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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.

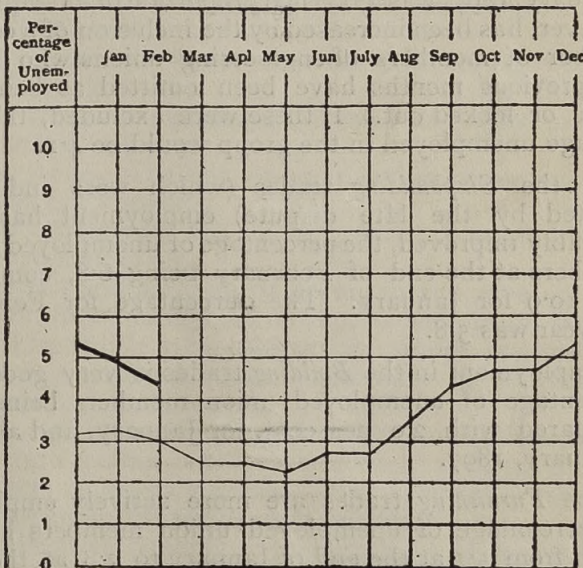
[Based on 2,290 returns, viz.: 1,648 from Employers, 508 from Trade Unions, and 134 from other sources.]

THE state of employment shows a marked improvement compared with a month ago, though not quite up to the level of the corresponding month in last year. The improvement is not fully shown in the figures given below, owing to the fact that the number of unemployed members of engineering trade unions has been temporarily increased by a certain number who have not yet succeeded in finding employment after the engineering dispute, and who in previous months were omitted from the figures as being on strike or locked out. The labour market has been very little disturbed by disputes, and the changes in wages have also been comparatively unimportant.

In the 116 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 466,362, 20,517 (or 4.4 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, compared with 4.96 per cent. at the end of January, and with 3.0 per cent. in the 115 unions, with a membership of 453,144, from which returns were received for February, 1897.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1897 and 1898. [The thick line applies to 1898, the thin line to 1897.]



The table below classifies the membership of the 116 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of February 1898.		Corresponding Percentages for	
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
		Number.		
Under 1 per cent. ...	20	88,799	19.0	18.5
1 and under 2 per cent. ...	19	87,690	18.8	17.2
2 " 3 " ...	17	30,673	6.6	9.6
3 " 5 " ...	25	56,888	12.2	6.6
5 " 7 " ...	15	72,502	15.6	26.2
7 " 10 " ...	10	113,882	24.4	5.0
10 per cent. and upwards	10	15,928	3.4	16.9
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>466,362</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment, though continuing good, is not quite so good as a year ago. At pits at which 435,914 persons were employed an average of 5.24 days was worked per week, as compared with 5.34 days in February, 1897. (For further details see p. 76.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good, though not quite so good as a year ago. At mines at which 17,519 persons were employed an average of 5.79 days per week was worked in the 4 weeks ended February 10th, as compared with an average of 5.86 days a year ago. (For further details see p. 76.)

**Pig Iron Industry.**—The ironworks to which the returns relate had 356 furnaces in blast at the end of February, or one more than at the end of January, and 4 more than a year ago. The number employed is estimated at 23,575, or about 70 more than at the end of January, and 1,350 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 77.)

Employment at **Steel Works** underwent a further improvement during the month. At the 137 works covered by the returns, 39,252 persons were employed at the end of February, as compared with 38,562 at the end of January, and 38,232 a year ago. (For further details see page 77.)

At **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** there has been a slight falling off in the number employed. At 95 works 19,492 persons were employed at the end of February, as compared with 19,635 at the end of January, and 19,653 a year ago. (For further details see page 77.)

In the **Tinplate Trade** the number of mills at work has fallen off, the number reported as working at the end of February being 318, as against 335 at the end of the preceding month, and 334 a year ago. (For further details see page 77.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades, though much improved, is still affected by the recent dispute. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of February was 7.0, compared with 6.4 in January. The percentage for February, 1897, was 2.0. The proportion of unemployed, however, has been increased by the inclusion of a certain number of members of engineering unions who during the previous months have been omitted as being on strike or locked out. If these were excluded, the percentage unemployed in the group would be 4.1.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades (which were indirectly affected by the late dispute) employment has considerably improved, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February being 6.8, compared with 10.9 for January. The percentage for February last year was 5.8.

Employment in the **Building** trades is very good, the percentage of unemployed union members being 1.7, compared with 2.0 per cent. for January, and also for February, 1897.

The **Furnishing** trades are more actively employed, the percentage of unemployed union members having fallen from 5.1 at the end of January to 2.8 at the end of February. The percentage for February, 1897, was 3.0.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades, particularly in the letterpress department, is good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February was 3.6, compared with 4.9 in January, and 4.4 per cent. in February, 1897.

In the **Paper** trade employment has remained fairly steady, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February being 3.5, compared with 3.0 for January and 2.9 in February last year.

Employment in the **Glass** trade shows but little change, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February being 11.8, compared with 11.5 in January and 12.5 in February, 1897.

In the **Leather** trade a slight improvement in employment is observable, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of February being 3.7, compared with 4.2 in January. The percentage for February, 1897, was 2.0.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade has improved in some centres but is still dull generally; in the bespoke branch it remains dull.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade, although slack, has improved considerably. There is a slight improvement in the bespoke branch.

Employment in both the **Spinning and Weaving** branches of the **Cotton** trade has improved.

Employment in the **Worsted** trade shows some improvement; in the **Woolen** trade it is better in Scotland but still slack in the English centres. Employment in the **Hosiery** trade continues slack.

As regards the employment of **women in the Textile** trades, information respecting 518 mills employing 85,000 women and girls, shows that 69 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 64 per cent. in January and 68 per cent. in February, 1897. (For further details see page 79.)

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—Employment in February showed a considerable falling off. At the docks and principal wharves, the average daily number employed was 14,057, as compared with 16,190 in January, and 15,062 in February, 1897. (For further details see page 79.)

**Agricultural Labourers** were generally fully employed throughout the country during the month of February. In some of the Western Counties outdoor work was interfered with for a few days, owing to a heavy fall of snow. Farm work is generally in an exceptionally forward state, owing to the open weather which has prevailed during the winter and spring. (For further details see page 78.)

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty-five fresh disputes began in February, 1898, involving 3,568 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for January was 28, involving 6,795 workpeople, and for February 1897, 58 disputes involving 23,631 workpeople. Six disputes took place in the building trades, 4 in coal mining, 5 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 5 in the textile trades, and 5 in other industries. Of the 25 new and old disputes, involving 2,647 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 7 involving 283 persons were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 1,455 persons, in favour of the employers; while 9 involving 909 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 92.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in the rates of wages of about 9,750 workpeople were reported during February, of which number 8,350 received advances, and 1,400 sustained decreases. The net result was an increase estimated at about 2.3d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. One change, affecting 450 workpeople, was arranged by arbitration after a strike; changes affecting about 1,200 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales, and the remaining changes, affecting about 8,100 workpeople, were obtained after negotiation between the employers and their workpeople, or their representatives. (For further details see page 90.)

**Pauperism.**—In the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom 342,928 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of February. This corresponds to a rate of 217 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, a decrease of 2 as compared with the rate a year ago. (For further details see page 94.)

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during February was 7,094, as compared with 6,777 in February, 1897. (For further details see page 95.)

THE SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE SLIDING SCALE.

In the collieries owned by members of the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coal Owners' Association changes in wages have since 1875 been regulated by a sliding scale.

Whilst the principle of a sliding scale has been in force throughout the period, alterations have from time to time been made in the scale by agreement, notably in 1880, 1882, 1890, and 1892. The scale at present in force is governed by an agreement dated January 1st, 1892, to which is attached a supplementary memorandum agreed to on February 17th, 1893.

Six months' notice must be given by either side desirous of terminating the agreement, the notice to be given on April 1st or October 1st of any year. As a result of a ballot of the men taken in September last, six months' notice of termination was given, to expire at the end of March. On March 1st the employers gave notice to terminate contracts on the same date as the termination of the scale. A joint committee of both sides has lately had the scale under discussion, but up to the present time (March 14th) a new agreement has not yet been arrived at.

In the existing scale the wages of all classes of persons employed at the collieries are based on the standard of the rates actually paid in December, 1879. These rates are themselves mostly governed by lists of a local character. Changes in these rates are, however, made simultaneously at all the collieries in the form of a percentage increase or decrease, depending on changes in the selling price of coal. For this purpose an ascertainment is made every two months by two accountants, appointed by the employers and employed respectively, of the average net selling price of large colliery screened coal, delivered free on board at Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, and Barry. The wages, or, rather, the percentages by which the wages differ from those in 1879, are governed for two months\* by the results of this audit in the manner following.

It is assumed under the scale that the average selling price corresponding to the standard rate of wages was 7s. 10½d. and under 8s. per ton. For variations of selling prices outside these limits wages move by changes of 1½ per cent. on the standard, according to a scale of which a portion is printed below. It will be understood that there is no maximum or minimum in the scale of wages, but enough of the scale is here printed to cover all the recent changes:—

When the average Net Selling Price of Coal per ton free on board		Wages to be at the following percentage above the standard.
is	and under	
s. d.	s. d.	10
9 0'00	9 1'71	11½
9 1'71	9 3'43	12½
9 3'43	9 5'14	13½
9 5'14	9 6'86	15
9 6'86	9 8'57	16½
9 8'57	9 10'29	17½
9 10'29	10 0'00	18½
10 0'00	10 1'71	20
10 1'71	10 3'43	21½
10 3'43	10 5'14	22½
10 5'14	10 6'86	23½
10 6'86	10 8'57	25
10 8'57	10 10'29	26½
10 10'29	11 0'00	27½
11 0'00	11 1'71	28½
11 1'71	11 3'43	29½
11 3'43	11 5'14	30

Over 100,000 workpeople in all have their wages at present regulated by this sliding scale.

The actual changes that have taken place from the initiation of the 1892 scale to the present time are shown in the table below. It will be noticed that whilst six changes in wages (the full number possible) took place in each of the years 1892—1894, and five changes in 1895, only two such changes occurred in 1896, and only one in 1897.

\* In practice the wages of enginemen, stokers and outside fitters are not altered until one month after those of the other classes. Thus the audit for the period January-February governs wages generally for the period April-May, but the wages of these classes for the period May-June.

Year.	Percentage change in wages which took effect at each of the following dates. Increase (+) Decrease (-)*						Percentage by which wages were above standard at end of year.
	Feb. 1st.	Apr. 1st.	June 1st.	Aug. 1st.	Oct. 1st.	Dec. 1st.	
1892	- 2½	- 3½	- 3½	- 2½	- 5	- 6½	22½
1893	- 2½	- 6½	- 3½	+ 1½	+ 1½	+ 7½	20
1894	+ 6½	+ 3½	- 2½	- 1½	- 1½	- 1½	21½
1895	- 1½	- 1½	- 1½	- 2½	- 2½	...	12½
1896	- 1½	...	...	...	...	...	10
1897	...	+ 1½	...	...	...	...	11½
1898	+ 1½	...	...	...	...	...	—

CONDITIONS OF WORK IN THE FISH-CURING TRADE.

A REPORT to the Home Office by two of H.M. Inspectors of Factories (Messrs. H. S. Richmond and J. Calder) on the conditions of work in the fish-curing trade has just been presented to Parliament. Section 100 of the Factory Act of 1878 provides that "Nothing in this Act shall extend to the process of gutting, salting and packing fish immediately upon its arrival in the fishing boats." The processes specified in Section 100, however, do not cover the whole of the fish-curing trade, for which Section 56 of the same Act provides special extension of overtime. It appears, however, that until 1895, it was the general practice to consider the whole of the fish curing industry as practically exempted from the operation of the Factory Acts. Since the passing of the Act of 1895 the question has again been raised, and a curer who failed, after caution, to observe the statute was prosecuted and convicted at Aberdeen. This has been followed by an agitation for the amendment of the statutory restrictions in the trade.

The Report states that practically the only fish dealt with for curing purposes in the United Kingdom are herring, mackerel, pilchards, haddock, cod, ling, tusk, saithe, and, in a minor degree, sprats and shrimps.

On the arrival of the fishing boats, the fish are usually sold by auction in the fish markets by qualified salesmen, or, in smaller places, by the fishermen themselves on the quay.

The fish so sold are purchased either by curers to be dealt with immediately at the local curing yards, or forwarded to inland curing stations, to be dealt with there; or by fish merchants to be despatched inland for sale as fresh fish.

Broadly speaking, there may be said to be four methods of curing:—

- (a) By means of salt only, the fish being cured and packed in barrels.
- (b) By means of salt or brine, the fish being subsequently smoked.
- (c) By preserving fish in tins, &c., by means of exclusion of air.
- (d) By salt and subsequent drying in the open air.

In each of these methods of curing, as well as in the despatch of fresh fish to be sold as such, there are certain initial emergency processes necessary to prevent the fish becoming spoiled.

The Report deals at length with the various methods of curing, and specifies in the case of each process the point at which emergency ceases. For example, in the curing of herring in the wet state in barrels, "emergency ceases at the first packing into barrels"; in herring curing in barrels in a dry state it ceases at salting; in kippering, at "placing in the smoke-houses"; in preserving of pilchards in oil at the "dipping in boiling oil," and so forth.

By far the greatest portion of the fish-curing industry of the United Kingdom is performed by women, especially in Scotland. The number so employed in the factories and workshops which came within the knowledge of the investigators was 33,610, viz., 9,012 men, 23,200 women, and 1,398 young persons. Of the total number 24,948 (including 18,881 women) were in Scotland, 5,088 (including 2,715 women) in England, and 3,574 (including 1,604 women) in Ireland. Out of the 1,398 young persons 1,015 were employed in Ireland.

\* The date given is that at which the change took effect in the wages of the majority of those employed.

† This change was not made until March 1st an agreement for the continuance of the scale having been signed on February 17th.



Most of the industry is carried on in premises coming within the category of "workshops," and the Report states that sanitary accommodation in these places is in many cases lamentably wanting, especially in view of the fact that "hundreds of women are imported for curing purposes into sea-coast towns and villages which in themselves are ill-fitted for their normal needs." Examples, however, to the contrary are quoted, e.g., Hull.

In many instances, especially at Scarborough, the curing of herrings in barrels was found to be entirely done in the open air without shelter; and in the mackerel-curing industry of the South-West of Ireland "the workers are frequently compelled to stand all day exposed to the inclemency of the weather." Some particulars are given of the wages earned in the fish-curing industry.\*

The necessities of each branch of the trade are largely governed by the perishable nature of the fish; the uncertain hour at which the fishing boats arrive; the variable supply of fish, the brevity of the season, &c. The opinion is expressed that a large portion of the industry could not be carried on under the ordinary provisions for factories and workshops as regards hours of labour.

The following are the main conclusions of the Report:—

"Section 100 goes too far in some directions, and not far enough in others. Were the present Act strictly enforced, i.e., exemption granted only to gutting, salting and packing immediately on the arrival of the fish, kipperers would be most seriously hampered, as the exemption would only include the processes of gutting and pickling, and would not extend to those of tending and placing in the kilns, which are equally essential in order to prevent the fish from spoiling. Haddock curing and the preserving of fish in tins would be somewhat similarly affected. The concluding words of Section 100 of the Act of 1878 would limit the exemption to curing stations on the sea coast; whilst the first words, 'Nothing in this Act shall apply to,' would give total exemption, not only as to hours of labour, but also from all other provisions of the Act.

"Again, if the exemption under the present section were held to include all processes of curing, direct or indirect, it might be held to extend to such incidental processes as making of tins, barrels, &c. (in which case unfair competition would arise with manufacturers of such articles who do not happen to be fish curers as well), and also to the requirements as to guarding of machinery, and reporting of accidents, as well as to sanitation and exhibiting of abstracts.

"Our recommendation, therefore, would be that the existing exemption be repealed; and that the new exemption to take its place should apply only to the hours of employment of women and young persons. It should be enacted, we think, that nothing in the Act should prevent the employment of women and young persons, according to the exigencies of the trade, in the immediate and continuous processes necessary to prevent the fish from spoiling on the day or night of its arrival at the factory or workshop. But that the period of employment, exclusive of meal hours and absence from work, shall not exceed, for young persons, twelve hours, or for women fourteen hours, in any 24 hours, and that employment on Sunday be prohibited.

"We also recommend that the provisions of the Act as to a weekly half-holiday shall not apply to such further processes as complete the curing of the fish, or to packing of fish for the markets."

BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1897.

In connection with the International Exhibition held last year at Brussels, notification of which appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE for February 1897 (p. 63), the list of Awards to the British Section has been officially communicated to the Foreign Office. The Labour Department of the Board of Trade was awarded a "Grand Prix" for its set of publications on Labour questions.

\* This was dealt with in LABOUR GAZETTE, Feb. 1897, p. 38.

THE WAGES OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

COOKS AND HOUSEMAIDS.

**Cooks.**—From returns received by the Labour Department particulars as to the wages of 1,382 cooks have been obtained. Of these, 457 were in London, 648 in other parts of England and Wales, 179 in Scotland and 98 in Ireland.

The number under 20 years of age is so small as to be valueless in classification by age, but they are included in the classification according to number of servants in household.

TABLE SHOWING THE AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGES OF COOKS.

	I.—At different Age Periods.			
	London.	England and Wales (excluding London).	Scotland.	Ireland.
20 years ... ..	£ 17'3	£ 16'1	£ 15'7	£ 11'0
21 and under 25 years ...	18'4	17'5	16'9	12'5
25 " " 30 " " ...	21'8	20'2	20'6	17'2
30 " " 35 " " ...	23'7	22'0	21'4	18'9
35 " " 40 " " ...	28'3	24'4	22'2	21'3
40 years and upwards ...	28'0	24'5	23'0	19'5

	II.—According to Number of Servants in Household.			
	Offered.	Obtained.	Asked for.	
Two Servants ... ..	19'0	17'6	17'6	14'1
Three " " " " ...	21'5	19'9	20'0	16'7
Four " " " " ...	25'9	22'6	23'0	19'4
Five " " " " ...	27'0	25'0	23'5	23'5
Six " " " " ...	33'6	28'2	24'9	26'6
More than Six Servants ...	41'1	38'5	37'0	30'2

From a London West End registry office supplying servants to households with four or more servants, the following particulars have been obtained with regard to the wages offered for and required by cooks:—

	Average Annual Wages			
	Offered.	Obtained.	Asked for.	
NUMBER OF COOKS—				
Obtaining Situations ...	68	£ 21'3 to 22'8	£ 23'5	£ 22'9 to 24'2
Wanted but not obtained ...	229	21'3 to 22'8	—	—
Wanted but not obtaining situations ...	259	—	—	26'1 to 27'9

From these figures it will be seen that where actual bargains were concluded the mistresses raised their original offers more than the servants lowered their demands. The mean of the rates demanded by the cooks who obtained situations is almost identical with the mean of the rates actually obtained, but the mistresses had to raise their offers from a mean of £22 to £23 10s. in order to obtain the servants they required. It will be observed that only a small proportion (68 out of 327) of the cooks registered obtained situations through this particular registry, but it is to be remembered that both servants and mistresses are accustomed to enter their names at several registries. A comparison of the rates offered and asked with those in the foregoing table shows that the mistresses (most of whom employed over three servants) offered considerably less than the average rates current in households of this size, while the cooks who failed to get situations were asking the rates actually being paid in households with four or five servants.

**Housemaids.**—The returns received by the Department include particulars of wages of 1,677 housemaids (including house parlourmaids). Of these 577 were in London, 813 in other parts of England and Wales, 182 in Scotland, and 105 in Ireland.

In the table given below there is little difference observable in the London returns between the average rates for four servant and for five servant households; and in the other English returns there is little difference between the averages for three and four servant households or between those for five and six servant households. This appears to be due to the inclusion of under-housemaids and third-housemaids in large households. In the four servant households in the Scottish returns no under-housemaids are included, the custom of employing laundry-maids resulting in a different

organisation of work from that customary in English households employing the same number of servants. The variations in Irish returns are partly due to the inclusion of under-housemaids.

TABLE SHOWING THE AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGES OF HOUSEMAIDS.

	London.	England and Wales (excluding London).	Scotland.	Ireland.
	16 years ... ..	£ 7'8	£ 8'0	—
17 " " " " ...	9'3	9'6	—	—
18 " " " " ...	10'9	11'1	11'2	7'0
19 " " " " ...	12'8	12'8	13'0	9'3
20 " " " " ...	14'4	12'9	12'4	10'6
21 and under 25 years ...	15'9	14'5	15'4	13'0
25 " " 30 " " ...	17'5	16'2	17'1	13'5
30 " " 35 " " ...	19'5	18'5	18'9	14'6
35 " " 40 " " ...	20'6	20'2	19'7	15'9
40 years and upwards ...	24'0	20'5	20'7	16'7
	25'8	20'4	20'7	17'1

	II.—According to Number of Servants in Household.			
	Offered.	Obtained.	Asked for.	
Two Servants ... ..	15'7	14'9	15'5	13'0
Three " " " " ...	16'3	16'0	17'2	14'2
Four " " " " ...	17'7	16'0	19'3	14'0
Five " " " " ...	18'3	17'2	18'9	16'6
Six " " " " ...	20'9	17'5	19'1	14'8
More than six Servants ...	20'5	18'4	20'5	16'8

The particulars as to house parlourmaids and housemaids supplied by the London registry office referred to show the following results:—

Number of Houseparlourmaids and Housemaids	Average Annual Wages			
	Offered.	Obtained.	Asked for.	
HOUSEPARLOURMAIDS—				
Obtaining situations ...	36	£ 16'9 to 18'3	£ 17'8	£ 17'6 to 18'3
Wanted but not obtained ...	114	16'9 to 18'0	—	—
Wanted but not obtaining situations ...	93	—	—	17'9 to 18'8
HOUSEMAIDS—				
Obtaining situations ...	22	£ 17'5 to 18'6	£ 17'7	£ 17'0 to 18'2
Wanted but not obtained ...	86	16'7 to 17'4	—	—
Wanted but not obtaining situations ...	253	—	—	17'2 to 18'1

Here the figures suggest a condition of supply and demand differing from that indicated above in the case of cooks. The number of housemaids who failed to get situations was much greater than that of mistresses who failed to obtain servants, and the mistresses who engaged servants obtained them on the average for less than their original offer.

OLD AGE INSURANCE IN ICELAND.\*

UNDER a law dated July 11th, 1890, a scheme of compulsory provision for old age and invalidity is in operation in Iceland. The following are its chief features.

In every commune a relief fund must be established for the invalid and the old. Annual contributions have to be paid into this fund by all servants of 20 and not more than 60 years of age, including persons working with their parents, and day labourers. The following are not obliged to contribute:—(1) Persons without means who are responsible for the maintenance of one or more others who are unable to provide for themselves; (2) those unable to earn wages owing to sickness or other causes; and (3) those who have made some sort of provision against the time when they will have reached the age of 65.

The contribution amounts to 1 krona (13'3d.) per annum for males, and 30 öre (4d.) per annum for females. The male head of each household has to pay the contribution due in respect of each person who has lived with him during the year, but he may deduct the contribution from the wages of such of those persons as have worked for him.

The money is collected each year in spring (the collectors receiving as remuneration 4 per cent. of what they collect) and is deposited at interest in the savings bank.

For the first 10 years after a fund has been established in each commune, the whole of the money collected each year, together with accumulated interest, goes towards the formation of a reserve fund. But after the first 10 years one half only of this money will be added to capital, while the other half will be distributed amongst the old and infirm poor residing in the commune, and not in receipt of ordinary poor relief, provided they belong, or have at

\* This account is compiled from Die Arbeiter-Versicherung im Auslande. Bearbeitet von Dr. Zacher, Kaiserl. Geh. Regierungsrat im Reichs-Versicherungsamt. Heft I., Die Arbeiter-Versicherung in Dänemark. Berlin, 1898, Verlag der Arbeiter-Versorgung. A. Troschel.

any time belonged, to one or other of the classes of persons obliged to contribute under the law.

Owing to the clause providing for the accumulation of a reserve fund, no benefits can be paid under the law before the year 1900.

Iceland which has its own Parliament, had in 1890—the latest year for which official figures are available—a population of 70,927 persons, viz.—33,689 males and 37,238 females.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 981 co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,267,072, show total sales for the fourth quarter of 1897 amounting to £9,050,515, as compared with £8,414,413 in the corresponding quarter of 1896. Of these societies, 783 show an increase and 198 a decrease, the net increase being £636,102, or 7'6 per cent.

Returns from three of the four wholesale societies for the same period show total sales in the distributive departments amounting to £4,569,789, as compared with £4,189,582 in the corresponding period of 1896, an increase of 9'1 per cent. The transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish societies amounted to £785,676, as compared with £532,519 in the fourth quarter of 1896, an increase of 47'5 per cent.

Thirty retail distributive societies in England and Wales reported the opening of 40 new branches and departments, and 2 societies in Scotland reported opening new branches.

During 1897 the English Wholesale Society had 14 butter-making creameries and 7 auxiliary creameries at work in Ireland, and is now proceeding to establish 17 others. The Scottish Wholesale Society has also commenced a creamery in Ireland.

At the half-yearly meeting of delegates to the Scottish Wholesale Society, held on February 26th, it was decided to allot £3,872 of the profits of the half-year to the employees, as bonus on wages, at the rate of 8d. in the £1.

During the past month one new distributive and 4 productive societies were registered in England and Wales, and notice of resolution to wind up was received from a co-operative cotton spinning society at Burnley. In Ireland 2 new distributive societies, 3 poultry societies, 1 co-operative credit bank, and 18 agricultural and dairy societies were registered.

Detailed figures showing the recent progress of co-operative distributive societies are given in the following table, based upon returns and reports specially supplied to the Department by the societies.

Description of Society.	Societies making Returns.		Sales of Societies making Returns.			
	No.	Member-ship.	In 4th quarter of 1897.	In 4th quarter of 1896.	Increase in 1897 compared with 1896.	
					Amount.	Per cent. on Sales.
I.—Retail Distributive Societies.						
England and Wales	775	1,069,202	£ 7,275,491	£ 6,799,274	£ 476,217	7'0
Scotland and Ireland	206	197,870	1,775,024	1,615,139	159,885	9'9
Totals: Retail Societies	981	1,267,072	9,050,515	8,414,413	636,102	7'6
II.—Wholesale Societies.						
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Distributive Departments	1,046*	1,053,564*	{ 3,315,988	{ 3,087,848	{ 228,140	{ 7'4
Manufacturing Departments			{ 357,158†	{ 304,850†	{ 52,308	{ 17'2
SCOTLAND:—						
Distributive Departments	292*	211,859*	{ 1,227,444	{ 1,082,240	{ 145,204	{ 13'4
Manufacturing Departments			{ 428,518†	{ 227,669†	{ 200,849	{ 88'2
IRELAND:—						
Irish Co-operative Agency Distributive	30*	Not stated.	26,357	19,494	6,863	35'2

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



THE COTTON INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

ACCORDING to information contained in a report supplied to the Board of Trade by the India Office, there were at work in India, at the end of 1896-7, 154 cotton mills, containing 37,303 looms and 3,975,719 spindles. They employed a daily average number of 148,997 persons, of whom, 92,180 are stated to be men, 28,028 women, 17,782 young persons, and 10,107 children, while the sex and age of 900 are not specified. The nominal capital of the mills, as far as this information has been furnished, is returned at about Rs. 13,886,000; but there is no return of the capital of eight mills worked by private proprietary, and probably the whole capital invested in this industry may be taken to be in excess of Rs. 14½ millions. (Rs. = 10 Rupees = about 11s. 8d. at present rate of exchange.)

Of the 154 mills, 105 are in the Bombay Presidency, 67 of these being in the town and Island of Bombay. There are 9 mills in Bengal, all in the vicinity of Calcutta; 11 in Madras, of which 4 are in the town of Madras; 6 in the North-Western Provinces, of which 4 are at Cawnpore; 4 in the Punjab, of which 3 are at Delhi; 1 at Indore; 7 in the Central Provinces; 1 in Ajmere-Merwara; 3 in Hyderabad (Nizam's Territory); 1 in Berar; 2 in Mysore; 3 in the French settlement of Pondicherry; and 1 in Travancore. The Bombay Presidency possesses 68 per cent. of the whole number of mills in India, 70 per cent. of the spindles, and 77 per cent. of the looms. Thirteen mills are situated in Native States and in French-Indian territory.

The consumption of cotton by the Indian mills in the year is estimated to have amounted to 1,409,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, or say, 5,032,000 cwt.

The industry dates from 1851, when the first mill was started. The following figures exhibit the progress made in the construction and extension of mills in the last ten years:—

Year	Mills. No.	Looms. No.	Spindles. No.	Persons employed. No.
1887-88	97	18,840	2,375,739	80,515
1888-89	108	22,156	2,670,022	92,126
1889-90	114	22,078	2,934,637	99,224
1890-91	125	23,845	3,197,740	111,998
1891-92	127	24,670	3,268,524	117,922
1892-93	130	26,317	3,378,303	120,898
1893-94	137	29,392	3,539,681	130,570
1894-95	143	34,161	3,711,669	139,578
1895-96	147	37,276	3,844,307	146,244
1896-97	154	37,303	3,975,719	148,997

Coincidentally with the imposition in December, 1894, of an import duty on cotton yarns and textile fabrics, an excise duty was imposed on yarns of counts above 20's spun in the Indian mills. This arrangement was modified in January, 1896, by the exemption of yarns and the subjection to excise duty of woven fabrics, which, since that date, have been assessed to duty at the rate of 3½ per cent. on value.

The total production of yarn in 1896-7 was 421,539,909 lbs., compared with 435,123,731 lbs. in 1895-6, a reduction of 3 per cent.

Bombay, the Central Provinces, and Ajmere, show a decrease in production; in other provinces there was an increase. The falling-off is accounted for by the plague. In Bombay the production fell from 88·8 million lbs. in the first quarter of 1896-7 to 42·2 millions in the last quarter, when many of the mills in the city of Bombay had to close their doors, whilst others had to work short time in consequence of the flight from the city of the mill operatives. The prevalence of famine, too, interfered with the sale of yarn in India.

Another noticeable fact is that the production of yarn of counts higher than 20's was as much as 55 million lbs. in 1896-7, being 13 per cent. of the whole production compared with 10 per cent. in the year 1895-6. In Bengal, the North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab the mills spin hardly any yarn above 20's, but in Bombay the spinning of the higher counts (above 20's) is 15 per cent. of the whole, in the Central Provinces it is 16 per cent., and in Berar nearly 19 per cent.

The total production of woven goods in Indian mills reached 82,321,511 lbs.\* in 1896-7. There are no figures for the previous year.

Weaving in mills is concentrated in Bombay to an even greater degree than spinning, the mills of that province producing over 81 per cent. of the whole quantity woven in the Indian mills.\* Madras and the Central Provinces produce each about 6 per cent. of the whole. In the Bengal mills there is practically no weaving done yet.

The effects of plague and famine on the weaving done in the Bombay mills are conspicuous, though the decline in the production was not so large as in the case of spinning. The amount for the first quarter of the year 1896-7 was 18·2 million lbs., and for the last only 12·6 million lbs.

The goods woven are mainly grey (unbleached) goods. These represent over 90 per cent. of the whole production of the mills in Bombay, and also in India generally. In the Central provinces only does any material proportion of the weaving consist of the finer goods—that is, goods other than grey goods; there it is about 21 per cent. of the whole production.

CURRENT RATES OF WAGES OF ORDINARY DAY LABOURERS IN GERMANY.†

IN connection with the German Insurance Laws, an inquiry has been made with regard to the wages of "ordinary day labourers" current in a large number of localities in the German Empire. A return has been published giving the results of the inquiry.

The following table, prepared from information contained in this return, states the rates for ordinary labour, as ascertained on December 10th, 1897, in the 28 cities and towns of the Empire with populations exceeding 100,000:—

Town.	Population (Census of Dec. 2, 1895).	Daily Wages of Ordinary Labourers.			
		Men.	Boys (14 to 16)	Women.	Girls (14 to 16).
Berlin	1,677,304	s. d. 2 8	s. d. 1 4	s. d. 1 6	s. d. 1 0
Hamburg	625,352	3 0	1 0	2 0	1 0
Munich	407,307	2 6	1 1	1 8	1 0
Leipzig	399,963	2 0	0 10	1 4	0 10
Breslau	373,163	2 0	1 0	1 1	0 10
Dresden	335,440	2 6	1 6	1 6	1 0
Cologne	321,554	2 6	1 6	1 6	0 10
Frankfort (on-the-Main)	229,279	2 6	1 5	1 10	1 0
Magdeburg	214,424	2 0	1 2	1 5	1 0
Hanover	209,535	2 5	1 2	1 6	1 0
Düsseldorf	175,985	2 5	1 2	1 6	0 10
Königsberg	172,796	1 0	1 0	1 0	0 5
Nuremberg	162,386	2 2	1 4	1 5	0 11
Chemnitz	161,015	2 2	1 1	1 4	1 0
Stuttgart	158,321	2 8	1 4	1 6	1 0
Altona	149,944	3 0	1 3	2 0	1 0
Bremen	141,432	3 0	1 3	1 9	1 0
Stettin	140,724	2 3	1 0	1 0	0 7
Elberfeld	139,332	2 5	1 0	1 6	0 10
Strassburg	135,608	2 2	1 0	1 2	0 8
Charlottenburg	132,377	2 6	1 0	1 6	0 10
Barmen	126,992	2 5	1 0	1 6	0 10
Danzig	125,905	1 10	0 8	1 3	0 6
Halle	116,304	2 2	1 2	1 1	1 0
Brunswick	115,138	2 2	1 0	1 6	1 0
Dortmund	111,232	2 0	1 2	1 5	0 10
Aix-la-Chapelle	110,551	2 1	1 1	1 5	0 10
Crefeld	107,245	2 5	1 2	1 6	1 0

The mean rate for the 28 large cities and towns for ordinary adult male labour appears to be about 2s. 5d. per day, this rate being quoted for five out of the 28 towns, while 5 others return 2s. 6d. as the current rate. The highest rate (3s. per day) is found in Hamburg, Altona and Bremen. Next come Berlin and Stuttgart with 2s. 8d. Five towns, including Leipzig, Breslau and Magdeburg show 2s., the only large town with a lower rate than this being Danzig (1s. 10d.). The mean rate for women in the 28 towns is 1s. 6d.

It should be borne in mind that the above table refers only to the large towns, and that the rates given are therefore naturally higher than the average for the whole country, including small towns and extra-urban districts.

\*There is a great deal of hand-loom weaving in India not included in these figures. † Compiled from (1) *Anhang zu Nr. 52 des Central-Blatt für das Deutsche Reich*, December, 1897, and (2) *Statistisches Jahrbuch Deutscher Städte, Deutscher Jahrgang*, 1897.

EMPLOYMENT, COST OF LIVING, AND WAGES IN FRANCE.

THE volume recently issued by the French Labour Department\* as the Fourth Part of its Report on Wages and Hours of Labour in French Industrial Establishments is, in the main, a summary of details given in the three preceding instalments of this work (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1894, p. 64; May, 1895, p. 145; and April, 1896, p. 113), but also contains information, especially as to stability of employment and the cost of living, not hitherto available.

The numbers employed in the various industries studied vary somewhat from month to month. The inquiry showed that for the whole of these industries taken together (excluding those carried on by the State or other public authorities, and railways, tramways and omnibuses, agricultural labour, seamen and fishermen) the range of these monthly variations during a year is about 4 per cent. of the total number employed. In particular industries the range of variation is, of course, greater, and still greater in individual establishments, for which it averages 19 per cent. The inquiry also showed that, on an average, for every 100 persons employed at a given time in one establishment, from 135 to 140 persons pass through that establishment in the course of the year. From such data as these, combined with estimates furnished by trade unions with regard to the number of days of work which a workman usually obtains in a year, the Department concludes that roughly, on an average, there are 115 workmen in existence for every 100 places; and that of these 115, about 75 (more or less) are permanently employed and work an average of 295 days in the year, and the remaining 40 are casual and work on the average 170 days in the year.

It is pointed out that in the calculations just stated employment in a man's principal occupation is alone taken into account; and it is observed that it is common for workmen, when unable to obtain employment at their proper trade, to occupy themselves temporarily in other ways, especially in the cultivation of land.

The proportion which the expenditure for food and rent of a workman bears to his earnings, varying in different parts of France, is shown by the table below. The second column gives the estimated expenses of a family consisting of six persons for food, fuel and rent. As to food and fuel, a certain uniform consumption has been supposed, of which the details are given in the report, while the estimated cost of rent varies from 8s. 10d. per annum in the Oise Department, and 20s. 10d. in the Lozère to £9 2s. 5d. in the Seine-et-Oise, and £14 8s. in the Seine (Paris and environs). The figures in the third column, showing the estimated daily cost of board and lodging for a single man, are based upon returns of the sum usually paid for board and lodging by workmen which were furnished by *conseils de prud'hommes* and by mayors in different parts of France.

Departments or Groups of Departments.	Estimated annual expenditure on Food, Fuel and Rent of a Family.	Estimated daily cost of Board and Lodging of a Single Man.	Estimated daily earnings of	
			Unskilled Workman.	Skilled Workman.
I. Seine (Paris and environs)	£ 74 8 0	s. d. 2 5	s. d. 4 0	s. d. 6 0
II. Seine-et-Oise	68 0 0	2 5	2 10½	4 10½
III. Group	58 0 0	2 0	2 8	3 7
IV. Group	55 12 0	1 10	2 5	3 2½
V. Group	56 0 0	1 10	2 2½	3 1½
VI. Group	53 4 0	1 8	2 0	2 9½
VII. Group	54 0 0	1 5	1 9	2 6

Taking together skilled and unskilled workmen, and dealing with France as a whole, it is stated that, out of the average daily earnings throughout the year of a single man in constant employment, 60 per cent. is the proportion which he must spend upon board and lodging.

The changes in the wages of the working-classes in

\* *Salaires et Durée du Travail dans l'Industrie Française*, Tome IV., Résultats généraux. (Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1897.)

France are shown by a series of statistics, including the following illustrative details.

Trade.	Wages for a day's work in				
	1840 to 1845	1853 to 1857	1860 to 1865	1874	1891 to 1893
Workmen outside Paris (all trades combined)	s. d. 1 8	s. d. —	s. d. 2 2½	s. d. —	s. d. 3 1½
Workwomen outside Paris (all trades combined)	0 10	—	1 0½	—	1 8½
Coal, Lignite, etc. miners	1 8	1 10½	2 1	10	3 4
Mason and Bricklayer, outside Paris	—	1 9½	—	6	3 3
Mason and Bricklayer, Paris	3 4	3 5	4 2½	5	6 0

It will be seen that the money value of wages has, within the last 50 years, about doubled. With respect to the purchasing power of wages, it is stated that, in the same period, rent has more than doubled, but the total cost of housing and feeding a workman's family, has not increased by more than 25 per cent. In this calculation, however, it has been assumed that the scale of living has remained uniform from year to year. As a fact, the standard of comfort has not remained stationary, but has advanced. Thus, if we examine the actual cost, at different times within the period covered by the statistics, of board and lodging (as measured by the excess of the customary wages of a single man, where board and lodging are not provided by the employer over the wages paid where the workman receives free board and lodging), we shall find that this cost has, between 1853 and 1892, about doubled, a fact pointing to the conclusion that the consumption of articles of primary necessity by working men has very materially increased.

THE STATE AND PROVISION AGAINST SICKNESS IN DENMARK.\*

THE action of the State in Denmark in the matter of provision against sickness is determined by the law of April 12th, 1892, concerning recognised sick funds. This law, by conferring certain advantages upon recognised sick funds, aims at creating an inducement for persons, for whom insurance against sickness would be desirable, to effect such insurance, but contains no compulsory provisions.

Membership of a recognised sick fund is limited by the law to certain classes of persons, namely, labourers, cottagers, workmen engaged in a handicraft or trade (in so far as such persons are without private means), employees (clerks, &c.), with small salaries, and other persons of either sex whose economic condition may be regarded as on a par with that of the foregoing classes.

On the other hand, recognised sick funds are bound, as a rule, to admit the above classes of persons to membership so long as they fulfil the conditions as to age and health laid down in the bye-laws of the fund. No person under the age of 15 years may be admitted as a member of a recognised sick fund.

As a rule, a society must, in order to be accorded recognition, consist of at least 50 members, and must limit its membership to persons of a particular occupation (mercantile, industrial or handicraft) or else to persons belonging to a particular district.

The State gives an annual subvention of 500,000 kroner (about £27,708) for making grants to recognised sick funds, partly in proportion to their membership at the end of each year, and partly in proportion to the amounts contributed by the members. The grant proportionate to membership must not exceed 2 kroner (about 2s. 3d.) per member, nor may the grant proportionate to contributions exceed one-fifth of such contributions.

Recognised sick funds must, as a rule, provide the following benefits in case of sickness:—

1. Free medical attendance and hospital treatment for members, and for members' children under the age of 15 years, residing with their parents.

\* From *Die Arbeiter-Versicherung im Auslande*. Bearbeitet von Dr. Zacher. Heft 1. Die Arbeiter-Versicherung in Dänemark. Berlin, 1898. Verlag der Arbeiter-Versorgung. A. Troschel.



2. A daily allowance for members (except in cases in which the illness does not continue for more than three days). The amount of the daily allowance may not exceed two-thirds of the daily earnings (as calculated under the rules of the fund), nor, as a rule, be less than 40 ore (about 5.3d.) per day. The period for which sick pay may be claimed shall not be less than 13 weeks in the course of 12 consecutive months.

General supervision over recognised sick funds is exercised by an official attached to the Ministry of the Interior, and bearing the title of Inspector of Sick Funds.

The following statement shows the number and membership of the recognised sick funds in each of the years 1893-6:—

Year.	No. of recognised Sick Funds at end of Year.	Membership.				Total.
		Full Members.			Honorary Members.	
		Men.	Women.	Total.		
1893	457	60,311	55,550	115,861	902	116,763
1894	535	69,336	63,842	133,178	815	134,193
1895	628	79,678	74,468	154,146	736	154,882
1896	724	91,703	86,969	178,672	705	179,377

Of the 724 recognised funds existing at the end of 1896, 671 consisted of persons of various callings living in one and the same district; 38 consisted of persons practising the same trade, and 15 of persons employed in a particular factory. Honorary members subscribe to the fund, but are not entitled to its benefits.

The following statement shows the income, expenditure and property of the recognised sick funds in each of the above years:

	1893	1894	1895	1896
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Members' contributions ...	40,002	46,889	53,793	60,971
State subventions ...	—	19,126	22,757	26,368
Communal subventions ...	1,362	1,578	1,923	2,160
Other income ...	4,628	5,657	6,322	7,579
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>45,992</b>	<b>73,250</b>	<b>84,795</b>	<b>97,078</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>				
Sick pay ...	24,345	28,244	32,474	33,888
Treatment in hospitals ...	2,828	3,578	4,393	5,281
Doctor and conveyance ...	14,757	20,919	24,372	28,699
Medicines ...	6,770	7,833	9,156	9,884
Administration ...	4,665	4,642	5,446	7,004
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>53,365</b>	<b>65,216</b>	<b>76,031</b>	<b>84,756</b>
<b>FUNDS ...</b>	<b>33,542</b>	<b>45,904</b>	<b>58,978</b>	<b>75,364</b>

In 342 of the 628 recognised sick funds existing at the end of 1895, the sick benefit was allowed for 13 weeks in the year; in 166 the duration of the benefit ranged from 14 to 20 weeks, and in 120 funds it exceeded 20 weeks.

The following statement shows the average number of days of sickness per member in each year from 1893 to 1896, distinguishing men from women:—

	Average number of days of Sickness in			
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	Men.			
In Copenhagen ...	8.3	7.8	7.9	7.2
Provincial Towns ...	7.8	5.7	7.0	6.6
Rural Districts ...	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.0
Women.				
In Copenhagen ...	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.2
Provincial Towns ...	6.2	6.6	6.3	5.1
Rural Districts ...	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.5

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

**Liverpool Mining District.**—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18 King-street, Wigan.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN ITALY IN 1896.

THE Report just issued by the Statistical Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce in Rome upon Strikes and Lock-outs in Italy in 1896\* shows the number and magnitude of the labour disputes of that year to have been greater than in any other year for which official statistics on the subject have been published.

The difference in the figures for the two most recent years is noteworthy. In 1896, there were 211 strikes, involving 96,151 workpeople, whilst in 1895 there were 133 strikes, involving only 21,018 workpeople. The increase in the figures for 1896 is due, in the first place, to the general strike of straw-plaiters in the province of Florence, begun on May 15th, 1896, and involving 40,950 workpeople; and in the second place, to the numerous strikes (47 in all) which occurred in the Sicilian sulphur trade, in five of which 15,400 workpeople took part.

Some particulars of the strike of Florence straw-plaiters were given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1896, p. 245.

With reference to the strikes of Sicilian sulphur miners, the report states that these disputes were due to the recovery in the price of sulphur (since the establishment of the Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur Company) and the consequent demands of the men to have their wages restored to the level at which they stood prior to the fall in the price of sulphur. It is stated that, in 1896, in the district where the strikes took place, the daily wages of pickmen have been increased on an average by 4.8d. and those of boys by 3.8d.

The total number of days lost by strikers in 1896 was 1,152,603, compared with 146,473 in 1895.

The following statement shows how these totals were distributed over certain groups of trades in each of those years:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of days lost by Strikers in	
	1895.	1896.
Building Trades ...	19,793	19,104
Clothing Trades ...	470	644,160
Metal Trades ...	10,262	25,783
Mining and Quarrying ...	35,902	362,801
Textile Trades ...	47,216	70,229
Dock Labour and Transport ...	3,691	1,201
Agriculture ...	20,565	100
Miscellaneous ...	8,658	28,225†
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>146,473</b>	<b>1,152,603</b>

Of the 644,160 days lost in the clothing trades in 1896, 614,250 were lost by workpeople directly or indirectly involved in the straw-plaiters' strike in the province of Florence (in all other cases only those days are included which were lost by the actual strikers). Of the 362,801 days lost in mines and quarries in 1896, 348,573 were lost by sulphur workers.

The following statement classifies the strikers of 1895 and 1896 according to the principal causes or objects of the strikes in which they were engaged:—

Cause or object of Strike.	Number of Workpeople who took part in Strikes.	
	1895.	1896.
Wages.—For increase ...	9,724	78,822
Against decrease ...	3,093	5,723
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>12,817</b>	<b>84,545</b>
Hours of Labour.—For decrease ...	1,239	980
Against increase ...	—	267
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,247</b>
Other causes or objects ...	6,962	10,359
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>21,018</b>	<b>96,151</b>

The figures for 1895 are exclusive of one strike for which full particulars could not be ascertained.

\* *Statistica degli Scioperi avvenuti nell' Industria e nell' Agricoltura durante l'anno 1896.* Ministero di Agricoltura, Industria e Commercio. Direzione Generale della Statistica. Roma. Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero, 1896.  
† Of these, 12,834 were lost by tanners.

Agreements in the Glass Bottle Trade.

(1) YORKSHIRE.

On January 31st an agreement regulating wages for twelve months was signed by representatives of the Yorkshire Manufacturers' Association and of the Glass Bottle Makers' Society. It provides that for three months from 7th February the rates for overwork shall be 10 per cent. below list, that for the following five months full list rates shall be paid, and for the four months next following the overwork rates shall be 15 per cent. below list. These rates represent an average increase of 5 per cent. over those paid in 1897. The agreement also deals with the payment for bottles defective by reason of blown marbles, and provides that grievances arising from bad metal, construction of factories, or management, shall be brought before a sub-committee of employers and workmen. About 3,170 workpeople are directly affected, in addition to 300 light metal workers at Sunderland and Seaham Harbour. These latter are, by an agreement dated March 31st, 1897, paid according to the Yorkshire list for the time being, less 10 per cent. in consideration of being paid from the arch-mouth.

(2) LANCASHIRE.

An agreement has also been arrived at between the representatives of the employers and workmen in Lancashire for an increase of five per cent. in the rates for "overwork," and some reductions in the numbers of a few classes of bottles required to be produced for a day's wage. The agreement affects 700 workpeople, and came into operation on 7th February.

London Machine Composing Scale.

On page 255 of the Report on Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour in 1896, a summary was given of the new rules and prices for Machine Composing agreed to on July 27th, 1896. Since these rules were signed some discussion has arisen as to the interpretation of certain points. Accordingly, on January 13th, 17th and 25th a joint conference was held of representatives of the morning, evening and weekly newspapers in London, the Master Printers and Allied Trades Association, and the London Society of Compositors. The agreement provisionally arrived at was subsequently approved by a ballot of the London Society of Compositors, and signed on February 11th by representatives of that body, and by representatives of the employers' special committee.

The following is the text of the new agreement:—

NEWS SCALE—DAILY PAPERS.

**RULE 4.**—The printer has the right to put any operator upon time-work, but the representatives of the employers have agreed that such rights shall be exercised with discretion, preference being given to case hands for time-work.

**RULE 9.**—The rate at which leads (other than those required in making-up) shall be charged by the operator has been fixed as follows:—8-to-pica leads or thicker, at machine rates; thinner than 8-to-pica, at case rates.

All rules (other than advertisement rules) put in by hand to be charged at case rates. This arrangement is for Linotype or typebar machines only; all leads used in matter composed upon movable-type machines to be charged at case rates.

NEWS SCALE—WEEKLY PAPERS.

**RULE 9.**—Charges to be as specified above for Rule 9, Daily Papers.

BOOK SCALE.

**RULE 7.**—Charges to be as specified above for Rule 9, Daily Papers.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.\*

**Unseaworthy Ship.—Negligence.**—The widow of a seaman brought an action against a firm of shipowners to recover damages for the loss of her husband who was employed on a steamship, and who was swept overboard during a storm, owing, it was alleged, to the negligence of the defendants. The vessel was an iron, well-decked steamer of 748 tons net register, and had loaded a cargo of timber at Kotka in Finland, and was proceeding to Zaandam in Holland. There were on board 505 standards of timber, and of

\* Under this heading are also included actions at Common Law to recover from employers compensation for injuries to workpeople.

Speaking roughly, 70 per cent. of all persons engaged in strikes in 1896 were completely successful (compared with 31 per cent. in 1895), 18 per cent. were partially successful (compared with 39 per cent.) and 12 per cent. unsuccessful (compared with 30 per cent.). The great increase in the proportion of successful strikers in 1896 is due to the fact that the Florence straw-plaiters' strike was successful.

Of 6 lock-outs which took place in 1896 (and are not included above), 2 only were ordinary labour disputes, and involved 1,351 workpeople, the rest being meant as protests against decisions of the authorities affecting the employers concerned.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Arbitration in the Boot and Shoe Trade.

IN accordance with the terms of settlement of the boot and shoe trade dispute of 1895, representatives of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives and of the Federated Association of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Great Britain submitted the following questions to the arbitration of Lord James of Hereford:—

(1) Are trade union officials entitled to claim from a federated employer the full minimum wages on behalf of men who by age (20 years) are entitled to claim them, when such men are not members of the trade union, (a) without the approval of such workmen, (b) when requested by such workmen?

(2) Have Boards of Arbitration jurisdiction to deal with disputes as to wages in cases where the claim for the full minimum wages has been made by trades union officials, being the representatives of workmen, and not by the workmen personally?

Lord James issued his award on February 10th, the following being the operative clauses:—

(1) That trades union officials are not entitled to claim the minimum rate of wages on behalf of workmen who are not members of the trade union (a) without the approval of such workmen, but are entitled to do so (b) when requested by such workmen.

(2) That Boards of Arbitration have jurisdiction to deal with disputes as to wages in cases where the claim for the full minimum rate of wages has been made by trades union officials, being the representatives of workmen on whose behalf the claim has been made.

Arbitration in the East of Scotland Boot and Shoe Trade.

On February 21st the Arbitrator to the East of Scotland Arbitration Board gave his award on matters argued before him on February 1st. This award fixes the hours of labour at 54 per week, and the minimum wage of lasters and finishers at 28s. per week. With respect to a minimum wage for clickers and pressmen the decision is "that this question stand adjourned until the end of present year; three years from previous decision thereon," and with respect to a piecework statement for clickers the decision is "that the employers are justified in having such a statement, but that such a statement be drafted locally." Other matters dealt with in the award are the adjustment of statement for glacé kid work, the classification of a number of boots and shoes, the extra to be paid for toe cap on cycling shoes (fixed at 3d per pair) and a proposed deduction on glacé shoes (decided that there be no deduction). The following note is appended to the award.

**NOTE.**—On the question of minimum wage. In all cases where workers, owing to age or infirmity, cannot properly be classed as fully competent workmen, such workers may agree with employers upon a lower rate, such agreement to be reported to, and ratified by the local union.

Demarcation Dispute on the Clyde.

On February 17th, 580 shipwrights employed in a shipbuilding yard on the Clyde struck work to enforce their claim to lay the floors in the refrigerating chambers of a vessel under construction in the yard. The work in question had been given to the joiners. On February 21st the shipwrights returned to work, pending a consideration of the question by the Clyde Standing Committee for the Demarcation of Work. This Committee met on March 1st, and decided that the work was joiners' work.



these 140 were put on deck. The stacks of timber both forward and aft stood above the bulwarks, and, in order to prevent the timber going overboard, uprights were put in along the bulwarks. The uprights and timber were secured by wire and ropes in the forepart of the vessel, while those aft were not secured at all. The plaintiff's case was that when the vessel sailed from Kotka there was too much cargo on deck, that she was top-heavy and showed a tendency to list to port. Two days after starting, bad weather came on, and some of the deck cargo aft had to be jettisoned. A few days later, during a gale, the remainder of the deck cargo aft became loose, and more of it was ordered by the captain to be jettisoned. Soon afterwards a heavy sea struck the ship on the starboard side, and the plaintiff's husband and another man were swept overboard and drowned, while one man was killed on deck, and a fourth had his leg broken. Evidence was called by the plaintiff to show that the vessel had too much deck cargo, and that she was not fit to encounter the perils she was likely to meet with at that time of the year.

On behalf of the defendants it was denied that the vessel was unseaworthy, or that the cargo was improperly stowed, and it was argued on their behalf that, even if it was unseaworthy, the accident was not due to that cause, but was a pure accident occasioned by the vessel being struck by a heavy sea. The defendants called evidence to show that the cargo carried on deck was not excessive, that it was stowed by skilled men, and that the vessel was not unseaworthy. The jury found that the ship was not reasonably seaworthy, and that the death of plaintiff's husband was due to such unseaworthiness. They gave £200 damages to the widow, £40 to the eldest boy, £60 to the next boy, and £100 to each of the other two boys. A stay of execution was granted to enable defendants to appeal on the amount awarded being paid into court.—*Queen's Bench Division, February 14th and 15th.*

(2) QUARRIES ACT (1894).

**Explosives—lack of precautions.**—A County Council was summoned as owners of a quarry, and the county surveyor and a road foreman as their agents, for contravention of the Quarries Act, 1894, and the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, 1872. Evidence was given that in one of the eating huts there was found on a certain day, in a cask, nine packages containing about five pounds of gelignite without a proper cover, and also a linen bag containing six or seven pounds of gunpowder. The cask was about seven feet from the fire place, where there had been a fire. The Bench fined the County Council £5, the county surveyor £5, and the road foreman £3, and ordered them to pay their own costs, amounting to £3 7s. 2d. each.—*Caerwys Petty Sessions, February 14th.*

(3) MINES REGULATION ACT.

**Lucifer Matches in Mines.**—Three miners were summoned for, and pleaded guilty to, breaches of the Mines Regulation Act and special rules in force in a colliery. Their offence consisted in taking lucifer matches into the mine, where only safety lamps were permitted to be used, owing to the fiery nature of the mine. Each defendant was fined £2 or 17 days' imprisonment.—*Sheriffs' Court, Airdrie, February 4th.*

(4) TRUCK ACTS.

**Fines levied without notice.**—A laundry company was fined £3 and £1 4s. costs for levying fines on two employees without giving notice, in contravention of Truck Act, 1896.—*Ipswich Borough Court, February 21st.*

(5) MISCELLANEOUS.

**Working During Receipt of Sick Pay.**—A member of a benefit society sued the president and secretary for arrears of sick pay amounting to £8 11s. One of the rules of the society was, that "If any member on the books be found doing any manner of work, except giving directions to any persons he employs, he shall for the first offence forfeit his week's benefit, and for the second offence he shall be excluded." The plaintiff had been a member of the society for 40 years. The society stopped the plaintiff's sick pay under the following circumstances. In June last it was reported to the society that he had been seen carrying water up his garden to water vegetables, and that he acted as judge in a fire brigade competition. The defendants alleged that this constituted work within the meaning of the rule. The Judge held that the acts complained of did not constitute work within the meaning of the rule, and gave judgment for the plaintiff, with costs. The Judge further directed that the plaintiff was still a member of the club, and that his subscriptions, amounting to 17s. 6d., should be deducted from the amount claimed.—*Bicester County Court, February 7th.*

### LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

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

**Canada.**—A report from the mining town of Rossland, in British Columbia, states that there is an opening there for miners and mechanics at three to four dollars a day. The cost of living is less than it was, but it is still rather high. A correspondent in Alberta, North West Territories, writes that the farming industry there is very prosperous, and that prices are very high; there is a good demand for farm labour. There are also good openings round Fort Saskatchewan

\* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

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

(N.W.T.). There is a good demand at Souris, Manitoba, for farm labourers, country blacksmiths, dairymaids, and general female servants. There is no demand for mechanics or miners at St. John, New Brunswick, the market being already overstocked. At the Klondike gold fields creek and gulch claims have recently been fixed at 250 feet, measured in the general direction of the stream, the side boundaries to extend to the rim of the valley on each side, but not to exceed 1,000 feet from the centre of the creek; river claims on one side of the river only at 250 feet, measured and bounded as above, and other placer claims at 250 feet square. A miner's certificate costs £2. No one should go there unless he is thoroughly strong and experienced, and has £300 for outfit, journey and twelve months' food.

**New South Wales.**—Good practical miners are always in demand at the large Broken Hill silver mines, and high-class men of all trades have no difficulty in finding employment there; there is no opening for unskilled labourers. At Lithgow the collieries, the copper smelting works and ironworks have all been busy, and the men have been making fair wages. In the New England Districts work has been scarce, and the Goulbourn district has suffered greatly from the protracted drought.

**Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.**—These three Colonies are well supplied with labour of all kinds, and there is no demand for more hands.

**Western Australia.**—The demand for mechanics and labourers continues. An Act has just been passed prohibiting the landing of undesirable immigrants, and amongst them of any person who cannot himself write out in the characters of any language of Europe a passage in English of fifty words in length taken from a British author, and append his name thereto in his own language.

**New Zealand.**—With some few exceptions in the smaller country places, there has been plenty of work throughout the Colony for mechanics and country labourers. There is not, however, stated to be any demand for more hands, the local supply being sufficient.

**Cape Colony.**—Recruiting for the Cape Mounted Rifles has been resumed in this country. Application may be made to the Agent-General, 112 Victoria-street, S.W. Every approved applicant must deposit with him £24 3s. for his passage to Cape Town.

**Natal.**—The coal industry in the north continues to progress, and the output of coal in 1897 was larger than that of 1896. Most of the miners are natives, but about 70 skilled white men are also employed, amongst whom vacancies occur from time to time. There is a very fair demand for female domestic servants in the Colony, but the wages are not very high, considering the general cost of living.

**Transvaal.**—Trade in the Transvaal continues to be in a depressed condition, and there is no opening for anyone from this country.

### LABOUR ABROAD.

#### FRANCE.

**Employment in February.**\*—Employment continued good in the mining, printing, bookbinding, &c., and silk trades. The wool trade, previously slack, has improved somewhat. A falling off occurred in the engineering establishments of the Nord district. The leather-working, tailoring, millinery and hatmaking trades are still in their slack season, and in these trades, as also in the textile trades, the want of employment is felt more especially by the handworking operatives. The building trades, in which, on the whole, there was employment to be had all through the winter, owing to the mildness of the weather, will shortly enter upon their busy season. In various towns, however, no important building operations are in contemplation.

On February 15th, 450 trade unions, with 125,000

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

members, reported about 8½ per cent. unemployed, compared with a little over 8 per cent. reported unemployed on January 15th by 450 trade unions, with a membership of 120,000.

**Coal Mining in January.**\*—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in January was 5·74, being the same as in the previous month. In January full time (6 days and over) was worked by 8 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 90 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 6 and 93 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of the coal miners in France.

**Labour Disputes in February.**†—Twenty-five disputes were reported to the *Office du Travail* in February, compared with 37 in the previous month, and 29 in February, 1897. The number of workpeople directly involved in 23 out of the 25 new disputes of February was 2,389. The trades affected were the building trades (8 disputes), textiles (6), the leather working trades (3), metal working (2), sugar refinery, tramways, military stores manufacture, cabinet making, trunk making, and mining, in each of which one dispute took place. The most serious of the February disputes was the strike in military stores manufactory, which began on February 26th, and has not yet been reported as terminated. Five hundred workpeople are involved, the strike being caused by their objections to an official representing the military authorities. The results (for the workpeople) of the disputes terminated in February are stated as follows: success in 4 cases, compromise in 6, and failure in 10.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in February.**†—The disputes of February gave rise to 6 attempts to put the Conciliation and Arbitration Law into operation. In 4 of these cases (a strike of navvies at Lorient, a strike of cotton weavers employed in two mills belonging to one firm at Saint Lubin-des-Joncherets and Nonancourt, a strike in the boot trade at Fougères, and a strike of masons and bricklayers at La-Roche-sur-Yon) the dispute was settled through the mediation of the *juge de paix*; while in one case (a strike of female operatives in a cotton weaving mill at Roubaix) the employer met the request of the *juge de paix*, that both parties should attend a conference, by stating that he had at once filled the places of the strikers, and, therefore, no such conference could take place; and in another instance (a strike in a shipbuilding establishment at Nantes) repeated conferences between employers and employed, arranged by the *juge de paix*, failed to lead to a settlement.

#### GERMANY.

**Labour Disputes in February.**—*Der Arbeitsmarkt* gives a summary of 42 disputes reported in the German labour press as having begun in February. Of these, 12 occurred in the metal, engineering and allied trades, 9 among woodworkers and carvers, 5 in the building trades, 3 in the textile trades, 2 each in the clothing, mining and food preparing trades, and 7 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups. The total number of persons reported to have participated in 22 disputes was 1,457. A strike of colour-washers and painters in Wiesbaden is stated to have involved 556 persons.

**Employment in the Building Trades.**—The same journal reports that the building trades have been well employed in almost all the towns of Germany in February. Strasburg (Alsace), Hanover, Bremen, and Danzig are mentioned as exceptions. Owing, it is stated, to the exceptional mildness of the winter, there has been no slack season for builders.

**Operations of Public Labour Registries in February.**—The total number of situations offered by employers in February at 46 of the municipal and other public labour registries which have sent returns to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, was 20,134 as compared with 19,285 in the preceding month, and 17,100 in February, 1897.

The number of situations sought during the month was 28,423, compared with 30,706 in the previous month, and 25,949 in February, 1897. The number of situations found was 13,863, compared with 13,223 in the previous month, and 11,699 in February, 1897.

\* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, February, 1898.

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

**General Wages and Hours List of the Printing Trade.**—The organ of the German federation of printers and typefounders (*Correspondent für Deutschlands Buchdrucker und Schriftgiesser*) has published a list of the printing firms in Germany who, up to January 7th, 1898, had given a written undertaking to adhere to the terms of the German printers' tariff, as fixed by joint agreement on July 1st, 1896. The list contains the names of 1,943 firms. It is stated that several hundreds of firms adhere to the tariff without having given a written undertaking to do so. The number of members of unions affiliated to the federation, who are working under conditions fixed by the tariff, is stated to be at least 19,000. Some account of these conditions will be found in the *GAZETTE*, May, 1896, page 147.

#### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

**Agrarian Disturbances in Hungary.**—Despatches dated February 9th, 15th and 17th, received through the Foreign Office from Mr. Beauclerk, H.M. Consul-General at Buda-Pesth, report outbreaks of agrarian disturbances in various parts of Hungary, more especially in Szaboles and Szigand. Meetings of peasants rudely armed have taken place which have been dispersed by military force. Arrests of Socialist leaders have led to disturbances of the peace. The peasants' discontent is ascribed to the burden of taxation and the effects of the recent agricultural depression. Troops have been sent to Szaboles, Szigand and Risvárd. The leaders of the movement demand among other things that, where wages are paid in kind, one-half instead of one-third of the harvest shall be allotted to the labourers in future. The sequel to the disturbance in Szigand has been an *émeute*, during which the soldiery had to fire upon the people, 27 of whom were seriously wounded and one man was killed.

**Labour Disputes in February.**—The only serious labour dispute reported\* in February was a strike at a railway carriage works in Graz begun on February 11th, and due to the dismissal of certain workpeople. The strike was reported on March 6th to be still in progress, and the number of employees on strike was stated as 900.

#### ITALY.

**Chambers of Labour and Municipal Subventions.**—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated February 24, Sir F. C. Ford, H.M. Ambassador at Rome, reports that in an informal sitting of the Council of State, and subsequently in a general meeting on November 15, it was decided that Communes must abstain from granting subsidies from their budgets in support of the foundation or development of chambers of labour. This decision was based upon the consideration that the chambers are not institutions of general utility, but of advantage only to private individuals and persons engaged in particular occupations.

In consequence of this decision, the Ministry of the Interior has to take note of representations and appeals for invalidating such Communal decisions as grant subsidies to the said chambers.

Sir F. C. Ford adds that an appeal has been lodged against this decision by the Communes, and that, therefore, the matter is not yet definitely settled.

The aim of the Chambers of Labour, as defined at Congress of these Chambers, held in Parma in 1893, is "to serve as intermediaries between the supply and demand of labour and to defend the interests of the working class in all contingencies." (*See GAZETTE*, July 1894, p. 222; April 1896, p. 117, and November 1896, p. 342.)

#### RUSSIA.

**Labour Registries at Moscow.**—*Soziale Praxis* gives particulars concerning the working of certain labour registries at Moscow, and states that a commission has been appointed charged with the duty of taking steps towards the establishment of a municipal labour registry; and on the recommendation of this body a provisional labour registry has been opened by the municipality, which between September and November, 1897, found situations for applicants in more than 2,000 cases. It has now been determined to establish a central registry for all occupations on the lines of that at Munich.

\* In employers' and workmen's papers, including *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), *Das Handels-Museum*, *Die Gewerkschaft*, *Die Arbeiter Zeitung*, and others.



EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—COAL AND IRON MINING.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in February was not quite so good as in the corresponding period of 1897. More than three-quarters of the workpeople covered by the returns were, however, employed at pits working 5 or more days per week.

Returns relating to collieries employing 435,914 workpeople show that during the four weeks ended February 19th an average of 5.24 days was worked per week, as compared with an average of 5.06 days in January\* and 5.34 days in February, 1897. The following table gives the average number of days worked in these periods for each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in Feb., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		19th Feb. 1898.	20th Feb. 1897.	22nd Jan.* 1898.
England and Wales ... ..	398,998	5.22	5.33	5.08
Scotland ... ..	36,293	5.43	5.47	4.82
Ireland ... ..	623	5.27	5.05	4.31
<b>United Kingdom ... ..</b>	<b>435,914</b>	<b>5.24</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>5.06</b>

In the next table the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced. It will be noticed that the greatest decline, as compared with a year ago, is in house coal.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Feb., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		
		February, 1898.	February, 1897.	January, 1898.
Coking Coal ... ..	24,427	5.58	5.57	5.43
Gas " ... ..	35,402	5.46	5.53	5.22
House " ... ..	80,023	4.98	5.23	4.84
Manufacturing Coal ... ..	18,334	5.36	5.39	4.88
Steam " ... ..	135,299	5.30	5.32	5.14
Mixed " ... ..	142,429	5.20	5.34	5.01
<b>All Classes of Coal ... ..</b>	<b>435,914</b>	<b>5.24</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>5.06</b>

The table following shows the workpeople grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 75.5 per cent. of the workpeople included were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, as compared with 79.5 per cent. a year ago:—

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	February, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	February, 1897.	January, 1898.
24 days (full time) ... ..	52,932	14.4	15.3	2.0
20 and under 24 days ... ..	266,281	61.1	64.2	64.5
16 " " 20 " " ... ..	69,133	15.9	15.5	25.6
12 " " 16 " " ... ..	30,324	6.9	4.2	6.3
8 " " 12 " " ... ..	5,523	1.3	0.7	1.0
Under 8 days ... ..	1,721	0.4	0.1	0.6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>435,914</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The number employed at the 1,346 pits included in the returns is greater by 9,630 in England and Wales, and by 405 in Scotland, than a year ago.

**Comparison by Districts.**—In three districts an average of over 5½ days per week was worked, viz., 5.74 days in the Lothians, 5.63 days in South Wales and Monmouth, and 5.62 days in Cumberland. In three districts, on the other hand, the average was less than 5 days per week, viz., 4.85 days in Northumberland, 4.80 days in Derbyshire, and 4.11 days in Nottingham and Leicester. In the remaining districts the average amounted to between 5 and 5½ days per week. The following table will show how general was the falling off in employment as compared with a year ago, this falling off in the case of Nottingham and Leicester amounting to nearly half a day per week.

\* This period included Bank Holiday.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN FEB., 1898 AND 1897, AND IN JAN., 1898.

District.	No. employed in Feb., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended				Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Feb., 1898, as compared with	
		19th Feb., 1898.	20th Feb., 1897.	22nd Jan., 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.	
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
Northumberland ... ..	32,040	4.85	4.75	5.10	+ .10	– .25	
Durham ... ..	86,377	5.46	5.47	5.39	– .01	+ .07	
Cumberland ... ..	5,596	5.62	5.56	5.51	+ .06	+ .11	
Yorkshire ... ..	49,997	5.24	5.39	4.86	– .15	+ .38	
Lancashire and Cheshire	47,287	5.31	5.41	4.91	– .10	+ .40	
Nottingham and Leicester	24,792	4.11	4.57	4.00	– .46	+ .11	
Derbyshire ... ..	35,031	4.80	5.14	4.86	– .34	– .06	
Staffordshire ... ..	23,600	5.06	5.44	4.99	– .38	+ .07	
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	7,997	5.42	5.42	5.17	–	+ .25	
Gloucester and Somerset	8,219	5.26	5.30	5.08	– .04	+ .18	
North Wales ... ..	11,089	5.31	5.63	5.29	– .29	+ .05	
South Wales & Monmouth	66,973	5.63	5.58	5.40	+ .05	+ .23	
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
West Scotland ... ..	21,666	5.44	5.67	4.94	– .23	+ .50	
The Lothians ... ..	3,535	5.74	5.74	4.62	–	+ 1.12	
Fife ... ..	11,092	5.29	5.06	4.64	+ .23	+ .05	
<b>IRELAND.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
Fife ... ..	623	5.27	5.05	4.31	+ .22	+ .96	
<b>Grand Total &amp; Averages</b>	<b>435,914</b>	<b>5.24</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>5.08</b>	<b>– .10</b>	<b>+ .18</b>	

**Percentage of Unemployed.**—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0.6 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of February, as compared with 0.7 per cent. in January, and 1.6 per cent. in February, 1897.

**Exports of Coal.**—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during February amounted to 2,518,751 tons, as compared with 2,909,809 tons in January and 2,340,257 tons in February, 1897.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good, although not quite so good as a year ago. No exact comparison can be made with the previous month, the Scottish New Year Holidays and the Christmas Bank Holiday being both included in that period.

During the four weeks ended February 19th the 17,519 workpeople to whom the returns relate were employed at 140 mines and open works, which worked on an average 5.79 days per week, as compared with 5.59 days in January, and 5.86 days a year ago. In the mines of Cumberland and Lancashire the average (5.94) was the same as a year ago, whilst in Cleveland it was 5.74 days, as compared with 5.89 days a year ago. Of the total number employed 84.5 per cent. were in mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as compared with 93.1 per cent. a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns is greater by 140 than a year ago.

The following tables summarise the returns received:—

(I.) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:—

District.	No. employed in Feb., 1898, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in February, 1898, as compared with	
		19th Feb. 1898.	20th Feb. 1897.	22nd Jan. 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND—</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire ... ..	6,308	5.94	5.94	5.75	–	+ .19
Cleveland ... ..	6,597	5.74	5.89	5.59	– .15	+ .15
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ... ..	788	5.74	5.88	5.74	– .14	–
Northamptonshire	706	5.93	5.53	5.52	+ .40	+ .41
Staffordshire and Shropshire ... ..	1,517	5.29	5.37	5.10	– .08	+ .19
Other places in England ... ..	338	5.35	5.64	5.70	– .29	– .35
<b>SCOTLAND ... ..</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>5.94</b>	<b>5.15</b>	<b>+ .06</b>	<b>+ .85</b>
<b>IRELAND ... ..</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>5.95</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>+ .05</b>
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>17,519</b>	<b>5.79</b>	<b>5.86</b>	<b>5.59</b>	<b>– .07</b>	<b>+ .20</b>

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—IRON AND STEEL TRADES; SEAMEN.

(II.) Classification of workpeople according to days worked by the mines:—

Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks.	February, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	February, 1897.	January, 1898.
24 days (full time) ... ..	11,018	62.9	67.5	21.4
22 and under 24 days ... ..	3,774	21.6	25.6	68.4
20 " " 22 " " ... ..	2,003	11.4	2.6	16.8
Under 20 days ... ..	724	4.1	4.3	9.4
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>17,519</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February one furnace was relit in the Midlands. In other respects the number of furnaces in blast, owned by the 111 ironmasters to whose works the returns relate, remained the same as at the end of January, the total being 356. As compared with a year ago there is an increase of 4 in the number of furnaces in blast. The number of persons employed at the end of February is estimated at 23,575, or about 70 more than at the end of January. As compared with a year ago the number employed is estimated to have increased by about 1,350. Of this increase about 740 is due to the adoption of 8-hour shifts in the Cleveland district in December last. The ironworks to which the returns relate represent about 90 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom.

The subjoined table gives in detail the number of furnaces in blast in each district so far as covered by the returns received:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Feb. 1898.	Feb. 1897.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Feb., 1898.	Feb. 1898.	Jan. 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Feb., 1898.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>						
Cleveland ... ..	95	93	+ 2	95	95	...
Cumberland & Lancs.	48	45	+ 3	48	48	...
S. and S.W. Yorks...	15	16	– 1	15	15	...
Lincolnshire ... ..	15	15	...	15	15	...
Midlands ... ..	92	93	– 1	92	91	+ 1
Glamorgan and Mon.	17	19	– 2	17	17	...
Other districts ... ..	9	7	+ 2	9	9	...
<b>Total England and Wales...)</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>+ 3</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>+ 1</b>
<b>SCOTLAND ... ..</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns ...)</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>+ 4</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>+ 1</b>

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during February amounted to 55,899 tons, as compared with 62,910 tons in January, and 55,496 tons in February, 1897.

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

EMPLOYMENT in these industries as a whole is about the same as at the end of January, and slightly better than a year ago.

Returns received from 265 employers show that they were giving employment to 85,788 persons at the end of February, as compared with 85,806 at the end of January, and 85,341 at the end of February, 1897.

Of the total number 39,252 persons were employed at the end of February at 137 **Steel Works**, this representing an increase of 690 on the number employed at the end of the previous month and of 1,020 on the numbers employed a year ago.

At **Iron Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** employment fell off during the month, 19,492 persons being employed at the end of the month at 95 ironworks, or 143 less than at the end of January and 161 less than a year ago.

The following table shows the number of workpeople

employed\* in the occupations named at the end of February, 1898 and 1897, and January, 1898, respectively, by the 265 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Feb., 1898, as compared with	
	Feb., 1898.	Feb., 1897.	Jan., 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling and Forging.</b>					
England and Wales ... ..	33,538	32,520	32,913	+ 1,018	+ 625
Scotland ... ..	5,714	5,649	5,649	+ 2	+ 65
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>39,252</b>	<b>38,232</b>	<b>38,562</b>	<b>+ 1,020</b>	<b>+ 690</b>
<b>Iron Puddling and Rolling.</b>					
England and Wales ... ..	15,266	15,589	15,393	– 323	– 127
Scotland ... ..	4,226	4,064	4,242	+ 162	– 16
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>19,492</b>	<b>19,653</b>	<b>19,635</b>	<b>– 161</b>	<b>– 143</b>
<b>Tinplate Manufacture.</b>					
England and Wales† ... ..	12,566	13,490	13,038	– 924	– 467
<b>Other Workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above.*</b>					
England and Wales ... ..	13,045	12,757	13,135	+ 288	– 90
Scotland ... ..	1,433	1,209	1,441	+ 224	– 8
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>14,478</b>	<b>13,966</b>	<b>14,576</b>	<b>+ 512</b>	<b>– 98</b>
<b>Grand Total ... ..</b>	<b>85,788</b>	<b>85,341</b>	<b>85,806</b>	<b>+ 447</b>	<b>– 18</b>

Returns relating to 86 **Tinplate Works** show that employment has fallen off during the month. Of these works 45 with 241 mills were giving full employment at the end of February, and 15 with 115 mills partial employment (77 of the mills being at work), whilst 26 works with 130 mills were idle. Thus in all 318 mills were at work, as against 335 mills at the end of January and 334 mills a year ago.

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

	No. of Works.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ... ..	45	241	–	241
Works giving partial employment ... ..	15	77	38	115
Works idle ... ..	26	–	130	130
<b>Total at end of February, 1898 ... ..</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>486</b>
<i>Corresponding Total for Jan., 1898</i> ... ..	86	335	151	486
<i>Corresponding Total for Feb., 1897 ... ..</i>	87	334	149	483

Returns received from the owners of 68 **Tinplate Works** show that they were employing 12,566 persons at the end of February as compared with 13,033 at the end of January, and 13,490 a year ago.

The **exports** of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during February amounted to 23,223 tons, as compared with 29,823 tons in January and 25,335 tons a year ago. Of these quantities the United States took 8,924 tons in February, 8,883 tons in January and 9,678 tons in February, 1897.

(e) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN FEBRUARY.

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

The number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 28,782 in February, being 369 more than in February, 1897. The supply of seamen and firemen during February was reported as equal to or greater than the demand, at nearly all ports.

\* This table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.  
† The figures on this line relate to only 364 of the 486 mills referred to in the next table.



EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—SEAMEN; AGRICULTURE.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in February 1898 and 1897 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the two months ended February in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in February, 1898.			Total in Feb. 1897.	Total number shipped in two months ended February	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Feb. 1898.		1898	1897
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports	29	2,041	2,070	3,006	5,581	6,632
Sunderland	—	578	578	422	1,260	1,173
Middlesbrough	50	111	161	311	646	950
Hull	13	959	972	855	2,320	2,060
Grimsby	—	31	31	84	151	111
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol	—	128	128	224	380	446
Newport, Mon.	27	905	932	979	2,619	2,458
Cardiff	413	4,631	5,044	5,092	11,382	11,865
Swansea	43	314	357	430	1,230	1,443
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool	268	8,574	8,842	7,954	18,192	17,052
London	242	5,374	5,616	5,383	14,486	11,246
Southampton	—	1,654	1,654	1,089	2,853	2,332
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	—	470	470	332	1,437	1,173
Glasgow	113	1,656	1,769	2,093	4,093	4,216
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin	9	100	109	63	234	197
Belfast	—	129	129	246	483	488
<b>Total, Feb., 1898</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>27,635</b>	<b>28,782</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64,350</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Ditto, Feb., 1897</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>27,136</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>28,413</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>63,812</b>

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN FEBRUARY.

THE agricultural correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 240 returns from all parts of the country, reports as follows:—The state of agricultural employment was, generally speaking, quite satisfactory during the month of February, and more regular than in the corresponding month of last year. The weather during the month was very favourable for outdoor employment, and there was generally a demand for labour. Many employers state that farm work is in an exceptionally forward state. No reports refer to any irregularity of work, except of a very trifling nature. In the Western Counties outdoor work was interfered with for a few days in certain districts in the counties of Dorset, Somerset and Devon, owing to a heavy fall of snow. A number of reports from different parts of the country state that there is a scarcity of agricultural labour.

In districts in certain counties seasonal increases took place in the rates of weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers of 1s., and in all these cases the present rates are higher than they were in the corresponding month of last year by 1s. a week, namely in the counties of Cambridge, Devon, Essex, Huntingdon, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Wiltshire. In the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk the changes in wages were more extensive than in the other counties mentioned. In one district in Suffolk, near Yarmouth, the rise in wages amounted to 2s. a week, and in a district in Kent to 6d. or 1s.

**Northern Counties.**—In Northumberland and Westmorland work is said to have been regular throughout the month. In Cumberland reports state that employment has been good in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, and Whitehaven. Favourable reports also come from North Lancashire. In Durham the state of employment is said to be satisfactory in the Unions of Chester-le-Street, and Durham, and also in the Darlington Union (Durham and Yorks, N.R.). Reports from Yorkshire are also favourable. Work is said to be generally regular, and there has been practically no interruption on account of bad weather. This state of things is said to exist in the Unions of Beverley, Driffeld, Easingwold, Guisborough, Howden, Malton, Ouseburn, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. A report from the Howden Union states that many men were busy potato planting in the parts of the Union where they are grown.

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

**Midland Counties.**—Reports of a favourable character come from Cheshire from the Unions of Nantwich, Tarvin, and Macclesfield. Farm work is said to be very forward in the county. Sowing commenced early and progressed with only slight interruptions. Favourable reports also come from Shropshire from the Unions of Bridgnorth, Market Drayton (both Salop and Stafford portions), Oswestry, Whitchurch, and Wem. Farm work in the county is said to be in a forward state, and in some districts labour is said to be scarce. In Staffordshire employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Leek, Lichfield, and Tamworth (Staffs and Warwick). In the latter Union labour is said to be scarce. Reports of a satisfactory character come from the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon. A report from the Foleshill Union states that labour is scarce.

In Rutland employment is said to be generally regular in the Oakham Union, and in Leicestershire, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Blaby, Market Bosworth, Market Harborough, and in the Lutterworth Union (Leicester and Warwick). In a few parishes in some of these districts several men were not fully employed, owing to most of the threshing being done. Reports of a favourable character come from Nottinghamshire from the Unions of Southwell, and Retford, and from the Derbyshire portion of the Mansfield Union (Notts. and Derby), and of the Worksop Union (Notts., Derby and Yorks, W.R.). In the latter district agricultural labour is said to have been scarce on account of employment being regular at the coal pits. Favourable reports also come from Worcestershire from the Unions of Evesham, Martley, and Tenbury, and from certain parishes in the Worcester and Warwick portions of the Shipton-on-Stour Union. A report from the Martley Union refers to a scarcity of labour.

In Oxfordshire the state of employment is said to be generally satisfactory in the Unions of Thame and Woodstock, in the Oxfordshire portions of the Abingdon and Wallingford Unions (Oxon and Berks), and in the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants and Warwick); also in Northamptonshire in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, Wellingborough, and Towcester, and in a certain district in the Thrapston Union. Reports from Huntingdonshire state that employment is usually regular in the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots (Hunts and Beds portions). A report from the Bedfordshire portion of the St. Neots Union states that farm work is very forward, owing to the favourable season for outdoor work, that the land is in excellent condition, and that skilled labour is scarce. In Bedfordshire a favourable report comes from the Biggleswade, and Leighton Buzzard Unions. In the latter Union labour is said to be scarce, and that it is difficult to get extra men. A report from an employer in the Luton Union states that, in his experience of 45 years, agricultural labour has never been better employed or paid than at the present time. A favourable report also comes from a district in the Hemel Hempstead Union.

**Eastern Counties.**—In Essex work was generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett, and Tendring. A report from the Orsett Union states that employment has been more regular in February, 1898, than in the corresponding month of last year, owing to a demand for labour at certain manufacturing factories. In parts of the Maldon Union labour is said to be scarce. A report from the Tendring Union states that work is plentiful owing to extensive building operations in certain localities, to large brick works being opened in two districts, and to the demand for men on the Great Eastern Railway line from Colchester to Great Clacton.

In Norfolk it is stated that employment has been regular in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, Walsingham, and Wayland. Reports state that the weather has been very favourable for outdoor employment, and that spring work has been rapidly proceeded with, and that the better price of corn has induced some employers to undertake work which otherwise would have been left undone. A report from the Loddon and Clavering Union on March 5 states that barley sowing was in full swing, and that several farmers had finished it. Reports from certain districts in the Unions of Aylsham, Guiltcross, Freebridge Lynn, and Loddon and Clavering, refer to a scarcity of labour.

Favourable reports come from Suffolk from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne,

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

Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Sudbury, and Thingoe. All farm work in Suffolk is reported in an advanced state. A large employer of labour near Ipswich writing on March 5th states that much of the heavy land barley was well planted in February. In parts of the Unions of Mutford and Lothingland, and Plomesgate there is said to be a short supply of labourers. A report from the Blything Union states that some of the labourers have been suffering from influenza and consequently lost some days' work. In Cambridgeshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Chesterton, Linton, North Witchford, and Whittlesea; in the Cambridgeshire portion of the Peterborough Union (Northants, Cambs, Hunts, and Lincoln), and in the Cambridgeshire portion of the Royston Union (Cambs and Herts). Favourable reports come from Lincolnshire from the Unions of Bigg, Gainsborough, Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and from the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Lincoln and Notts). A report from the Brigg Union states that the married men on yearly engagements are somewhat scarcer, and are now asking for the yearly engagement about 1s. a week more than last year.

**Home Counties.**—Reports from Buckinghamshire state that there is practically no irregularity of work in the Unions of Aylesbury, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. A report from a district comprising portions of the two last-named Unions states that extra labour is difficult to obtain. Also in Berkshire work is said to be regular in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage. In the former Union extra labour is said to be scarce, owing to numerous building operations which are in progress. Reports of a favourable character also come from Surrey from the Unions of Farnham (Surrey and Hants) and Hambleton; from Kent from the Unions of Bridge, Elham, Cranbrook, Faversham, Ho, Hollingbourne, and Sevenoaks; and from Hertfordshire from the Unions of Barnet, Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, and Hitchin. Reports from the Barnet and Hitchin Unions refer to a scarcity of labour.

**Southern and South Western Counties.**—Reports from the following Unions in Sussex state that labourers were generally fully employed, namely, Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, and Rye. Farm work is said to be generally in a forward state in the county. A report from the Hailsham Union states there is some scarcity of labour which is attributed to briskness in the building trade, and also to a demand in some districts for labour in connection with the chicken fattening industry. Reports of a favourable character come from Hampshire from the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Doxford, Fareham, Havant, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Stockbridge, and from the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey); from Dorsetshire from the Unions of Bridport, Dorchester, and Wareham and Parbeck. A report from one district in the Wimborne Union states that employment is regular, and one from another district that some irregularity existed on account of a fall of snow. In the Blandford Union the regular hands are said to have had plenty of employment, but some odd men were out of work for a few days owing to a heavy fall of snow; some of these, however, afterwards were employed to clear it away. At the Dorchester hiring fair held in February, it is stated that fewer labourers were seeking employment than for some years past. A report from the Wareham and Parbeck Union states that labour is rather scarce in a few parishes. In Wiltshire work is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Marlborough, Mere, Warminster, and Wilton. In the Devizes Union some scarcity of work is reported.

In Gloucestershire reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, Thornbury, Tewkesbury, and Wheatonhurst. A report from a district in the Thornbury Union states that there is some scarcity of good labourers. In Herefordshire the state of employment is said to have been satisfactory in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (both Hereford and Monmouth portions), Ledbury, and Ross. A report from a district in the Ledbury Union states that skilled farm hands and stockmen are scarce. In Somersetshire work is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Chard, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wells, and in certain districts in the Bridgwater and Yeovil Unions. In the Unions of Frome, Langport, and Taunton, some stoppage of work arose for a day or two in consequence of the heavy fall of snow on February 21st and 22nd. In Devonshire employment is reported to

be generally regular in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, and Tavistock. Reports from districts in the Axminster, South Molton, and Tavistock Unions state that the fall of snow in February interfered with outdoor work to some extent for a few days. In the Holsworthy Union a report states that some scarcity of labour exists, owing to work connected with railway construction in the neighbourhood. In Cornwall favourable reports come from the Unions of Bodmin and Stratton.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during February showed little change in the cotton trade. In the woollen and worsted trade employment, although still slack, improved. Information has been received with regard to 518 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, employing about 84,750 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full time.		Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—</b>				
February, 1898	72	25	2	1
January, 1898	71	24	3	2
February, 1897	69	22	8	1
<b>Woollen and Worsted Trade—</b>				
February, 1898	65	18	15	2
January, 1898	53	16	29	2
February, 1897	65	14	20	1
<b>Silk Trade—</b>				
February, 1898	52	13	35	—
January, 1898	15	53	32	—
<b>Total of above Trades—</b>				
February, 1898	69	22	7	1
January, 1898	64	24	10	2
February, 1897	68	21	10	1

**Cotton Trade.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 61,310; of these 72 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 71 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in January, and with 69 per cent. in February, 1897); 25 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 2 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 19,530; of these 65 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 53 per cent. in January and 65 per cent. in February 1897); 18 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; 15 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks fell off considerably in February as compared both with January and with February, 1897. At the wharves, on the other hand, it showed no change as compared with January, and was better than a year ago.

At all the docks and at 115 of the principal wharves an average daily number of 14,057 labourers were employed during the four weeks ended February 26th, an average less by 2,133 than that for January and by 1,005 than that for February, 1897. The estimated

\* Exclusive of silk trade.



EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; LONDON.

number employed on any one day ranged from 14,972 on January 31st to 13,400 on February 5th.

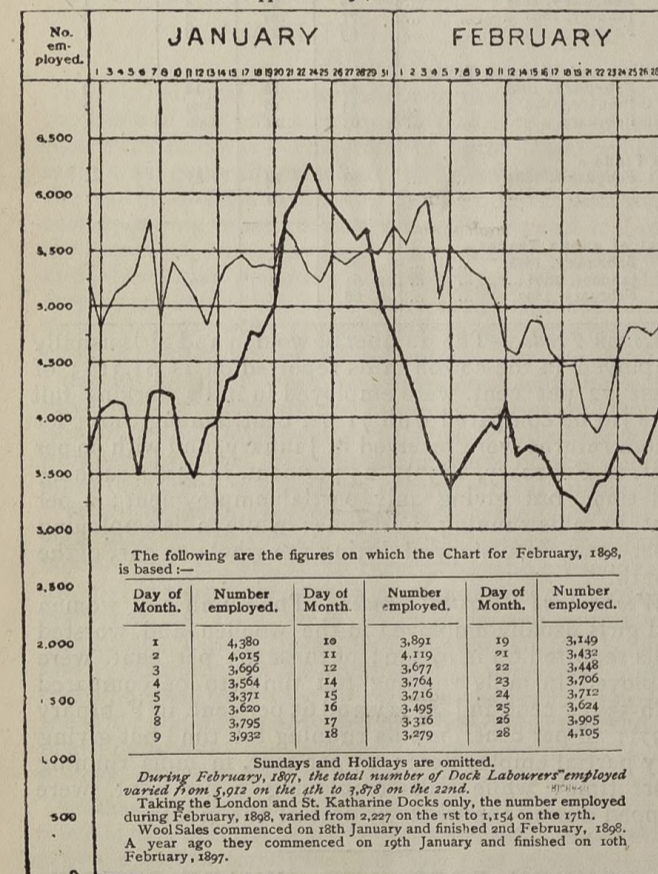
**Detailed Figures.**—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of February	5,689	2,118	7,807	6,391	14,198
2nd " " "	5,855	2,153	8,008	6,159	14,167
3rd " " "	5,772	2,183	7,955	6,233	14,188
4th " " "	5,319	2,273	7,592	6,082	13,674
Average for 4 weeks ending Feb. 26th, 1898	5,659	2,182	7,841	6,216	14,057
Average for Feb., 1897	6,961*	2,304	9,265*	5,797*	15,063*
Average for Jan., 1898	7,252	2,706	9,958	6,232*	16,190*

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during January and February is shown on the chart below. The numbers in February ranged from 4,380 on the 1st to 3,149 on the 19th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of January and February, 1898. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1897, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1898, and the thin curve to 1897.]



Work in mid-stream was good at the beginning of the month, but steadily declined towards the end. Coal porters, lumpers, lightermen and stevedores have had moderately good employment; deal porters have been slack. With corn porters employment has been slack in the Surrey Docks, moderate in the Millwall Docks, and fairly good in the Victoria and Albert Docks.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have had good and steady employment, the average number employed being 396 as compared with an average of 342 in January.

\* Amended figures.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in Various Industries.**—On the whole the general state of employment remained fairly steady during February. Returns from 406 branches of 109 trade unions, having an aggregate membership of 71,050, show that 2,954 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 4.5 in January and 2.7 per cent. in February 1897.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding trades continued unsettled owing to the recent dispute. Reports from 121 branches of 26 unions, with an aggregate membership of 20,517, show that 1,263 (or 6.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.5 in January. The number unemployed includes a certain number of engineers who have not yet found employment since the dispute. The percentage for February 1897 was 1.9.

The Building trades (plumbers excepted) remained well employed. Returns from 169 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 10,441, show that 145 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.2 in January, and 1.5 per cent. in February 1897. The bricklayers, stonemasons, and millers described employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, plasterers and stonecarvers as fair; the painters and decorators as moderate, but improving; the plumbers as bad.

Employment in the Furnishing trades has improved. Reports from 41 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 6,448, show that 284 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.9 in January, and 4.2 per cent. in February 1897.

Coopers remained well employed, two societies with a membership of 980, having less than 1 per cent. unemployed, as in January and also in February of last year.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights continued steadily employed. Returns from 13 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,346, show that 33 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.7 in January and 1.9 per cent. in February 1897.

The Printing and Bookbinding trades considerably improved, most branches being well employed. Returns from 22 unions with a membership of 21,905, show that 750 (or 3.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.7 in January. The percentage for February 1897, was 3.6.

Employment in the Clothing trades improved to some extent. The West End bespoke branch of the tailoring trade was dull, but improved towards the end of the month; the East End bespoke trade was busy; the wholesale and contract branches being also busy. Employment with hatters continued to improve; cap makers were busy; helmet makers fair. The fur skin dressers reported employment as dull; the furriers as bad; the silk weavers as also bad.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The West End hand sewn branch remained bad, with no improvement in the state of employment. The East End sewn trade was quiet; the machine-sewn trade was not up to the average for the time of year; employment with boot and shoe operatives improved, and at the close of the month was fair.

Employment in the Leather trades continued to improve. Returns from 6 unions, having a membership of 1,773, show that 49 (or 2.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February as in January. The percentage for February 1897, was 1.2.

In the Glass and Pottery trades returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,408, show that 101 (or 7.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.4 in January and 6.8 per cent. in February of last year.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions with a membership of 894, show that 27 (or 3.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.3 last month, and 3.6 per cent. in February 1897.

Gold and Silver Workers were not busy, 8 unions, with a membership of 1,129, reporting 26 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 1.3 in January and 1.7 per cent. in February of last year.

Employment in the Tobacco trades was slack. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,466, show that 148 (or 6.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.8 in January and 3.5 per cent. in February 1897.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—At the docks and principal wharves the average daily number employed was 14,057, as compared with

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

16,190 in January, and 15,062 a year ago. Work in mid-stream was good at the beginning of the month, but steadily declined to the end. Employment has been moderately good with coal porters, lumpers, lightermen, and stevedores; slack with deal porters. With corn porters employment has been slack in the Surrey Docks, moderate in the Millwall Docks, and fairly good in the Victoria and Albert Docks. Fruit porters have had good and steady employment.

**Disputes and Trade Movements.**—Two small disputes in the furnishing trades (involving 55 persons) were reported as having arisen during the month (see page 93). 550 glass bevellers were reported as having had their wages reduced by 12½ per cent. (see page 91). A number of engineering employers who had adopted a 48 hours week have reverted to a 54 hours week since the close of the dispute.

**Labour Bureaux.**—Returns received from eight labour bureaux show that 1,790 fresh applications for work were registered during February 1898, as compared with 1,363 in February 1897. Work was found by these bureaux during February for 786 persons, compared with 967 in the corresponding period of 1897. The number of persons on the registers at the end of February 1898 was 2,439, or 98 more than a year ago. The number of fresh applications for work by women and girls in February 1898 was 638, as compared with 549 in February 1897. Work was found in February 1898 for 151 women and girls, or 21 less than a year ago. (For further details see page 94.)

**Pauperism.**—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of February was 106,220, or 1,321 more than on the corresponding day in January. As compared with February 1897 there was a decrease of 1,780 on the total, the principal decreases being one of 1,093 in the Southern district and one of 453 in the Northern district.

On the same day in February, 1,182 vagrants were relieved, as compared with 1,148 on the corresponding day in January, and 1,155 in February 1897.

In West Ham the number of persons, exclusive of vagrants, relieved on one day in the second week was 9,132 in February 1898, 8,872 in January 1898, and 8,643 in February 1897.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—Northumberland.—Steam coal pits have not been quite so busy, but house coal collieries have worked better; the former having averaged 4.68 days per week and the latter 5.3 days, as against 5.11 and 5.27 days respectively in January. Of the 20,884 union miners 8 are unemployed. Durham.—Upon the whole the pits are working fairly steadily. House, coking, and gas coal pits have averaged 5.46, 5.48 and 5.38 days per week, as compared with 5.32, 5.50, and 5.26 days in January. Returns from pits employing over 86,000 men and boys show an average of 5.46 days per week, as against 5.39 in January. Of union members 465 or 0.76 per cent. are unemployed, as against 553, or 0.91 per cent., in January; 78 are off work from causes other than depression.

**Metal Mining.**—Employment at the iron ore mines continues slack; lead miners are busy.

**Quarrying.**—Limestone quarries at Stanhope, Weardale, and Frosterley, with one or two exceptions, have worked 6 days per week. Stone quarries in Gateshead and district have averaged less than full time. Whinstone quarries continue dull.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—On the Tyne.—Most of the engineering shops are employing double shifts, and at the Elswick Ordnance Works much overtime is worked. Employment in boiler shops is better. Shipyards have recommenced working full time. Repair work is fairly good. Of the 12,778 members of these trades, 1,113 (or 8.7 per cent.) are unemployed, including those directly affected by the late dispute. On the Wear.—Turners and machinemen are fully employed; a number of fitters, however, continue idle. At a few shipyards additional squads of riveters have been set to work. Of the 4,556 engineers and iron ship builders, 240 (or 5.2 per cent.) are out of work.

Drillers and hole-cutters on both rivers are busy. The engine-men are fully employed. Iron and steel moulders have 7.9 per cent. idle, brass finishers 2.9, plumbers (house and ship) 8.3, and joiners 2.5 per cent. The number of unemployed shipwrights is gradually decreasing. Sailmakers report employment as dull. Steel smelting works, plate and angle mills continue on full time. At Consett, iron mills are laid idle owing to breakage of machinery.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Quayside labourers report employment as somewhat better. Tyne watermen have 3.7 per cent.

wholly idle. The coal porters and shippers on both rivers have averaged four days per week on steam coal, and five days on gas coal. On the north side of the Tyne steam coal trimming and teaming is dull; at Blyth busy. The demand for sailors and firemen is steady.

**Building Trades.**—Plumbers and painters are slack. Bricklayers, slaters, and tilers at Sunderland have 3.4 per cent. out of work. Masons are busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Of the 765 letterpress printers and bookbinders on the Tyne and at Sunderland, 1.5 per cent. are out of work. Three paper mills continue brisk; two have been idle one week.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Coopers are dull; lathrenders, millers and woodcutters active; cabinet-makers and upholsterers fairly so.

**Other Metal, Glass, and Chemical Trades.**—Bottle-makers on the Wear are busy. At Seaham Harbour 12.6 per cent. are temporarily idle owing to furnace repairs. Pressed glass makers have worked three and four shifts per week. Of the 940 members of these trades 84 (or 8.9 per cent.) are unemployed. The cement and chemical industries remain quiet; copper works are fairly busy; employment in white lead factories continues steady.

**Fishing.**—Stormy weather during the month has interfered with line fishing. Fair catches have, however, been landed by steam trawlers.—J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

**Ironstone Mining.**—The Cleveland miners have been fairly employed during the month, and have averaged 5.74 days per week, as compared with 5.89 days per week in February 1897.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The finished iron works have been going steadily. Blastfurnaces, bridge works, steel works, and pipe foundries are reported as working well. At some of the other foundries employment is only moderate.

**Engineering.**—Employment with engineers at Middlesbrough is good, at Hartlepool fair, at Stockton moderate; moulders report employment as good at Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, and Darlington, and improving at Stockton; pattern-makers as fair throughout the district. At the end of February branches of the above trades, with 3,498 members, had 112 (or 3.2 per cent.) unemployed.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment has considerably improved. All the yards at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool are working full time again, and work is brisk in some. The Stockton yard and one of the yards at Thornaby are still working short time. Shipjoiners report employment as good throughout the district; shipwrights as brisk.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good in all branches. Branches of joiners and machinists, with 1,089 members, have only 4 unemployed.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as quiet at both Middlesbrough and the Hartlepoons. Dock labour has been fair at Middlesbrough; slightly improved, but still only moderate, at the Hartlepoons. Riverside labour has continued quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—Tailors report employment as slack; printers as moderate; wood-working machinists as good.—A. Main.

Cumberland and Barrow District.

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

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 19th February at pits from which returns have been received was 5.62, as compared with 5.51 in January 1898 and 5.56 in February 1897. The number of men employed was 5,596, as compared with 5,566 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 30.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 19th February at the 49 mines from which returns have been received was 5.94 per week, as compared with 5.75 in January, and 5.94 in February 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 6,308, as compared with 6,264 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 44.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast at the end of February was 48, the same as in January; the number in February 1897 was 45. The number of workpeople employed was 3,636, a decrease of 13 as compared with January, and an increase of 318 as compared with February 1897.



## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—LANCASHIRE.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.  
Oldham and District.

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—Employment in the spinning trade has slightly improved during the month, and is reported as moderate in Oldham and neighbourhood, as well as in Rochdale, Mossley, Ashton, and Dukinfield districts, and as good in Stalybridge and Stockport. The cardroom workers in Oldham and Mossley report employment as moderate. Ring frame spinners and twiners report employment as good. **Weaving.**—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as moderate in velvets, and slack in calicoes; as moderate in ball and sectional warping and in winding; and as fair in reeling.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment is reported as bad in Rochdale and Milnrow districts and moderate in Stockport.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment in the engineering trade is good, but there are still many left out of work through the late dispute. Brassfounders report employment as good; tinplate-workers, boiler-makers, and ironfounders as moderate; gas-meter makers as slack.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers, plumbers, and carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate; the plasterers as fair; the painters as slack.

**Coal Mining.**—Coal miners report employment as good. At three collieries six days per week has been worked, and at a fourth five days.—*T. Ashton.*

## Bolton and District.

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—Employment in Bolton and immediate district is reported as improved and steadier. Employment in Chorley is reported as slack, two mills running short time. In Bury operatives are fully employed. In Wigan a considerable improvement is reported. Card and blowing room operatives are fairly well employed in Bolton, Bury, and Wigan; in Chorley employment is irregular. **Weaving.**—Employment in Bolton and district is moderately good; in Bury more regular; in Chorley improved; in Wigan more active, with fewer unemployed.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment with engineers has considerably improved in Bolton, Wigan, Bury, Chorley, Ramsbottom, and Heywood. Employment in most of the allied trades is reported as moderate. Iron machine makers are busy in most departments. Employment in the *Steel and Metal* trades is irregular. Farriers are moderately employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in Bolton and immediate district is moderately good. A slight improvement is reported in Wigan in all branches, and a slight decline in Bury, Chorley, and Heywood.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in Bolton and district continues fairly active. In Darcy Lever, Little Lever, Walkden, Radcliffe, and Little Hulton colliers are busy, averaging 5½ days per week. In Wigan and district colliers are reported to be well employed. Employment in Chorley and district is brisk, full time being worked at all mines.

**Miscellaneous.**—Bakers and confectioners, leather workers, railway workers, cabmen, tram-men, paper mill workers, saddle and harness makers are moderately well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

## Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

**Cotton Trade.—Weaving.**—Employment is fairly good in the ordinary weaving trade. In Blackburn a number of looms have been re-started, and employment is better. Full time is being worked in the Burnley district. In Colne a marked improvement is shown. In Nelson another firm has commenced full time. An improvement is reported from Preston. In Darwen only some 600 looms are now stopped. The coloured goods weavers in the Colne district are better employed. Warp dressers also report an improvement. Hardwaste weavers are stated to be slack. Twisters and drawers and winders and warpers are fairly well employed throughout the district. **Spinning.**—Employment in Preston, Blackburn, Darwen, and Accrington is reported as good; in Padiham as fair; in Burnley as slack. Cardroom workers are fairly well employed throughout the district.

Branches of twisters and drawers, warp dressers, and spinners, with 3,838 members, have 152 (or 4.0 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 169 (or 4.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues quiet.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment continues good in the machine shops. It is only moderate with engineers in the Todmorden and Colne districts; fairly good with moulders in Blackburn and Todmorden.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—In the Accrington district coal miners report employment as good; in Burnley as brisk, the majority working six days per week. Quarrymen are only moderately employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is fair with tailors; improved with boot, shoe, and slipper makers in the Rossendale district; moderate with calico printers and dyers; brisk with paper-stainers in the Darwen district.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

## Manchester and District.

**General.**—Branches with 23,036 members return 894 (or 3.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 1,025 (or 4.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment in the engineering and iron trades at Northwich is reported as unsatisfactory; in Macclesfield and Warrington as fairly good. Iron-moulders in Manchester report employment as good in two branches, and as moderate in one; in Stockport as moderate. Boiler-makers, steam engine makers, smiths and strikers, and engineers in Manchester report employment as moderate, many of the latter still remaining on dispute benefit; machine-workers as good; brass founders and finishers as fair; braziers and sheet metal workers as bad. In Warrington wire-drawers are slack; wire-weavers and filesmiths are moderately well employed.

**Textile Trades.**—In Manchester cotton spinners report employment as moderate, with no short time. Cotton operatives in Macclesfield have been in full work. Silk dressers are fully employed; silk finishers, silk dyers, and silk spinners moderately employed. Home workers in the silk weaving trade are fairly busy. Silk power loom weavers are not fully employed. Employment with fustian cutters is only moderate. Dressers, bleachers, dyers, and finishers report employment as bad.

**Clothing Trades.**—In Manchester and Stockport bespoke tailors report employment as bad; in Macclesfield as fair. In the wholesale tailoring department employment is moderate; in the ready-made mantle trade good. Waterproof garment makers are slack. Capmakers are fairly busy. Shirtmakers in Manchester and Stockport are slack. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is improving. Felt hatters are slack. With umbrella makers employment is slack in the home trade, good in the shipping trade.

**Building Trades.**—In Manchester employment is reported as moderate; in Stockport as good with plasterers, moderate with bricklayers; in Macclesfield and Warrington as fair; in Northwich as bad with carpenters, moderate with bricklayers.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—In Manchester letterpress printers describe employment as moderate; in Stockport, Warrington, and Macclesfield as good. Lithographic artists, lithographic printers, and bookbinders are moderately employed; pattern-card makers are slack.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Employment with coachmakers in Warrington and Stockport is moderate; in Manchester good. Coopers are fully employed. Cabinet-makers in Manchester and Stockport are busy; in Warrington moderately so. French polishers and upholsterers are moderately employed.—*G. D. Kelley.*

## Liverpool and District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Boiler-makers and iron ship builders, patternmakers, engine smiths and turners report employment as improved; fitters as rather quiet; brassfounders as good; ironfounders as moderate; whitesmiths as fair; hammermen as good; shipwrights as fair; ship-joiners as moderate; ship-painters as unchanged; drillers and holecutters as fair. Branches with 4,132 members return 220 (or 5.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 288 (or 7.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—French polishers, upholsterers, and cabinet-makers report employment as quiet; coachmakers and painters as good; coopers as moderate; mill-sawyers as fair. Branches with 1,234 members have 69 (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 75 (or 6.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

**Transport Trades.**—Seamen and firemen report employment a fair; dock labourers as dull; quay and railway carters as quiet; flatmen as moderate.

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

**Clothing Trades.**—All branches of the tailoring trade report a slight improvement. Boot and shoe makers report employment as moderate.

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

## Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment in Bradford is much the same as far as weaving is concerned, but the woolsorters and woolcombers report an improvement. In the Worth Valley employment seems to have fallen off, and overtime to have stopped. Improvement is reported at Halifax. In Huddersfield there is a slight decline.

**Woollen Trade.**—The improvement in and around Huddersfield seems to have been maintained. One firm in the Colne Valley has begun night and day shifts, and at the Marsden end of the valley there seems a slight improvement. At one or two firms weavers are not so busy. Employment is reported as still bad in the heavy woollen trade in Batley, Dewsbury, Birstall, and Ravens-thorpe.

**Other Textile Trades.**—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham is reported as improved; at Brighouse as fairly brisk; at Halifax as unchanged. Employment in the cotton trade continues fair at Brighouse and Huddersfield. In the Spen Valley and Dewsbury employment in the carpet trade is reported as bad; in Halifax and Brighouse as unchanged.

**Metal Trades.**—In Bradford the engineers report employment as moderate; in Halifax, Keighley, and Dewsbury as good; in Huddersfield as bad.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported as good throughout the district.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment remains quiet in the tailoring and printing trades and in the rag trade.—*A. Gee.*

## Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners and of engineers and kindred trades), having a membership of 9,456, have 139 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 149 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—Workmen employed at blastfurnaces, Siemen's furnaces, and hydraulic presses are making full time. Makers of armour plates and forgings are busy. The engineers report employment as good; ironfounders as moderate. Steel workers, merchant-iron rollers, core-makers, and iron and steel dressers are well employed; steam engine makers, stove-grate workers, and railway spring makers are fairly employed; boiler and girder makers and wire-drawers are slack. Iron-workers at Rotherham and Parkgate are slack, but steel-workers are well employed, and at Parkgate extensions are in progress. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders are busy.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—In the table and butchers' blade trade and the razor trade employment is slack. In the pen and pocket blade trade employment is slack on American work, and only moderate on country work. Engineers' tool makers are quieter. Sawmakers report employment as quiet. In all branches of the file trade employment has improved. Edge tool forgers and grinders are fairly well employed; bayonet and sword makers are busy; haft and scale presses and handle and scale cutters report work as fair. Makers of horticultural implements are fairly employed; makers of spades, shovels, and hammers well employed.

**Other Metal Trades.**—All branches of the silver, electro-plate, and Britannia metal trades are fairly well employed. Brass-workers at Rotherham are busy.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 60 of the principal collieries show an average worked of 5.34 days per week. Surfaced men are fairly busy.

**Building Trades.**—Carpenters and joiners and stonemasons report employment as fair; bricklayers as good; plumbers as moderate. At Barnsley employment is slack.

**Glass Trades.**—Bottle-makers and flint-glass workers are well employed throughout the district.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment with bespoke tailors is quiet, and in the ready-made branch only moderate. In the boot and shoe trade employment is slack.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment with letterpress printers is moderate; with lithographic printers and bookbinders good.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Cabinet-makers and coachmakers are fairly well employed; railway carriage builders are busy, and wagon builders at both Sheffield and Rotherham are better employed. At Barnsley box and bobbin makers are busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the linen trade at Barnsley continues moderate; railway workers are well employed. General labourers are fairly busy.—*S. Utley.*

**Building Trades.**—Carpenters and joiners report employment as good in Birkenhead, moderate in St. Helens and Prescot, fair in Liverpool; painters as improving; plumbers as moderate; other branches as good.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners report no change; quarrymen are well employed.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Glass bottle makers report employment as moderate; chemical workers as unchanged.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from *Winsford* states that employment in the salt trade has been fair in Winsford and Middlewich. Chemical workers at Middlewich continue slack. Moulders at Winsford report employment as fair. Employment in the building trades is moderate. Fustian cutters at Winsford and Middlewich report employment as fairly good.

## YORKSHIRE.

## Hull and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The engineers, steam engine makers, machine-workers, smiths and strikers, brassfinishers, iron and steel dressers, and farriers report employment as good; brassfounders, brassworkers, patternmakers, and boiler-makers as moderate; shipwrights as fair; sailmakers as bad. The engineers at Doncaster report employment as bad; the shipwrights at Beverley as good, at Grimsby and Goole as fair.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good.

**Transport Trades.**—At Hull employment for seamen and firemen on short voyages is reported as fair, on long voyages as moderate; at Grimsby employment is reported as bad. Employment for dock labour at Hull is reported as slack; at Grimsby as bad. Railway workers at Hull report employment as moderate.

**Fishing Industry.**—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull report employment as fair; at Grimsby as moderate. The trawl fishermen report employment as moderate. All kinds of fish have been scarce.

**Woodworking Trades.**—The coachbuilders report employment as good at Hull, moderate at Doncaster; the coopers, cabinet makers, and lathrenders at Hull as moderate.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as good at Doncaster, moderate at Hull; the lithographic printers as moderate; the bookbinders as fair.

**Seed Crushing, Paint, and Colour Works.**—Employment in the paint and colour works is reported as fairly good; in the seed crushing mills as moderate.

**Leather Trades.**—The curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster report employment as good; the tanners, lace cutters, and belt makers at Hull as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—The gasworkers and general labourers report employment as good; the brushmakers at Hull as moderate; the tailors at Doncaster as bad.—*W. G. Millington.*

## Leeds and District.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Considerable activity is being shown at most of the Leeds engineering works, but at the end of the month, both at Leeds and Wakefield, a number of workmen had not yet been able to resume work. Ironfounders, boiler-makers, and patternmakers report employment as moderate but improving; steelworkers and spindle and flyer makers as fair; stove-grate workers as dull; machine-workers as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the boot and shoe industry has been dull, short time being general; at Heckmondwike and Bramley it is slack. Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade is slack but improving; with bespoke tailors it is quiet.

**Textile Trades.**—Blanket-raisers report employment as moderate; linen workers as good; flax workers as dull; willeyers and fettlers as bad. Employment at Yeadon is reported as bad; at Wakefield as fair.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good in Leeds, except with plumbers; fair at Wakefield and Harrogate.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment has continued good in the Leeds district, full time being generally worked at the pits.

**Leather Trades.**—Curriers report employment as improved; leather shavers as moderate; saddlers and harness makers as improving.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographers and paper mill workers as moderate; bookbinders and machine rulers as fair.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment with glass bottle makers is moderate at Leeds; good at Wakefield.

**Miscellaneous.**—Brushmakers continue slack; cabinetmakers and coachmakers report employment as good.—*O. Connellan.*



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

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## Derbyshire District.

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners), with 7,404 members, have 104 (or 1·4 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 113 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Engineering and kindred Trades.*—Branches with 2,366 members have 62 (or 2·6 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 74 (or 3·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Employment in the locomotive works continues good; in the bridge, girder, and boiler yards it is full and regular. Ironfounders in Derby, Butterley, Somercotes, and Chesterfield report employment as good; brass moulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent as fair; lace machine builders in Long Eaton as dull. Cycle workers in Long Eaton and Draycott are busier. Stove grate workers in Derby, Belper, and Langley Mill report employment as moderate; wire drawers in Ambergate and pipe moulders in Ilkeston as good.

*Coal Mining.*—At collieries employing upwards of 35,000 men an average of 4·80 days per week was worked, as compared with 4·86 days in January.

*Quarrying.*—Employment in limestone quarries continues satisfactory, though somewhat hindered by the weather. In the fossil marble quarries in Wirksworth employment is good. In chert quarries at Bakewell overtime continues.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment is good with cotton weavers and spinners in Belper, Milford, Borrowash, Glossop, and Hadfield; dull with hosiery workers in Heanor, Belper, and Ilkeston, short time being the rule; fair with lace-workers in Long Eaton and Ilkeston on cotton goods, slack on silk. Calico printers and engravers in Dinting, Hayfield, and New Mills, and surgical bandage makers and elastic web weavers report employment as good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in all branches is reported as fair.

*Clothing Trades.*—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as moderate at Derby, fair at Chesterfield; tailors and dress and mantle makers as dull.

*Coachbuilding Trades.*—Railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long Eaton report employment as good; carriage-builders in private shops as moderate.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Employment with coopers at Burton-on-Trent continues good on new work; rather slack on repair work.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment continues fair with letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers.—C. White-Deacon.

## Nottingham and District.

*Lace Trade.*—Employment in the curtain branch is slack; in the plain net branch good; in the levers branch improving. Warp lace-workers, wipers, curtain readers, and draughtsmen report employment as slack; the auxiliary laceworkers as fair; the female laceworkers as improving. Bleachers at Basford and Bulwell are busier; dyers at Nottingham and Basford are slack.

*Hosiery Trade.*—Power framework knitters are slack, with many unemployed; the hand frame branch report improvement. Employment in the circular branch is slack; in the rib top branch moderate. Shetland shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard report improvement. Employment is regular at Arnold and Mansfield. The handframe branch in Sutton-in-Ashfield and Kirkby districts is busy on lace ankle and silk goods, but slack on common goods; elastic bandage makers are fully employed. Hosiery trimmers at Basford report employment as moderate.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Improvement is reported in cycle shops and heavy iron manufacture, but many engineers remain unemployed. Lace and hosiery machine builders report employment as fair; ironfounders as moderate; boiler-makers as slack; tool-machinists as fair at Beeston, quiet at Nottingham; brassworkers, brassfounders, carriage straighteners, and bobbin and carriage makers as busy; wheelwrights, blacksmiths, and farriers as moderate. At Mansfield, Beeston, and Newark engineers are moderately employed. At Bulwell and Bestwood blastfurnacemen are fairly employed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is fair throughout the district.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from pits employing over 17,000 men show that an average of 4 days per week was worked during February, the same as in January.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate at Nottingham, good at Retford; printers' cutters as fair; lithographic printers as moderate; lithographic artists as busy; bookbinders as improved.

*Railways.*—Employment at Colwick, Grantham, Worksop, Newark, Mansfield, and Nottingham is reported as fair.

*Clothing Trades.*—Mantle-makers and ready-made tailoring operatives report employment as fair; bespoke tailors as slack at Newark, Grantham, and Nottingham; boot and shoe operatives as slack at Nottingham, moderate at Mansfield and Hucknall Torkard.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Cabinet-makers continue fairly busy; French polishers and upholsterers are well employed; basket-makers are busy; coachmakers are well employed at Nottingham, quiet at Newark; boxmakers are busy.

*Miscellaneous.*—Silk-dressers are making short time; cotton doublers are quiet; female cigar-makers are well employed; gas-stokers are rather quiet; brushmakers are busy; leather dressers and cleaners report employment as regular.—W. L. Hardstaff.

## Leicester and Northampton District.

*Boot and Shoe Industry.*—In most centres in Northamptonshire employment has improved; at Leicester it is less regular; at Hinckley it is slack.

*Other Clothing Trades.*—Wholesale tailoring operatives are busily employed; bespoke tailors are still slack. Employment is regular with corset-makers, and improving with dressmakers, milliners, and hatters.

*Hosiery, Yarn and Woolspinning Trades.*—Employment at Loughborough has slightly improved in the circular rib branch, but is slack in other branches. At Leicester it is bad in all departments. Dyers, trimmers, scourers, and woolspinning operatives are generally on short time.

*Elastic Web Trade.*—Employment in most branches has improved.

*Engineering and Cycle Trades.*—General engineers and shoe machinery builders at Leicester and Rugby are busy. Pattern-makers and winders are working overtime at Loughborough. Employment is fairly good with ironfounders, boiler-makers, and needle-makers; cycle engineers are busier.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—At the South Leicestershire coal pits employment has slightly improved; stone-quarrymen and lime and ironstone workers are well employed.

*Printing and Bookbinding Trades.*—Letterpress printers are busy at Leicester, Loughborough, Northampton, and Kettering, and moderately so at Rugby. Bookbinders and lithographic printers are well employed.

*Building Trades.*—Branches of bricklayers, stonemasons, plasterers, slaters, and joiners report employment as good, with none unemployed. Employment is fairly good with plumbers, and improving with painters and decorators.

*Coachbuilding and Furnishing Trades.*—Coachmakers and car-builders continue fully employed. Work is less regular with railway wagon builders, and only moderate with cabinet-makers and upholsterers.

*Leather Trades.*—All departments of the tanning and leather currying trades report employment as good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is good with brick, tile, and terra cotta workers and all grades of railway workers. It is fair with cigar-makers.—T. Smith.

## Potteries District.

*Pottery Trades.*—Hollow-ware pressers report a further improvement, the operatives now averaging 4 days per week; sanitary pressers continue busy; flat pressers report a slight decline. Printers and transferers are averaging less than three days per week. Women gilders and decorators are better employed. Men artists are busy on best goods. Throwers and turners in the general trade are averaging 4 days per week; the improvement in the electrical department is well maintained. Designers, modellers, and mould-makers report no change. Encaustic tile makers and stilt and spur makers are busy. Packers and cratemakers are slack. Ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggarmakers are averaging 3½ days per week.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Puddlers are averaging 5 days per week; rollers in the plate and merchant mills 4½ days. In the steel works full time is general. Blastfurnacemen are busy.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment is reported as good at Stoke, Crewe, Stafford, Rugeley, and Uttoxeter; as improved at Liff Vale, Hanley, and Burslem. Ironfounders in the Potteries are

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

only moderately employed. Brass moulders and finishers at Longport are busy. Anchor chain makers at Ford Green are working short time; anchor smiths are well employed.

*Coal Mining.*—At Kidsgrove and Talk-o'-th'-Hill miners are busy. At Halmerend numbers are unemployed through an explosion. In the Potteries miners are averaging 5 days per week. At Rugeley a decline is reported. At Cheadle full time is general.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in the silk trade at Leek and Congleton is slack in all departments. Fustian cutters at Congleton report a decline, with one-third totally unemployed and the rest averaging less than 4 days per week. Towel weavers continue busy. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are busy.

*Clothing Trades.*—Bespoke tailors report employment as slack in the Potteries; improved at Crewe. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford report a further slight improvement, but both there and at Stone there is much short time. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter are busy.

*Building Trades.*—Except at Leek all branches of the building trades are fairly busy.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a further decline. At Stafford employment generally is good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue busy. Railway workers are fairly employed.—I. S. Harvey.

## Wolverhampton and District.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues good in the steel smelting, iron bar, angle, and hoop trades. Employment in the sheet trade is falling off, and in the black sheet trade is slack. The mills and forges are well employed. In South Shropshire the mills and forges are for the most part working full time.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Employment is good with engineers and moulders; moderate with boiler, bridge, girder, and tank makers; quiet with cycle-makers. Employment is good generally at Wednesbury, and with engineering firms at St. George's, Madeley, and Coalbrookdale. Malleable iron workers at Walsall are quiet.

*Hardware Trades.*—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, axles, springs, edge tools, Brazil and plantation hoes, hinges, wrought iron odd work, wrought nails, spectacle frames, tips, malleable cycle and electrical castings; fairly good with makers of malleable nails, protectors, spring traps, and gunlocks. Stampers and piercers, locksmiths, tinplate workers, and makers of tack and cut nails and black castings are quiet; makers of hollow-ware are moderately employed. Filesmiths are rather slack; ironplate workers are moderately employed on the whole, but slack at Bilston and The Lye. Brassworkers and galvanisers are slack. In Dudley and district the anvil, vice, anchor, and best chain makers are quiet; chain makers and strikers are reported as fairly employed.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in the Cannock Chase district has slightly improved; in the Oldbury district it is fairly good; in the Old Hill district 4 to 5½ days per week are being worked; in Shropshire and Tamworth miners are rather slack.

*Building Trades.*—Bricklayers report employment as fair; carpenters and joiners as fairly good; plumbers, plasterers, and painters as moderate.

*Glass Trade.*—Flint glass workers in Wordsley and district report employment as good.

*Leather Trades.*—Harness-makers report employment as fairly good; gig saddlers as improved; brown saddlers as bad; buckle, chain, cart gear, case and hame makers as good.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in the Kidderminster carpet trade has improved. Weavers are busy. Spinners are not busy. Wool-staplers are quiet. The Bridgnorth carpet mills and the Tamworth tape mills are steadily employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment has improved in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trades. In the boot and shoe trade employment has improved, but short time is general.—C. Anthony.

## Birmingham and District.

*General.*—Branches of societies, with 20,090 members, have 452 (or 2·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 390 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Engineering.*—Employment with engineers is not so brisk. Seven branches report employment as moderate and two as good. Patternmakers report employment as fair; toolmakers as quiet; smiths and strikers as good, with no men out. At Coventry, West Bromwich, and Redditch engineers have been fully employed. In

the cycle industry employment is improving in Birmingham, Coventry, and Redditch. Cycle accessory makers are fairly well employed.

*Brass and Copper Trades.*—Employment in all branches of the brass trade continues fairly good. Metal rollers are not busy; tube makers are quiet; fender and fire-brass workers are slack. The fender makers at Dudley report employment as bad.

*Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.*—Jewellers report employment as slightly improved; silversmiths and electro-platers as quiet; Britannia metal workers as moderate.

*Other Metal Trades.*—Employment is moderate with ironfounders and hand file-cutters; fair with bedstead-makers. Iron-plate workers are fairly busy. In the Lye district employment is fair. Iron hinge makers report a decline. In West Bromwich the iron mills on lighter work are quiet, owing to slackness in the bedstead trade. In the gun trade employment in the military section is moderate; in the sporting section good. In Coventry employment with watchmakers continues fair. In Redditch needle-makers are well employed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in these trades continues fairly good. Painters report employment as quiet; plumbers as moderate.

*Glass Trades.*—The flint glass makers report employment as quiet; the glass cutters and glass bevellers and silverers as good. In West Bromwich overtime is being worked.

*Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.*—Carriage and railway wagon workers continue fully employed. The cabinet-makers and mill-sawyers return employment as good; coopers as fair; coach-makers as moderate.

*Clothing Trades.*—Bootmakers and tailors report employment as bad.

*Miscellaneous.*—In the printing trade employment is reported as moderate; in the brush trade as improved; enginemen and crane-men are fairly well employed. Employment in the harness and saddlery trade is fair. Gasworkers continue fully employed. Employment with weavers continues quiet.—A. R. Jephcott.

## ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

## Norfolk and neighbouring District.

*Clothing Trades.*—Clothing factories are running full time, but some outworkers are not fully employed. Employment with bespoke tailors is dull. In the boot and shoe trade an improvement has taken place, but there are still about 30 of the older hands unemployed.

*Building Trades.*—Some painters and bricklayers are unemployed, but employment generally is fair.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Throughout the district engineers are fully employed. Shipwrights are badly off for work at Yarmouth, but are fairly employed at Lowestoft.

*Textile Trades.*—Mat and matting weavers are not busy. Silk and crape factories are running full time.

*Fishing Industry.*—Trawl fishing at Yarmouth and Lowestoft has been rather dull.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment in the printing trade is not good. Horticultural builders are busy. Wire weavers are better employed. Brushmakers are not busy.—G. Cleverley.

## Suffolk, Essex, and District.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—The engineers report employment as good at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; moderate at Chelmsford; fair at Ipswich in general engineering, busy in railway engineering. The boiler-makers report employment as fairly good. The shipwrights at Ipswich are busy.

*Clothing Trades.*—The boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull at Ipswich; good in some shops at Colchester, slack in others. Employment with wholesale tailoring operatives has improved at Ipswich, and is moderate at Colchester. Stay and corset makers report employment as moderate.

*Textile Trades.*—The mat weavers at Sudbury, Hadleigh, Long Melford, and Glemsford report employment as moderate; the mat weavers and horsehair weavers at Lavenham as good; the silk weavers at Sudbury and the silk and crape operatives at Halstead and Earl's Colne as good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment with bricklayers and carpenters is dull at Halstead, fair elsewhere. The painters report employment as fair at Ipswich, good at Chelmsford.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as improved at Ipswich and Beccles, moderate at Colchester; bookbinders at Ipswich as busy; lithographers as moderate.



## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES AND WALES.

*Miscellaneous.*—Shipping and dock labour at the port of Ipswich has improved; leather workers at Colchester are fairly busy. With horticultural workers employment is moderate at Chelmsford; improved at Ipswich.—*R. W. Mathew.*

## ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

## Bristol and District.

*General.*—Branches of societies (excluding the engineering and allied trades), with 4,791 members, have 113 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 178 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Building Trades.*—Branches with 3,089 members have 81 (or 2.6 per cent.) idle, as against 112 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Some slackness is reported at Cheltenham, Gloucester, and Bath, but otherwise employment is good.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—The Forest of Dean miners report employment as good on steam coal, and fair on house coal. In the Radstock district employment has fallen off by about a day a week. In the Bristol coalfield full time is being worked at most collieries. Stone quarrymen throughout the district are busy.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Branches with 2,767 members have 66 unemployed, as against 41 unemployed and 146 directly affected by the dispute at the end of January. Employment with engineers is moderate, with ironfounders, railway coach makers, smiths and strikers, and electric wire men good. Shipwrights are slack.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment with boot and shoe operatives throughout the Kingswood district continues depressed; in Bristol the improvement has been maintained, and nearly all hands are now working ordinary time. The wholesale garment makers report employment as fair; the bespoke tailors as improving.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in Stroud and district is reported as good. At some of the cloth mills in West Somerset employment has slackened with spinners. Silk net workers are busy.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—The cabinet-makers report a slight improvement in employment; the polishers and upholsterers continue slack. The brushmakers and basket-makers are busy; the coopers are quiet.

*Printing Trades.*—All branches report employment as good. Out of 705 members 9 (or 1.3 per cent.) are reported as unemployed, as against 19 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Transport Trades.*—Sailors and firemen report employment as fair; railroad men and carters as steady; dock labourers at all the ports on this side of the Channel are dull.

*Glass Trades.*—The glass bottle makers report employment as fair the glass bevellers and cutters as good.—*J. Curle.*

## Plymouth and South-Western District.

*Mining, Quarrying, and Clay Industries.*—Employment with metal miners continues bad. Limestone and granite quarrymen are well employed, slate quarrymen fairly so; china clay workers are fully employed.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Employment with engineers is reported as good in Three Towns and in Hayle, and moderate in Exeter; with brassworkers at both Plymouth and Exeter it is fair; with boiler-makers and iron and steel ship builders moderate; with ironfounders good. Employment continues good with shipwrights. Branches with 1870 members have 17 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 26 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Building Trades.*—Stonemasons and plumbers report employment as good; bricklayers and painters as moderate; plasterers as fair. Carpenters are fully employed. Employment in Exeter has slightly improved; in Tavistock and Torquay it is dull. Branches with 2,097 members have 11 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of January.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment shows a little improvement in both ready-made and bespoke tailoring; it continues moderate with boot and shoe makers; it is good with lacemakers both at Tiverton and Honiton.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as fallen off in Plymouth, dull in Torquay, and quiet in Exeter; lithographic printers as fair; bookbinders as moderate. At paper mills employment is better.

*Dock Labour.*—General work on the quays has been a little brisker. Government labourers report work as good; general labourers as fair.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Millsawyers and machinists report employment as good; cabinet-makers and upholsterers as moderate. Coachbuilders continue busy.

*Fishing Industry.*—Fishing has been fair at Brixham and Plymouth and good at Newlyn.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment in the market gardens and fruit-growing districts continues to improve. Bakers are quiet. Excavators and brickyard labourers are fairly employed, and general outdoor work is good.—*W. Hedge.*

## WALES.

## North Wales District.

*Mining.*—Employment at the coal mines of North Wales is good, the majority of the pits having worked full time. Full time has been worked at the Miner's lead mines.

*Quarrying.*—Employment is good at the slate quarries; brisk at the Pwllheli and Penmaenmawr granite sett quarries; good at the lime and roadstone quarries; fair at the freestone quarries.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The men at the Brymbo steel works continue fully employed; the ironworkers at Mostyn report employment as fair; the engineers at Sandycroft and Oswestry as moderate, at Ruabon and Cefn brisk. Full time has been worked at the Bagillt spelter works and the Ruabon wagon works. The coachmakers at Oswestry report employment as moderate.

*Building Trades.*—The bricklayers report employment as moderate at Wrexham, dull at Oswestry; the carpenters and joiners as quiet at Wrexham, moderate at Oswestry; the painters and house decorators at Wrexham as quiet; the plasterers as moderate at Llandudno, good at Colwyn Bay; the labourers at Wrexham as improving. Employment in the building trades at Rhos, Ruabon, and Cefn is reported as fair.

*Brick and Terra Cotta Industries.*—Employment at Wrexham, Ruabon, Rhos, Mold, Buckley, and Penybont continues steady.

*Chemical Industries.*—Full time is being worked at the Flint and Ruabon chemical works.

*Clothing and Textile Industries.*—Full time has been worked in the woollen and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire. The bespoke tailors at Oswestry report employment as improving; at Bangor as quiet; at Rhyl as slack.—*G. Rowley.*

## South Wales District.

*Coal Mining.*—Further improvement is reported in several districts; collieries in Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Dowlais, Cyfarfha, and Rhymney Valley are reported as working full time; those in the Rhondda, Aberdare, and Merthyr districts as having worked full time, with two unimportant exceptions. Returns from pits employing nearly 67,000 men and boys show an average of 5.63 days per week during February, as against 5.40 in January.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Returns from 9 large works state that mills and furnaces are working full time.

*Ship Repairing and Engineering.*—Engineers have 79 out of 2,674 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of January. The boiler-makers return 30 per cent. as unemployed, and the shipwrights 40 per cent. Moulders have been busy. Engineering shops in the colliery and inland districts have been well employed and working much overtime. Ship painters and scrapers, boiler scruffers and cleaners report employment as good; general hobbler as slack.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Employment in coal shipments has been good; on general cargo and patent fuel shipments quiet; on iron ore and pitwood imports fair; on corn imports quiet.

*Building Trades.*—Returns from all branches report employment as quiet. Branches of carpenters and joiners with 1,375 members have 24 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 18 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment in chemical and metallurgical works is quiet. Wagon builders and lifters are well employed. Letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as moderate.—*T. Davies.*

*Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.*—Employment at the end of February was not so good as at the end of the preceding month. In 86 works 318 mills were at work, as compared with 335 at the end of January. A year ago 334 were at work. Of the 318 mills at work, 241 were at works giving full employment, and 77 at works giving only partial employment, 38 other mills at these works being idle.

## SCOTLAND.

## Edinburgh and District.

*General.*—Branches of societies (excluding engineers), with 15,151 members, have 525 (or 3.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 608 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Coal Mining.*—In Mid and East Lothian the miners were fully employed during the first half of February, but during the latter half

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

short time was experienced at two or three collieries. In West Lothian the miners have not been so busy. In the Bathgate and Fauldhouse districts from 11 to 12 days work per fortnight has been obtained; in the Armadale district from 10 to 12 days; and in the Benhar district from 7 to 12 days.

*Shale Miners and Oil Workers.*—Employment continues fairly good. Returns from 36 pits employing 3,754 workpeople (as compared with 4,225 in February, 1897) show that 2,077 were employed at pits at which full time was worked during the four weeks ended 19th February, while 1,547 were at pits which worked 22 days and under 24.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Branches with 2,440 members have 146 (or 6.0 per cent.) idle. Branches in Falkirk with 3,032 members have only 1 idle, as against 81 at the end of January.

*Shipbuilding.*—Employment in the shipbuilding yards in Leith is much the same. Branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights, with 600 members, have 70 (or 11.7 per cent.) idle, as against 76 (or 12.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Textile Trades.*—In the woollen industry in Selkirk, Galashiels, and Hawick employment has improved with both spinners and weavers. In the hosiery industry employment is good in Selkirk and Hawick, except in the hand-made department in the latter town. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

*Building Trades.*—Branches with 5,427 members have 233 (or 4.3 per cent.) idle, as against 335 (or 5.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.*—Branches with 1,085 members have 35 (or 3.2 per cent.) idle, as against 27 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The seamen and firemen, coal porters, and dock labourers report employment as quiet.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Branches with 2,286 members have 80 (or 3.5 per cent.) idle, as against 55 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

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

## Glasgow and West of Scotland.

*Shipbuilding.*—Branches with 10,872 members have 307 (or 2.8 per cent.) idle, as against 778 (or 7.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment throughout the district is reported as good, though many engineers have not yet been re-started. Branches with 26,515 members have 1,004 (or 3.8 per cent.) idle, as against 1,637 (or 6.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. Spindle and flyer makers and scale beam makers report employment as good.

*Mining.*—In Stirlingshire some miners have been working irregularly, but, on the whole, the men have averaged 5 days per week during the month. In Dumbartonshire work has been good all round. In Lanarkshire employment continues good; full time is being wrought at nearly all the pits. In Ayrshire employment with coal miners has been fair; the ironstone miners are fully employed, except at Dalry, where they are working 5 days per week. In Renfrewshire the pits are still open every day in the week, except at Nisshill, where the ironstone miners get occasional holidays.

*Building Trades.*—Employment with painters is improving and in other branches is good. Branches with 12,037 members (excluding painters) return 152 (or 1.3 per cent.) as idle, as against 179 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Branches with 4,012 members return 109 (or 2.7 per cent.) idle, as against 127 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in Glasgow has improved in most branches; at Darvel and at Newmilns it is fair, at Galston dull. At Kilbirnie weavers in all branches are working full time; at Paisley weavers and thread mill workers are busy; at Port Glasgow weavers are getting busy; at Greenock the textile operatives are fully employed. In Glasgow power loom beamers, carpet weavers, calendermen, and warpers report improvement; dyers and rope spinners have been quiet.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors report employment as improved; clothiers' operatives as improving in all branches, except on mantles. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as slightly improved; knee shoe makers as still quiet.

*Shipping, Dock, and Transport Labour.*—Sailors and firemen have again had a dull month; dock labourers report employment as dull; railway workers, hackney carriage drivers, tramwaymen, and carters are still busy.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress and lithographic printer report employment as dull; electrotypers and stereotypers and bookbinders as fairly good.

*Glass Trades.*—The improvement among the flint glass makers and flint glass cutters has been maintained; bottle-makers report employment as fair.

*Miscellaneous.*—Gilders, potters, settmakers, and paviors report employment as good; saddlers as slightly improved; calico engravers as unsettled; tobacco pipe makers and finishers as improved; carriers as still dull.—*A. J. Hunter.*

## Dundee and District.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment has continued steady in the jute industry. In the linen trade looms are fully employed. A Brechin firm which had been working short hours since June is now working full time.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in the Fifeshire collieries is fairly satisfactory, although some collieries have been rather slack. Reports from pits employing upwards of 11,000 workpeople show an average of 5.29 days per week worked during the four weeks ending February 19th, as compared with 4.64 days per week in the month of January.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Engineering establishments have been exceptionally busy, and some firms are running night shifts to overtake arrears of work. Places have been found for almost all the workmen directly affected by the dispute, only a few fitters being now idle. Work at the shipyards is still brisk. Branches of societies, with 2,489 members, return 77 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 217 (or 8.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Building and Woodworking Trades.*—Employment in the building trades has been fairly steady. The cabinet and house furnishing trade continues moderately busy. Societies with 1,625 members report 20 (or 1.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 36 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Fishing Industry.*—Stormy weather has to some extent interrupted the fishing, and the boats have been only fairly successful. In the salmon fishing small takes have been the rule at most stations.

*Dock Labour.*—Employment at the quays and jetties has been brisk.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment in the printing and allied trades remains fairly steady. Tailors are slack. Boot and shoe makers are moderately employed. Bleachfield workers report an improvement. Floorcloth and linoleum makers are still busy.—*P. Reid.*

## Aberdeen and District.

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of the engineering and allied trades), with 5,235 members, have 82 (or 1.5 per cent.) idle, as compared with 113 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Quarrying.*—All branches report employment as good.

*Building Trades.*—Carpenters and joiners and plasterers report employment as good; painters as improving; masons and hewers as moderate; slaters and plumbers as bad. Branches with 2,368 members have 47 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 81 (or 3.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

*Transport Trades.*—Railway workers and carters report employment as good; dock labourers and general labourers as fair; seamen and firemen as moderate.

*Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.*—The boiler-makers and iron ship builders, blacksmiths, engineers, brass-finishers, tool-smiths, and horse-shoers report employment as good; the shipwrights and ironmoulders as moderate; the tinplate workers as fair. Branches with 1,612 members have 58 idle (or 3.6 per cent.).

*Clothing and Textile Trades.*—The mill and factory workers report employment as good; the boot and shoe makers (hand-sewn) as moderate; the boot and shoe riveters and finishers as quiet; the tailors and carpet-weavers as bad.

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

*Fishing.*—In February at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 48,474 cwt. of fish, realising £38,764—a decrease in quantity but an increase in value as compared with the previous month.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cabinet-makers and sawmillers and machinemakers report employment as good; combmakers as fair; bakers as bad.

W. Johnston.

## IRELAND.

## Dublin and District.

*Building Trades.*—Employment with carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, plasterers, whiteners, stonecutters, and millsawyers has been fair; with plumbers moderate; with gasfitters slack; with painters, slaters, and lathsplitters dull.



Metal Trades.—Employment is returned as good with boiler-makers and smiths; fair with brassfounders and finishers and whitesmiths; moderate with engineers. Branches with 815 members return 39 (or 4.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 60 (or 7.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment generally is returned as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has been dull in all branches.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Work has been fair except in the letterpress section, which has been quiet. Branches with 1,292 members return 75 (or 5.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 51 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is returned as fair with seamen and firemen, dockers, and corporation labourers, and as slack with grain labourers.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches of societies, with 10,244 members, have 409 (or 4.0 per cent.) unemployed. The blacksmiths report employment as moderate; the patternmakers and plumbers as unsettled; the carpenters and joiners as quiet; the spindle and flyer makers as dull; the smiths' helpers and strikers, brass-founders, iron-dressers, furniture workers, enginemen and crane-men, general labourers, and platers' helpers as fair; the boiler-makers and iron ship builders, engineers, iron-moulders, steam engine makers, machine-workers, and shipwrights as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 3,994 members return 79 (or 2.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 75 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The yarn dressers report employment as dull; the flax dressers, flax roughers, and yarn bundlers as fair; the beetling enginemen, linen-lappers, yarn beamers, and hackle and gill makers as good; the power-loom tenters as improving; the women workers as busy.

Building Trades.—Societies with a membership of 2,280 have 99 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 49 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The carpenters and joiners report employment as dull; the plumbers as bad; the bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with a membership of 749 report 52 (or 6.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 50 (or 6.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The French polishers and millsawyers and woodcutting machinists report employment as dull; the upholsterers as quiet; the coopers as middling; the coachbuilders as moderate; the cabinet-makers as fair; the packing-case makers as busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Societies with 915 members return 65 (or 7.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 43 (or 4.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; the bookbinders as dull; the letterpress printers and lithographic artists as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Branches with 717 members return 12 as unemployed and a number only partially employed. Tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with 1,821 members have 39 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 45 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of January. The bakers, butchers, and carters report employment as fair; the locomotive engine drivers, railway workers, municipal employees, and paviors as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as fair in Limerick and Waterford, dull in Cork; boiler-makers and iron ship builders as good in Cork, dull in Queenstown and Passage West; shipwrights and ship-joiners as moderate throughout the district.

Building Trades.—Employment is returned as moderate, except with painters, who are dull.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed, and feather operatives are not so busy. Tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and woodcutting machinists report employment as steady; coachmakers, cabinet-makers, and upholsterers as fair.

Fishing.—Up to the present, the fishing, and especially salmon fishing, has been unsatisfactory on the south and south-west coasts.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing trade is reported as fair. Stationary engine men, brewery workmen, corporation and quay labourers, gas workers, and railway workers also report employment as fair.—P. O'Shea.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN FEBRUARY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.\*†

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Informations laid, Convictions, Amount of Penalties, Amount of Costs. Rows include By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; By Parents.

II.—Under the Mines and Quarries Acts.†‡

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs. Rows include By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Penalties, Costs. Rows include By Owners or Masters of Ships; By Seamen; By Boarding-House Keepers and others.

\* Supplied by the Home Office. † The figures relating to Prosecutions under the Mines and Quarries Acts for February, 1898, include prosecutions by H.M. Inspectors of Mines under the Factory and Workshop Acts in factories and workshops connected with Metalliferous Mines and Quarries. In the figures for February, 1897, given in the above tables, such prosecutions are included in the Table of Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts. The difference owing to the change of tabulation is not, however, very material. ‡ In this case the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice in Scotland being to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with. § In this case defendant was admonished. ¶ Withdrawn on payment of costs. †† Including 5s. 6d. Court fees.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

(Based on information furnished by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)

THE following tables of industrial accidents reported during February are arranged on the new plan adopted first last month. In the Summary Table the classes of industries for which the number employed is approximately known are given first, followed by certain classes of accidents for which the corresponding number employed cannot be stated. In the first group of industries including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,093,394 persons according to the latest available figures, 313 persons were returned as killed, and 5,024 as injured in February by accidents, compared with 346 reported killed and 4,796 injured in February, 1897. During the two months (January and February) 647 were reported killed and 9,726 injured, compared with 696 killed and 9,861 injured in the corresponding period of 1897. In the remaining occupations referred to above, 11 persons were reported as killed, and 572 injured last month, compared with 14 killed and 353 injured in February, 1897.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Summary table with columns: Killed, Injured, Number Employed according to latest Returns. Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, Workshops, Under Factory Act, 1895, Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

DETAILED TABLE.

Detailed table with columns: Killed, Injured, Total. Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries over 20 feet deep, Under Factory Act, 1895, Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

Table with columns: Killed, Injured, Total. Rows include Shipping (On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels), Total for Feb., 1898, Total for 3 months Dec., 1897, to Feb., 1898, Total for 3 months Dec., 1896, to Feb., 1897.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Rows include Factories (Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons, Other Accidents), Total Factories—Feb., 1898, Feb., 1897.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Rows include Workshops (Adults, Young Persons, Children), Total Workshops—Feb., 1898, Feb., 1897.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Rows include Factories & Workshops (classified by trades), Total Feb., 1898, Total Feb., 1897.

Table with columns: Killed, Injured, Total. Rows include Under Factory Act, 1895, Docks, Wharves and Quays, Warehouses, Buildings to which Act applies, Laundries.

Table with columns: Construction or repair, Use or Working, Total. Rows include Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 (Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, Tunnel, Other Works, Traction Engines).

\* The figures relate to seamen who were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels, and about a half, say 3,000 of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards) who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours. Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1896, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

† Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894.

‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

§ Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

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

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during February affected 9,750 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these workpeople was an increase of about 2 1/2 d. per head. About 8,350 received advances averaging about 1 1/2 d. per head, and 1,400 sustained decreases averaging 4 s. 4 1/2 d. per head.

Increases.—The increases affecting the largest number of workpeople were one of 3/4 per cent. to 1,219 steelworkers in the Cleveland district, and three changes in the rates for overwork in the glass bottle trade of Yorkshire, Lancashire, and the Wear district, affecting together over 4,000 workpeople.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 9,300, or over 95 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected, were settled without cessation of work, the wages of 1,200 being changed by sliding scale, and of 8,100 by negotiation between the parties or their representatives. Changes affecting about 450 persons, or less than 5 per cent. of the total number affected, were preceded by strikes.

Totals for First Two Months of 1898.—For the two months, Jan. and Feb., the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 120,000. The net effect of all the changes in the weekly wages of these workpeople is estimated at an increase of about 3 1/2 d. per head.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, GLASS BOTTLE TRADE, and EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES.

\* Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

\* Rate of time and half granted for Sunday work.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1898.

The changes in hours of labour in February affected 1,391 workpeople, their working hours being reduced on the average by nearly one hour per week. The changes were all decreases, and, with the exception of that affecting the plasterers at Liverpool, were brought about without any cessation of work.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Extent of decrease per week.

DECREASES.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Extent of decrease per week. Includes Building Trades and Miscellaneous Trades.

A considerable number of engineering firms in the London district have reverted to the 54 hours week since the termination of the general dispute in the trade, but full particulars as to numbers affected are not yet available.

EXPLOSIVES IN COAL MINES ORDER.

A new Order was issued from the Home Office on February 4th, repealing the Order of December 20th, 1897 (see GAZETTE for January, page 2), and re-enacting it with the addition of six new explosives to the schedule of permitted explosives.

Copies of the Order (price 1d.) may be obtained of Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, E.C.

\* Summer † Winter ‡ See also under Changes in Rate of Wages

LABOUR IN CONNECTICUT.

The thirteenth annual report of the Connecticut Bureau of Labour Statistics is divided into five parts, the first of which gives the information supplied by 200 working men as to their earnings, cost of living, possible savings, and other points. Of these 200 men, 47 were householders, the property in 34 cases being encumbered by mortgages; 125 were rent-payers, the average monthly rental being 9.60 dollars (£2) a month.

The second part has for its subject the condition of manufactures, and includes the reports from 768 establishments, employing 88,934 persons on July 1st, 1896, and 87,907 on July 1st, 1897, a decrease of 11.5 per cent. The amount reported as having been paid in wages during the year ending July 1st, 1897, was 10.2 per cent. less than the amount paid during the corresponding period ending July 1st, 1896.

The third part gives the results of an inquiry into the hours of labour, wages paid, and provisions made for the comfort of the clerks employed in mercantile establishments in the State.

The information tabulated was obtained from 115 establishments employing 2,694 clerks, of whom 1,544 were male, and 1,150 female clerks. The average weekly wage of the 1,544 men and boys was 11.77 dollars (£2 9s. 0 1/2 d.), and of the 1,150 women and girls was 6.66 dollars (£1 7s. 9d.).

Classified according to the class of trade, the following results are given:—

Table with columns: Class of Mercantile Establishments, Number of Clerks (Males, Females), Average Weekly Wages (Males, Females), Average Hours of Labour.

In the fourth part tables are given showing the rates of wages, hours of labour and method of payment of municipal employees.

The fifth part includes an abstract of bills relating to labour which were passed or rejected during the January, 1897 Session of the General Assembly, together with recent court decisions affecting the interests of labour.

Half-Timers.—From a return showing the number of half-timers in the inspected schools of each administrative county of England and Wales, and in the county boroughs of England and Wales in the year ending August 31st, 1896, it appears that there were altogether 119,747 half-timers. Of these 66,345 were in Lancashire 31,718 in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and 7,189 in Cheshire, leaving 14,495 as the number in the rest of England and Wales.



TRADE DISPUTES.

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

**Number and Magnitude.**—Twenty-five fresh disputes were reported as beginning in February, 1898, compared with 28 in January, and 58 in February, 1897. In these 25 disputes 2,715 workpeople were directly, and 853 indirectly, affected, or a total of 3,568, which compares with 6,795 in January, and 23,631 in February, 1897.

**Trades affected.**—In the building trades 6 disputes took place, involving 610 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 4 disputes, involving 1,634 workpeople; metal, engineering and shipbuilding, 5 disputes, involving 734 workpeople; textile trades, 5 disputes, involving 409 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 5 disputes, involving 181 workpeople.

**Causes.**—Of the 25 new disputes 11 were mainly on wages questions, 8 on questions of working arrangements, 2 were demarcation disputes, 2 strikes against non-unionists, 1 was objection to the class of fellow workpeople employed, and 1 was a sympathetic strike.

**Results.**—Seventeen new disputes, involving 1,975 workpeople, and 8 old disputes, involving 672 workpeople were reported as settled. Of the 25 new and old disputes terminated, 7, involving 283 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 9, involving 1,455 persons, in favour of the employers, and 9, involving 909 persons, by compromise.

**Number of Working Days lost.**—The number of working days lost in February owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 139,000 days, compared with 1,393,500 in January, and 220,000 in February, 1897, making a total for the first two months of 1898 of about 1,532,500 working days lost.

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

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY, 1898

6 Disputes.		BUILDING TRADES.		610 Workpeople affected.			
Bricklayers	Cromer	Feb. 1	For advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour	75	—	1	Advance from 6d. to 6½d. per hour conceded, wages to remain at that rate for a period of three years. No settlement reported.
Bricklayers, Joiners, &c.	Leeds	7	Union men refused to work with non-union painters, who, they alleged, were not being paid at the standard rate	30	—	—	—
Stonemasons	Cardiff	3	Men in two firms struck work because one employer was supplying dressed stone to the other; masons in other associated shops were locked out in consequence	250	150	15	Mutually agreed that members of Master Builders' Association may supply dressed stone to each other, that no dressed stone (with certain exceptions) be imported from lower paid districts, and that sub contracting be abolished.
Masons, Painters and Labourers	Cheltenham	2	Men came out against alleged infringement of rules as to meal hours	25	—	10	Satisfactorily adjusted by a conciliation board.
Carpenters and Joiners	Edinburgh	19	Men left work, alleging that certain ready-made joinery had been manufactured under unfair conditions	40	—	4	Men agreed to use present supply of ready-made joinery on condition that no more be ordered.
Plasterers	Blackpool	28	For advance in wages from 9d. to 10d. per hour, and alterations in working rules	40	—	—	No settlement reported.

4 Disputes.		COAL MINING.		1,634 Workpeople affected.			
Coal Miners	Little Hulton, Lanc.	1	In fixing the tonnage rates for a new colliery, men desired to be paid at rates obtaining at another pit under same ownership, and struck work in consequence of refusal	17	33	8	Employers granted the tonnage rates asked.
Ditto	Swansea and Neath Valleys	1	Men demanded advance of 1d. per ton because of use of 1½ in. gauge screen, alleged correct gauge being 1 in.	870	434	—	No settlement reported.
Ditto	Blantyre	2	Against proposed reduction in rates, ranging from 2d. to 4d. per ton	30	—	6	Compromised by acceptance of half the proposed reduction.
Ditto	Prestonpans	1	Men objected to proposed deduction of 1 cwt. per hutch for dirt in coal instead of ½ cwt. as previously	250	—	2	Work resumed under protest as to legality of increased deduction, which is to be given a month's trial.

5 Disputes.		ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.		734 Workpeople affected.			
Shipwrights	Sunderland	14	Resentment of the men against what they considered to be an implied reprimand by a member of the firm, who told them to "hurry up"	52	—	4	An interview between firm and deputation of men resulted in amicable understanding being arrived at.
Rollermakers	Bolton	14	Against revision of piece prices, alleged by operatives to involve a reduction in earnings of 5s. per week	38	—	6	Arranged that the revised 'price list be given a trial for six weeks, the employers to make up lost wages, if any. No settlement reported.
Brass, &c., Tube Workers	Birmingham	22	Refusal to work for an employer who declined to join the trade alliance	48	—	—	—
Shipwrights	Govan	17	Against work claimed as shipwrights' work being given to joiners by a contractor	580	—	3	Work resumed pending reference to Standing Committee, which gave work to joiners under demarcation list of work.
Ship Joiners	Leith	9	Against employment of painters upon work claimed to be that of joiners	16	—	2	Joiners to do the work in question pending a definite settlement.

5 Disputes.		TEXTILE TRADES.		409 Workpeople affected.			
Carpet Printers (box boys)	Halifax	1	Against notice that box boys in future on becoming printers should be subject to a deduction of 2d. in the 1s. for three years, or until 21 years of age, this not to apply to present box boys	69	235	2	Employer's terms accepted.
Warp Dressers	Colne	4	Against proposed reduction in prices of 1½d. per cut, and objection to a proposal that warps should be beamed instead of dressed	26	—	—	No settlement reported.
Elastic Web Weavers	Leicester	17	Operatives struck in consequence of failure to agree with employer upon a price list for certain ladies' belt webs	15	—	4	Price list agreed to upon the basis of rates prevailing before the dispute.
Damask Weavers	Brechin	23	Against anticipated introduction of the two-loom system	28	—	4	Weavers returned to work on the same conditions as before.
Woolen Weavers	Galashiels	14	Against a proposed new price list	36	—	10	Proposed new price list withdrawn.

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY—(continued).

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Number of Workpeople affected.		Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
				Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.		

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY, 1898—(continued).

5 Disputes.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		181 Workpeople affected.			
Brickmakers	York	Feb. 14	Men refused to work with two non-union men, who would not join the union	10	—	—	Men obtained work elsewhere.
Carters	Middleton	11	For reduction in hours to 56½ per week, with a minimum wage of 25s. per week to one-horse, and 27s. to two-horse drivers	90	—	—	No settlement reported.
Coopers	Burton-on-Trent	14	Coopers refused to make hand-made or finish machine-made casks unless skilled men were engaged in matching timber and raising up	25	1	—	Firm reports places filled by non-unionists.
French Polishers	London, E.C.	25	Men objected to the class of labour employed in sympathy with the French polishers in previous dispute, and against alleged juvenile and low paid labour	12	—	—	No settlement reported.
Cabinet Makers	London, E.C.	26	Men objected to the class of labour employed in sympathy with the French polishers in previous dispute, and against alleged juvenile and low paid labour	41	2	—	No settlement reported.

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

COAL MINING.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		181 Workpeople affected.			
Coal Miners	Near Leeds	1897 8 July	Demand by men for advance of 6d. per ton on account of altered conditions of working. Employers offered 4½d.	350	40	185	Tonnage rate offered by the employers was accepted. Some men were replaced by non-unionists.
Ditto	Near Barnsley	20 Oct.	Against proposed increase in number of men in a particular working place	24	—	101	Terms of compromise arranged at a conference of representatives of the parties.
Ditto	Upholland, Lancs.	14 Dec.	For increase in tonnage rates of 2½d. per ton	60	—	45	Work resumed on same conditions as before.
Ditto	Ystradgynlais	28 Dec.	Against change without notice from daywork to a rate of 1s. 4d. per ton	73	22	48	Work resumed at district rate of 4s. 7d. per day plus the advances generally obtained in the district.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		181 Workpeople affected.			
French Polishers	Manchester	1898 3 Jan.	Employer gave notice of intention to resume piecework system. Men resisted and were locked out	18	—	36	Employer agreed to continue day-work system after interview with union officials.
Plumbers	Widnes	1897 Oct. 11	For advance in wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour, and other alterations in working rules	37	—	96	Work resumed on previous conditions.
Ironfounders	Near Stroud	14 Jan.	Men left work rather than agree to imposition of fines for late attendance, as contributions to annual outing fund	28	8	22	Non-union men accepted conditions put forward, union men being displaced or finding work elsewhere.
Pianoforte Makers	London, N.	10 Jan.	Refusal to submit to a reduction of 10 per cent. on piece prices, accepted at another shop of the same employer	12	—	—	Shop reopened with other men at the reduced prices.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE FEBRUARY, 1898, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 18 disputes which have been previously reported, were still unsettled at the end of February. The number of workpeople then involved was about 3,600. The month in which each dispute commenced is stated in brackets.  
**Building Trades:**—Plumbers, Chorley (Jan.), Colne and Nelson (Sep.), Preston (Dec.); bricklayers, Scarborough (Aug.).  
**Coal Mining:**—Coal miners, Castleford (July), Normanton (Sep.), Abernant—2 disputes (Oct.), Castleford (Jan., 1898).  
**Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding:**—Boilermakers, Ebbw Vale (July); bedstead mount makers, Birmingham (Dec.).  
**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades:**—Cabinet makers, London—2 disputes (July and Dec.); French polishers, London (Jan., 1898).  
**Other Trades:**—Bookbinders, Glasgow (Dec.); glass bevellers, London (Dec.); saddlers, Walsall (Jan., 1898); railway men, Cork and South of Ireland (Jan., 1898).

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES, 1896.

The Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies upon Industrial and Provident Societies\* has been issued for 1896 during the past month, and shows that at the end of 1896 there were 2,119 societies on the Register, comprising 1,846 societies for "carrying on industries and trades," usually called co-operative societies; 146 societies for "carrying on businesses," which includes workmen's clubs, trading banks, loan societies, &c., and 127 land and building societies.

Of the co-operative societies 1,725 made returns, and for the first time an attempt has been made to classify these into "productive" and "distributive" societies; there were 166 of the former, and 893 of the latter, and in addition 655 societies carrying on both distribution and production. The remaining eleven societies were not classified.

Of the 1,725 co-operative societies making returns, 1,317 were in England and Wales, 321 in Scotland, and 87 in Ireland, the total membership being returned at 1,436,995. It is stated that 1,113 societies give credit, and that 507 do not, no particulars being given regarding the remaining 105 societies.

A total of £46,895 of the profits of the co-operative societies was devoted to educational purposes—£40,269 by the English and Welsh societies, and £6,626 by Scottish societies.

One hundred and twenty-four "societies for carrying on businesses" made returns showing a total membership of 41,388, the total receipts for the year being £2,005,648. Of this amount £1,743,728 was received by two trading banks in England.

\* Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending December 31st, 1896. Part B, Appendix (L) Industrial and Provident Societies, P.P. 97.—1. (Price 10½d.)

Of the land and building societies, 118 made returns showing a total membership of 14,523, and trade receipts of £161,711. Lists of societies registered and dissolved during the year, and of societies against which legal proceedings were taken, are included in the report.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead poisoning and Anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during February, classified by industries [M.—Males, F.—Females]:—

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>								
China, Earthenware, and Glass	8	15	—	—	—	—	10	15	25
Lead and Colour Works	22	14	—	—	—	—	22	14	36
Smelting	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	10
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron and other metals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	6	1	—	—	—	—	6	1	7
<b>Total Lead Poisoning</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>78</b>
Corresponding Total for February, 1897	55	31	2	—	—	—	57	31	88
<b>Anthrax</b>									
Ditto February, 1897	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	7

**Inspectors of Factories.**—Appointment.—Mr. R. W. H. Sharland, of Carlton Chambers, Baldwin Street, Bristol, has been appointed Inspector's Assistant under the Factory and Workshop Acts.  
New Address.—Capt. J. F. Bevan's new address is 21, Portland-street, Southampton.



WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February, the 13 bureaux furnishing returns for February, 1898, and also for February, 1897, registered 2,665 fresh applications for work, as compared with 2,087 in February, 1897, an increase of 578. Work was found for 994 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 1,165 persons in February, 1897. The number remaining on the registers at the end of February, 1898, was 3,197, compared with 3,245 a year ago.

(I.) Work Done in February.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Private Employers, No. of Workpeople found by Local Authorities. Includes London, Provincial, and Glasgow bureaux.

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

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Build-ing, Engi-neer-ing and Metal Trades, Car-men, Stable-men, &c., Clerks and Ware-house-men, Porters and Mes-sen-gers, General Labour-ers, Other Occu-pations, Total Men).

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Servants, Dress-makers and Semp-stresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total).

\* Permanent employment. † Temporary employment. ‡ These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. § Women and Girls are not registered.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

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

The number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of February was 342,928. This corresponds to a rate of 217 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1898.

Compared with January, 1898, there is an increase of 2,494 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000. In 19 of the 35 districts the rate increased, the largest increase being in the comparatively small district of Galway (170 per 10,000). In North London there was an increase of 11 and in the Dublin district one of 8 per 10,000.

Compared with February, 1897, the number relieved decreased by 202, and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The rate has decreased in 23 districts, the most marked decreases being in the North Staffordshire district (17 per 10,000), Bristol district (16), Wigan district (13), Hull district (12), Aberdeen district (11), and South London (10). In three districts the rate was unaltered, while in the remaining nine districts increases are shown, the largest occurring in Ireland, viz., Galway district (194 per 10,000), Dublin and Belfast districts (12 each).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of February, 1898, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with 1897. Includes ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, and OTHER DISTRICTS.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of February, 1898, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with 1897. Includes SCOTLAND and IRELAND.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of February, 1898, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with 1897. Includes IRELAND.

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

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE monthly accounts of trade and navigation show that the value of the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions for the month ended 28th February, 1898, was £35,770,874, as compared with £37,245,164 for February, 1897, showing a decrease of £1,474,290, or 4.1 per cent.

The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for February, 1898, were valued at £17,641,849, as compared with £17,864,682 for February, 1897, showing a decrease of £222,833, or 1.2 per cent., and the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise for February, 1898, were valued at £5,311,657, as against £5,224,138 for February, 1897, an increase of £87,519, or 1.6 per cent.

Imports.—The following table gives the value of the imports for February, 1898, as compared with February, 1897:—

Table with columns: Month ended Feb. 28th (1897, 1898), Increase, Decrease. Includes Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances, Oils, Raw Materials for Manufactures, Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles.

The import of wheat has decreased in value by £630,975, but wheat meal and flour shows an increase of £173,462, oats of £170,293, and potatoes of £105,660. Cheese has decreased by £125,865, cured or salted fish by £197,481, and raw apples by £112,582. Under raw materials for textile manufactures, raw cotton has increased in quantity by 261,617 cwts., but has decreased in value by £319,087. Wool of all kinds has decreased by £693,309, but jute has increased by £116,163. Among other raw materials, hides have increased by £129,314, but wood, manures, and caoutchouc show decreases of £74,270, £35,429 and £36,639.

Exports.—With regard to the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for February, 1898, the following table shows the value for that period as compared with February, 1897:—

Table with columns: Month ended Feb. 28th (1897, 1898), Increase, Decrease. Includes Animals, living, Articles of Food and Drink, Raw Materials, Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, Yarns and Textile Fabrics, Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom, Machinery and Millwork, Miscellaneous.

Comparing the value of the exports for February, 1898, with those for February, 1897, the trade in coal, coke and fuel shows an increase of £113,998, and in cotton yarn and manufactures of £283,557; but woollen and worsted tissues show a decrease of £97,575; iron, unwrought and wrought, of £185,370; machinery of £236,316, and cycles and parts thereof, of £42,794. The exports of linen piece goods were 467,000 yards more than in February, 1897, but the value was declared as £5,234 less. The effect of the prolonged engineers' dispute may still be seen in the decreased value of the exports of machinery and millwork. With regard to the other decreases, it may be noted that the United States and all the countries of South America took less woollen and worsted tissues.

Taking the trade for the two months ended 28th February, 1898, as compared with the corresponding period of 1897, the imports were valued at £75,700,165, as against £77,020,832, showing a decrease of £1,320,667. The value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufacture for the two months in 1898 was £36,873,253, showing a decrease of £777,665 as compared with the same period of 1897. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise for the two months amounted in value to £9,994,318 in 1898, as compared with £9,379,123 in 1897.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered during February at ports of the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British Possessions amounted to 2,444,174 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,821,641 tons, as compared with 2,483,403 tons entered, and 2,686,587 tons cleared in February, 1897.

The tonnage of vessels entered coastwise reached a total of 2,512,144 tons, and the tonnage cleared 2,397,529 tons, as against amounts of 2,590,629 tons and 2,482,783 tons respectively in February, 1897.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during February was 10,366, as compared with 9,475 in February, 1897.

British and Irish.—Of the 10,366 passengers, 7,094 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 317 as compared with a year ago. The increase is most marked in the case of those bound for the United States, while on the other hand there is a falling off in the number proceeding to South Africa. The total number of British and Irish passengers for the first two months of 1898 was about the same as for the corresponding period of 1897. The following table gives the figures for February 1898 and 1897, together with those for the two months ended 28th February in each year:—

Table with columns: Destination, February, 1898, February, 1897, Total for two months ending (Feb., 1898, Feb., 1897). Includes United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 10,366 passengers in February last, viz., 3,272, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 574 more than in February, 1897.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during February was 4,828. Of these, 1,699 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 1,263 so stated in February 1897. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,129 (including 748 sailors), the corresponding figure for February, 1897, being 2,701 (including 849 sailors). The figures for February, 1898 and 1897, and also for the two months in each year are as follows:—

Table with columns: February, 1898, February, 1897, Total for two months ending (Feb., 1898, Feb., 1897). Includes Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during February show a considerable increase, as compared with both February, 1897 and 1896, the increase being in both cases chiefly due to increased imports of American cotton. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns shows a small decrease as compared with February, 1897, but an increase as compared with Feb., 1896. The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

Table with columns: Imports, Bales, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Bales, Exports, Bales. Includes February, 1898, 1897, 1896, Two Months ended February, 1898, 1897, 1896.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended March 5th amounted to £5,694,499, an increase of £129,846 (or 2.3 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1897. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,179,759, an increase of £44,259, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,514,740, an increase of £85,587.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during February, 1898, was £544,751, an increase of £35,721 as compared with February, 1897. In England and Wales there was an increase of £42,830, in Ireland of £1,604, and a decrease of £8,713 in Scotland.

\* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 748 in February, 1898; 849 in February, 1897; and 1,655 and 1,565 respectively for the two months ended February in each year.



**Bankruptcies.**—The number of bankruptcies gazetted during February was 348, being the same as in February, 1897, 11 more than in February, 1896, and 8 more than in February, 1895.

### INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN FEBRUARY.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in February it will be seen that 4 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 25 Co-operative Associations for Production (mostly Agricultural and Dairy Societies in Ireland), 2 Miscellaneous Societies, 28 new Friendly Societies, 36 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 7 Building Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Eleven Trade Unions, 23 Building Societies, 22 Friendly Societies, and 5 Industrial and Provident Societies in England and Wales are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registry cancelled. Particulars respecting dissolutions in Scotland and Ireland have not been received at the time of going to press.

#### NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Ilkeston and District Builders Labourers' Trade Society, Borough Arms, Bath-street, Ilkeston; Amalgamated Association of Card and Blowing Room Operatives, 2a Hodson's Chambers, Hodson's Court, Corporation-street, Manchester; Huddersfield and District Cloth Pressers' Trade Benevolent and Burial Society, Boot and Shoe Inn, Huddersfield; Manchester French Polishers' Association, Roebuck Inn, Lower Byrom-street, Manchester. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Cromer Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 7 The Meadows, Cromer. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Kilmuckridge Co-op. Industries, Ltd., Kilmuckridge, co. Wexford; Ballinagleragh Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Dowra, co. Leitrim.

(B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Earl Shilton Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., Station-road, Earl Shilton; Associated Beverage Manufacturers, Ltd., 45 Sherwin-street, Nottingham; Coventry Co-op. Cycle Manufacturers, Ltd., 45, Wellington-street, Coventry; Long Eaton Engineering and Cycle Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., Clifford-street Works, Long Eaton. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Eighteen Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Socs. at Burriscarra, Co. Mayo; Kinawley, Co. Fermanagh; Killinney, Co. Galway; Menlough, Co. Galway; Inniscarra, Co. Cork; Newbridge, Co. Galway; Mount Bellew, Co. Galway; Skirke, Queen's Co.; Ballymacward, Co. Galway; Caltra, Co. Galway; Knockvicar, Co. Roscommon; Mountjoy, Co. Tyrone; Ballynagarde, Co. Limerick; Dromard, Co. Longford; Erne, Co. Fermanagh; Killodiernan and Monsea, Co. Tipperary; Cappagh, Co. Galway; Killaroran, Co. Galway. 3 Co-op. Poultry Socs., at Nenagh, Co. Tipperary; Cratloe, Co. Clare; Cloughjordan (Cloughjordan, Moneygall and Toomevara Soc.), Co. Tipperary.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Brixham Liberal Club Building Association, Ltd., Liberal Club, Bolton-street, Brixham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Castledockrell Co-op. Bank, Ltd., Castledockrell, Co. Wexford.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Dividing, 7; Female, 2; Juvenile, 1; Orders, 2; Collecting, 1; Benevolent, 1; Specially Authorised, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 4. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Specially Authorised, 4.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—28. *Scotland.*—7. *Ireland.*—1.

**Building Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—4. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—3.

#### OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Notice of Dissolution received:—Salford and District Card and Blowing Room Operatives, and Ring Spinners' Association, Britannia Inn, Ordsall-lane, Salford; Cardiff Cab Proprietors' Protection Association, Cattle Market Tavern, Quay-street, Cardiff; Lancashire and other Counties Colliery Winders' Federation, 9, Church-street, Golborne. Registration cancelled:—Liverpool Warehouse Porters' Union, 88, Old Hall-street, Liverpool; Eastern Counties' Labour Federation, North Hill-road, Ipswich; Union of Watch Makers, Clock and Case Makers, &c., &c., Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.; Warwickshire Agric. and General Workers' Union, Poplar-terrace, Alveston; Colliery Hauliers and Wage Men's Union of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Prince of Wales Hotel, Pontypridd; Cap Manufacturers' Association, 20 New-road, Whitechapel-road, E.C.; Amal. Soc. of Telephone and Telegraph Workers, Market House, Finsbury-market, E.C.; East End Foreign House Decorators, 3, White's-row, Spitalfields, E. *Scotland and Ireland.*—No particulars received.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—Resolution to wind up received:—Burnley Self-help Cotton Spinning and Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., Healey Royd Mills, Burnley;

Liquidator's final report received:—Little Bolton Boot and Shoe Making and Repairing Soc., Ltd., 59, Clarence-street, Bolton. Copy of Order of Release of Liquidator received:—St. Crispin (Leicester) Boot and Shoe Operatives Productive and Distributive Soc., Ltd., 28, Cank-street, Leicester. Notice of Winding-up received:—South of England Ind. and Prov. Land Soc., Ltd., Christ Church-street, Ringwood, Hants. Copy of Order of Dissolution received:—London and Suburban Bank, Ltd., 44-46, Leadenhall-street, E.C. *Scotland and Ireland.*—No particulars received.

**Friendly Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 15; registry cancelled, 2; dissolved otherwise, 5. *Scotland and Ireland.*—No particulars received.

**Building Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 3; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 17. *Scotland and Ireland.*—No particulars received.

### GERMAN LABOUR REGISTRIES CONFERENCE.

THE report has just been published of a conference which met in Carlsruhe on September 13th, 1897, to discuss the organisation and work of public labour registries.\* The gathering, which was arranged by Dr. Jastrow, editor of *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, was attended by 135 persons, including representatives of public labour registries municipal and State administrations, industrial courts, and trade unions. The subjects discussed at the full gathering were, (1) Federations of public labour registries in each of the different states of the German Empire; (2) The establishment of communication between urban and outlying labour registries; and (3) The internal organisation and office routine of labour registries.

The reading of reports as to the constitution and work of the "clearing-house" systems in operation in Baden, Württemberg, Düsseldorf and the Bavarian Palatinate was followed by a general discussion. In the course of this discussion some doubts were expressed as to the expediency of a system, under which the town where the registry clearing-house is situated is directly informed of the vacant situations in all the districts with which it is in communication, and can use this advantage in the interests of its own unemployed, before re-distributing the summary of vacancies reported. A resolution was, however, adopted (there being only 5 dissentients) in favour of the establishment of centralised systems all over Germany, on the lines of those already in operation in Württemberg and elsewhere.

One of a number of points discussed by separate groups of members after the full sitting, had reference to the clause existing in the rules of some of the public registries established in Germany in recent years (the "strike clause"), whereby the registry is closed to trades affected by a dispute, pending the settlement of such dispute. Two of the speakers, one a member of the Frankfurt-am-Main Town Council, the other a delegate of the Associated Trade Unions of Stuttgart, agreed in their conclusions (based upon experience) that the clause was of no importance, one way or the other, as affecting the result of a strike.

### COTTON CLOTH FACTORIES.

AN order of the Home Secretary, dated February 2nd, 1898, has been made in pursuance of the Cotton Cloth Factories Acts, 1889 and 1897, making regulations for the protection of health in cotton cloth factories. By these regulations the two daily readings of the thermometers (provided for recording the humidity of the atmosphere and the temperature) required by the Act of 1889 are increased to three, and it is required that the water used for producing artificial humidity shall either be taken from a public supply of drinking water or other source of pure water, or shall be effectively purified to the satisfaction of the Inspector before being introduced in the form of steam into the factory, that all ducts for the introduction of humidified air shall be kept clean, and that the pipes used for the introduction of steam, where the temperature is 70 deg. Fahr. or over, shall, so far as they are within the shed, be as small both in diameter and length as is reasonably practicable, and shall be effectively covered with non-conducting material. It is further required that the arrangements for ventilation shall be such that during working hours in no part of the factory shall the proportion of carbonic acid in the air be greater than 9 volumes of such acid to every 10,000 of air; provision is also made for keeping the outsides of the shed roofs whitewashed during June, July and August of each year, and for cloak rooms to be at the disposal of the operatives, which are to be ventilated and kept at a suitable temperature.

\* Die Einrichtung von Arbeitsnachweisen und Arbeitsnachweis-Verbindungen des ersten deutschen Arbeitsnachweis-Konferenz (Karlsruhe, 13. September, 1897), Berlin, 1898. Expedition des *Arbeitsmarkt*, Beuthstrasse 8.

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