fair, and the collar and apron cutters as good.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The returns from 19 branches in this group show that out of 3,823 members 77 are in search of employment, as against 112 in November. The bakers, bookbinders, butchers and railway servants report trade as fair; the coopers as very fair; the loco. engine-drivers as good; the letterpress printing and Furnishing Trades as quiet; the tinplate workers and packing-case makers as middling; the carters as very quiet; the lithographic printers

as bad; the coachbuilders, litho. artists and sailmakers as very bad; and the tailors as very dull, with almost all shops working short time. [The town's meeting, held to consider the best means of assisting the weavers of the district, reported last month, was held at Newtownards, not at Belfast.]—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Building Trades.—Since last report the various Building Trades, including stonemasons, masons, plasterers, painters and glaziers show no change, trade being dull in all these branches. The carpenters and joiners report trade as dull. The plumbers, gas-fitters and tinsmiths are busy. The Building Trades in Limerick, Waterford and Dungarvan have declined, while in Skibbereen and Bandon they are reported as fair.

Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—There has been a decided improvement in the Engineering Trade in Cork during the month, but in Limerick and Waterford trade is reported as bad. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, the shipwrights, ship-joiners, riggers and sailmakers, and the dock labourers in Cork, Queens-town and Passage have shown a great improvement. This is chiefly due to a number of disabled vessels being repaired in port.

Miscellaneous.—The cabinet-makers, general furnishers, and coach-makers report trade as very bad. The mill-sawyers, coopers, letterpress printers, bootmakers and boot riveters report trade as good. Grocers and wine merchants' assistants, also bakers and cork cutters, are kept steadily employed. The tailors in Cork show no change since last month, but there is an improvement in that industry in Limerick and Waterford. The tailors' and carpenters' strikes still continue.—*P. O'Shea.*

NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

A MEETING of the representatives of the Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Great Britain, and of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, was held on Saturday and Monday, the 6th and 8th January, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Leicester. Alderman Sir Thomas Wright was again elected president, and Sir Henry James, Q.C., M.P., was requested to act as umpire to the Arbitration Board.

Sir Henry James attended to hear evidence as to certain disputed points arising out of awards made by him in previous cases. The mode of carrying on the industry is highly technical, and such differences are common. Under an award made in May of last year, it was provided that while manufacturers might give out certain work to be done by owners of machines employing men and boys, this should apply to machine work only, and no "substantial hand-work" is to be allowed to be done in such cases. The operatives alleged that the principle of this award is violated, and that hand-work, which is not a necessary adjunct of the machining process, is also done by such persons at less than the recognised rates of wages. Specimens of work in various stages of manufacture were submitted to the umpire, who requested the operatives to supply him in writing with the precise nature of the operations to which they objected as being contrary to the principle of his award.

Also in May of last year the umpire had awarded that young men on reaching the age of twenty years should be paid the minimum wage rate of the trade. It was now alleged that the manufacturers evaded this ruling by discharging young men as soon as they become entitled to receive the minimum wage rate. It was said in such cases that the young men were discharged because they were incompetent and were not able to cut out a hide to the best advantage. The operatives contended that before a young man was discharged under circumstances which would prevent him being employed elsewhere, he should have the right to an appeal to the Arbitration Board. The umpire decided that when young men came of age the Union should give notice of the fact to the employer. As to the more important point raised, the umpire will give his decision in writing. The operatives laid an objection to the system of employing girls to put the "sock" into boots and shoes, contending that this is the work of the finishers, and that such an employment of girls was equal to an increase in the recognised proportion of apprentices. The umpire, while willing to give a decision on this point if pressed,

thought that the Associations might arrange it themselves. The umpire was also invited to say whether under his award of August 22nd 1892, restricting the number of apprentices, makers of "Nursery" goods were entitled to claim exemption from such restriction if they had not made such claim within the period of six months as allowed by the award. The umpire now decided that this limitation of time while applying strictly to districts, did not prevent individual employers now making application for exemption. These points being disposed of, Sir Henry James retired, and the President again took the chair. Certain local grievances at Rushden and Croydon were then dealt with.

The most important issue, however, raised during the sittings, had relation to the introduction of the "team system" in connection with hand-work, which the manufacturers now propose. This was further complicated by the question as to whether the introduction of a piece-work scale necessarily supersedes payment by weekly wages. On these points there were strongly marked differences of opinion. Finally, a motion by the manufacturers for an adjournment for a month was agreed to by the operatives.

THE ORDNANCE FACTORIES AND THE EIGHT HOURS' DAY.

THE following statement has been received with regard to the changes in the hours of labour which are being made in the Ordnance Factories under the control of the War Office.

On January 5th, in answer to a question in Parliament by Mr. Burns, M.P., the Secretary of State for the War Department made the following statement:—

"I have carefully considered the question of reducing the hours of labour in the ordnance factories, which has been urged upon me by my hon. friend himself and by other members, and by several deputations. The result of my inquiries has been to satisfy myself and my colleagues that the condition and the circumstances of these factories, and the nature of the work done in them is such as to admit of the hours of labour being reduced to forty-eight per week, or eight hours a day, with advantage both to the public service and to the men employed; and I will direct that the change shall be brought into operation as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. I would add that I look for the cordial co-operation of all the workmen in carrying into effect this change, which I trust will be greatly beneficial to them."

The expediency of reducing the hours of labour in the Government factories has been for some time under the consideration of the Government, and especially of the War Office. The declaration made by Mr. Campbell-Bannerman on the 5th inst. is the result of careful enquiries into the working of practical experiments in private engineering works and other manufactories, the productions of which are analogous to those of the great ordnance and small arms factories at Woolwich, Enfield and Birmingham. The results in all such cases have proved satisfactory in every material particular. As regards the amount and quality of the work done, the change made scarcely any appreciable difference in the proportion borne by wages to output, whilst there is conclusive evidence of saving resulting from lost time, economy of fuel and gas, and diminution of wear and tear of machinery. Partial experiments in the same direction made at Woolwich have produced similar results.

It is hoped that the new system will be brought into working order by the end of the present month, as far as the ordnance factories are concerned. More than 14,000 workpeople will be immediately affected by the change. It is probable that work will begin about 8 a.m., to allow for breakfasting before leaving home. Where desired the dinner-hour may be somewhat increased, and work would in any case close not later than six on ordinary days and 12.15 on Saturdays. On the other hand, by commencing at a quarter to eight and retaining the hour for dinner, work may cease at 5.30 on five days, and at noon on Saturday. These arrangements may be modified to suit local convenience and in conformity with what may be found to be the general desire of the workmen, so far as is consistent with efficient administration.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

(Based on information supplied by the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, of the Board of Supervision in Scotland, and of the Scotch Office.)

(1.) Compared with the figures for the corresponding date in December 1892, there has been an increase of pauperism in all of the 35 selected districts, except one (viz., Bolton, Oldham, &c.). On the whole, the rate per 10,000 of population has risen from 212 in December 1892 to 232 in December 1893.

(2.) Compared, however, with the previous month (November 1893), there does not, on the whole, appear to have been any marked advance in pauperism.

Table showing the number of paupers in certain selected districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of December 1893, and on the corresponding date in 1892.

Table with columns: District, Population in 1893, Paupers on one day in second week of December 1893 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Population, Total No. of Paupers on corresponding date in 1892.

Table showing Pauperism in October 1884-93, with columns: Year, Estimated Population, Average Number Relieved in October, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population.

Table showing Pauperism in October 1884-93 (continued), with columns: Year, Estimated Population, Average Number Relieved in October, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population.

* These figures represent the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

It has been thought desirable to collect and publish from time to time the undermentioned particulars with regard to the current operations of certain Labour Bureaux at work in the United Kingdom.

(1) Work Done in December.

Table with columns: District, Chelsea, St. Pancras, St. Mary Battersea, Salford, Ipswich, Egham, New applications in December, Persons found work through Bureaux in December, No. of Persons on Register at end of December.

(2) Occupations of Applicants on Registers at End of December.

Table with columns: Occupations, Chelsea, St. Pancras, St. Mary Battersea, Salford, Ipswich, Egham, Men, Women and Girls, Lads and Boys, Grand Total.

* This is the number on register after deducting number found work by bureau or known to have found work for themselves.

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER 1884-93.

THE table below is compiled from a Parliamentary Paper issued by the Local Government Board, the figures for October 1893 being the latest published.

Table giving an average of the number of persons relieved in England and Wales on the last day of each week of October for each year from 1884 to 1893 inclusive, and the rate per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table with columns: Year, Estimated Population, Average Number Relieved in October, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population.

* Estimated population in the middle of each year.

FOREIGN TRADE IN 1893.

The declared value of the imports last month was £36,747,392 as compared with £37,879,129 in December, 1892, and £43,261,980 in December, 1891.

A.—Table showing the value of the Imports for 1893 and 1892 respectively, classed according to nature of the article imported.

Table with columns: Article, 1893, 1892, Amount, Per cent.

B.—Table showing for each Quarter in 1893 and 1892 the total value of Imports into the United Kingdom.

Table with columns: Quarter, 1893, 1892, Decrease in 1893.

* Owing to slight unpublised alterations in the returns for the first eleven months this total is not an exact addition of the items in the columns.

British and Irish Exports.

The value of the British and Irish produce and manufactures exported in December was £17,269,074, in December 1892, £19,304,636, and in December 1891, £19,839,815.

For the whole of 1893, the British and Irish exports were valued at £218,496,246, a decrease when compared with the previous year of £8,580,807 or 3.8 per cent.

A.—Table showing the value of the Exports for 1893 and 1892, respectively, classed according to nature of article exported.

Table with columns: Article, 1893, 1892, Decrease.

B.—Statement showing for each Quarter in 1893 and 1892 the total value of British and Irish goods exported from the United Kingdom.

Table with columns: Quarter, 1893, 1892, Decrease.

* This is not an exact total of the addition of the figures given for four quarters.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Emigration.—The number of emigrants of British origin from the United Kingdom last month was 6,073, as compared with 8,293 in December 1892.

During the year 1893 the total number of British emigrants was 209,117, and of foreigners and undistinguished nationality 98,633, these numbers being decreases of 925 and 12,722 respectively.

Table showing the Destination and Nationality of passengers that left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during 1893 and 1892 respectively.—

Table with columns: Destination, British, Foreign, TOTAL.

* Including 3,729 whose nationality was not stated.

Immigration.—The number of aliens recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom from the Continent last month was 2,472, of whom 884 were stated to be en route to America.

The total immigration for the year 1893 was 112,306 persons, as compared with 126,165 in 1892. The number stated to be bound for America was 78,848 in 1893, and 93,679 in 1892.

Cotton Statistics.—During December the number of bales of cotton imported was 660,185, and exported, 43,575, as compared with 623,797 bales imported, and 61,379 exported, in December 1892.

For the year 1893 the total imports were 3,177,043 bales, as compared with 3,775,820 bales in 1892, a decrease during 1893 of 15.9 per cent.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankrupts gazetted during December was 412, as compared with 387 in December 1892.

For the year 1893 the number of bankruptcies was 4,911, an increase of 237 when compared with the previous year.

Traffic Receipts.—For the five weeks ended December 31st the receipts of 23 of the principal railway companies in the United Kingdom amounted to £6,772,681, an increase of £73,482, or 1.1 per cent.

The increases are due in nearly every case to the traffic in minerals and goods. The increase in total receipts is limited to 12 of the 23 lines, the amount received for the five weeks being £4,646,938, or 2.6 per cent. above last year's receipts in the same period.

TRADE DISPUTES OF THE MONTH.

TWENTY-THREE new disputes have occurred in December, which is the smallest number recorded in any one month since December 1892.

In the Building Trades 2 disputes occurred, owing to proposed reduction in wages, and in one of these disputes the men are also resisting the proposed abolition of the present working rules.

In the Metal and Mining Trades 8 disputes took place, 5 of which were for increased wages or resistance to proposed reductions, and of the 7 occurring in the Textile Trades, 4 were also due to the same causes.

In the Shipbuilding Trade 1 dispute took place, the men objecting to be placed on short time during a slack period. The remaining disputes were in various miscellaneous trades, and were of little importance.

The geographical distribution of the 24 disputes is as follows:—Six Northern Counties 12, Scotland 5, London and Midland Counties 3, Western Counties and Wales 3.

Of disputes which commenced in previous months 8 were brought to a settlement in December, including 1 in the Yorkshire Coal Trade of 15 months' duration, and 2 which were more or less part of the recent great coal disputes in England and Scotland.

At the end of December it was known that 21 previously reported disputes were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER 1893.

Table with 7 columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons affected, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result.

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

Table with 7 columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons affected, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN PREVIOUS TO DECEMBER, AND WERE PARTIALLY SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

Glass Bottle Makers, Scotland.—Commenced about 1st July. The dark metal portion of the trade at Portobello and Glasgow effected a settlement on the 28th December, an advance in wages of 1s. per week being given but an increased production required, the hours remaining as before.

The settlement of the pale metal men reported last month has been altered in one particular, the Employers' Association refusing to ratify the reduction in hours, and after working for three days at the 50 hours' rate, the 52½ hours per week system was resumed.

IV.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN PREVIOUS TO DECEMBER, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as occurring in November are still unsettled:—Calico engravers, Glasgow; boot and shoe operatives, Bristol; brushmakers, Dundee; as were also brickmakers in one establishment at Bootle, joiners in one firm at Hartlepool, masons at Pontypridd, and joiners at Ryhope, Sunderland, intelligence of which arrived too late for insertion.

The following, which began before November, were also unsettled at the end of December:—Stove-grate workers, Derby; masons, Halifax; belting and hose-pipe weavers, Pendleton, Manchester; glass bottle makers, York; steel workers, Pontymister; tailors, Cork; carpenters, Cork and Limerick; coke burners, Tingley, Leeds; coal miners, Wortley, Leeds; tailors, London, W.; gun-lock filers, Darlington; ship joiners, River Clyde; cotton spinners and cardroom hands, Darwen.

The boot and shoe operatives at one establishment in Derby, who have been out since September, effected a settlement on 5th of present month (January).

OVERCROWDED TENEMENTS.

THE habitations of the people are dealt with much more fully in the General Report on the Census of England and Wales of 1891,* which has just been issued, than in the Report for 1881. The number of houses in which the people live has been enumerated at each successive census, but in 1891, for the first time, account was also taken of all tenements with less than five rooms. The results of this enumeration are summarised below. The Report, however, gives reasons for supposing that the returns should not be regarded as more than approximately correct.

The number of inhabited houses was returned as 5,451,497, which with a population of 29,002,525 yields an average of rather more than five persons per house. This average has not materially altered during the last 20 years. Where space is valuable and the houses of large size the average is higher than five. London, for instance, has an average of 7.7 persons to a house, Newcastle-on-Tyne 7.3, and Sunderland 7.0. Manchester and Birmingham are, however, very little over five.

A tenement is defined as "any house or part of a house separately occupied by the owner or by a tenant," and as it was found that on the average each house contained 1.12 distinct occupancies, the number of tenements is, of course, larger than the number of houses, namely, 6,131,001, with an average of 4.7 persons. These 6,131,001 tenements or homes were classed as follows—

Table with 4 columns: Tenements with, No. of Tenements, Total Occupants, Percentage of Population.

From these figures it will be seen that more than half of the population, or 54.9 per cent., lived in tenements of five or more rooms, 2.2 per cent. lived in single-roomed tenements, 8.3 per cent. in two-roomed tenements, 11.1 per cent. in three-roomed tenements, and 23.5 per cent. in tenements with four rooms. It is found, as might be expected, that, taking all tenements, the fewer the rooms in a tenement the larger the proportion of occupants per room: single-roomed tenements averaging 2.23 persons, and four-roomed tenements about half this number, namely, 1.16 per room. Taking into consideration the fact that many of the single-roomed tenements are occupied by single men or couples without children, and that the fewer the number of rooms in a tenement the greater the probability that the rooms themselves are small, the Report concludes that these figures "suggest much overcrowding" in the smaller tenements. An overcrowded tenement is defined as one in which the average number of occupants per room rises above two, and it is calculated that, after excluding all tenements with less than an average of two occupants per room, there were 481,653 overcrowded tenements, with 3,258,044 persons, or 11.23 per cent. of the population—the average number per room being 2.8. The most numerous among overcrowded tenements are those consisting of two rooms, the next in order being three-roomed tenements, and then those with one room.

The Report goes on to show that there was nearly

50 per cent. more overcrowding in the towns than in the country, the percentage of the population living in 1.4 roomed overcrowded tenements (i.e., with an average of more than two occupants per room) being 12.31 in towns and 8.46 in the country. A comparison for each of the four groups may be interesting.

Table with 4 columns: Urban Districts, Rural Districts, No., Per cent.

Some very striking differences among large towns in the matter of overcrowding are brought out in the Report. The following statement gives the six towns with the highest and lowest percentages of overcrowded persons respectively:—

Table with 4 columns: Town, Highest, Lowest.

The Report observes on these figures:—"Portsmouth and Plymouth would appear to be towns having much resemblance to each other in their general character; yet in Portsmouth less than 2 per cent. of the population are apparently overcrowded, while in Plymouth the percentage is over 26. Leicester and Bradford again are two large industrial towns, both engaged in textile manufactures; for the former the percentage is 2.22, and for the latter 20.61, or nearly 10 times as high. Possibly accurate local knowledge may be able to account for such remarkable contrasts; but there is nothing in the data supplied by the census that, so far as we can discover, throws light on it."

In London the number of tenements of less than five rooms was 672 in every 1,000 tenements, while the number for England and Wales, as a whole, was 523. In England and Wales 47 per 1,000 were of one room only: in London there were 184 of this class, Plymouth, with 244, being the only large town with a higher ratio. Of two-roomed tenements, there were 202 per 1,000 tenements in London, and 114 in England and Wales; but the figure for London was exceeded by Gateshead, 370; Newcastle, 304; Sunderland, 292; Halifax, 272; Plymouth, 270; and Huddersfield, 206.

The percentage of persons living more than two in a room was 19.71 in London, and 11.23 in England and Wales. Gateshead, Newcastle, Sunderland, Plymouth, Halifax, Bradford and Huddersfield all showed a higher percentage of overcrowding than London.

The figures for certain districts in London would, of course, be much higher than the average for London as a whole.

The number of persons living in overcrowded tenements in London was about one-fourth of the total number in England and Wales, the figures being 830,182 for London, and 2,427,862 for the rest of England.

The Report also gives a table comparing the amount of overcrowding in certain counties, but the comparison is largely affected by the character of the county. It goes on to state that—

"Speaking generally, it would appear that the coal-bearing counties are those where the crowding of dwellings is most severe. Northumberland and Durham, if the figures are to be trusted, are far away the worst in this respect."

* For particulars of overcrowding in the various districts in London, see the Inaugural Address of the President of the Royal Statistical Society in 1893. The figures given therein were based on information supplied from the Census Office by the Registrar-General. (Journal of Statistical Society, December 1893.)

* Census of England and Wales, General Report. (C. 7,422 of 1893.) Price 1s. 3d.

PROVISION FOR OLD AGE BY TRADE SOCIETIES.—(Concluded.)

THE following statement has been prepared, in continuation of similar tables in the July, August, November, and December LABOUR GAZETTE, to show the extent to which Trade Societies make provision for superannuation, the conditions under which such superannuation is granted, its amount, the numbers in receipt of it during last year, and other particulars. The Societies are grouped by trades, and the present number includes the Clothing, Glass, Transport, and Miscellaneous Trades, in which it appears that, in 1892, ten Societies, numbering 66,131 members, made payments amounting in the aggregate to £10,666 to their aged members, who numbered 902 at the end of that year.

NAME OF TRADE SOCIETY.	Number of Members at end of 1892.	Date of Establishment of the Superannuation Benefit.	Numb'r of Members receiving Superannuation Benefit at the close of 1892.	Superannuation paid during 1892.	Weekly Contributions to Union.		Years.	Qualifications and Conditions for Receipt of Superannuation Benefit.			Weekly Rate of Superannuation.
					Ordinary Members. (Maximum)*	Superannuated Members.		Minimum Age.	Conditions as regards incapacity.	Conditions as regards employment, income or number.	
Dublin Operative Bakers' Trade Union	658	1872	30	£ 780	s. d.	s. d.	...	Members incapable of working on account of old age or infirmity	Number of superannuated members limited to 30	30 years' members, ros.	
United Society of Brush-makers	1,583	1782	62	910	1 4 1/2	Nil.	...	All members incapable of working at trade through affliction or infirmities of age	...	14 years' members, 4s.; 21 years, 5s.; 28 years, 6s.	
Clothing Trades:—Amalgamated Society of Tailors	16,732	1881	361	3,600	0 9	0 5 1/2	60	All members 60 years of age, and unable to follow the trade on an equality with other workmen	No restriction as to employment	12 years' members, 2s. 6d.; 20 years, 5s.	
Scottish National Operative Tailors' Trade Protection and Benefit Society	3,959	...	98	815	0 6	All members unfit to work through old age, accident or blindness	...	2s. 6d. to 4s., according to membership.	
South Yorkshire District Steam Engine-men's Protection Association	505	1884	4	22	0 7 1/2	...	60	All members unable to obtain the ordinary rate of wages	Entitled irrespective of income derived from private means, or any other calling	20 to 21 years' members, 2s. 6d.; 25 to 30 years, 3s. 6d.; 30 to 35 years, 4s.; 35 years and upwards, 5s.	
Permanent Amalgamated Farriers' Protection Society	603	1882	16	149	0 8	Nil.	...	All members, under 40 years of age at time of joining, becoming disabled from work through old age or infirmity	Superannuated members elected subject to approval of General Meeting	7 years' members, 4s.	
Glass Manufacture:—North of England Society of Glass Bottle Makers	288	1873	9	43	1 0	0 3	Nil.	All members totally unable to work for a living, either in bottle works or any other calling	...	15 years' members, 4s.; 20 years, 5s.	
National Society of Flint Glass Makers of Great Britain and Ireland	2,155	1853	217	2,207	2 3	...	56	Members incapacitated from earning a livelihood through age or any other natural causes	Superannuated members not to exceed 10 per quarter	10 to 20 years' members, 2s.; 20 to 25, 3s.; 25 to 30, 4s.; 30 to 35, 5s.; 35 years and over, 6s. Also £9 from General Fund; or grant not exceeding £50.	
Transport:—Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales	32,958	1873	56	1,720	0 5	...	60	All 20 years' members, £20	...	10 years' members, 5s.; 15 years, 6s.; 20 years, 7s. 6d.	
Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen	6,710	1880	19	420	1 0	...	60	All members rendered incapable of following their employment by reason of permanent sickness, loss of eyes or limbs, or the use thereof, or by old age or other infirmity	...	10 years' members, 5s.; 15 years, 6s.; 20 years, 7s. 6d.	

* In this, and in the previous Tables, the contributions given are the full contributions of members entitled to all the benefits of the Unions. Some Unions have graduated scales of contributions, the members paying on the lower scales being excluded from certain benefits.

The above table when read in conjunction with the preceding four tables completes the list, so far as the information of the Department extends, of Trade Societies which in the year 1892 provided Superannuation Benefit. It thus appears that the total number of such Societies was 49, including 367,346 members, and that during 1892 they made payments amounting to £102,394 to their aged members, who numbered 6,123 at the end of that year. The five tables in which the particulars relating to Superannuation are contained may be summarized thus:—

	Number of Unions.	Number of Members (Close of 1892).	Number receiving Superannuation Benefit (Close of 1892).	Superannuation Payments made during 1892.
Building Trades	9	104,657	876	£ 13,146 0 0
Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades	11	155,365	3,617	68,900 0 0
Furnishing and Wood Working Trades	6	8,256	207*	4,170 0 0
Printing and Kindred Trades	8	30,265	354	4,907 0 0
Textile Trades	5	2,672	74	605 0 0
Clothing Trades	2	20,691	459	4,415 0 0
Miscellaneous	8	45,410	443	6,251 0 0
Totals	49	367,346	6,123*	102,394 0 0

* Does not include the number of members of the Amalgamated Union of Cabinet Makers receiving Superannuation Benefit, only the total amount paid during 1892 on that benefit being obtainable (viz., £47).

Index to Census Volumes.—England and Wales.—The index to the population tables in Volumes I. and II. of the Report on the 1891 Census in England and Wales, contains in alphabetical order the names of all places separately set out in those tables, the county, registration district and poor law union in which each place is situate, its population at the date of the census, the number (as given in the census tables) of its registration district and sub-district, and the volume and page on which particulars of the place will be found. Cross references are given where considered necessary.

Index to the Population Tables of England and Wales. (C.—7,216 of 1893.) Price 1s. 6d.

The Agricultural Labourer.*—The Labour Commission has issued an analytical index and a general index to the Reports of the Assistant Agricultural Commissioners on English districts. The object of the analytical index is to give a synopsis of the information contained in the Reports on the main heads of the inquiry set out in the instructions to the Assistant Commissioners. The object of the general index is to show where information upon any particular topic is to be found.

* The Agricultural Labourer. Vol. I.—England Part VII. Indexes. (C.—6,894.—XIII.) Price 8d.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES AND SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

(Monthly Report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official reports, answers from correspondents, and newspapers, mostly dated November and December last.)

Canada.—A report from Victoria, British Columbia, states: "The Province is suffering from the depression in trade, and there are a number of men out of work." The last December Bulletin of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture states: "The supply of farm help last harvest was reported fully equal to the demand. There is no demand for labourers at present." The bonus given by the Canadian Government to settlers taking up land in the Manitoba, the North-West and British Columbia will be discontinued on March 1st next.

New South Wales.—Reports dated November state, from Richmond: "Scarcely any demand for farm or station hands, and little or none for mechanics. Great demand for general female servants." From Hay: "A good farm or station hand, if industrious and sober, can always command good wages; there is an occasional demand for blacksmiths, masons, general labourers and painters." The Government Labour Bureau, since its establishment in February 1892, had, up to November 1893, found employment for 14,695 of the 27,663 persons who had registered themselves there as unemployed.

Victoria.—An official report received this month draws attention to the new Act which establishes village communities, homestead associations and labour colonies, mainly for the benefit of the unemployed. [Further particulars with regard to this Act and its working are given on the next page.]

South Australia.—A report dated November, from Mintaro (83 miles N. of Adelaide), states: "Mechanics of all classes are walking the country seeking work with little prospect of getting any for some time to come, owing to the low price of produce. Farmers are employing but little labour to gather in the harvest, also there has been but small demand for harvest machinery." The colony generally is well supplied with experienced farm hands and mechanics.

Queensland.—Reports dated November, state: From Bundaberg: "Trade for carpenters and joiners is very dull; general labourers have been employed lately in the laying of the shore end of the sub-marine cable, but this work will soon cease." From Brisbane: "No improvement in the Building Trade." The nominated passages for emigrants are suspended for the present.

Tasmania.—Reports state: From the Huon district, south of Hobart: "No demand for labour; and many of the saw mills are closed." At Launceston also and elsewhere men complain of want of work.

New Zealand.—The following is condensed from the monthly report of the New Zealand Department of Labour, dated November 23rd 1893. At Auckland the Building and Iron Trades are rather dull, Boot Trade continues fairly busy; Gum Trade is very depressed. At Gisborne Building Trade is very brisk; unskilled labour is well employed, but quite equal to demand. At Napier the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour is slightly in excess of the demand. At Masterton, Martinborough and Pahiatua work is abundant for bush-fellers, shearers, flaxmillers, &c. At Wellington many carpenters and others in the Building Trade are unemployed; iron-works are still fairly busy; there is still a demand for good bushmen. At Nelson trade is fairly good. At Christchurch the Building Trade is fairly busy; Engineering and Iron Trade is steadily improving. At Dunedin Building Trade is fairly busy; the Timber Trade is brisk, but prices are low; some unskilled labourers have registered themselves as unemployed. At Invercargill men in the Building Trades, general iron workers, painters and paperhangers are all busy, and fishermen make fair wages if they can get three days in per week. At Ashburton farmers have reduced wages from 20s. a week and

food to 15s. or 17s. 6d. At Wanganui the Building Trade has improved; Tailoring and Drapery Trades, and unskilled labourers are fully employed.

Cape Colony.—An official communication, dated last December, states: "The officers of the Railway Department are overwhelmed with applications for employment from mechanics and engine men arriving at the Cape from England and Australia, and there is no prospect at present of such artisans finding employment on the Cape Government Railways." The number of clerks, shopmen, and educated men without means or a trade is excessive, and no one belonging to these classes should think of going to the Cape. For unskilled labour there is absolutely no demand in the colony, such work being done by coloured men.

Natal.—Reports, dated November and December, state, from Pietermaritzburg: "The demand for mechanics is limited." From Durban: (1) "No demand for farm hands; little or no demand for any kind of mechanic, except for blacksmiths and farriers up country; bootmakers, tinsmiths, wagon-drivers, etc., are nearly all coolies or Kaffirs; good demand for general female servants, and fair for cooks." (2) "The Building Trade is slightly brisker." The assisted passages to emigrants are now withdrawn, and the free passages for domestic servants are temporarily suspended during revision of the regulations.

South African Republic (Transvaal).—Masons, bricklayers, miners, and other mechanics, clerks and shopmen, are advised not to emigrate to Johannesburg at the present time, there being a large surplus of labour on the spot. Wages have declined, but as against this fact the cost of living has also decreased. Though clerks are paid £12 to £15 a month, board and lodging alone cost at least £8 a month, and washing 4s. to 5s. per dozen pieces. When miners can find work the pay is good, as they get £4 to £5 a week with free quarters; their food costs them about £1 a week.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

The January circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office, showing the present prospects of emigration, containing full official information as to the demand for labour and the wages ruling in the various British Colonies, together with details as to the climate and characteristics of the Colonies and other information useful to intending emigrants, are now being issued, and can be obtained free on application, either personally or by letter to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster; or of the branches of the office which have been established at the following places:—The Free Libraries at Bradford (Yorks.), Cardiff, Hereford, Reading and Wolverhampton; the Public Libraries at Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Nottingham, Peterboro' and Swansea; the Mitchell Library at Glasgow, the Government Emigration Office at Liverpool, and the Literary Institution at Devizes.

The Emigrants' Information Office is about to issue a pamphlet containing a summary of the contents of the various consular and commercial reports relating to North and South America presented to Parliament by the Foreign Office during 1892. These reports contain much useful and interesting information as to the demand for and condition of labour, as well as of the commercial and general characteristics of the districts dealt with.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN NEW ZEALAND.

The following table, showing the number of persons assisted by the New Zealand Department of Labour during October 1893, is based on returns published in the Journal of that Department.* The average weekly number of workmen employed on co-operative road contracts in New Zealand was 1,041.

Occupations.	Number Assisted.	Number sent to Private Employment.	Number sent to Government Works.
General Labourers	197	38	159
Bushmen	26	11	15
Building Trades	9	8	1
Other Occupations	9	5	4
Total, October 1893	241	62	179
Total, September 1893	264	60	204

* Journal of the New Zealand Department of Labour.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN VICTORIA.

THE following Report has been received through the Emigrants' Information Office from Mr. Hayter, the Government Statist of the Colony of Victoria.

Chiefly with the view of providing an outlet for the unemployed labour of the Colony, an Act has recently been passed providing for the establishment of three descriptions of rural settlements, viz., Village Communities, Homestead Associations and Labour Colonies. An advance, not exceeding £15 in all, is made by the Government in one or more sums to any settler in a Village Community or member of a Homestead Association who may be in need of monetary assistance, to enable him to build upon or otherwise improve his holding; the total of such advances made in any one year is not to exceed £20,000.

Village Communities.—For these, certain lands are set apart and divided into allotments of from 1 to 20 acres in extent, to occupy which, for periods of three years, permits are granted to approved applicants. During the period over which the permit extends the occupant pays a rental of 6d. per acre per annum, and on the expiration of that period he is granted a lease for 20 years, during the currency of which he is required to pay half-yearly in advance a sum equal to a fortieth part of the price set upon the allotment, which is generally £1 per acre; he has also to repay in equal yearly instalments extending over the first five years thereof. The lessee is bound to bring one-tenth of his land under cultivation within two years of the date of his lease, and one-fifth within four years of such date; and is, moreover, to put on the land permanent improvements to the value of £1 per acre within six years of such date. All conditions having been complied with, the lessee is entitled to receive a grant in fee of the land he had occupied.

Homestead Associations.—These Associations are combinations of not less than six persons who desire to settle near each other. For their accommodation blocks of Crown land, each containing not more than 2,000 acres, are divided into sections not exceeding 50 acres in extent, excepting a portion, not exceeding 100 acres, which is set apart for a township, of which a division, not exceeding 40 acres, is permanently reserved for the recreation, convenience or amusement of the members of the association. The remainder of the township portion is divided into as many allotments of one acre or less as may be necessary to provide one allotment for each occupant of a section. The conditions as to residence, cultivation, improvement, rent and repayment of cost of survey and advances are much the same as those already described in connection with the Village Communities. After all these have been complied with, a grant in fee of his section and township allotment is given to the occupant.

Labour Colonies.—These Colonies are established for the purpose of affording assistance to persons who are absolutely without means, and are in the nature of relief works. They are placed on blocks of Crown land not exceeding 1,500 acres in extent, and are supported partly by the Government and partly by voluntary contributions, the Government granting £2 to every £1 contributed privately. To each Labour Colony five trustees are appointed, who manage it and dispense its funds, and the subscribers may, if they see fit, elect a committee of four persons to assist the trustees. The trustees and committee may admit any person of good character and repute into the Labour Colony, and may establish any trade or industry in connection therewith. The moneys received are paid into the trust account, and may be expended in payment for work done in the erection of buildings, or in purchasing provisions, clothing, materials, agricultural implements,

Several Village Communities and Homestead Associations have been formed in different parts of Victoria, but the only Labour Colony in active operation is that of Leongatha, situated in the Gipps Land district, about 80 miles from Melbourne. On joining this Colony, each man has to work a week on probation, and then on a small wage fixed by the manager, according to his ideas of the man's worth. After deducting the cost of food and of the clothes and other necessaries supplied him from the store, the balance of the man's wages is placed to his credit and paid him in cash when he leaves the Colony, or the money is paid as earned to his family in town. A labour office has been established on this Colony, and employers are at once supplied, without fee, with pick and shovel men, splitters, bush hands, farm labourers, ploughmen, rough carpenters, cooks, bakers or skilled tradesmen. It must be borne in mind that the Labour Colonies are not intended to afford permanent homes to the men, but to supply their immediate wants, and to fit them for a rural life. The industries pursued at Leongatha are draining, clearing and cultivating the land, sawing timber, and splitting posts, rails and palings.

AGRICULTURAL COLONY OF
LA CHALMELLE.*

AN account of this French Labour Colony was given in the Report on Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed, recently published by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade. According to the report of M. Bompard, just presented to the Paris Municipal Council, this institution is satisfactorily carrying out the purpose for which it exists, viz., to restore to the land those agricultural workers who have been attracted to Paris and have fallen into distress. There is accommodation for 30 men, who must be either bachelors or widowers, between 25 and 45 years of age, and accustomed to some kind of agricultural work. Preference is also given to persons not belonging to the Department of the Seine. The average number of inmates received per year is stated to be 60, and for one-third of these the Colony succeeds in procuring some form of agricultural employment in the country. The gross cost for 1893-4 is estimated at £1,576, and the receipts from the sale of agricultural produce at £1,000, leaving a sum of £576 to be defrayed by the City of Paris. As stated in the Report of the Labour Department already referred to, the actual gross expenditure of the Colony for 1892-3 was £1,280, and the receipts from the sale of agricultural produce £680.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF BOARD OF TRADE
JOURNAL FOR JANUARY, 1894.

Board of Trade Notices, State of the Skilled Labour Market, &c.
The Manchester Ship Canal.
Imports of Hay into the United Kingdom.
Authorised Gas Undertakings.
Summary of Agricultural Produce Statistics in Great Britain in 1893.
Mercantile Credits in Foreign Ports.
Depression in the German Chemical Industry.
The Algerian Date Industry.
The Hungarian Tobacco Trade.
The Railway System of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
Railway Development in Asia Minor.
The Development of Persia.
The Phosphate Industry of the United States.
Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.
Modifications in Spanish Import Duties on British Goods.
Proposed New Customs Tariff for the United States.
Extracts from Diplomatic and Consular Reports.
General Trade Notes.
Recent Trade Blue Books.
Proceedings of the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom.
Quarantine and Post Office Notices.
Statistical Tables, and Lists of Diplomatic, Consular and Colonial Office Reports.
The Middlesbrough Iron Trade of 1893.
Scotch Pig Iron Trade in 1893.

* Rapport présenté par M. R. Bompard, au nom de la 5^{me} Sous-commission du Comité du Budget et du Contrôle sur les Recettes et les Dépenses de la Colonie Agricole de La Chalmelle.

LABOUR ABROAD.

The paragraphs in large type are summaries of reports received through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Offices abroad, except the report from Colorado on page 30. The small print paragraphs have been compiled from information in the Foreign Press.

FRANCE.

The strike schedules for November prepared by the French *Office du Travail*, and received through H.M. Embassy at Paris, record 28 fresh disputes for that month, as compared with 30 in October. Of the November disputes, 12 took place in the Textile Trades, viz., 7 among weavers and 5 among spinners; 5 occurred in the Clothing Trades, 2 each in the Woodworking, Carrying and Food Trades, 1 among leather workers, and 4 in miscellaneous trades.

The most serious dispute as regards the numbers engaged was one undertaken by 600 carmen in and about Paris for an increased price list, which they succeeded in obtaining after being out for five days.

The Unemployed.—The Municipal Council of Paris have voted a sum of £4,000 to be used in alleviating the distress caused by want of employment in the various arrondissements. The distribution of the money will be entrusted to the *maires*.

Office du Travail.—Mons. C. Moron, *Ingenieur en Chef des ponts et chaussées*, has been appointed Director of the French Labour Department.

GERMANY.

Colliers.—Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, reporting under date of December 30th, states that the wages question and strikes were discussed at a largely attended meeting of colliers at Essen. The high prices of coal, as well as considerations of health were said to justify the colliers' demands for increased wages and 8-hour shifts; a strike was declared to be inopportune, but the strengthening of the miners' organisation was said to be advisable. There was also a meeting at Bochum, of the Relief Society of the Rhenish Westphalian miners, attended by delegates from all the Dortmund District. The total receipts of the society for the year ended November last were £415, and the expenditure £393. There were £275 spent in relief, and £110 on legal protection, the numbers assisted in these ways being respectively 494 and 98. It was resolved that in case of strikes assistance should only be granted to members of the association, and paid into the central office of the United Pitmen's Relief Fund, also that a commission should collect information as to the rates of wages and the amount of overtime worked in all collieries.

Disputes.—The shoemakers at a Berlin factory have been on strike on a question of wages since the beginning of December. Several meetings were held, at one of which it was decided that the non-employed, who could not be otherwise provided for, should be asked to leave Berlin, and that the married men should be provided with employment in proportion to the number of their children. On the 18th there were 130 fathers of families requiring assistance. There was also a strike of shoemakers, numbering 40, at Offenbach. It lasted about 10 days, and concluded in favour of the men. Owing to dissensions and want of funds it was decided on the 19th December to conclude the strike of printers in Brandenburg, referred to in last month's *GAZETTE*, and to resume it on a more favourable occasion. A strike of 300 women engaged in coffee sorting is in progress in Hamburg. Their demand for increased wages has been granted, but the strike is being prolonged partly owing to unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements and other grievances, and partly because of the dismissal of the members of the committee appointed to treat with the employers.

Miscellaneous.—The distress reported in the November *GAZETTE* as prevailing in the Glovemaking Industry of Hanau is now less acute owing to an improvement in the export trade.

At a meeting of 350 of the unemployed at Magdeburg it was decided to move the town authorities to take action with a view to providing work.

Juvenile Workers in Spinning Mills.—A decree was published in the *Reichsanzeiger* of December 8th, stating the condition on which the afternoon interval may be withheld on Saturdays and the eves of holidays:—

- (1.) That the hours of juvenile workers do not exceed 9½ on such days, nor be prolonged beyond four hours after the mid-day interval, nor beyond 5.30 p.m.
- (2.) Juvenile workers must then be allowed to take their evening meal while at work.

The foregoing conditions are to remain in operation till January 1st 1904.

Wages in the Printing Trade.—According to statistics compiled by the Brandenburg section of the Trade Association (*Berufsgenossenschaft*) of Printers, and published in the *Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt*, the total amount paid in wages in 1892, in 349 establishments in Berlin, with about 9,929 hands, was £586,864, or £59 2s. per individual, as compared with £53 16s. per individual in 1887. Wages are very much lower outside the Capital, the total sum paid in 170 establishments, with 1,967 workpeople, in the Province of Brandenburg, exclusive of Berlin, being £57,396, or £29 3s. each, as compared with £28 14s. in 1887. On the whole, wages are higher in large establishments than in those employing a small number of persons.

There were 2,669 juvenile workers in the 349 book-printing works in Berlin in 1892. Of these 296 were girls. The corresponding figures for the province, excluding Berlin, were: Total, juveniles, 929, including 146 girls.

These statistics are based on information obtained, relating to 519 out of 552 book-printing establishments in the Province of Brandenburg, including Berlin.

The Unemployed.—The Government of the Grand Duchy of Hesse (population 993,000) has directed the Chambers of Commerce to report at once whether any considerable stoppages of work or dismissals of workpeople have recently taken place, or are expected to take place, and as to whether any of the chief industries are suffering from unusually unfavourable conditions, and if so to ascertain and report the cause.—(*Handels Museum*.)

The Town Council of Mainz decided on December 24th to make an all round reduction in the hours and wages of day labourers in their employ in case of frosty weather, and also to suspend the rule for a fortnight's notice till April 1st. A sum of £565 was voted for street improvements on which to occupy the unemployed.—*Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt*.

The town authorities of Crefeld decided on December 7th to provide work for their unemployed, chiefly in road mending, sewer cleaning, sand and gravel digging, and rush-mat weaving. In this way work was provided in the winter of 1891 for 1,310 unemployed persons during 31 weeks, with 57,843 days of work, at a gross cost to the town of £4,750, or, deducting £1,250 resulting from the work, a net cost of £3,500. At Munich the communal authorities have decided to provide work at once by continuing the construction of a quay wall at a cost of £10,000. The town authorities of Erfurt have voted £1,000 to provide work for unemployed fathers of families in laying down two new streets. It is thought that the distress in Leipzig will not be so severe this year as last, and the poor law authorities have only set aside £150 for extra relief this winter as compared with £500 last year. This is in addition to a sum of £1,500, devoted every year to purposes of extra relief.—*Blätter für Soziale Praxis*.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Trades Union Congress.—The first Austrian Labour Congress met at Vienna during the first four days of Christmas week. A memorandum as to its proceedings has been received from H.M. Ambassador at Vienna, under date of December 29th, in which it is stated that various organisations were proposed for increasing the number of union workmen. An animated discussion arose on the question whether the unions and the new Central Labour Organisation should treat the political side of the labour agitation as of equal importance with its economic side, and a majority of the Congress decided that the economic aspect should be the first care of the trades unions. Figures compiled by the Provisional Executive show that out of 311,000 workmen in Vienna at the beginning of 1893, 20,000 belonged to unions, the number of organised workmen in the provinces being 11,000. Centralisation was to be the first remedy for this weakness, and the Congress agreed that the Central Finance Committee should negotiate with the local unions to ensure the payment of a "progressive tax" on wages, to form the financial support of the Central Organisation.

A labour bureau should be formed after the model of the Government Bureaux in America and other countries. The Congress passed resolutions forming the Central Organisation and its Special Central Committees, and empowered their members to work in concert with the Austrian political "Labour Party," when its political aims did not seem to clash with the welfare of the workmen.

A discussion took place on the question of a general strike, and the possibility of attaining universal suffrage through its agency. The special committee reported that there had been, in all, 131 strikes in Austria during 1893. Of these 27 had benefited the workpeople, and 27 others had resulted in some small degree of improvement. From statistics of 72 of these strikes, it appeared that 28,148 persons had struck work, at a cost in subscriptions alone, of £2,378, or rather more than 1s. 8d. a head. The Special Committee was empowered—on its own proposal—to demand from the local unions that all strike arrangements should first be referred in detail to the Central Organisation, which should decide as to whether they were worth carrying out.

Several speakers dwelt on the necessity of first claiming an 8-hours work day, and, in the name of all the miners of Austria, a declaration was made that they would only join the movement on this basis.

Finally, the Congress declared itself opposed to a general strike.

*Trade Movements.** (1) *Vienna.*—A boycott has been declared against the few remaining workshops where the demands of the stonemasons and wood carvers were not granted. Owing to notice being given that the new price list obtained through the recent strike would be discontinued at one stonemasonry shed, a strike broke out on December 9th. A strike at a hardware factory for the abolition of piecework and for a 10-hours day was concluded successfully for the men on December 5th. A strike of 50 persons at a piano factory for 20 per cent. increase in wages and an 8½-hours net working day is in progress. Hitherto wages have been, it is said, about 21s. a week.

(2) *Provinces.*—A strike of four days' duration, in which 45 (subsequently 54) female spinning operatives of Simmering, in Lower Austria, resisted a proposed 20 to 25 per cent. reduction of wages, terminated successfully on December 6th. The strike caused a stoppage which affected 600 hands.

Agitation among Printers and Typefounders.—Forty-six meetings of book-printers and typefounders were held throughout Austria on December 17th, for the purpose of adopting measures to secure a uniform and increased price list, and other improved conditions in those trades.—*Arbeiter Zeitung.*

Decay of the Bohemian Garnet Industry.—The report of a committee of the Prague Chamber of Commerce points to the decay of an industry which has long been a speciality of Prague—that of garnet-mounting. At one time, this industry gave employment to above 2,000 persons, but this number has been reduced to 1,000, the gradual deterioration in the metal used, and want of taste in the designs having caused the Bohemian garnets to be displaced by foreign workmanship. Hundreds of workmen and apprentices belonging to this trade are said to be out of work, some being obliged to work as day labourers. The establishment of a technical school is regarded as the only means of rescuing this trade.

Bohemian Boot and Shoe Industry.—The Prague Chamber of Commerce also recommends the establishment of a technical school for shoemaking in Eastern Bohemia, which does a considerable export trade in boots and shoes. The towns of Skuč, Luže, Chrudim, Heřman—Městec, and Holč are the chief centres of this industry, employing altogether about 4,000 workers, the great majority of whom work in their own homes.—*(Handels-Museum.)*

Intervals of Rest in Hungarian Factories.—A difference between the factory inspectors and certain factory owners of Buda-Pesth has just been decided by the Minister of Commerce, who was appealed to by the latter. The inspectors maintained that factory workers should be allowed half-hour intervals in the forenoon and afternoon in addition to the mid-day hour, the factory owners contending that such intervals were only meant to be allowed where work lasted from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. After consulting the Council of Industry, the Minister decided that where actual working hours were less than 10, workers who wished to take breakfast, or an afternoon meal "should not be interfered with," but that where working hours were longer the prescribed intervals should take place.—*(ibid.)*

* Based on reports published in the *Arbeiter Zeitung.*

BELGIUM.

BRUSSELS DISTRICT.

Minimum Wage in Government Contracts.—Sir F. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels, reporting under date of December 31st last, states that meetings of the Superior Council of Labour and Industry were held in Brussels on the 12th, 19th and 29th of the month. On each occasion the question was discussed of inserting the minimum rate of wages in all specifications of Government contracts. Much of the discussion turned upon the question of how this rate should be fixed. Several plans were proposed:—(1) That it should be the average wages paid to the ordinary workman in the district, and should be determined by the local Councils of Industry and Labour with the assent of employers and employed. (2) That the price be settled in accordance with information to be supplied by "professional associations," and examined by the Council of Industry and Labour. (3) That the rates should be fixed by the contractor himself in an appendix to the tender. The discussion was to be resumed on January 9th.

Disputes.—The strike of quarrymen at Sprimont referred to in last month's GAZETTE, and which was nearly settled, broke out afresh on December 9th owing to the dismissal, by one of the employers, of 30 men suspected of being the leaders. The efforts of the Liège Council of Industry and Labour to mediate have been unsuccessful, and the employers refuse to make further concessions. The men are reported to have purchased a quarry which they intend to work in common.

Regulation of Female and Child Labour.—A number of Royal Decrees have been promulgated regulating the employment of women under 21 and minors in certain occupations. Their working hours must not exceed 10½, divided by intervals amounting to at least 1½ hours in window glass factories, on the surface of mines, at coke ovens, in making coal briquettes, at blast furnaces, in iron and steel, zinc and lead foundries, copper, iron and steel rolling mills, silver extracting works, and processes connected with these industries.

In underground mines and quarries the working shifts of women and girls from 16 to 21* must not exceed 11 hours from bank to bank, and that of boys under 16 10½ hours, divided in each case by intervals amounting to not less than ¼th of the length of the shift. The length of the shift and the intervals are the same for boys over 12 employed from 4 a.m. Boys from 14 to 16 may be employed at night underground in 10-hours shifts, but only in such work as road mending, &c. Women and girls from 16 to 21 may work at night in the lamp stores of mines.

In the case of the Mariemont Coal Mines, an exception is made as regards the employment of boys from 14 to 16, and girls and women from 16 to 21, between 9 p.m. and midnight.

Women under 21, children, and minors may not be employed for more than 10 hours on the surface of quarries, with intervals of at least, 1½ hours nor for more than 10½ hours in the tool-repairing sheds. In the yards for cutting and shaping the stones, the maximum is 8 hours for workers from 12 to 16 years old, with at least one hour in intervals.

The Unemployed.—The Ghent Council of Industry and Labour was recently convened by Ministerial Decree to consider means for dealing with the unemployed. The section for the Building Industry decided to ask for authority to regulate the execution of works so as to distribute them throughout the year, and recommended the reduction of working hours, a minimum wage, uniform for rural and urban workers, and the establishment of an unemployed fund supported by employers and workmen. In the section for the Cotton Industry complaint was made of the non-application of the law restricting female and child labour in certain establishments. It recommended special legislation forbidding night work. Two resolutions were passed in the Carrying Trades' section—one for reducing the hours of waterside labourers, the other for a municipal subsidy to ensure the service of ice boats.

* Only those girls and women under 21 may now be employed underground at night who were so engaged prior to January 1st 1894.

Cabmen demanded the fixing of a minimum wage and a maximum working day.

A committee, of which the Mayor of Brussels is president, has decided to establish a labour colony, at an initial outlay of £600, at Campine, where the colonists are to be employed in clearing away the heather.

Disputes.—Two disputes are in progress at Brussels, one at a stove factory owing to a reduction of wages, and the other at a wire tack factory, where the abolition of fines is demanded.

A strike of 100 metal-moulders at Ensival, near Liège, which began on November 24th, terminated in favour of the men after lasting 10 days. It was caused by the employers' refusal to disclose the name of a workman who divulged the resolutions taken at union meetings. At Molenbeek the leather tawers belonging to one firm are on strike against an unpopular workshop regulation, and at Verviers a strike in the Shoemaking Trade for 25 per cent. increase of wages began at the end of December. At present three establishments are affected; but as the boot and shoemakers of Verviers have decided generally to make the same demand, the movement may extend.—*Le Peuple.*

ITALY.

Depression in Silk Industry.—It was decided at a recent meeting of the Piedmont Silk Manufacturers held at Turin that the production should be reduced either by the stoppage of works or the reduction of working hours.—*(Handels Museum.)*

Co-operation.—A committee has been appointed at Florence to draw up articles of association for a federation of Tuscan co-operative societies. Societies paying a contribution amounting to a halfpenny a month per member need not subscribe to the National Co-operative League, this payment being then undertaken by the Federation of their district. "Societies confining their action to the acquirement of purely material benefits and guided by merely selfish or speculative considerations" are excluded from the Federation.—*(Credito e Cooperazione.)*

SWEDEN.

Reporting on December 26th, Sir Spenser St. John, H.M. Minister at Stockholm, states that the year closed without any strikes in progress, and that no serious complaints of want of employment on the part of men, or of want of workmen on the part of employers, are heard.

A Bill for the State Insurance of Workmen will probably be discussed in Parliament, which assembles early in January. Little interest is said to be taken in the matter by workmen. A brief account of the scheme, which has been before the country for some months, was given in the first number of the LABOUR GAZETTE (p. 22, Vol. I.).

SWITZERLAND.

The following Report, dated December 28th, has been received from H.M. Consul at Zürich. It is based on notes by Herr Greulich, of the Swiss Labour Office.

Protection of Women and Girl Workers.—A law was recently promulgated by the Cantonal Government of Zürich for the protection of women and girl workers. It forms a material supplement to the Swiss Factory Act, which is only applicable to establishments using machinery and employing more than 5 persons. It fixes 10 hours as the maximum working day for women and girls, and 9 hours on Saturdays and the eves of holidays, in the latter case between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Girls under 14 must not be employed as workers or apprentices. Overtime is to be exceptional, and is forbidden in the case of girls under 18. The law also provides for half-days on Saturdays and the eves of holidays for married women; the non-deduction of compulsory school hours in calculating the working day; fortnightly payments; and no deductions for rent or cleaning of workshops, or for hire or wear and tear of tools. It also contains regulations relating to appointments and dismissals, and the sanitary condition of workrooms, and authorises all persons to notify offences against its provisions.

Similar laws are being prepared in the Cantons of St. Gall and Bâle.

The Unemployed.—The number of the unemployed is said to have reached a high figure in some places,

particularly in the Embroidery and Watchmaking Trades. In some towns, as, for instance, Zürich, Bâle, and St. Gall, official parish Commissioners have been entrusted with the relief of the most pressing cases of want. These Commissioners dispose of municipal and private funds, and their chief endeavour is to provide work.

An "International Information Office" has now been opened at Winterthur, the seat of the Metal Industry, in accordance with the resolution passed last summer at the International Congress of Metal Workers, held at Zürich.

Workmen's Dwellings.—A comparison of the Swiss Factory Statistics of 1888 with those relating to workmen's dwellings published in the Swiss Statistical Yearbook for 1892, gives the following results:—

Cantons.	Factories.		Factory Dwellings.			Number of Inhabitants per Dwelling.
	Total Number.	Number having Workmen's Dwellings.	With accommodation for one family.	With accommodation for two families.	With accommodation for more than two families.	
Zürich	610	92	235	182	266	4.9
Berne... ..	317	20	101	49	67	5.2
Glarus	87	16	28	21	36	5.5
Soleure	90	10	6	16	51	4.5
Bâle-Ville	180	29	64	97	125	4.6
St. Gall	845	46	65	103	119	4.6
Argau... ..	312	18	38	13	49	5.2
Thurgau	352	17	54	26	46	4.5
Other 16 Cantons ...	993	38	42	67	135	4.9
Total	3,786	286	633	574	894	4.9

This shows that 7½ per cent. of the factories interest themselves in the dwelling accommodation of their employees. The highest proportion in this respect is shown by Glarus, where 32 per cent. of the factories have workmen's dwellings. Bâle-Ville and Zürich follow with 16 and 15 per cent. respectively, while all the other Cantons show less than 7½ per cent. The houses for one family form 30 per cent., those for two families, 27 per cent., and those for more than two families, 43 per cent. of the total. As the average number of inhabitants in a house, for the whole of Switzerland, is about 5, the condition of workmen's dwellings attached to factories may be considered as favourable.

Increased Wages for Bookbinders.—The organised journeymen bookbinders of Zürich are demanding a minimum wage of 3s. 4d. a day and reduced hours. These demands have already been granted by four firms without a strike.—*Deutscher Reichsanzeiger.*

HOLLAND.

The Unemployed.—A report dated December 18th, received from Mr. Robinson, H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, states that no material disturbances have occurred in that consular district, though the question of the unemployed in Amsterdam continues to give rise to ample discussions. Almost daily meetings have been held, and the unemployed have been strongly urged to demonstrate by processions in the streets. An address has been drawn up and presented to the Burgomaster and aldermen of the city, making several suggestions as to the manner in which work can and should be provided. After examining these suggestions in detail, the Burgomaster and aldermen stated that many of the plans proposed were either beyond the sphere of action of the municipality, or for other reasons impracticable, but that others were under serious consideration, including one for the creation of a labour exchange. They laid, at the same time, special stress on their opinion that under no circumstances whatever should the regulation of labour have for its object the employment of more hands to do the same work. This reply has been received with great disfavour. The processions, except in fine weather, have averaged a few hundred men only, a considerable proportion of whom appeared to belong to that floating class which never has permanent employment. The largest number on any one day was on an occasion when a conflict with the police was generally expected, but which, fortunately, did not occur.

Conditions of Work for Communal Contracts.—Mr. Herbert, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at the Hague, reports under date of December 26th that a committee appointed by the Amsterdam Town Council in 1892 to draw up regulations as to the conditions of labour for communal works undertaken by the Commune itself, or by its concessionaries or contractors, has just issued its report, which recommends the adoption of a maximum working day of 11 hours, a minimum wage (18 cents per hour for unskilled and 23 for skilled adult labour), and other provisions. The report is under the consideration of the Council.

Omnibus Servants' Demands.—Out of the 130 stablemen employed by the Amsterdam Omnibus Company, 103 have petitioned for 1s. 8d. a week increase in wages, and for the whole of Sunday when their "free day" (once in every four days) falls on that day. Their present pay is 1s. a week, raised to 16s. 8d. after five years. The 13 head men receive 16s. 8d., and after five years, 18s. 4d. a week. The stablemen work at present from 6 am. to 10 p.m., and once in four days till mid-midnight, with a break of 2½ hours. When their "free day" falls on Sunday they have to work till 12 or 1.30 p.m.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO DISTRICT.

The Unemployed.—Colonel J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, in a report dated 18th December, states that the existing distress has been accentuated by the advent of cold weather, and that thousands of men willing to work, but unable to obtain employment, are dependent on charity. No strikes or labour troubles are now heard of, as workpeople are glad to accept any wages offered, many being glad to work for their food and lodging. The same story of distress is heard from the iron districts of Wisconsin, where many mines are inoperative, from Nebraska, and from almost all parts of this district, where the same scarcity of employment and consequent distress appear to prevail. In Chicago itself the severe weather has aggravated the condition of things. Active measures are now being taken by the different charitable societies, and a sum of money is being raised by private subscriptions for the relief of those who are in distress.

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT.

Reporting under date of December 28th, Capt. R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, states that the year 1893 has had at its close few elements of satisfaction to the working population, and has not been one of profitable progress to the employers of labour in the majority of industries. Nor has the record of labour organisations for the year been encouraging.

The general assembly of the Knights of Labour, held in Philadelphia at the end of November, resulted in the election of Mr. J. R. Sovereign, of Iowa, as General Master Workman in place of Mr. Powderley.

Lehigh Valley Strike.—The great strike of the employees of the Lehigh Valley Railroad was brought to a conclusion by a Board of Arbitration, and many of the strikers have been reinstated. The losses sustained by the Company amount, it is thought, to over £100,000, arising from damage to locomotives, to cars, to freight in wrecks, to perishable freight by delay, and other causes.

Industry and Wages.—Regarding the various trades individually, a reduction of about 40 per cent. is announced in the wages of the iron workers employed by a large employer at Pittsburgh, to take effect on January 1st. No strike is expected to result. Prices for steel and iron are exceedingly low. The iron output for the year has been reduced from 9,157,000 tons in 1892 to 7,251,422 tons for 1893, a fall of 21 per cent.; the fall for the last half of the year being from a product of 4,387,317 tons in 1892 to 2,688,504 tons in 1893, or 39 per cent.

Among the miners great uneasiness is manifest, and strikes are being inaugurated with a view to the enforcement of the better payment of the wage scale.

In the Textile Industries general depression still prevails, and although some mills are resuming with a reduction of wages, others are closing, and great poverty exists among the operatives.

There is greater activity in the Glass Industry, and better organisation of the employees, especially in the State of Ohio.

The tanneries of Pennsylvania are resuming after a long period of idleness. There are 420 in the State, employing about 11,600 hands.

Several of the large potteries, many of which are in Ohio, are expected to reduce wages next year.

Employment.—Great destitution prevails in many portions of this Consular District, especially perhaps among the textile workers, the iron and steel workers, and, most of all, it would appear, among the miners of Michigan. Charity has been organised on a large scale and relief, in large amounts of money and provisions, contributed for the sufferers.

Alien Contract Labour Law.—With reference to the opinion of the United States Supreme Court rendered, concerning alleged infractions of the Alien Contract Labour Law, by the importation of lace menders into Pennsylvania, another opinion has been rendered which adds to the difficulties of enforcing the law. On this occasion a firm in the eastern district of Pennsylvania had been fined by the United States Circuit Court for importing an Englishman to perform labour in their mill; but the decision was reversed as the accused parties had been compelled to give evidence against themselves in a criminal proceeding, by which their constitutional rights were violated.

COLORADO.

The secretary of the Manufacturers' Exchange, Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., states that the local market is overstocked with clerks, book-keepers, store assistants and agents. Many women and semi-invalids are engaged in these occupations. There is a full supply of general unskilled labour and mechanics in all lines. Experienced agricultural labourers are needed, especially those thoroughly accustomed to horses, farm cattle, pigs and sheep. Such men in Colorado are paid from 15 dollars to 30 dollars per month with board, according to experience, and average about 25 dollars per month and board; foremen or superintendents earn more, and a thoroughly competent man is invariably retained through the winter. The average wage of a shepherd is from 20 dollars to 25 dollars per month with board, the year round; in lambing or shearing time they are paid extra. Foremen or men in charge of flocks get 35 dollars per month and board. Fruit and hop growers are wanted in the district.

REPORTS OF AMERICAN STATE BUREAUX.

(1) Illinois.*

The Seventh Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of Illinois gives particulars of the conditions of labour of 5,099 women and girls employed in 95 establishments in the City of Chicago. Individual schedules relating to the manner and cost of living, the age, nativity, schooling, working experience and home conditions of each of 3,467 of these women and girls were obtained by personal visits to them at their homes. About 87 per cent. of the parents of these working girls were foreign born; of the girls themselves 31.9 per cent. were foreign born. Of the 3,467 only 67 were married and 100 widowed, and 2,900 lived at home with their relatives.

An account is given of the "Sweating System" in Chicago. The number of sweating shops is estimated at less than 800, with a maximum of 13,000 persons employed in connection with them. The 666 shops visited employed 9,097 persons in the workshops and 1,836 at their homes; 338 were coat shops, 122 were trouser shops, 90 were vest shops, and the remainder took mantles and work of various kinds.

Of the 666 sweaters, 232 were Bohemian, employing over 2,600 persons; 154 were Scandinavians, employing over 2,600; 103 were Germans, employing about 1,300; 93 were Hebrews, employing

* Seventh Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of Illinois, 1892. Springfield, Illinois, 1893.

THE LABOUR QUESTION IN SWITZERLAND.

The Report on the labour question in Switzerland, prepared by the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Labour, is arranged on the same plan as those on Germany and France which have been already noticed in the GAZETTE. In the section dealing with the relations between employers and employed, an account is given of the Federation of Embroiderers of St. Gall, founded in 1885. In 1889, the most prosperous period of its existence, the Association numbered 10,476 members and 18,990 machines in Switzerland, 2,421 members and 2,809 machines in the Vorarlberg district, and had secured to a certain extent the co-operation of the Saxon Federation. Members of the two Federations bound themselves not to do business with non-federated employers in either country, and to recognise as binding the minimum rates of wages fixed by the Federation for their members in either country. The minimum wage was fixed by a mutual agreement at a rather lower figure in Saxony than in Switzerland.

The Grütli Society is said to exercise the greatest influence on labour questions in Switzerland. It has a total membership of about 15,421 persons. The majority of its members are workmen. The society has a political as well as a social and economic programme. As a result of a petition from the Grütli Society, the Federal Council consented to the appointment of a workmen's secretary, to be nominated by a committee on which all associations of Swiss workmen should be represented. This condition made necessary the formation of the Swiss Workmen's Federation, which at its commencement numbered 103,000 members, and in 1893 included 200,000. The workmen's secretary is elected by the central committee of this Workmen's Federation for a term of three years; his principal duty is to investigate the conditions of the working classes, to study questions of social economy, and to draw up reports on these subjects. The expenses of the secretary are defrayed by a Federal grant.

An eleven hours' day is now practically observed in all industries subject to the Factory Act, whatever may be the age or sex of the persons employed. Home industries in which the greater part of the population is occupied are not included under the Factory Act. Individual cantons have in some instances already gone beyond the limits of the Federal Acts for the protection of labour; Bâle, Glarus, Zurich and St. Gall have each passed laws for the protection of women and children.

The main principle of the Employers' Liability Acts passed in Switzerland is that the employer is in every case responsible for accidents incurred during work, unless it can be proved that the accident was caused by the fault of the person injured, by that of a third person not connected with the concern, or that it was due to unavoidable circumstances. The employer is likewise liable for all cases of illness, engendered by the unhealthy nature of the work in which his men are engaged. Contracting out of the Act is forbidden, but certain deductions from the sum to be paid in compensation are made if the injured person is insured in a fund to which the employer has contributed.

The above is only a sample of the varied contents of the Report.

* Royal Commission on Labour—Foreign Reports. Vol. VII.—Switzerland 1893. (C.—7,063.—X.) Price 5d.

NOTICE.

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1,240; 80 were Poles, employing 1,090; 3 were Irish, and 1 was American. The majority of the Bohemians were employed on coats, of the Scandinavians on trousers and vests, of the Germans and Poles on coats and trousers; 30 of the 93 Hebrew sweaters were employed on coats, 50 on mantles, and none on trousers.

The third part of the Report contains the usual annual compilation of the statistics of coal production in Illinois, based upon the reports made to the bureau by the State Inspectors of Coal Mines.

(2) Indiana.*

The fourth Biennial Report of the Indiana Bureau of Statistics gives industrial statistics, including wages and hours of labour, with regard to the eight leading industries of the State, viz., iron, railway car building, wood, woollen, quarry, encaustic tiles, wagons and carriages, and glass. Information was obtained with regard to 365 establishments employing 32,460 persons. This is in addition to 62 coal mines visited. The Report states that in some cases information was only given after an intimation that the bureau would resort to its compulsory powers. The Report also deals with State Prison industries, cost of living, building and loan associations, railroad and various miscellaneous statistics bearing on social and economic conditions.

(3) Iowa.†

The Biennial Report of the Iowa Commissioner of Labour for the years 1892 and 1893 deals with a large number of subjects, including the Chinese labour question, cost of living, market prices of grain, the drift of population towards towns, immigration, farm and home mortgages, and industrial training. A reprint is given of the Labour Laws passed since the previous Report, and also of the Bill (which failed to pass the General Assembly), to establish a Free Public Employment Office in connection with the Bureau. The Department, at the request of the Women's Labour Committee of the World's Congress Auxiliary, tried to collect data giving the true condition of women wage-workers in the State, but reports of any value were only received from 161 women.

A summary is given of certain of the wages returns contained in the advance census bulletins—with the warning that, from the nature of the data, the rates given are higher than really obtained. During the first six months of 1892, hundreds of labouring people in the larger cities of the State are stated to have been out of employment, the Building Trades and factory employees being most affected. The winter of 1892-3 was, however, the most remunerative season enjoyed by the Iowa coal miners and mine labourers for many years past, owing largely to the increased demand for coal, caused by the severity of the winter and the favourable conditions for shipment. Tables are appended, showing the daily wages, hours worked, number of days lost per year, and average yearly earnings of operatives, so far as could be gathered from the departmental data. Another set of tables exhibits the numbers of members of certain organised trades paying street car fare to and from their work, owning homes incumbered by debt, living in rented houses, and boarding, with the average price of board per week, the average daily wages, and the average net number of days lost in the year.

BUREAUX OF INDUSTRIES.

(1) ONTARIO.‡

The Sixth Part of the Report of the Bureau for 1892, besides a brief Report on "Labour Organisations and Strikes and Lock-outs," contains an appendix of over 200 pages, in which are given summaries of labour legislation in Ontario, of laws passed in the Dominion of Canada affecting the interests of the wage-earning classes, and of the proceedings of the Trades and Labour Congresses from 1887 to 1892. These are followed by brief summaries of the proceedings of Trade Union Congresses held in Great Britain from 1868 to 1892, and by extracts from the Board of Trade Report on Strikes and Lock-outs in 1890 and 1891. Information as to other aspects of the labour movement in Great Britain, France, the Colonies and the United States, is also given.

(2) NEW ZEALAND.

The November number of the Journal of the Department of Labour in New Zealand, in addition to the statistics of the assistance given to the Unemployed, and to an account of the state of employment in various districts of the Colony, which we summarise on page 25 of this GAZETTE, contains a good deal of information respecting trade imports and exports, customs, &c., accompanied by numerous extracts from the Colonial and English press bearing on labour questions.

* State of Indiana. Fourth Biennial Report of the Department of Statistics, for 1891-92. Indianapolis.

† Fifth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics for the State of Iowa; 345 pp. (Des Moines, 1893).

‡ Annual Report of the Bureau of Industries for the Province of Ontario 1892; Part VI—Labour Organisations and Strikes and Lock-outs. Toronto 1893.

LIST OF INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES AND OF MINES.

INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES—(Continued from last issue).

Table with 4 columns: NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT, No of Factories in District in 1892, Names and Addresses of Inspectors, Names and Addresses of (Junior) Inspectors.

(d) H.M. Superintending Inspector—E. Gould, Esq., Home Office, London, S.W. N.B.—A list of the Assistant Inspectors of Factories and Workshops will be given in the next number of the GAZETTE.

INSPECTORS AND ASSISTANT INSPECTORS OF MINES.

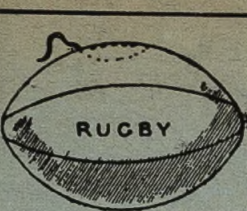
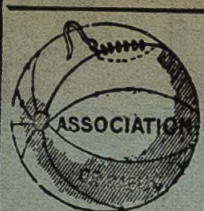
Table with 4 columns: Under Coal Mines Act, Under Metalliferous Mines Act, District, Number of Mines worked in 1892, Names and Addresses of Inspectors of Districts, Names and Addresses of Assistant Inspectors.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.—The following alterations have occurred in the addresses of Factory Inspectors (Junior) published on page 201 of the last issue of the GAZETTE.—T. C. Butler, Esq., 174 Great Western Road, Glasgow; S. Shuter, Esq., 1 Mount Vincent Place, Military Road, Limerick; J. Hilditch, Esq., 6 Cross Street, Rhosddu, Wrexham.

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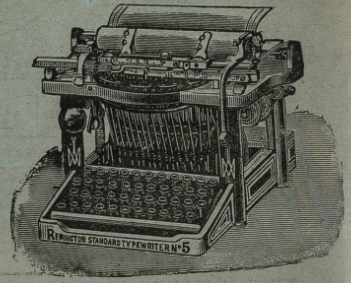
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