

61a

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. IX.—No. 1.

JANUARY, 1901.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

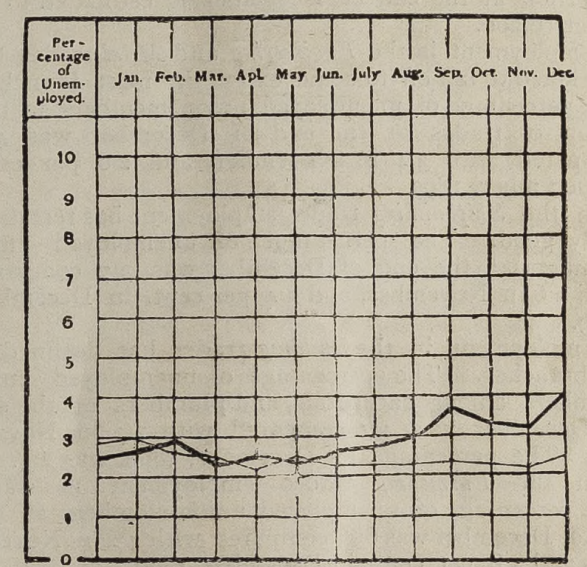
CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

Employment Chart, 1899-1900	...	...	...	PAGE	1
State of the Labour Market in December	...	...	...	1	
Special Articles and Reports—					
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1900—PRELIMINARY FIGURES	...	...	...	3	
TRADE DISPUTES IN 1900—PRELIMINARY FIGURES	...	...	...	4	
EMPLOYMENT OF MARRIED WOMEN IN FACTORIES IN PRUSSIA IN 1899	...	...	...	6	
AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND—FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1900	...	...	...	9	
LABOUR DISPUTES IN GERMANY IN 1899	...	...	...	9	
TRADE UNIONS IN 1899	...	...	...	6	
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN 1899	...	...	...	10	
THE BELGIAN INDUSTRIAL CENSUS OF 1896	...	...	...	11	
AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' ACCIDENT AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN HUNGARY	...	...	...	11	
PRUSSIAN FACTORY AND MINE INSPECTORS' REPORTS FOR 1899	...	...	...	12	
TRADE UNIONS IN DENMARK	...	...	...	31	
CONCILIATION IN THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES	...	...	...	5	
Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—					
REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.					
COAL MINING	...	...	...	16	
IRON MINING	...	...	...	16	
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	...	...	...	16	
IRON AND STEEL WORKS	...	...	...	17	
TINPLATE WORKS	...	...	...	17	
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	...	...	...	18	
SEAMEN	...	...	...	17	
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	...	...	...	21	
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	...	...	...	18	
DISTRICT REPORTS.					
LONDON	...	...	...	21	
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	...	...	...	22	
Lancashire	...	...	...	23	
Yorkshire	...	...	...	24	
Midland Counties	...	...	...	25	
Eastern Counties	...	...	...	26	
South-Western Counties	...	...	...	26	
WALES	...	...	...	27	
SCOTLAND	...	...	...	27	
IRELAND	...	...	...	28	
Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—					
COLONIES	...	14	RUSSIA	...	15
FRANCE	...	14	AUSTRIA	...	15
GERMANY	...	14	UNITED STATES	...	15
BELGIUM	...	14			
Miscellaneous Reports for December—					
RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION	...	...	...	8	
LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR	...	...	...	13	
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	...	...	...	36	
FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM	...	...	...	35	
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES	...	...	...	31	
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	...	...	...	33	
Statistical Tables for December—					
TRADE DISPUTES	...	...	...	32	
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	...	...	...	30	
DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR	...	...	...	31	
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	...	...	...	29	
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	...	...	...	36	
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX	...	...	...	33	
LABOUR BUREAUX	...	...	...	34	
PAUPERISM	...	...	...	34	
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	...	...	...	2	
Notes and Reviews—					
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1878—ORDER OF HOME SECRETARY FIXING STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY AND DUE ATTENDANCE	...	...	...	33	
QUEENSLAND LABOUR BUREAU AND RELIEF	...	...	...	33	
CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN NEW ZEALAND, 1896-1900	...	...	...	35	
HOMEWORK IN BELGIUM	...	...	...	36	
H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES—NEW APPOINTMENT, &C	...	...	...	8	
INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS	...	...	...	35	

EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1899-1900.

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

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



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN DECEMBER.

[Based on 2,319 returns, viz.: 1,661 from Employers, 545 from Trade Unions, and 113 from other sources.]

THE state of employment during December again showed a further decline when compared both with the previous month and with the corresponding month in 1899. A comparison of the returns for the end of December with those of the previous month is to some extent affected by the Christmas and New Year holidays, and allowance must therefore be made for this disturbing influence when considering the figures given below.

In the 138 Trade Unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 540,102, 21,496 (or 4.0 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of December, compared with 3.2 per cent. in November, and with 2.5 per cent. in the 123 Unions, with a membership of 511,184, from which returns were received for December, 1899.

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment continues good, being practically the same as in November; the number of days worked per week by the collieries was less than a year ago, but the number employed was greater. At collieries at which 474,813 workpeople were employed, the pits worked on an average 5.46 days per week during the four weeks ended December 22nd, as compared with 5.45 days in November, and 5.65 days a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good, and shows a slight improvement as compared both with November and with a year ago. The average number of days worked by 129 iron mines and open works, at which 16,723 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended December 22nd, was 5.83 per week, as compared with 5.74 days in November, and 5.75 days a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment shows a further

decline, and is much worse than a year ago. At the works of 117 ironmasters, 326 furnaces were in blast at the end of December, employing about 22,400 workpeople, as compared with 342 furnaces at the end of November and 379 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment has continued to decline and is worse than a year ago. At 207 works covered by the returns, employing 80,097 workpeople at the end of December, the total volume of employment (taking into account both the numbers employed and the number of shifts worked) has decreased by 1·6 per cent. as compared with November, and 8·6 per cent. as compared with December, 1899.

Template Trade.—Employment shows a marked decline compared with November, and is much worse than a year ago. At the end of December 324 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), compared with 356 mills at the end of November, and 410 mills at the end of December, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of December is estimated to be about 16,200.

Employment in the *Engineering and Metal* trades has continued to fall off to some extent in most branches. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of December was 4·1, compared with 3·4 in November, and 2·6 per cent. in December, 1899.

In the *Shipbuilding* trades employment has remained fairly good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 3·7, compared with 3·6 in November, and 2·4 per cent. in December, 1899.

Employment in the *Building* trades has declined in all branches. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of December was 4·2, compared with 3·3 in November. The percentage for December, 1899, was 2·5.

In the *Furnishing* trades employment is slack. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 6·8, compared with 4·2 in November, and 4·8 per cent. in December, 1899.

Employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades has fallen off owing to seasonal causes. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 4·4, compared with 2·8 in November. The percentage for December, 1899, was 3·5.

Employment in the *Paper* trades has remained good, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December being 1·4, compared with 2·3, in November, and 2·5 per cent. in December, 1899.

In the *Glass* trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 11·7, compared with 8·9 per cent. in December, 1899.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of December was 2·7, compared with 2·4 in November and 1·9 per cent. in December, 1899.

Employment in the *Boot and Shoe* trades shows a further improvement, but is still quiet in most of the large centres.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade shows a decline and is quiet; in the ready-made branch it has again fallen off and is slack.

Employment in the *Weaving* branch of the *Cotton* trade continues fairly good; in the *Spinning* branch it is good. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 80,500 women and girls shows that 89 per cent. of those in spinning mills and 85 per cent. of those in weaving factories were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 86 and 84 per cent. respectively in November, and with 97 and 92 per cent. respectively a year ago.

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

Agricultural Labourers were, generally speaking, well employed during the month of December, though owing to wet weather some casual hands and men on piece-work lost time. The irregularity of work was, however, comparatively slight.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—During the five weeks ended December 29th an average number of 17,440 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 18,411 in the preceding four weeks and 16,390 in December, 1899.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty fresh disputes occurred in December, 1900, involving 3,648 workpeople, of whom 1,991 were directly, and 1,657 indirectly affected. The corresponding number of disputes in November was 48, involving 18,099 workpeople, and in December, 1899, 28, involving 6,116 workpeople. Of the 20 fresh disputes, 1 occurred in the building trades, 4 in the mining and quarrying industries, 5 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 3 in the textile trades, 3 in the transport trades, and 4 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 16 new and old disputes, involving 3,360 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 5, involving 942 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 6, involving 676 persons, in favour of the employers; and 3, involving 831 persons, were compromised. With regard to the remaining 2 disputes, involving 911 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of 26,599 workpeople were reported in December, of which number 18,383 obtained advances averaging 1s. 9½d. weekly per head, and 8,216 sustained decreases averaging 1s. 1¼d. weekly per head, the net effect of all the changes being an increase of 10½d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The principal increase was that affecting 12,000 bricklayers in the London district. The decreases affected 8,175 blast-furnacemen in Cleveland and Durham, West Cumberland, Lancashire, and North Staffordshire, and 41 building trade operatives in Scotland. Changes affecting 765 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting 10,753 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and the remaining changes, affecting 15,081 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

The following Table shows the number of cases* of lead, phosphorus and mercurial poisoning and of anthrax reported during December as having occurred in factories and workshops. Of the 65 cases of lead poisoning reported during the month, 20 (19 males and 1 female) occurred in white lead works, and 17 (10 males and 7 females) in the china and earthenware industry, the number of cases in these industries in December, 1899, being 37 and 15 respectively. The deaths of 4 males, all from lead poisoning, were reported during the month, as against 3 (2 from lead poisoning and 1 from anthrax) reported in December, 1899.

Disease and Industry.	December, 1900.				Total Dec. 1899.
	Adults.		Young Persons.		
	M.+	F.†	M.+	F.†	
Lead Poisoning—					
White Lead Works	19	1	—	—	20
China and Earthenware	10	7	—	—	17
Red and Yellow Lead Works, Enamelling Iron Works, Electrical Accumulator Works	8	—	—	—	8
Manufacture of Paints and Colours	3	—	—	—	3
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping, Printing, File Cutting	5	1	—	—	6
Coach Making, Shipbuilding, &c.	10	—	—	—	10
Other Industries	1	—	—	—	1
Total Lead Poisoning	56	9	—	—	65
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	1	—	—	1
Mercurial Poisoning	—	1	—	—	1
Anthrax	2	—	—	—	2

In addition to the cases included above, 14 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1900.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

The following summary of changes in wages and hours of labour during 1900 is based upon the tables published month by month in the LABOUR GAZETTE. The totals do not include agricultural labourers, railway servants, and seamen. For reasons fully stated in the annual reports of the Department on wages and hours, the changes in these trades cannot be tabulated in quite the same way as the industries included in this summary. Complete information regarding the three excluded occupations cannot be given until the annual returns relating to them have been received and compiled. In the meantime it may be stated, on the basis of the particulars so far available, that the final figures when obtained will not materially affect the broad results which are described below.

Changes in Rates of Wages.

The year 1900 was one of rising wages. The upward movement which began in the autumn of 1895 and continued without break throughout the four succeeding years, culminated in 1900 in advances, exceeding in their total amount anything recorded in any recent year.

In the following Table the total figures for each of the eight years 1893-1900 are given:—

Year.	Workpeople affected by Changes in Rates of Wages.		Net result on weekly wages of those affected by changes.	
	Number (separate individuals).	Approximate Percentage of total number employed.	Total Amount.	Average per head of those affected.
1893	549,977	7·0	+ 12,125	+ 0 5½
1894	670,386	8·5	— 45,091	— 1 4½
1895	436,718	5·6	— 28,211	— 1 3½
1896	607,654	7·7	+ 20,592	+ 0 10½
1897	597,444	7·6	+ 31,507	+ 1 0½
1898	1,015,469	12·9	+ 80,815	+ 1 7
1899	1,475,576	14·9	+ 99,095	+ 1 6½
1900	1,083,300	13·8	+ 203,240	+ 3 8½

It will be seen that although there was a slight falling off during 1900 in the total number affected as compared with the previous year, the computed net amount of increase in weekly wages was more than twice the total for 1899. If the total advance in 1900 were spread over the total numbers employed, the average advance would equal about 6d. per head per week.

During the later months of 1900 the rapid advance in wages received some check. In certain industries decreases took place which are in part disguised in the statistics by the increases which took effect in the early part of the year. For example, the manufactured iron workers in the west of Scotland, after receiving five successive advances, sustained a decrease in November.

The total computed amount of the increases in weekly wages is £207,790, and of the decreases £4,550. In the following Table the distribution of the net advance of £203,240 over the principal industries is shown:—

Trades.	Workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages.		Net increase on weekly wage of those affected by changes.	
	Number (Separate Individuals).	Percentage of total number employed.	Total Amount.	Average per head.
Coal Mining	679,000	95·0	£ 163,870	s. d. 4 10
Other Mining and Quarrying	19,600	13·3	3,240	3 3½
Iron and Steel	70,000	8·6	14,440	4 1½
Engineering and Shipbuilding	9,400	8·6	765	1 7½
Miscellaneous Metal	15,200	9·3	790	1 0½
Building	76,700	9·9	6,560	8½
Textile	123,900	9·9	5,910	0 11½
Clothing	8,400	1·5	950	2 3½
Other Trades	87,100	2·6	6,720	1 6½
Total	1,083,300	13·8	203,240	3 8½

The above Table makes it clear that the advances in the coal mining industry were almost entirely responsible for the large increase during 1900. Of the total advance of £203,240, 80 per cent. went to the coal

miners. Almost all the workpeople employed in the industry received increased wages, the average advance being nearly 5s. per head per week. The extent of the movement in the coal trade is well brought out in the following Table, which compares for each of the principal districts the level of miners' wages at the end of 1900 with their level a year ago, five years ago, and ten years ago.

Principal Districts.	Percentage of Coal Hewers' wages above standard at end of				Increase on standard at end of 1900 compared with		
	1890.	1895.	1899.	1900.	10 years ago.	5 years ago.	A year ago.
Northumberland ...	31·25	7·50	25·00	61·25	30·00	53·75	36·25
Durham ...	30·00	15·00	33·75	65·00	35·00	50·00	31·25
Federated Districts	40·00	30·00	40·00	50·00	10·00	20·00	10·00
South Staffs and East Worcester	40·00	30·00	40·00	50·00	10·00	20·00	10·00
South Wales and Mon.	51·50	12·50	30·00	73·75	21·25	61·25	43·75
Scotland, East ...	50·00	12·50	53·75	97·50	47·50	85·00	43·75
Scotland, West ...	50·00	12·50	56·25	100·00	50·00	87·50	43·75

During 1900, the increases were greatest in Scotland and South Wales. It will be seen that in 1900, the advance in each of these districts was 43½ per cent. on standard. The advances in Northumberland and Durham were 36¼ and 31¼ per cent. on their respective standards. In the Federated Districts the advance was 10 per cent., but during the year it was arranged that a further 10 per cent. should take effect in two instalments at the beginning of 1901.

Next in importance to the changes in the coal mining industry are those in the iron and steel trades. The total advance in these industries was £14,440 per week, or slightly more than 4s. per head of the 70,000 workpeople affected. The rise in wages in these trades commenced in 1896, before the improvement in the mining industry, and has kept pace with it. Altogether during the last five years the computed total increase in the weekly wages of iron and steel workers amounts to £33,420, which divided among the 80,000 workpeople affected by changes during that period gives an average increase of about 8s. 4d. per week.

In the following table the net percentage increase or decrease in each year during the last 10 years is shown in the wages of certain bodies of blastfurnacemen, manufactured ironworkers and steelworkers. The wages in each case are regulated by sliding scales and vary automatically with the ascertained selling prices of the commodities manufactured.

Year.	Blastfurnacemen.		Ironworkers (Millmen).		Steelworkers.	
	Cleveland and Durham.	Cumberland.	North of England.	Midlands.	Consett.	Eston.
1891	— 11½	— 11½	— 5	— 5	— 12½	— 15½
1892	— 3	— 1	— 2½	— 2½	— 2½	— 2½
1893	— 6	— 3	— 5	— 5	— 7½	— 7½
1894	+ 1	+ 2	+ 2½	+ 2½	+ 5	+ 5
1895	+ 3½	+ 1½	+ 2½	+ 2½	+ 5	+ 6
1896	+ 3	+ 2	+ 2½	+ 2½	+ 5	+ 6
1897	+ 3½	+ 1½	+ 2½	+ 2½	+ 5	+ 6
1898	+ 3½	+ 1½	+ 2½	+ 2½	+ 5	+ 6
1899	+ 20½	+ 27½	+ 12½	+ 12½	+ 10	+ 10
1900	+ 18	+ 9	+ 17½	+ 22½	+ 12½	+ 11
Net Increase compared with Ten years ago ...	+ 28½	+ 35½	+ 22½	+ 27½	+ 7½	— 3½
Five years ago ...	+ 41½	+ 50½	+ 35	+ 40	+ 32½	+ 19½
A year ago ...	+ 18	+ 9	+ 17½	+ 22½	+ 12½	+ 11

It will be seen that the wages of the blastfurnacemen show the greatest fluctuations and those of the steelworkers the least. The scale regulating the Eston steelworkers provides for a maximum above which wages shall not be raised. That point was reached in Jan. 1900, and accordingly no further advance has been given.

In the building trades over 68,000 operatives received advances, and about 8,000 men in Scotland sustained reductions. The computed net increase in weekly wages was £6,560 or about the same as in the previous year.

* Including Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Shropshire, Warwick, parts of Stafford, Worcester, Bristol, and North Wales.

In the textile trades advances of 5 per cent. to the spinners and 10 per cent. to certain other operatives employed in the Lancashire cotton trade, are chiefly responsible for the total increase of £5,910 in weekly wages in this industry.

The principal advance included in the miscellaneous group of trades was one affecting 22,000 pottery workers in Staffordshire.

In the following Table the methods by which the changes in wages were brought about and the number affected in each case are shown:—

Methods by which the Changes in Wages were arranged.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Percentage number of Workpeople whose Wages were arranged by each Method.	Corresponding Percentage for 1899.
After Strike:—			
The parties concerned or their representatives	48,500	4.5	2.7
Conciliation Boards, Mediation or Arbitration	4,500	0.4	0.3
Total	53,000	4.9	3.0
Without Strike:—			
The parties concerned or their representatives	376,100	34.6	49.9
Conciliation Boards, Mediation or Arbitration	476,100	43.7	32.0
Sliding Scales	183,100	16.8	15.1
Total	1,035,300	95.1	97.0
Grand Total	1,088,300	100.0	100.0

With reference to the changes settled without strikes the increased proportion settled by conciliation boards, mediation and arbitration is noticeable. This is mainly accounted for by the establishment of a Conciliation Board for the Coal Trade of Scotland and the re-establishment of the Northumberland Coal Trade Conciliation Board. An increase is also shown in the number of men whose wages were changed under sliding scales. During 1900 changes took place under every known sliding scale,* and in the course of the year a new one was adopted for the purpose of regulating blastfurnacemen's wages in the West of Scotland.

Changes in Hours of Labour.

The changes in hours of labour during 1900 were rather more numerous than in the two immediately preceding years. Altogether 55,560 workpeople were affected, of which number 54,690 had their working hours reduced by an average of 4.2 per week, and 870 had theirs increased by an average of 1.6 hours. The following table enables a comparison to be made between 1900 and the seven preceding years as regards the total changes in hours of labour.

Years.	Number of work-people affected by changes in hours of labour.	Net average reduction per week in hours of those affected by changes.	Computed total reduction in weekly hours of those affected.
1893	34,649	1.99	68,937
1894	77,158	4.04	311,545
1895	22,735	1.94	44,105
1896	108,271	0.73	78,533
1897	70,632	4.03	284,675
1898	39,049	2.10	81,917
1899	35,949	3.54	127,142
1900	55,560	4.10	227,700

Nearly half the workpeople affected in 1900 were employed in coal mining. The principal change affected 25,000 miners in Lanarkshire, whose daily hours of labour were reduced from ten to eight, while the number of days worked per fortnight were increased from ten to eleven.

The remaining changes include 8,960 building trade operatives, whose working hours were reduced by slightly less than 1 hour per week; 3,645 workpeople in the metal, engineering and ship-building trades, who obtained an average reduction of 4 1/2 hours per week; 2,300 boot and shoe operatives, whose normal working time was shortened by over 2 1/2 hours per week; and 8,000 cabinet makers in London

* For list of sliding scales, see p. 235 of the Seventh Report on Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour.

whose hours of labour were reduced from 52 1/2 to 50 per week.

Of the 55,560 workpeople whose hours of labour were changed, only 2,610, or 4.7 per cent., had their hours altered after a dispute involving stoppage of work. A few changes, affecting 2,060 workpeople in the building trade, were arranged by conciliation boards and by arbitration, but the bulk of the changes, were arranged by direct negotiations between the parties or their representatives without stoppage of work.

TRADE DISPUTES IN 1900.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

The year 1900 was comparatively free from trade disputes. The aggregate duration in working days of strikes and lock-outs during the year is estimated at 3,785,000. This total, though higher than the corresponding figure for the previous year (2,516,416 working days, is considerably less than the average for the seven years, 1893-99 (11,193,790 working days). This result is mainly due to the absence of any general dispute of a prolonged character.

It has been pointed out in the Annual Reports of the Department on Strikes and Lock-outs, that in recent years, apart from any great dispute, about 200,000 workpeople are annually involved in strikes and lock-outs, but that the time normally lost by these workpeople through disputes forms but an insignificant proportion of the total working time of the year. Such was the case in 1900. The number of workpeople affected by disputes was 184,773, but the time lost by these workpeople in consequence of strikes, if spread over the entire industrial population, was less than half a day per head.

In the following general comparative table, showing the number and aggregate duration of strikes and lock-outs during the last eight years, the prolonged general disputes are shown separately from all other disputes.

Year.	Prolonged General Disputes.		All other Disputes.		Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes.
	No.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	
1893	1	300,000	781	246,386	5,165,052
1894	1	90,000	928	235,248	2,929,010
1895	1	70,000	744	217,123	4,166,870
1896	1	46,000	916	198,190	3,745,368
1897	1	No large dispute	861	184,767	4,614,523
1898	1	47,500	710	143,907	2,521,478
1899	1	100,000	719	180,217	2,516,416
1900	1	No large dispute	623	184,773	3,784,985
Total 8 years	6	51,703,000	6,294	3,043,852	32,141,512

It will be seen from the above Table that nearly two-thirds of the aggregate duration of the 6,300 disputes recorded during the last eight years, was accounted for by 6 disputes only. Of those 6 disputes four were in the coal mining industry and were responsible for 43,290,000 days, or over half the total.

The industries most disturbed by disputes are shown in the following Table, in which the aggregate duration of disputes during the last eight years is classified according to groups of industries.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days classified by Industries

Year.	Building.	Mining, &c.	Metal, &c.	Textile.	Clothing.	Trans- port.	Miscel- lanous.
1893	812,551	27,977,893	864,911	424,385	201,533	466,397	457,392
1894	377,987	6,638,507	1,274,219	748,173	100,362	266,825	122,937
1895	382,911	1,086,157	1,369,239	1,076,993	1,616,562	35,143	157,645
1896	1,000,227	1,011,668	862,760	519,917	98,734	23,043	170,019
1897	353,348	1,445,843	7,141,289	677,615	301,082	76,497	349,849
1898	379,170	2,576,334	1,370,764	273,564	69,910	46,771	272,975
1899	854,207	504,428	420,660	552,485	42,154	64,450	80,032
1900	790,013	1,111,227	351,934	412,676	55,997	331,543	731,545
Total (8 years)	5,010,414	52,652,057	13,655,846	4,685,808	2,486,324	1,308,660	2,342,394
Average (per annum)	626,302	6,581,507	1,706,981	585,726	310,791	163,584	292,799

* Including duration in 1893. The engineers' dispute extended into the following year, and the duration in that year (1,118,000 days) is included for the purpose of this table in 1897 and not in 1898.

It appears from the above statement that disputes are responsible for a greater loss of time in the mining industry than in any other, and to this general rule 1900 presents no exception. Of the aggregate duration of disputes in 1900, 29.4 per cent. was due to the mining and quarrying industries. This is, however, much below the general average for the eight years, during which disputes in this group of industries accounted for no less than 64.1 per cent. of the aggregate duration of all disputes.

Next to mining, the metal, engineering and ship-building trades show the greatest duration of disputes, though in this group of trades the duration in 1900 was the lowest on record.

In the building, transport and miscellaneous industries the loss of time in 1900 by reason of disputes was in each case above the average for the last eight years.

In the following Table the disputes of 1900 are classified by groups of trades—the workpeople directly affected being distinguished from those persons thrown out of work at the establishments at which disputes occurred, but who were not themselves on strike or locked out. In 1900 the proportion indirectly affected, viz. 26.3 per cent., was greater than in the preceding year. The number of persons indirectly affected is noticeably great in the mining, metal and textile trades.

Disputes of 1900 classified by Groups of Trades.

Groups of Trades.	Number of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	
Building	140	15,783	2,998	790,013
Mining and Quarrying	138	49,251	27,426	1,111,227
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	105	10,297	8,632	351,934
Textile	95	16,181	7,759	412,676
Clothing	32	1,920	14	55,997
Transport	50	21,330	1,945	331,543
Pottery	5	20,355	215	645,753
Miscellaneous	58	4,139	428	85,792
Total	623	136,236	48,517	3,784,985

The percentage proportion of the working population involved in disputes in 1900 was 2.4. The percentage was 8.8 in mining and quarrying, 2.2 in the building, 1.9 in the textile, and 1.7 in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades. For the purpose of arriving at the general percentage (2.4), agricultural labourers and seamen are excluded. These trades were practically free from disputes during 1900, and the inclusion of the numbers employed in such trades would therefore still further reduce the proportion of the working population affected by disputes.

The following table deals with the principal causes and objects of trade disputes.

Causes of Disputes in 1900.

Causes.	Disputes.		Workpeople directly affected.		Aggregate duration.*	
	No.	Per cent. of total.	No.	Per cent. of total.	No.	Per cent. of total.
For advance	261	41.9	57,179	42.0	1,940,525	51.3
Against reduction	40	6.4	7,451	5.5	272,580	7.2
Other	118	19.0	19,096	14.0	331,999	8.7
Hours	5	0.8	668	0.5	48,477	1.3
Employment of particular classes or persons	85	13.6	9,484	6.9	204,759	5.4
Working arrangements	59	9.5	10,855	7.9	806,448	21.3
Trade Unionism	45	7.2	20,247	14.8	162,807	4.3
Other Causes	10	1.6	2,279	1.7	18,180	0.5
Total	623	100.0	136,236	100.0	3,784,985	100.0

It will be seen that questions of remuneration were again the principal cause of strikes and lock-outs, the other important causes falling under the heads of working arrangements and trade unionism.

The following table gives an analysis of the results of trade disputes in the last five years. The percentages are based upon the number of workpeople directly affected.

* Including days lost by workpeople indirectly affected.

Results of Disputes.

Results of Disputes.	1895.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
In favour of workpeople	43.5	24.2	22.6	26.7	29.1
In favour of employers	28.0	40.7	60.1	43.7	19.1
Compromised	28.3	34.0	17.2	29.1	39.8
Indefinite	0.2	1.1	0.1	0.5	12.0*
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

It appears from the above that disputes directly affecting 19 per cent. of the workpeople were settled wholly in favour of the employers and 29 per cent. wholly in favour of the workpeople. It must be remembered also that in a year of rising wages the demands for alterations proceed mainly from the men, so that disputes classified as compromised represent in most cases some measure of gain to the workpeople.

Methods by which Disputes were Settled.

Method of Settlement.	Disputes.		Workpeople.	
	No.	Per cent. of Total.	No.	Per cent. of Total.
By arbitration	14	2.3	4,370	2.4
By conciliation and mediation	12	1.9	3,807	2.0
By direct arrangement between the parties or their representatives	439	70.5	153,147	82.0
By return to work on employers' terms without negotiation	45	7.2	7,064	3.8
By replacement of workpeople	54	8.7	4,998	2.7
By closing of works	4	0.6	300	0.2
Indefinite or unsettled	55*	8.8	11,087	6.0
Total	623	100.0	184,773	100.0

The above Table shows that the great bulk of disputes were settled by direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives. Only twenty-six strikes and lock-outs, involving a total of 8,177 workpeople, were brought to a termination by arbitration, conciliation, or mediation, these methods being as in previous years more utilised for the arrangement of questions likely to lead to stoppage than for the settlement of actual strikes. (See article on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour, p. 3.)

The information contained in the foregoing article is based upon the particulars furnished for the purpose of the Table of Trade Disputes, which appears in each LABOUR GAZETTE. The totals now published are subject to some correction in the Annual Report, in the light of information not yet available. At the present time a number of disputes commencing in 1900 are still unsettled and cannot therefore be classified as regards results and methods of settlement.

CONCILIATION IN THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.

New working rules for bricklayers in the London district have been agreed to, and were signed on December 11th by representatives of the London Master Builders' Association and the Operative Bricklayers' Society. These rules, in addition to providing for an advance of wages of 1/3d. per hour from January 1st, include a conciliation rule practically identical with that agreed upon in April last with the carpenters and joiners (see GAZETTE for May, 1900, p. 133) and similar in general character with that in the plastering trade (see GAZETTE for April, 1900, p. 102). The Conciliation Rule provides for the reference of all disputes to a permanent Conciliation Board representing employers and employed, or in the case of a dispute affecting other sections of the building trade to a Joint Conciliation Board representing each trade involved and the employers.

It is further provided that if the Board is unable to agree, application shall be made to the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act for the appointment of a Conciliator, the decision of such person or the Conciliation Board to be final and binding on both parties.

* Including disputes begun in 1900 and of which no settlement has yet been reported.

EMPLOYMENT OF MARRIED WOMEN IN FACTORIES IN PRUSSIA IN 1899.

In their reports for the year 1899 (see p. 12 of this month's issue of the GAZETTE) the Prussian factory and mine inspectors have incorporated the results of an inquiry which they were directed to make with reference to the employment of married women in factories. The following particulars are based on the reports made on this subject by the inspectors for the Governmental district of Berlin and Charlottenburg (where the number of women and girls over 16 employed in factories and workshops is greater than in any other such district in Prussia), and by those from the Düsseldorf district (which comes next in this respect).

The total number of women, who had been married, employed in factories in the Berlin and Charlottenburg district at the beginning of 1899 was 8,029 (about 18 per cent. of all women over 16 employed in these establishments). Of these 8,029 women, 2,659 worked in clothing factories, 1,295 were employed in the paper and leather trades, and 1,104 in the textile trades. Among the 3,193 women interrogated by the inspectors, 60·3 per cent. were living with their husbands, 20·4 per cent. were widows, and the rest were either separated from, or had been abandoned by their husbands.

Some 44 per cent. of the women questioned gave the lack of a breadwinner as the reason for their working in factories. These included the widows, the women separated from or abandoned by their husbands, and a small number whose husbands could not be regarded as breadwinners by reason of sickness, of their neglect to obtain work, or of their drinking habits. About 30 per cent. of the women gave as their reason for engaging in factory work the fact that, although their husbands were earning money, yet the amount of their earnings was insufficient to support the family. The majority of the husbands in these cases were found to be unskilled men, earning on an average 19s. 6d. per week. (The average earnings of married women working in factories in this district is given as 12s. 8d. per week.) Fifty per cent. of the women had children to support, the number of children per mother being on the average 1·6. Only 14·8 per cent. of the children were stated to contribute to the household expenses.

It is stated that in this district the average amount paid for rent was 4s. per week (this amount being reckoned after deduction of any rent received from lodgers); the accommodation usually obtained for this money consisted of one larger and one smaller room.

With respect to the duration of the regular working day, the large majority of the women in the Berlin district, whose hours of labour are given (937 out of 1,430), worked from 9 to 10 hours per day, exclusive of intervals. As illustrating the manner in which the employment of married women in factories interferes with family life, the Berlin inspector states that of 2,193 married women, 62 per cent. went without their chief meal until the evening, with the result that in most cases both mothers and children were insufficiently nourished throughout the day. It is also stated that of 732 children under the age of 12 years in one sub-district, no less than 30 per cent. were left at home without anyone in charge of them during the mother's absence. Similar facts are stated to exist also in the other sub-districts.

In the Düsseldorf district (in which the great majority of the women working in factories are employed in textile trades) about 15 per cent. of all women over 16 employed in factories were stated to be (or have been) married. Of these 6,626 married women, no less than 5,725 (or 86·4 per cent.) work in textile factories, 3,521 of them being employed in weaving sheds. Among these 5,725 married textile operatives 4,304 (75·18 per cent.) had a household to look after, 3,662 (63·97 per cent.) having husbands living with them, and 642 (11·21 per cent.) being widows, or separated from their husbands.

Taking together the 4,963 women with households to look after in all trades combined, 771 are classed as widowed or separated, 268 as having

husbands living with them but incapable of working for their living, and 3,924 as having husbands capable of earning wages. The last figure, however, includes some men who were not actually earning wages because they were serving in the army, and men out of work through seasonal slackness in their trade, and also a considerable number of husbands of drinking habits who contributed little to the expenses of the household. Even when, as is the case in regard to the great majority of the married women employed in factories, there is a husband alive and contributing his earnings to the family purse, yet there are a large number of wives who are under the necessity of going out to work, especially where there are many children, or aged parents to keep. In many cases women work in factories only during the early days of their married life, usually only until they have had one or two children. The fact that women in the textile trades earn relatively high wages—wages not seldom higher than those earned by their husbands—tends to induce married textile operatives to put off leaving the factory as long as possible.

The hours worked by women in factories in the Düsseldorf district vary from 8 to 11. In the principal industrial group (the textile) the hours worked are from 9½ (or for the married women 9) to 11 in the day (exclusive of intervals); as a rule, a midday rest of 1½ hours is allowed.

With respect to the question of altogether excluding from factories, married women with households to look after or of admitting them only on production of a certificate signed by a doctor, and stating that factory employment would not cause injury to health, the inspectors of both (Berlin and Düsseldorf) districts, while they suggest certain minor alterations in the law, are altogether adverse to any enactments of such a nature.

TRADE UNIONS IN 1899.

THE 12th Report on Trade Unions in the United Kingdom was issued by the Board of Trade on 18th December last. It brings the information with regard to trade unions and kindred organisations up to the end of 1899, and contains comparative statistics as to membership, income, expenditure, and funds for the years 1892-99.

Membership of all Unions.

From the Report it appears that at the end of 1899 there were in existence 1,292 unions, with a membership of 1,802,518, as compared with 1,310 unions with a membership of 1,649,231 at the end of 1898. The distribution of these unions in 1899 over the various trade groups is shown in the following Table.

Table with 4 columns: Groups of Trade Unions, No. of Trade Unions, No. of Branches, Membership at end of 1899 (Number, Per Cent. of Total).

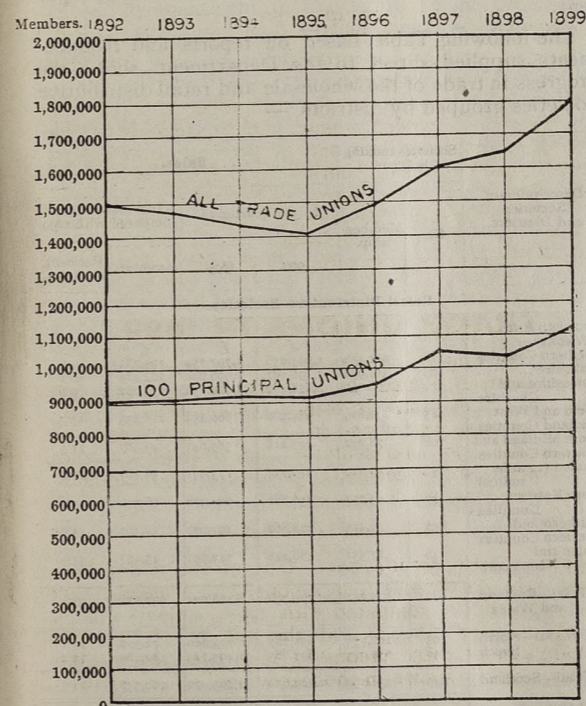
From the above it will be seen that 69 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions is found in the Building, Mining, Textile and Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding trades. Of the 1,292 unions, 614 with a membership of 1,408,702 were registered under the Trade Union Acts, while 678 with a membership of 393,816 were not thus registered. Over 78 per cent. therefore of the entire membership is included in registered unions.

The Table below gives at the end of each of the years 1892-1899 (1) the membership of the 100 principal

unions, the financial transactions of which are chosen for analysis, and (2) the membership over the same period of all other unions.

Table with 4 columns: Year, 100 Principal Unions, Other Unions, Total Membership of all Unions.

This shows that the membership of all the unions has increased between 1892 and 1899 by 299,286 or 19·9 per cent., the increase in the 100 principal unions being 23·5 per cent. The fluctuations in the membership of all unions and of the 100 principal unions during the years 1892-99 are shown in the following chart:—



The number of female members of trade unions was 120,448 at the end of 1899, or nearly 7 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions and 39 per cent. of the membership of the 139 unions which include female members. Nine-tenths of this female membership is in the textile trades.

The proportion of men in the classes from which trade unionists are drawn, who actually belong to trade unions, is roughly 1 in 5, or, omitting agriculture (in which branch of industry the proportion of trade unionists may almost be disregarded) 1 in 4. In the case of women in factories and workshops the proportion is 1 in 10.

Accounts of 100 Principal Unions.

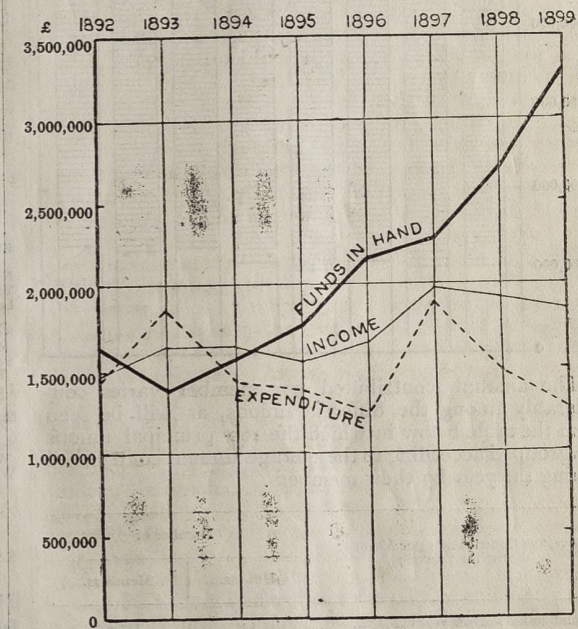
The accounts of 100 of the principal unions are selected for detailed analysis in the Report, and their financial position during the period 1892-99 is set forth in the next Table, from which it will be seen that there was an increase in 1899 over 1892 as regards membership, income and funds, and a decrease in expenditure. Compared with 1898 the figures show an increase in the funds and total membership, but a decrease in the income and expenditure, the decrease in

both cases being principally due to the comparative freedom of the year from disputes of any magnitude.

Table with 8 columns: Year, Membership of 100 principal Unions, Income (Amount, Per Member), Expenditure (Amount, Per Member), Funds at end of Year (Amount, Per Member).

The decrease in expenditure in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group of trades amounted to no less than £168,612; the expenditure in 1899 being £459,147 as compared with £627,759 in 1898. The amount of funds in hand was greatest at the end of 1899, being £3,282,922 or £2 18s. 9d. per member; the funds in one union, that of the operative cotton spinners, amounting to as much as £17 15s. 7½d. per member.

The chart given below shows the variations in income and expenditure and the consequent fluctuations in the amount of funds in hand for the hundred unions in each of the years 1892-99:—



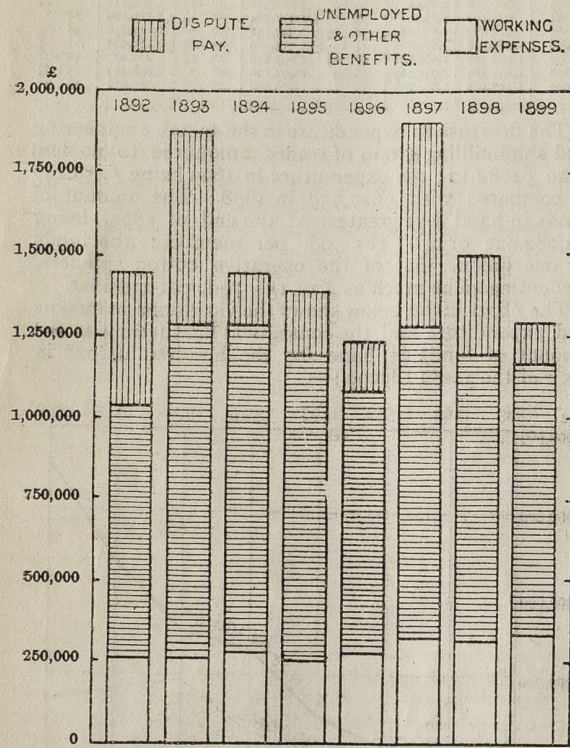
Income and expenditure were highest in 1897, the year of the great dispute in the engineering trade, and the amount of funds in hand was smallest at the end of 1893, the year of the great coal dispute.

Full details as to the expenditure under various heads are given in the Report, but the average yearly expenditure on dispute benefit, friendly benefits and working expenses during the eight years 1892-99, may be seen from the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: Year, Dispute Pay (Amount, Per cent. of Total Expenditure), Unemployed and Other Benefits (Amount, Per cent. of Total Expenditure), Working Expenses (Amount, Per cent. of Total Expenditure).

Thus it appears that out of an average yearly expenditure of £1,503,890, 21·4 per cent. was expended on dispute

pay, 59.8 per cent. on unemployed and other friendly benefits, and 18.8 per cent. was absorbed in working and other expenses. In 1899 the percentage expenditure on dispute pay was 9.4 which is the lowest expenditure in any of the years covered by the period and less than half the average expenditure on this benefit for the eight years. The proportionate yearly expenditure under each of these three heads is also brought out in the accompanying chart.



The amount contributed per member varies considerably among the different unions, as will be seen from the table below in which the 100 principal unions are grouped according to the average amount contributed during the year by their members.

Average Contribution per Member during the year 1899.	Number of	
	Unions.	Members.
6s. and under 10s. per year	13	113,567
10s. " 15s. " "	18	136,723
15s. " 20s. " "	14	172,673
20s. " 30s. " "	22	311,553
30s. " 40s. " "	11	76,958
40s. " 50s. " "	12	167,390
50s. " 60s. " "	10	138,601
Total	100	1,117,465

A summary, similar to that published in the eleventh Report, is also given showing for each of the 100 unions the rates of entrance fees and contributions, and the scales of benefits to which the different classes of members are entitled.

Trades Councils and Federations.

During 1899 the number of Trades Councils of which full particulars were available for the purposes of the Report fell from 156 to 154 and the membership from 703,506 to 687,008. The number of Federations of Trade Unions known to be in existence at the end of 1899 was 112 with an affiliated membership of 1,518,780 compared with 112 Federations with 993,511 members, in 1898. These are gross totals, as several trade unions are affiliated to more than one federation. The large increase on the figures for the previous year is chiefly due to the establishment of the General Federation of Trade Unions in 1899.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 1,171 retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,581,974, show total sales for the third quarter of 1900, amounting to £11,665,859, as compared with £10,470,500 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Of these societies 966 show an increase, 203 a decrease, and 2 the same amount of sales as in the previous year, the net increase for the United Kingdom being £1,195,359, or 11.4 per cent.

The total amount paid to members as dividend on purchases during the Quarter was £1,577,606, compared with £1,410,239 in the corresponding period of 1899, an increase of 11.6 per cent.

Returns from the four wholesale Societies for the same period, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £5,305,667, as compared with £4,788,885 in the corresponding period of 1899, an increase of 10.8 per cent. The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £929,100, compared with £810,159 in the corresponding period of 1899, an increase of 14.7 per cent.

The following Table, based on reports and balance-sheets supplied direct to the Department, shows the progress in trade of the wholesale and retail distributive Societies grouped by districts:—

Description of Societies and Districts.	Societies making Returns.		Sales.			
	No.	Member-ship.	In 3rd quarter of		Increase in 1900 compared with 1899.	
			1900.	1899.	Amount.	Per cent. on Sales.
Retail Distributive Societies.						
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Northern Counties	118	212,432	1,993,036	1,797,754	195,282	10.9
Yorkshire ...	185	314,998	2,198,497	1,996,608	201,889	10.1
Lancashire and Cheshire	172	376,230	2,058,439	2,424,732	233,707	9.6
North and West Midland Counties	145	170,825	981,985	866,453	118,533	13.7
South Midland and Eastern Counties	101	78,242	427,218	383,831	43,387	11.3
London (12 mile radius)	38	40,110	210,718	173,931	36,787	21.2
South Eastern Counties	47	43,737	230,888	204,378	26,510	13.0
Southern and Western Counties	58	51,315	228,862	197,677	31,185	15.8
Wales and Monmouth	48	17,353	188,148	142,657	45,491	31.9
Total—England and Wales	912	1,305,241	9,120,792	8,188,021	932,771	11.4
SCOTLAND—North	103	102,553	851,727	773,349	78,378	10.1
South	146	172,043	1,677,883	1,495,723	12.2	
Total—Scotland	249	274,596	2,529,610	2,269,072	260,538	11.5
IRELAND ...	10	2,437	15,457	13,407	2,050	15.3
TOTAL RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES	1,171	1,581,974	11,665,859	10,470,500	1,195,359	11.4
Wholesale Societies.						
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Distributive Departments	1,085*	1,243,439†	3,894,760	3,492,986	401,774	11.5
Manufacturing Departments	96	1,194,535	561,260†	475,349†	85,911	18.1
SCOTLAND:—						
Distributive Departments	289*	248,658*	1,342,679	1,228,401	114,278	9.3
Manufacturing Departments	29	3,323	367,840†	334,810†	33,030	9.9
IRELAND:—						
Butter Agency (Distribution)	Not stated.		66,523	65,955	568	0.9
Agricultural (Distribution)	29	3,323	1,685	1,543	142	9.2

H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

New Appointment.—Mr. Leonard Ward, 39, Victoria-street, S.W., has been appointed as Inspector of Factories and Workshops.

New Address.—The address of Mr. J. H. Warren is now 21, Fargate, Sheffield.

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

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1900.

INFORMATION has been received by the Department as to the rates of wages obtained by farm servants at the yearly and half-yearly hiring fairs which took place in Scotland during the last six months of 1900 in the counties of Aberdeen, Argyll, Ayr, Banff, Berwick, Caithness, Clackmannan, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Haddington, Inverness, Kincardine, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, Linlithgow, Nairn, Peebles, Perth, Renfrew, Ross, Cromarty, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Stirling, Wigtown, and also in Orkney.

In the great majority of cases the old rates of wages were maintained, and where changes took place increases were more numerous than decreases. Where a decrease took place it rarely amounted to more than 10s. to 15s. for the half year. Such a decrease took place around Aberdeen owing, it is stated, to slackness in the building trade, which resulted in a good many masons and labourers seeking work in the country districts. Generally speaking there was a rise in wages in the colliery districts, the ranks of the farm servants having been thinned by migration to the collieries. In Perthshire a rise in wages is said to have been due to the scarcity of men caused by enlistment in the Army. Some ploughmen in this county are said to have received increases of from 30s. to £3 for the year.

The rates of wages vary a good deal according to the payments in kind allowed. Married men (who are generally shepherds, men in charge of cattle, and first horsemen), in addition to their cash wages, usually get free cottages and allowances of oatmeal, milk, and potatoes. Coal is frequently carted free, and in some districts allowances of coal are given. Unmarried men are usually given their board and lodging free, except in the Border Counties and the Lothians. At the hirings referred to, the following rates were frequently paid to first and second horsemen for the half year, viz., £14 to £18, with free house, garden, and allowances of oatmeal, milk and potatoes. In some counties in the south-west capable married men get 18s. to 20s. a week with free house and also some other allowances. Good cattlemen are said to have been much in demand, their wages frequently were from £15 to £20 for the half-year, with payments in kind similar to those given to horsemen.

Women are reported as scarce for all kinds of work. Dairymaids at these hirings obtained up to £12, and kitchen girls up to £10 for the half-year, with food and lodging. Outworkers got up to £10.

Cottages are more generally found on large farms than small ones, the smaller farmers more usually employing unmarried men, lodging and boarding them in the farm houses. This is often known as the "kitchen system."

Several systems for lodging and boarding unmarried men are in existence. In many cases, particularly on the smaller farms, they lodge and board in the farmhouse, or board in the farmhouse and sleep in an apartment at the farm steading, usually adjoining the stable. In a good many districts they are frequently lodged and boarded in the houses of the married men. Another system is to lodge them in a bothy adjacent to the farm buildings. Food is either cooked for the men in the bothy, or else the bothy system is adopted in its fullest sense, and the men cook their own food in the bothy, in which case they usually receive allowances of meal, and sometimes milk, and a small quantity of potatoes, and buy the remainder. Occasionally food is provided for the bothy men in the kitchen of the farmhouse. Beds, blankets, towels, the necessary furniture, lights, and coals are also provided. Bothies are chiefly found on the larger farms. Generally speaking, the bothy system is much more common in the north-eastern part of Scotland than the southern. In the Border counties and the Lothians, it practically does not exist. The system is the most prevalent in Forfar, Kincardine and Perth. It also prevails to a greater or lesser extent in the counties of Inverness, Elgin, Banff, Nairn, Aberdeen, Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan, though the "kitchen system" is likewise in existence in these

counties. In Caithness, Orkney, Sutherland and Ross the kitchen system is not a common one, the unmarried men, and in Sutherland and Ross the unmarried women also, either lodging in bothies or in the houses of the married farm servants.

In the Border counties and the Lothians most farmers engage their employees by families who live in cottages on the farm on which they work, though there are some unmarried men hired by the year or half-year, mainly on the smaller farms, who are lodged and boarded in the farmhouses. In other parts of Scotland the proportion of the boarded men is usually larger than that of the married men; but the number of married men which a farmer can engage depends, of course, on the cottage accommodation on his farm, the English village system being but little known in Scotland.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN GERMANY IN 1899.

THE first volume of official statistics of strikes and lock-outs in the German Empire has been issued by the Imperial Statistical Office at Berlin,* and relates to the year 1899. Strikes and lock-outs in agriculture are not included, and the figures have reference only to disputes terminated in 1899.

The total number of disputes terminated in 1899 was 1,311 (1,288 strikes and 23 lock-outs); the total number of persons affected by these disputes being 116,486 (including 11,850 persons indirectly affected).

The extent to which the various groups of trades distinguished in the German Industrial Statistics were affected by disputes in 1899 is shown by the following Table:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Trade Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected by Trade Disputes.		
		On Strike or Locked out.	Indirectly affected.	Total.
Building Trades	482	40,118	7,343	47,461
Mining and Smelting	30	10,027	442	10,469
Metal Working	142	9,865	246	10,111
Engineering and Implements	46	3,744	563	4,307
Manufacture	104	11,088	2,156	13,244
Textiles	64	4,946	212	5,158
Clothing and Cleaning	32	1,900	147	2,047
Transport	4	4	4	4
Gardening	13	431	...	434
Printing and Allied Trades	9	224	1	225
Paper Trades	156	8,662	210	8,872
Wood, etc., Trades	4	307	...	307
Chemical Trades	4	103	30	133
Gas, Oil, Soap, Varnish, etc., Manufacture	106	6,754	224	6,978
Stones and Earths Trades	55	3,206	184	3,390
Food, Tobacco, etc., Preparation	3	25	...	25
Hotels and Restaurants	41	1,776	92	1,868
Leather Trades	3	102	...	102
Art Work	16	1,353	...	1,353
Commercial Employment	16	1,353	...	1,353
Total	1,311	101,638	14,850	116,486

The following Table shows the causes or objects, and also the results of the disputes terminated in 1899. (With regard to column (2) it is to be noted that, where a dispute has, say, two causes or objects, it counts as two, and so on.)

CAUSE OR OBJECT.	Number of Disputes, the Causes or Objects of which were as shown in Col. 1.	RESULT.	Percentage of Disputes, the Results of which were as shown in Col. 3.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wages—			Per cent.
For increase	837	In favour of workpeople	25.86
Against decrease	69		
Other	308		
Total	1,214		
Hours of Labour—		In favour of employers	40.73
For decrease	282		
Other	83	Compromised	33.41
Total	365	Total	100.00
Employment of particular classes or persons Working arrangements	187		
Other causes	24		
Total	365		

* *Streiks und Aussperrungen im Jahre 1899. (Statistik des Deutschen Reichs, Neue Folge, Band 131.) Berlin, 1900, Puttkammer and Mühlbrecht. Price, 2 Marks (2 Shillings).*

With respect to the methods, by which disputes were adjusted, it is stated that 542 disputes were settled by direct arrangement between the parties concerned, 206 through the intervention of trade organisations or by mediation, and 55 before the Industrial Courts acting as Boards of Conciliation.

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN 1899.

RETURNS relating to production during 1899 by Workmen's Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom have been made to the Department by 885 societies compared with 865 societies making returns for 1898.

Co-operative Production by all Classes of Societies.

The 885 societies employed a total of 34,593 persons in production at the end of 1899, and paid in productive wages during the year £1,738,822. Of the total employees 23,974, or 69.3 per cent., were in England and Wales; 9,829, or 28.4 per cent. in Scotland; and 790, or 2.3 per cent. in Ireland.

The total value of productions sold, and transferred* to distributive departments of societies was £10,839,822, an increase of £639,224, or 6.3 per cent. over the total returned for 1898.

Of the total production 33.6 per cent. was produced by societies in Lancashire and Cheshire, and 14.0 per cent. in Yorkshire, the percentage for England and Wales being 66.9. Scotland produced 27.4 per cent., and Ireland 5.7 per cent.

Production by Various Classes of Societies.

Of the total production 68.8 per cent. was produced by the productive departments of the wholesale and retail distributive societies, which paid £1,258,724 in productive wages during the year, 11.0 per cent. by the Corn Mill Societies, which paid £30,069 in wages, and 20.2 per cent. by societies for other forms of production, paying wages amounting to £450,029.

The following Table shows the number of persons employed, and the amount of sales, and transfers from productive to distributive departments by various classes of co-operative societies in 1899:—

Classes of Societies.	No. of Societies to which the Returns relate.	No. of Persons employed in Production at end of 1899.	Value of Goods sold by Productive Societies or transferred from Productive to Distributive Departments in 1899.	
			Amount.	Percentage of Total.
Societies for retail distribution ...	616	13,810	3,908,385	36.0
Societies for wholesale distribution...	2	1,606	5,538,184	50.8
Total, 1899: Societies established primarily for distribution	618	25,416	7,446,569	68.8
<i>Ditto, 1898 ...</i>	<i>615</i>	<i>21,745</i>	<i>6,575,425</i>	<i>67.4</i>
Societies for corn milling ...	8	376	1,184,886	11.0
Societies for other forms of production	259	8,801	2,190,368	20.2
Total, 1899: Societies established primarily for production	267	9,177	3,375,253	31.2
<i>Ditto, 1898 ...</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>8,359</i>	<i>3,325,173</i>	<i>32.6</i>
Total, 1899: All Societies	885	34,593	10,821,822	100.0
<i>Ditto, 1898 ...</i>	<i>865</i>	<i>30,704</i>	<i>10,182,598</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Productive Employees Classified by Industries.

In the next Table the total employees engaged in production are classified according to sex, and by groups of trades. Of the 34,593 employees, 8,494, or 24.6 per cent., were engaged in boot and shoe-making; 5,938, or 17.2 per cent., in tailoring, mantle and shirt-making; and 4,501, or 13.0 per cent. in bread and confectionery making, the remaining 45.2 per cent. being spread over 15 other industries. Of the total employees 56.7 per cent. were men, 26.7 per cent. women, and 16.6 per cent. young persons under 18 years of age.

* In the case of the wholesale and retail distributive societies the goods produced are not usually sold by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

Industries carried on by Co-operative Societies of all Classes.	No. of Societies to which the Particulars relate.	Number of Persons employed in Production at end of 1899.			
		Men.	Women.	Young Persons under 18 years of age.	Total.
Building... ..	62	1,910	1	121	2,032
Mining and quarrying ...	3	359	—	10	369
Metal, engineering and ship-building ...	29	678	96	163	937
Textiles	28	589	1,296	439	2,324
Clothing—					
Boots and shoes	372	5,587	1,479	1,428	8,494
Tailoring, mantles and shirtmaking	236	2,615	2,440	883	5,938
Dressmaking and millinery	238	8	1,870	958	2,866
Farming, dairying and fishing	175	1,074	262	107	1,443
Printing and allied trades	17	661	287	323	1,271
Woodworking and furnishing	25	757	64	138	959
Soap and candle making	2	190	36	140	366
Food preparation—					
Bread making and confectionery	466	3,353	513	635	4,501
Corn milling	24	861	30	20	911
Other foods	33	491	741	275	1,417
Leather trades... ..	4	53	1	1	55
Bass-dressing, brush and mat-making	7	80	32	15	127
Other industries	3	50	18	18	86
Totals 1899—All Societies	885*	18,487	9,166	2,704	34,593†
<i>Ditto, 1898</i>	<i>865</i>	<i>17,682</i>	<i>7,812</i>	<i>4,610</i>	<i>30,104</i>

Production by Retail Distributive Societies.

Of the total £10,839,822 of production in 1899, £3,906,385, or 36.0 per cent., was produced by 616 retail distributive societies, who employed 13,810, or 39.9 per cent., of the total employees engaged in production, and paid in wages for production during 1899 £706,790. Of the 616 societies 459 with production to the value of £2,732,227 were in England and Wales; and 157, with £1,174,158, in Scotland.

Breadmaking and confectionery amounted to 51.4 per cent. of the total production by the societies; boot and shoemaking and tailoring to 19.4 per cent.; and corn milling to 14.7 per cent. The following Table shows the number of societies and employees engaged in groups of trades, together with the value of productions. In a few cases it has been necessary to estimate the value of the productions:—

Group of Industries.	No. of Societies making Returns.*	No. of persons employed in production at end of 1899.	Total estimated value of own productions sold or transferred from productive to distributive departments in 1899.
Building	51	1,203	158,146
Metal	9	35	3,955
Textile	10	313	64,257
Clothing—			
Boots and shoes	347	2,637	347,903
Tailoring	222	3,002	410,212
Dressmaking and millinery	237	2,848	183,320
Shirtmaking	9	38	2,238
Farming	40	233	15,880
Woodworking and furnishing	17	190	23,300
Food preparation:—			
Corn Milling	14	163	572,486
Breadmaking and confectionery	447	2,984	2,006,031
Other foods	26	144	71,514
Brush and matmaking	2	20	7,143
Totals, United Kingdom, 1899	616*	13,810	3,906,385
<i>Ditto, 1898</i>	<i>613</i>	<i>12,008</i>	<i>3,688,529</i>

Profit allotted to Productive Employees.

Of the 885 societies of all classes making returns, 116 employing in production a total of 10,875 persons, and paying in 1899 a total of £534,463 in wages, stated that they had allotted to or for the benefit of their employees the sum of £27,897 out of the profits of the year. This amounts to about £2 11s. 4d. per head of the persons employed, and to 5.2 per cent. on the wages paid.

The following Table shows the number of societies of each class which made returns of the amount of profit allotted to their productive employees, together

* Some societies carry on two or more industries, and are entered under several heads; consequently this column does not add up. † 266 of these employees were not classified as to age and sex.

with the number of employees, amount of wages paid, and of profit allotted in 1899:—

Classes of Societies.	No. of Societies.	No. of Productive Employees.	Productive Wages Paid.	Profit Allotted to Productive Employees.	
				Amount.	Percentage on Wages.
England and Wales—					
Productive Societies ...	46	4,282	£ 216,089	£ 12,779	5.9
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies ...	55	697	36,932	2,020	5.5
Corn Milling Society ...	1	29	1,946	33	1.7
Total—England & Wales...	102	5,008	254,967	14,832	5.8
Scotland—					
Productive Societies ...	3	1,265	65,135	4,854	7.5
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies ...	70	378	18,874	1,697	9.0
Productive Departments of the Scottish Wholesale Society	1	4,224	195,487	6,514	3.3
	14	5,867	279,496	13,065	4.7
Totals 1899—Great Britain	116	10,875	534,463	27,897	5.2
<i>Ditto, 1898</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>9,736</i>	<i>475,746</i>	<i>23,726</i>	<i>5.0</i>

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' ACCIDENT AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN HUNGARY.

IN Hungary of late years, on the initiative of Dr. Ignatius Danányi, Agricultural Minister, several measures have been adopted in the interest of the welfare of field labourers. One of the most important of these is the law in relation to the insurance of agricultural labourers against accidents, invalidity and death, passed by the Hungarian Legislature in June last, and coming into operation on January 1st, 1901. The following account of the law is based on information received from a correspondent. The benefits which the Provident Relief Fund to be established under the new law will provide are as follows:—

Accidents.—Every labourer insured with the Fund, who may receive injury by accident in the course of his employment, will have a right to free medical attendance and medicine and to compensation at the rate of 10d. a day, such payment beginning one week after the accident, and continuing during not more than 60 days, after which the labourer is considered as invalid. If the accident proves fatal, a sum of £16 13s. 4d. will be paid to his family; if he leave no family, his funeral expenses (£4 3s. 4d.) will be paid.

Invalidity.—In case of invalidity (incapacity disabling a labourer from earning at least one-half the current wages of the district for a farmhouse servant, i.e., a servant living on the farm), the insured will receive a monthly allowance of 8s. 4d.

A labourer insured with the Fund, who has reached the age of 65 without having claimed either accident or invalidity allowance, will be paid a sum of £4 3s. 4d., without prejudice to his claims in regard to the ordinary benefits provided by the Fund, to all of which he will still remain entitled.

Death.—In case of death not resulting from accident, the widow and children of the insured will receive an amount varying from £8 6s. 8d. to £11 5s. according to the length of time during which the labourer has been insured.

In order to effect and maintain an insurance with the Fund, a labourer must pay an entrance fee of 1s. 8d. and a weekly contribution of 2d. If unable to pay so much, a labourer may pay instead a weekly contribution of 1d., in which case he will (except in case of accident) be entitled to half benefits only. Except during the first five years after the passing of the law (as to which special provisions are made) the right to insure themselves is accorded only to labourers between the ages of 14 and 35.

With respect to farmhouse servants, every employer will be required to pay for the insurance against accident incurred in the course of his employment of each such servant a sum of 1s. per annum. In regard to

the benefits provided by the Fund other than those provided in case of accident, a farmhouse servant will have the right to insure himself with the Fund, paying in respect of such insurance the ordinary premiums, less the amount of the premium in respect of accident insurance.

Any sum, which may be required to be added to the amounts paid by the persons insured with the Fund and their employers respectively in order to enable the Fund to meet its liabilities, will be provided by the State. For this purpose it is estimated that, so long as the number insured with the fund does not exceed 1,000,000, an annual vote of about £4,167 will suffice.

The administration of the Fund will be in the hands of local (county) boards, composed of representatives of the employers and workpeople and of delegates appointed by the County Council, under the supreme control of a Central Commission appointed by the Hungarian Government.

THE BELGIAN INDUSTRIAL CENSUS OF 1896.

Two volumes recently issued contain the results of the Belgian Industrial Census taken on October 31st, 1896. They show for each of the nine Provinces the number of establishments in each branch of industry and in every Commune, the average number of horse-power employed in steam, gas, and oil engines, and the number of persons engaged. These last are also divided according to sex, and each sex is divided into two groups, the one containing workpeople only, the other employers, managers, foremen, clerical staff, etc. An exhaustive Index forms a third volume, and many of the principal statistical results are discussed in a separate brochure.

The Census in question is the first complete industrial Census in Belgium of which the results have been published since 1846. The results so far issued do not include employees of Public Authorities, nor those engaged in direct connection with shops, with agricultural operations, with hospitals, institutions, etc.

The workpeople are classified according to the industry carried on by the establishment, the industries being for this purpose arranged under 858 different heads.

Of 329,964 establishments taken account of, 323,288 were occupied in one, and 6,676 in two or more of these industries, the number of the workpeople employed in each section being in the latter case obtained separately. Of the total number of establishments 10,499 were idle, and not employing any persons at the date of the Census. The number of workpeople usually employed at such establishments is put at 26,298, including 18,341 at brick and tile works which are always idle at this season. A large number of these were doubtless enumerated as working in other industries.

Thus, the number of establishments at work was 319,465, which gave occupation to 836,475 men and boys, and 264,784 women and girls. The following Table distributes these according to groups of trades. Home workers are here for brevity grouped with workpeople employed in the establishments themselves:—

Group of Industries.	Employers, Managers, Foremen, Clerical Staff, etc.		Workpeople (including Home Workers).	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Textile Trades	7,794	1,970	63,222	96,507
Clothing Trades*	14,987	63,904	13,636	45,376
Metal Trades... ..	22,333	445	107,428	3,660
Mining	6,308	12	112,214	9,679
Building Trades	26,000	254	66,685	553
Food and Provision Trades ...	26,213	2,592	58,537	3,033
Wood and Furnishing Trades ...	27,564	432	48,866	1,564
Leather and Skin Trades* ...	23,600	389	26,115	7,556
Transport Trades	22,094	634	17,995	1,159
Quarrying	3,062	85	34,924	933
Other Trades... ..	16,483	1,118	80,215	23,010
Total	206,538	71,745	629,937	193,939

* The manufacture of leather articles of clothing, e.g., boots and shoes, gloves, etc., is included among the Leather Trades.

The 319,465 establishments covered by the above Table include homes at which men and women work up material for manufacturers and on their own account.

Leaving out of account the home workers who make up material for manufacturers, there remain 232,281 independent establishments, giving occupation to 794,786 men and 187,726 women, of whom 588,248 men and 115,981 women are classed as workpeople, the remainder being employers, managers, foremen, clerical staff, or persons working on their own account, etc. It will be seen that the average number of workpeople only amounts to a little more than 3 per establishment. In certain groups of trades the average number of workpeople employed per establishment is, in fact, very small. On the other hand, it rises to 442.8 per establishment in the glass trades, to 322.3 in the iron and steel trades, and to 227.5 in coal mines.

With regard to the 115,981 women workers (not including those working at home for manufacturers), the following shows the occupations in which the majority are engaged:—

Ready-made garments	23,732
Flex spinning and linen manufacture ...	13,097
Industries connected with clothing* ...	9,712
Coal mining and allied occupations ...	9,653
Wool spinning and manufacture ...	9,216
Cotton spinning and manufacture ...	7,567

The total average horse-power of all steam, gas and oil engines employed in the industries covered by the census is returned as 628,253. This includes 195,110 horse-power in the transport trades, 134,491 in mining, 75,600 in the metal trades, 67,405 in the textile trades, and 64,590 in the food trades. A comparison of the number employed at establishments at which power is used with those at which it is not used (including home workers) brings out some interesting facts, amongst others that there are more engaged in weaving by hand than by machinery.

The question of home industries in Belgium forms the subject of special monographs in course of publication by the Belgian Office du Travail. The Tables distinguish the following classes in connection with home industries:—First, those engaged on the premises of manufacturers who give out work; secondly, local representatives of such manufacturers or intermediaries who distribute it among the home workers, and thirdly, the home workers themselves. The statement below shows the number of the different classes:—

	Men.	Women.
I.—At establishments giving out work—		
Employers, managers, foremen, clerks, etc.	5,300	1,345
Workpeople	3,915	1,477
II.—Intermediaries		
	614	776
III.—Home Workers—		
Working for manufacturers	35,903	65,422
Employed as workpeople by home workers working for manufacturers	5,786	11,636
	51,518	80,656

Thus those engaged in one capacity or another in connection with those home industries represent about 6 per cent. of the men and 30 per cent. of the women engaged in industrial occupations. This is in addition to persons working at home on their own account (who are treated as independent employers), and to those employed by them.

Confining ourselves to the home workers who take out work from an employer (including the small number employed by them), we see that they amount to 118,747. Of these home workers more than half the women and girls are engaged in the manufacture of lace, 47,506 women and girls and 114 men being so employed. The chief seats of this home industry are in East and West Flanders. This is also true of the cotton and woollen trades, which employ 11,645 home workers between them. West Flanders is the chief seat of the linen industry, which employs 10,770, and East Flanders of the glove trade, which employs 3,917 home workers. The home manufacture of firearms, which employs 6,668 persons, mostly males, is practically confined to the neighbourhood of Liège. The home manufactures of ready-made garments (12,396 persons) and boots and

* Chiefly washing, cleaning, dyeing, etc.

shoes (8,415) are, as might be expected, less localised. The plaiting of straw, which occupies 2,639 home workers, almost all women, is localised in the north of the Liège and south of the Tongres districts.

A comparison of the results of the 1896 Census with that of 1846, so far as it can be made, shows that, whilst the number of industrial establishments has increased by about a half, the number of workpeople employed has more than doubled. These figures do not include home workers, who, so far as can be estimated, have decreased by about 80,000, principally owing to the almost complete disappearance of about 100,000 flax hand spinners in Flanders. The horse-power of the engines in use in the industries covered by the Census throughout the country is now more than ten times as great as in 1846.

PRUSSIAN FACTORY AND MINE INSPECTORS' REPORTS FOR 1899.*

Extent of Inspection.—The volume containing the Reports of the Prussian Factory and Mine Inspectors for 1899, which has recently been issued, shows the total number of establishments inspected in that year to have been 48,704, employing 2,286,186 workpeople. Of these establishments, 36,286 were visited once, 7,758 twice, and 4,660 three times or oftener in the year.

The relation between the number of workpeople employed in the establishments inspected in the course of 1899 and those employed in all establishments subject to inspection (so far as concerns factories and workshops, and such mining, smelting, salt and peat works as are not under the supervision of the Mine Inspection authorities) is shown below:—

	Number of Workpeople Employed in 1899 in		Percentage Proportion of (B) to (A).
	(A) All Establishments Subject to Inspection.	(B) Establishments Inspected in Year.	
Children and Young Persons (16 years of age and under)	181,200	117,371	64.7
Adults (over 16 years of age)	2,221,560	1,705,089	76.8
Total	2,402,760	1,822,460	75.8

The mean aggregate number of workpeople employed in mining, smelting, salt, and peat works subject to the supervision of the Mine Inspection Authorities in 1899 was 466,506, the number employed in such of these establishments as were inspected in that year being 463,726, or 99.4 per cent. of the foregoing aggregate.

Employment of Children, Young Persons, and Women.—The number of children under 14 years of age employed at the end of 1899 in factories and workshops, and in such mining, smelting, salt and peat works as are not subject to the supervision of the Mine Authorities, was 1,546 (as compared with 1,421 at the end of 1898), the number of boys having risen from 952 to 1,021, and that of the girls from 469 to 525. There has also been an increase for both sexes in respect to the employment of young persons of 14 to 16 years of age in the establishments referred to, the number of boys between these ages having risen from 98,935 to 109,210, and that of girls from 43,186 to 46,831. The number of women (over 16) employed in the establishments in question rose from 353,629 to 376,408. The mean number of boys under the age of 14 employed in mining, smelting, salt, and peat works subject to the supervision of the Mine Authorities was 107 in 1899 (as compared with 49 in the previous year); the mean number of lads of 14 to 16 was 14,351 (as compared with 12,648 in the previous year); that of girls between the same age limits was 741 (as compared with 591), and that of women and girls over 16, 8,582 (as compared with 8,189 in 1898). Among male employees under 16 years of age were 1,110 who worked underground.

Infractions of the Law in Respect of Employment of Women and Children.—In respect to the employment of children and young persons of 14 to 16 years of age, infractions

* Jahres-Berichte der Kön. Preussischen Regierungs- und Gewerbeträte und Bergbehörden für 1899. Amtliche Ausgabe, Berlin, 1900. R. v. Decker. Price, about 11s.

of the law were notified by the factory and mine inspectors in the case of 5,104 establishments, and resulted in penalties being inflicted on 783 persons. As regards the employment of women (over 16 years of age) 1,755 establishments were reported to have infringed the law, and penalties were inflicted on 168 persons.

Overtime.—Permits to employ women (over 16) on overtime (on weekdays other than Saturdays) were granted in 1899 to 867 establishments (as compared with 853 in 1898); these permits having reference to 56,353 women (as compared with 51,032 in 1898), and involving a total of 1,211,317 hours of overtime (1,715,538 in 1898). In addition, 132 establishments (as compared with 147 in 1898) obtained permits to employ 3,117 women (as compared with 3,165 in 1898) on overtime on Saturdays (the aggregate number of hours of overtime permitted to be worked not being specified in this case).

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

Workmen's Compensation Act.

ON OR IN OR ABOUT A FACTORY; MACHINERY USED IN LOADING VESSEL.

The classes of employment, to which the Act applies, include "employment by the undertakers as hereinafter defined, on or in or about a . . . factory"; and in the Act "Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895." Section 23 of the last-mentioned Act provides that certain provisions of the Factory Acts "shall have effect as if (a) every dock, wharf, quay, and warehouse, and, so far as relates to the process of loading or unloading therefrom or thereto, all machinery and plant used in that process . . . were included in the word factory, and the purpose for which the machinery is used were a manufacturing process." A stevedore, engaged in loading a vessel lying in a dock, was killed by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. His widow claimed compensation from his employers. At the time when the accident occurred all the cargo had been stowed in, but the hatchway was not covered. The deceased was engaged in covering the hold, and was pulling iron beams across which had to be slung into position, the ship's winch derrick being used in the work, when he fell and was killed. The deceased was a casual labour, and had only been continuously employed by these employers for four days before the accident. The County Court judge held that the widow was not entitled to compensation because her husband had not been in the employment of these employers for at least two weeks (see the case of *Lysons v. Andrew Knowles & Sons, Limited*, noticed below), and refused to make an award in her favour. The widow appealed; and the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that a workman, who was not in the employment of the same employer for at least two weeks, did not come within the purview of the Act (see *GAZETTE*, May, 1900, p. 135).

The case was brought, on appeal, before the House of Lords. On behalf of the employers it was contended that the widow was not entitled to compensation under the Act (1) because of the casual nature of the deceased's employment, and (2) because the employment of the deceased at the time of the accident was not employment on or in or about a factory, within the meaning of the Act, and accordingly the Act did not apply in his case. It was argued on behalf of the employers that the machinery used at the time of the accident was not used in any process of loading or unloading, the loading of the vessel having already been completed. The House of Lords held that the fact of the deceased workman not having been employed for at least two weeks did not prevent the Act from applying in his case, and that the work on which he was engaged (covering the hatchway) was part of the process of loading. Accordingly their Lordships reversed the decision of the Court of Appeal, and sent the case back to the County Court judge to fix the amount of compensation payable to the widow.—*Stuart v. Nixon and Bruce, House of Lords, December 14th.*

BUILDING WHICH IS EITHER BEING CONSTRUCTED OR REPAIRED BY MEANS OF A SCAFFOLDING.

Amongst the classes of employment, to which the Act applies, is "employment by the undertakers as hereinafter defined, on or in or about any building which exceeds 30 ft. in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding."

After a building, which had been erected for an omnibus company, had been taken over by the company (being used as stables), it was found that there was some vibration, and the company determined to have the building stiffened. Accordingly they engaged a firm of ironwork contractors to put in some iron stays. A workman employed by this firm was at work standing on a temporary staging inside the building, consisting of planks

laid across trestles, when he slipped off this staging while helping another workman to lift one of the stays, and was killed by the stay falling on him and crushing him. The accident occurred about six months after the building had been taken over by the omnibus company. The widow of this workman brought an action against his employers, claiming damages for negligence. The County Court judge dismissed this action, and then proceeded to assess compensation under the Compensation Act. The Court of Appeal set aside his order, on the ground that the Act did not apply to the employee on which the deceased was engaged (see *GAZETTE*, April 1899, p. 102).

The case was taken, on appeal, to the House of Lords, the question to be decided being whether at the time of the accident the deceased was employed on or about a building which was either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding. The House of Lords reversed the decision of the Court of Appeal, holding that the staging used in this case was "a scaffolding" within the meaning of the Act, and that the work, which was being carried out (the stiffening of a building already erected), was "construction." Their Lordships accordingly allowed the appeal, with costs in the Court of Appeal, and with such costs in the House of Lords as are allowed in pauper cases, and restored the order of the County Court judge.—*Hoddimott v. Newton, Chambers and Co., Limited, House of Lords, December 10th.*

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: EMPLOYMENT FOR LESS THAN TWO WEEKS.

The Act provides that "if in any employment to which this Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as hereinafter mentioned, be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the First Schedule to this Act."

By the First Schedule to the Act it is provided that "the amount of compensation under this Act shall be (a) where death results from the injury (1) if the workman leaves any dependants wholly dependent upon his earnings at the time of his death, a sum equal to his earnings in the employment of the same employer during the three years next preceding the injury, or the sum of £150, whichever of those sums is the larger, but not exceeding in any case £300 . . . and if the period of the workman's employment by the said employer has been less than the said three years, then the amount of his earnings during the said three years shall be deemed to be 156 times his average weekly earnings during the period of his actual employment under the said employer. . . . (b) Where total or partial incapacity for work results from the injury, a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding 50 per cent. of his average weekly earnings during the previous twelve months, if he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less period during which he has been in the employment of the same employer, such weekly payment not to exceed £1.

A collier entered the service of a colliery company at the daily wage of 6s., the company having the right to give him notice at any time that they did not intend to employ him on the next day, and the collier having a similar right of notice that he did not intend to work. The first day of his employment was July 18th, 1899. On July 19th the pit was closed. On July 20th he went to work again on the same terms, and was injured. He claimed compensation from his employers. He received 6s. as wages for each of the two days on which he was employed. The County Court judge awarded him compensation at the rate of 6s. a day (on the basis of his having earned 12s. in seven days). On appeal by the employers, this decision was reversed by the Court of Appeal, that Court holding that, in order to recover compensation under the Act, a man must have been for at least two weeks in the employment of the employer from whom compensation is claimed. (See *GAZETTE*, April, 1900, p. 105.)

The matter having been brought, on appeal, before the House of Lords, that House reversed the decision of the Court of Appeal. Their Lordships held that the provisions of the First Schedule did not cut down the general enactment contained in the body of the Act, by virtue of which in the classes of employment to which the Act applies, all workmen having suffered injury by accident arising out of and in the course of their employment are, subject as in the Act mentioned, to be entitled to compensation. The compensation provided for was to be paid in accordance with the First Schedule. But the schedule did not limit the classes of persons who were to be entitled to compensation. The reference to "average weekly earnings" in the schedule was only inserted to provide an artificial means of ascertaining the amount of compensation. The idea was to take one week with another. But the fact, that a workman had not been for at least two weeks in the employment of an employer in whose service he sustained the injury in respect of which a claim for compensation is made, does not disentitle that workman to compensation under the Act.—*Lysons v. Andrew Knowles & Sons, Limited, House of Lords, December 14th.*

ACCEPTANCE OF COMPENSATION UNDER COMPENSATION ACT A BAR TO OTHER PROCEEDINGS.

A miner, who had been injured while being hoisted from the pit bottom, brought an action against the company by which he was employed, for damages. He had sent in to the company a claim, signed by him, for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Compensation in accordance with this claim was paid to the miner for thirty three weeks, and on each occasion he or his wife signed a receipt for the money. In the action for damages the company pleaded (among other defences) that the pursuer was barred from suing, because he had applied for and received

compensation under the Compensation Act. The Court held that this plea must be sustained, on the ground that, if a workman has accepted substantial compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, that is enough to bar him from making his claim at common law.—*Hunter v. Darngavil Coal Company, Court of Session, December 6th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—Emigrants without money should not go to Canada at this season of the year. There has been a good demand for carpenters and labourers at Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and for woodmen generally in the lumbering industry. Outside work in the building trades and shipping industry has ceased for the winter. The metal trades generally are very active, and printers are well employed. A serious dispute in the large boot and shoe trade at Quebec has resulted in a lock-out, and a reference to arbitration.

Victoria.—Navvies on one of the Government lines now under construction have struck for a wage of 7s. a day instead of the 6s. they now receive. It is expected that this increase will be granted. Seamen also are asking for an increase of 10s. a month in their wages, and an increased overtime allowance. The Labour Bureau is finding employment on railway construction and other works for a large number of men.

Queensland.—There is some demand for competent farm labourers and ploughmen, and country blacksmiths and carpenters, but the long drought has affected all classes of labour.

Western Australia.—The last returns from the Colony show that there was no demand for miners or mechanics, but that farm labourers were wanted in several country districts; female servants were also in demand.

New Zealand.—The building trades have been busy at Auckland, and machinists have been wanted in the boot trade. At Gisborne the building trades have been active, and there has been a demand for bushfellers. At Napier, Wanganui, Wellington, Blenheim, Christchurch, and Timaru, nearly all trades have been busy. At Dunedin there has been a considerable falling off in the boot and engineering trades, but the building and clothing trades continue brisk. At Invercargill all trades have been busy, and there has been a demand for stonemasons and farm labourers.

South Africa.—All persons are warned against going to South Africa at the present time in search of work. A large number of reports just received from Civil Commissioners in all parts of the colony show that there is practically no demand anywhere for European labour, and that in the Cape Town district the supply greatly exceeds the demand. The only exceptions are at Beaufort West, and on the railway construction works near George. Prices of food have risen almost everywhere, and crops have been injured in many parts by locusts and drought. Recruiting in this country for the Mounted Branch of the Natal Police Force has been renewed. Candidates must be from 17 to 25 years old, between 5 ft. 6 in. and 6 ft. in height, and not more than 160 lbs. in weight. They must apply to the Agent-General for Natal at 26, Victoria-street, London, S.W., and must pay him £12 12s. for their passage. Recruiting is also going on in this country for the Cape Mounted Rifles (apply by letter to the Agent-General for Cape Colony, 112, Victoria-street, London, S.W.), and for the new South African Constabulary (apply to the Recruiting-Officer, Chapel place, Delahay-street, London, S.W.). Candidates for the Constabulary must be good riders, good shots, single, strictly sober, and be from 20 to 35 years of age; they will be given a free passage to South Africa. A limited number of married men will also be accepted, if they desire to settle in South Africa after serving in the force, those accustomed to a country life being preferred; free passages will be provided for their wives and children at a later date.

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

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Coal Mining in November.—The average number of days worked per week by those employed underground in coal mines in November was 5.95, as compared with 5.85 in the previous month, and 6.00 in November, 1899. During the month, full time (6 days and over per week) was worked by 87 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 13 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines, the percentages in the previous month being 84 and 7 respectively. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines).

Labour Disputes in November.—Sixty-eight fresh disputes, 65 of which involved 15,925 workpeople, were reported to the French Labour Department in November. The number of disputes reported in October was 69, in 62 of which 36,469 workpeople were known to have taken part, while in November, 1899, there were 91 disputes, involving 13,185 workpeople. Of the 68 disputes in November last, 6 occurred in mines and quarries, 10 in the metal and engineering trades, 10 in the textile trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 12 in the transport trades, 2 in agricultural labour and fishing, 9 in the woodworking trades, 5 in the chemical, glass, and pottery trades, 2 in the food preparation trades, and 5 in the hide and skin working trades, the remaining 5 being in trades not coming within any of these groups. Of the 55 disputes of which the termination is reported, 12 were decided in favour of the workpeople, and 12 in favour of the employers, while 31 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in November.—Twelve cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in November, the initiative being taken by the workpeople in four cases, and by the Justice of the Peace in two. In the remaining six cases it is not stated by whom the initiative was taken. In nine cases a committee of conciliation was formed, resulting in the settlement of six disputes. In the other three cases the employers refused the proffered mediation; one of the disputes, however, was afterwards settled by a compromise.

In addition to the above twelve disputes, one strike was settled by arbitration before the Council of Prud'hommes.

GERMANY.

Employment in December.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the state of employment was again much less favourable than a year ago, the average number of applications for work per 100 situations offered at 60 public employment registries making returns to the above journal being 161.9, as compared with 124.2 in December, 1899. (The corresponding proportion for November, 1900, based on returns from a similar number of registries, was 158.1.)

Labour Disputes in December.—The same journal reports 11 disputes as having begun in Germany in December (as compared with 30 in November). Two occurred in the building trades, and 2 in the metal and engineering trades. In each of the other trades concerned only a single strike took place.

BELGIUM.

Employment in November.—Coal mining continued busy, notwithstanding a slight drop in the price of coal. The drop was, however, too slight to restore activity in metal smelting and manufacture, which continued greatly depressed. Blast furnaces, rolling mills and iron and steel works kept going at a reduced rate of output, and some even stopped altogether. The wages of the workpeople were in some cases reduced, while the number of unemployed increased to an unusual extent. Though still unvisited by the crisis, the engineering trade also began to show signs of an approaching decline in activity. The glass trade was practically at a standstill, owing to the continuation of

* *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

the strike. A slight improvement was reported in the enamel-ware trade. The building and allied trades were better employed than they usually are at this season, owing to the mild weather; the clothing trades, on the other hand, were less busy than usual, from the same cause. In the textile group, the woollen trade still showed considerable slackness throughout the month, and employment in the cotton weaving industry, which has been scarce for some months past, became still scarcer in November. In cotton and flax spinning employment continued satisfactory.

Labour Disputes in November.—Seven new disputes were reported to the Belgian Labour Department in November, involving about 1,140 workpeople, but 3 other disputes, begun before November 1st, and involving about 10,000 workpeople, still continued throughout the month. Particulars given for the disputes which began in November show that two took place in the coal mining industry, and one each amongst skindressers, leather belting makers, sugar refiners, stonemasons (at the quarry), and boot and shoe-makers. Of 8 disputes, involving 3,073 workpeople, of which the termination was reported, 2, involving 131 workpeople, were decided in favour of the workpeople, 5, involving 2,924 workpeople, in favour of the employers, and 1, involving 18 workpeople, was compromised.

Strike of Dock Labourers at Antwerp.—With reference to a strike of dock labourers in progress at Antwerp, Sir Gerald de C. Perry, H.M. Consul-General at that Port, reporting to the Foreign Office under date of December 27th, 1900, states that a meeting of the representatives of the strikers and the master-stewards took place on that day in the presence of the Burgo-master, but that neither party would come to terms.

From accounts of this dispute published in *Soziale Praxis*, it appears that the cessation of work began on December 17th, with a lock-out, which threw out of employment some 20,000 workmen. This lock-out was declared by the associated employers in order to compel the men's unions to accept a reduction of the rate of remuneration for night and Sunday work from double pay to pay and a half. Reporting on January 7th, a correspondent of the same journal states that the men had been obliged to accept the employers' terms. Subsequent newspaper reports state that, although the strike had been declared at an end, many non-union men had been kept on by the employers, and difficulties had arisen in consequence, the presence of these men being resented by the unionist workmen.

RUSSIA.

Progress of Industry Finland, 1888-1897.—Statistics, recently compiled by the Department of Industry in Finland,† show that, in the period 1888-1897, the number of factories and workshops in that country increased from 5,872 to 7,355 (or 25 per cent.), while the number of workpeople employed in such establishments, increased from 45,655 to 79,917 (or 75 per cent.). These figures exclude the mining and engineering trades as well as all domestic workshops employing no hired labour. In the mining industries (which include blastfurnaces) the number of works fell from 44 in 1888 to 36 in 1897, but the number of workpeople rose from 2,680 to 5,666 (or 111 per cent.). In the engineering trade the number of establishments rose from 38 to 42, and that of the workpeople, from 3,291 to 5,542 (or 68 per cent.) in the same period.

The progress made in the other groups of trades in Finland in the period 1888-1897, will be seen from the following Table:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Establishments.			Number of Workpeople.		
	1888.	1897.	Increase per cent.	1888.	1897.	Increase per cent.
Building	292	375	28	2,167	4,016	85
Metal	930	1,190	28	7,996	14,990	87
Textile	41	45	10	5,396	8,945	66
Clothing	865	1,117	29	2,972	4,530	52
Printing, &c.	70	116	66	1,937	1,995	76
Paper and Pulp	100	122	22	2,943	5,236	78
Woodworking	539	802	49	9,804	18,925	97
Chemical	201	246	22	1,250	1,976	58
Stone, Glass, Pottery, &c.	179	229	28	3,869	6,732	74
Food, Tobacco, &c.	1,961	2,316	18	6,170	9,480	54
Leather	693	797	15	2,201	3,182	45
Total	5,872	7,355	25	45,655	79,917	75

* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
† *Bidrag till Finlands Officiella Statistik*, xviii. Industri-statistik 14. Ar 1897. Senare delen, Fabrikker och Handtverkerier. Helsingfors, Finska Litteratursällskapet Tryckeri, 1900.

Of the total number of persons employed in 1897 in the trades enumerated in the Table, 1,523, or 1.9 per cent. (as compared with 1,649, or 3.6 per cent. in 1888), were children of 12 to 15 years of age; 7,039, or 8.8 per cent. (as compared with 4,424, or 9.7 per cent. in 1888), were young persons of 15 to 18 years of age; 14,443, or 18.1 per cent. (as compared with 6,990, or 15.3 per cent. in 1888) were women, and 56,920, or 71.2 per cent. (as compared with 32,592, or 71.4 per cent. in 1888) were men over 18 years of age.

The 79,917 workpeople employed in 1897 in the trades enumerated in the Table, constituted 3.1 per cent. of the total population of Finland, which, on January 1st of that year, was 2,555,462. The corresponding percentage in 1888 was 2.0.

AUSTRIA.

Employment in October.—The returns of the Labour Registries (public and private) furnishing reports to the Austrian Labour Department for October (summarised in *Soziale Rundschau*, the monthly journal of that Department, for November) show that the proportion of applications for work rose since the previous month from 112 to 125 per 100 situations offered. Taking the sexes separately, it is found that, in October, the average number of applications for each situation was 1.6 in the case of male, and only 0.9 in the case of female workpeople (1.6 and 0.7 respectively in September).

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike in the Chicago Building Trades.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated December 12th, 1900, Mr. W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago, reports that the condition of the labour market has changed very little since his last report, dated September 13th, 1900 (see *GAZETTE*, October, 1900, p. 299). There has, however, been an increase in the number of men engaged on the various buildings under construction, and building operations generally are stated to be progressing satisfactorily. From cuttings from Chicago newspapers submitted by Mr. Wyndham, it appears that the membership of the Building Trades Council has been reduced from 30,000 to 11,653, chiefly owing to withdrawals of affiliated Unions—notably those of the bricklayers and stonemasons, carpenters, plasterers, hod carriers and labourers, bridge and structural ironworkers, electricians, and steam fitters.

Strike of Telegraph Operators.—A strike of telegraph operators on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé Railroad is stated by the Consul to have caused a great deal of trouble and several train accidents. According to a statement in a Chicago newspaper forwarded by the Consul, on December 6th the telegraph operators on the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fé line of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé railway system struck for an increase of wages and a change in working arrangements. (The wages at that time paid to operators on this part of the system are said to have averaged from £11 10s. to £15 12s. 6d. per month.) On December 8th the president of the Order of Railway Telegraphers ordered a general strike of the telegraph operators on the whole of the Atchison system in sympathy with those already out, and, as a result, some 600 additional strikers joined the original 120. At the time of reporting, the strike was still in progress.

[From a Chicago journal (*The Railway Age*), dated December 21st, it appears that the Order of Railway Telegraphers failed to obtain the support of the other classes of employees. At the request of the telegraphists a committee, representing the drivers, firemen, conductors and trainmen, went to Chicago to offer their services as mediators; but, after investigating the causes of the dispute, and listening to statements from both parties, failed to effect a settlement, and issued a declaration of neutrality on the part of their respective unions.]

A request that the company should reinstate the strikers was declined, the third vice-president of the line stating that he had promised permanent employment to those who had taken the strikers' places.

In a Reuter's telegram, dated December 22nd, it was stated that the strike on the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fé line had terminated.]

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—COAL AND IRON MINING; PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN DECEMBER.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry in December was practically the same as in November. The average number of days worked per week by the pits was less than a year ago, but the number employed was greater.

The following Table relating to 1,312 pits, at which 474,813 workpeople were employed, gives the figures upon which the above statement is based:—

SUMMARY.

District.	No. employed in Dec., 1900, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		22nd Dec., 1900.	23rd Dec., 1899.	24th Nov., 1900.
England and Wales	432,326	5'46	5'66	5'45
Scotland	41,795	5'41	5'56	5'36
Ireland	692	5'67	5'80	5'39
United Kingdom	474,813	5'46	5'63	5'45

The number of workpeople employed at the pits from which returns have been received for both periods was about 7·2 per cent. greater than a year ago.

In the next Table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 84·4 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in December, as compared with 85·4 per cent. in November, and with 92·7 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.	December, 1900.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	December, 1899.	November, 1900.
24 days (full time)	118,760	25·0	37·8	18·7
20 and under 24 days	284,953	59·4	54·9	66·7
16 " " 20 " "	62,023	13·1	6·6	10·9
12 " " 16 " "	10,365	2·2	0·7	3·4
8 " " 12 " "	964	0·2	0·0	0·2
Under 8 days	748	0·1	0·0	0·1
Total	474,813	100·0	100·0	100·0

The Table below, which gives detailed particulars for different mining districts, shows that in all the districts, except in Derbyshire and the Lothians, the average number of days worked per week was less than in the corresponding period a year ago. In the Cumberland, and Gloucester and Somerset districts the decrease in the number of days amounted to one-half a day per week; in the Fife, and Salop, Worcester and Warwick districts to two-fifths of a day per week; in the North Wales district to one-third of a day per week; in Staffordshire to one quarter of a day per week; and in the Northumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, and Yorkshire districts to one-fifth of a day per week.

Compared with the previous month, there was a slight recovery in the average time worked in several districts in which a falling off was reported in November. With the exception of the small Irish district the greatest increases occurred in the Cumberland, and Gloucester and Somerset districts, where it amounted to a quarter of a day per week. Of the districts which show a further decline in the average number of days worked the most important is Northumberland where the decrease amounted to one fifth of a day per week.

The highest averages during the month were worked in the Lothians (5·87 days per week), South Wales and Monmouthshire (5·70 days), Ireland (5·67 days), Yorkshire and Staffordshire (5·53 days). The lowest average (4·88 days) was worked in the Nottingham and Leicester district; in no other district was the average less than 5½ days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN DECEMBER, 1900 AND 1899, AND IN NOVEMBER, 1900.

District.	No. employed in Dec., 1900, 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 Dec., 1900 as compared with	
		22nd Dec., 1900.	23rd Dec., 1899.	24th Nov., 1900.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	36,915	5'29	5'51	5'50	- '22	- '21
Durham	91,249	5'49	5'66	5'37	- '17	- '03
Cumberland	6,881	5'39	5'96	5'13	- '57	+ '26
Yorkshire	68,284	5'53	5'74	5'55	- '21	- '02
Lancashire and Cheshire	48,134	5'47	5'69	5'44	- '22	+ '03
Derbyshire	38,682	5'41	5'40	5'44	+ '01	- '03
Nottingham and Leicester	26,271	4'88	5'03	4'83	- '15	+ '05
Staffordshire	26,904	5'53	5'81	5'33	- '28	+ '20
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	7,224	5'47	5'87	5'31	- '40	+ '16
Gloucester and Somerset	8,595	5'41	5'97	5'6	- '36	+ '25
North Wales	12,131	5'48	5'84	5'65	- '36	- '17
South Wales & Mon.	61,056	5'70	5'87	5'54	- '17	+ '16
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland	23,046	5'42	5'45	5'38	- '03	+ '04
The Lothians	4,346	5'87	5'83	5'76	+ '04	+ '11
Fife	14,403	5'26	5'68	5'20	- '42	+ '06
IRELAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Ireland	692	5'67	5'80	5'39	- '13	+ '28
Grand Total & Averages	474,813	5'46	5'63	5'45	- '19	+ '01

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders, and patent fuel during December amounted to 3,604,997 tons, as compared with 4,059,523 tons in November, and 3,489,436 tons in December, 1899.

(b) IRON MINING IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT continues good and shows a slight improvement as compared both with November and with a year ago.

Returns relating to 129 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked by these mines during the 4 weeks ended December 22nd was 5'83, as compared with 5'74 days in the 4 weeks ended November 24th and 5'75 days in December, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mines covered by the returns was 16,723 (or 566 less than a year ago), of whom 93·5 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the 4 weeks, compared with 84·4 per cent. in November and 87·4 per cent. a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:

District.	No. employed in Dec., 1900, 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 Dec., 1900, as compared with	
		22nd Dec., 1900.	23rd Dec., 1899.	Nov., 1900.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,662	5'99	5'91	5'87	- '04	+ '03
Cleveland	6,826	5'77	5'53	5'64	+ '24	+ '13
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire	696	5'66	5'83	5'65	- '17	+ '01
Northamptonshire	654	5'90	5'93	5'66	- '03	+ '24
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,415	5'82	5'80	5'69	+ '02	+ '13
Other places in England	128	5'54	5'32	5'37	+ '22	+ '17
SCOTLAND	1,239	5'98	5'93	5'93	+ '05	+ '05
IRELAND	73	6'00	5'93	5'87	+ '07	+ '13
Total	16,723	5'83	5'75	5'74	+ '08	+ '09

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT shows a marked decline as compared with a month ago, and is much worse than in December, 1899.

At the works of 117 ironmasters covered by the returns received, two furnaces were re-lit and eighteen were damped down or blown out in England and Wales during the month, while in Scotland one was re-lit and one damped down or blown out. Thus at the end of December there were sixteen furnaces less in operation

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL; TINPLATE WORKS; SEAMEN.

than at the end of November. As compared with December, 1899, a decrease is shown in every district of England and Wales, with but a slight increase in Scotland, the net decrease in Great Britain being 53 furnaces.

The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 326 furnaces in blast at the end of December was 22,400.

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

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Dec., 1900.	Dec., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1900.	Dec., 1900.	Nov., 1900.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1900.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Cleveland	82	97	- 15	82	90	- 8
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks.	43	54	- 11	43	44	- 1
Lincolnshire	15	19	- 4	15	16	- 1
Midlands	12	16	- 4	12	15	- 3
Glamorgan and Mon.	84	98	- 14	84	85	- 1
Other districts	16	22	- 6	16	18	- 2
Total England and Wales	260	318	- 58	260	276	- 16
SCOTLAND	66	64	+ 2	66	66	...
Total furnaces included in returns	326	382	- 56	326	342	- 16

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

EMPLOYMENT in these industries again shows a decline as compared with November, and is considerably worse than a year ago.

Numbers Employed.

At 207 works covered by the returns, 80,097 workpeople were employed in the week ended December 22nd, as compared with 80,161 in the week ended November 24th and 82,259 a year ago.

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

District.	Numbers employed in week ending			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec., 1900, as compared with	
	Dec. 22nd, 1900.	Dec. 23rd, 1899.	Nov. 24th, 1900.	a year ago.	a month ago.
England and Wales	67,618	68,888	67,381	- 1,270	+ 237
Scotland	12,479	13,371	12,780	- 892	- 301
Total	80,097	82,259	80,161	- 2,162	- 64

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing about 89 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5·26 per man in the week ended December 22nd, as compared with 5·35 in the week ended November 24th, and 5·61 in the corresponding week a year ago.

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in Dec., 1900, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in	
			Dec., 1899.	Nov., 1900.
Under 5 per week	10,697	14·9	3'1	11'8
5 per week	23,206	32'4	33'2	35'0
5½ per week	1,640	2'3	1'9	1'3
6 per week	35,325	49'4	59'9	51'3
Over 6 per week	682	1'0	1'9	0'6
Total	71,550	100'0	100'0	100'0

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

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this Table worked the same average number of shifts per man as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the people included in the first Table may be estimated at 421,671 in the week ended December 22nd, 428,494 in the week ended December 24th, and 461,135 in the corresponding week a year ago. Thus the volume of employment at the works included in the returns was 1·6 per cent. less than in the week ended November 24th and 8·6 per cent. less than a year ago.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the end of December showed a marked decline compared with November, and was much worse than a year ago.

At the end of December, 39 works with 199 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 30 others with 197 mills were giving partial employment, 125 of their mills being at work. Thus in all, 324 mills were working, compared with 356 mills at the end of November, and 410 mills a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of December, is estimated to be about 16,200.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	39	199	—	199
Works giving partial employment	30	125	72	197
Total at end of December, 1900†	69	324	72	396
Corresponding Total for November, 1900†	72	356	58	414
Corresponding Total for December, 1899†	80	410	43	453

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

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	Dec., 1900.	Nov., 1900.	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1900.	Nov., 1900.	Dec., 1899.
To United States	Tons. 4,923	Tons. 3,199	Tons. 7,290	Tons. —	Tons. 9	Tons. 464
Other Countries	Tons. 19,099	Tons. 20,375	Tons. 16,318	Tons. 3,866	Tons. 4,597	Tons. 4,466
Total	24,332	23,574	23,608	3,866	5,006	4,930

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of seamen shipped during December as the crews of foreign-going vessels, from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), was 30,338,§ or 853 more than during December, 1899. At most of the ports reported on the supply of seamen is stated to have been equal to the demand.

During the year 1900, 397,077§ men have been shipped, as compared with 406,980§ during 1899. The falling off is accounted for by decreased shipments at the Bristol Channel and East Coast ports and at Liverpool, partly balanced by increases at Southampton, London and Glasgow.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SEAMEN; WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Of the total number shipped during the year, 59,107 (or 14.9 per cent.) were foreigners, the percentage for the year 1899 being 14.7. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in December, 1900 and 1899 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the twelve months ended December in each of these years:—

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Men, &c., shipped in December, 1900 (In Sailing Vessels, In Steam Vessels, Total in Dec., 1900), Total in Dec., 1899, Total number shipped in 12 months ended December* (1900, 1899). Rows include ENGLAND (East Coast, Bristol Channel, Other Ports), SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents employment for women showed a slight further improvement in the spinning branch of the cotton trade. In the weaving branch of the cotton trade and in the woollen and worsted trades there was practically no change. Information has been received with regard to 581 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 99,900 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:—

Table with columns: Trade and Month, Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were (Working full Time throughout the Month, Working Short Time during some part of the Month, Closed during Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes). Rows include Cotton Trade—Spinning, Cotton Trade—Weaving, Woollen and Worsted Trades, and Total of above Trades.

Cotton Trade—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton-spinning mills reported on is 26,270; of these 89 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 86 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in November, and with 97 per cent. in December, 1899.

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

Cotton Trade—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton-weaving factories reported on is 54,230; of these 85 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 84 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in November, and with 92 per cent. in December, 1899.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 19,400; of these 65 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 66 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in November, and with 100 per cent. in December, 1899.

(h) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 263 Returns from various parts of England reports as follows. Generally speaking agricultural labourers were regularly employed in December, but there was a good deal of rainy weather during the month; this caused some casual hands, and also men engaged at piecework, to lose a little time. A number of reports state that on wet days the men were generally found suitable work. On the other hand the weather was very mild and open, and there was no interruption of work on the land owing to frost. The root crop, which was a heavy one in many districts, gave a good deal of employment, and, when not interrupted by wet weather, there was also plenty of work threshing, ploughing, carting manure, hedging, ditching, draining, road mending, etc.; on the heavy lands especially, the wet hindered ploughing and carting manure. Although a number of reports state that there is a considerable scarcity of labour, taking the country generally, there appears to have been a greater supply in December than in any other month last year. Compared with the corresponding period in 1899, it is stated by a number of correspondents that the supply was certainly greater.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland employment during December is reported to have been regular. A correspondent in the Hexham Union states that men are "very difficult to get at any price." Reports from Durham states that there was no lack of employment. A correspondent in the Chester-le-Street Union states that the collieries, which are giving a great deal of employment, take a number of men from the agricultural districts. Generally speaking employment in Cumberland and Westmorland was regular, but the wet weather interfered with casual labourers to some extent. In Lancashire the wet weather caused casual hands (datal men) to lose some time. A report from the Northern part of the county states that much land was flooded during the greater part of the month. A correspondent in the Preston Union writes that "labour is scarce. Most of the young men find employment in the towns as mill hands." In the Prescot Union the supply of labour is said to be scarcely equal to the demand in the winter months. In this Union the farmers chiefly employ Irish labourers, who return to Ireland in October, November, and December.

Reports from Yorkshire (East Riding) state that agricultural labourers were generally well employed, though a few casual men lost a little time owing to the wet weather. In the Bridlington Union there is said to be a great scarcity of yearly servants. The percentage of casual men in the Union unable to obtain regular work is said to be small. In the North Riding regularity of work is generally reported. The weather was mild and open, though there was a good deal of rain. An employer in the Guisborough Union writes as follows: "I have never known agricultural labourers so scarce and hard to get as at the present time. The Irishmen have generally gone home, and most labourers are at the public works. Within the last six months I have known of six married men who have worked on the land all their lives, and who have left it and gone to public works at better wages and on shorter hours." An employer in the Darlington Union (Yorks and Durham) writes: "We cannot get a man for a day's threshing or for any extra work." In the Scarborough Union a correspondent writes: "Failure of turnips affects men getting regular work as helpers in the sheep folds, otherwise they are well employed." In the West Riding reports state that agricultural labourers were

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

generally well employed. In the Wetherby Union it is stated that there is a scarcity of labour, and that any able-bodied man willing to work can always procure it. In this Union a good deal of work is done by Irishmen who are said to be able to earn from 4s. to 5s a day pulling and dressing turnips, sorting potatoes, etc., by piecework. A correspondent writes that in the Doncaster and Thorne Unions, owing to open and mild weather and to a heavy crop of turnips and swedes, work has been plentiful. An employer in the Goole Union says that weekly labourers are fairly plentiful, but that many farmers are short of yearly men. Yardmen and ploughboys are said to be especially scarce.

Midland Counties.—Reports from Derbyshire state that agricultural labourers were generally well employed during the month. Several reports refer to a scarcity of labourers which is largely attributed to activity at the collieries. A correspondent in the Bakewell Union writes as follows:—"It is a most difficult thing to obtain the necessary labourers to carry on work even on a 200 acre grass milking farm. This applies to the last few years, and the scarcity is becoming greater. The men have not left the country, but prefer work in the quarries and working for contractors, builders, etc." A correspondent in the Ashbourne Union states that at the recent hirings held at Ashbourne, men and boys seeking engagements for the year were asking such high wages that many farmers did not hire them. The best men obtained about £30 for the year with board and lodging. In Cheshire employment is stated to have been generally regular, the open weather having been good for employment, though wet weather hindered outdoor work to some extent, and affected a few casual men in some districts. Reports of a similar character come from Nottinghamshire. Most correspondents from this county say that labour is scarce. Reports to this effect come from the Unions of Basford, Bingham, Southwell, and Worksop. Regularity of work is reported in Leicestershire, and the supply of labour is described as "sufficient" or "just sufficient" in the Unions of Billesdon, Loughborough, Market Harborough, and Melton Mowbray. A correspondent in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Union writes, "Labourers are not at all plentiful. A great many more would have been set on if the farmers could have found them." In the Blaby Union a correspondent says, "Good able-bodied men wanted." A correspondent in the Market Bosworth Union writes as follows: "The supply of labour has generally been enough to farm roughly. Any extra jobs have to go undone. Extra hands for threshing are not to be had."

In Staffordshire agricultural employment is said to have been regular and the supply of men frequently short. A correspondent in the Tamworth Union states that it has been difficult to get men, but that some farmers say that labour was easier to procure in December than in preceding months. In the Leek Union the supply is said to be "none too plentiful." A correspondent in the Seisdon Union writes as follows:—"Labour is short. Many turnips are still in the fields (January 3rd), as men could not be got for cutting and pulling."

Reports from Shropshire state that agricultural labourers were well employed. A correspondent in the Oswestry Union describes the supply of labour as very scarce. Reports from the Drayton Union (Salop and Staffs) say that the supply of labour is about equal to the demand, but rather short in some places. In Worcestershire the reports state that generally employment was regular, though wet weather interfered with outdoor work to some extent. In the Evesham Union a very few are said to have been in irregular work owing to wet weather. A correspondent in the Martley Union writes as follows: "The rain has hindered the lifting of roots, which is being done by women more than formerly, as men are scarce." In the Upton-on-Severn Union, and in the Worcester portion of the Tewkesbury Union (Gloucester and Worcester) the supply of labour is said to be scarce. Reports from Warwickshire state that employment was generally regular, and that the absence of frost made work plentiful. In the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Warwick, and Northants) wet weather interrupted employment to some extent. A report from the Warwick Union states that "in some cases a few men lost a little time in wet weather, but most farmers found some job under cover for wet days." A large employer of labour in the Alcester Union, writing as to the supply of labour, says: "We have had plenty of labour during the month of December," and a correspondent in the Meriden Union says that the supply of labour is plentiful. Employers in the Atherstone and Stratford-on-Avon Unions say that the supply of labour there is scarce. In the Warwick Union a correspondent writes as follows: "On farms away from large villages or tows there was a difficulty in getting

extra men for threshing or root clearing." A correspondent in the Rugby Union writes: "The open weather has been favourable to clearing up arrears of turnips, clearing which would have been done in November if casual labour had been available."

In Oxfordshire regularity of work is generally reported, though wet weather interfered with outdoor work to some extent. A correspondent in the Thame Union writes as follows:—"The weather was too wet for the employment of men and horses on the land, but hedging, ditching, road work and wood work gave employment. In some of the neighbouring open parishes some young men have been idle." An employer in the same Union, referring to the supply of labour, writes: "Extra hands for threshing are difficult to get. In consequence carters have been employed at this work, and their teams stood idle." A correspondent, reporting on certain parishes in the Woodstock Union describes the supply of labour as abundant. In the Headington Union the supply of labour is said to be about sufficient, and in the Berkshire portion of the Wallingford Union (Berks. and Oxon) scarce. Agricultural labourers are said to have been generally well employed in Northamptonshire, and several reports state that the supply of labour was rather better in December than in previous months. In the Potterspurty Union the supply of labour is said to have been about equal to the demand. Ploughing is said to be very forward and turnips all secured. A large employer of labour in the Wellingborough Union says: "Supply of labour rather short, but casual men not quite so difficult to get as last year. The turnip crop being good, men have been wanted for pulling them. The weather has been rather wet, but not sufficiently so to cause regular men to lose time." Another employer in the same Union writes: "Labour is a little easier, perhaps in consequence of slackness in the building trade." In the Thrapston Union it is reported that there was sufficient labour for the month of December. A correspondent in the Oundle Union writes as follows: "The supply of labour is about equal to the demand for regular labour. I think that casuals for threshing are rather easier to get." In the Kettering Union a scarcity of good men is reported.

Reports from Buckinghamshire state that employment is generally regular. A large employer of labour in the Aylesbury Union writes as follows: "Labour is generally short. A very few fresh applicants for labour turn up. Just a few young men have come back from the building trades." A correspondent in the Buckingham Union writes "A few more labourers out of work than usual." In the Wycombe Union the supply of labour is said to be short. A correspondent in the Newport Pagnell Union writes as follows:—"Considering that we are within three miles of Wolverton Works we are very well off for labour. The reason is that we have cottages allotted to each farm and pay the men a fair wage. Some farmers have been badly off for labour, especially in the neighbourhood of newly-erected brickyards." In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire agricultural labourers are said to have been generally well employed. According to the reports received, the supply of labour is said to have been "sufficient" or "about sufficient." In the Herts portion of the Barnet Union (Middlesex and Herts) the supply is described as "ample," but in the Buntingford Union it is stated that the supply is "very much below the demand. In fact, the farms are not being properly worked on account of scarcity of labour."

Eastern Counties.—Regularity of work is reported from Huntingdonshire. The weather was favourable for farming operations, being mild and open, and though rain affected outdoor work to some extent, very few men lost time in consequence. The supply of labour appears to have been about sufficient during the month, though employers generally say that men are difficult to get. A report from the Huntingdon Union says that owing to the discharge of men from the brickfields rather more men were available on the land. Reports from Cambridgeshire state that generally speaking employment was regular, though a few men were in irregular work towards the end of the month owing to wet weather. The supply of labour appears to have been sufficient. Reports to this effect have been received from 8 Poor Law Unions. A report from the Peterborough Union (Cams, Northants, Hunts and Lincoln) says that there were more men in that district owing to some slackness in the brick industry. A correspondent in the Ely Union writes as follows:—"The weather has been open, and employment has been uninterrupted. The rainfall has been very slight, and so it has been possible to carry on dyking operations necessitated by high winds in Spring, which filled dykes with dust."

In Lincolnshire agricultural labourers were generally well employed

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

throughout the month. In a few districts some casual hands are said to have been in irregular work owing to wet days. A report from Boston says that in that district the bulk of the threshing was finished before the Irishmen left. Reports have been received from 12 Poor Law Unions in this county, and in most districts the supply of labour appears to have been sufficient for the work in hand during the month. An employer in the Lincoln Union, however, states that "extra men for threshing cannot be got." In the Grantham Union the supply of labour is said to be scarce. A correspondent in the Bourne Union writes:—"The supply of labour is almost equal to the demand. The root crop being a heavy one, has furnished work for more hands than were required last season. In consequence of rain, several days were lost by men engaged in threshing, otherwise work was fairly regular on the whole." An employer in the Horncastle Union writes:—"I have two or three more labourers than I require at present, but I dare not part with them for fear that I should not be able to replace them in the Spring. Some farmers have not quite sufficient men, and others are situated as I am."

Twenty-seven reports have been received from Norfolk referring to 16 Poor Law Unions. The mild weather was favourable for farming operations, and employment was generally regular. There was some slight irregularity in some districts owing to rain, and work got behindhand in the heavy land districts. Threshing is said to have been somewhat delayed, but turnip storing got well forward. The heavy root crop has given a great deal of employment. A correspondent in the Docking Union writes as follows: "Roots very plentiful, affording regular employment of labour on account of the extra number of stock required." Another correspondent in the same Union writes: "Owing to open weather it has been a good time for ploughing and for securing the turnip crop, and employment has been regular." In the following Poor Law Unions the supply of labour is said to have been sufficient during the month of December: Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Freebridge Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, Walsingham, and Wayland. In the following Unions the supply of labour is described as short: Forehoe, Guilt-cross, and Downham.

Similar conditions to those in Norfolk as regards employment prevailed in Suffolk during the month of December, agricultural labourers having been generally well employed, and very little time having been lost owing to wet weather. Fourteen reports have been received from Suffolk referring to 11 Poor Law Unions. In the following Unions the supply of labour is said to have been sufficient: Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge (Suffolk and Essex), and Samford. In the Wangford Union the supply of labour is described as barely sufficient. A correspondent in this Union writes: "Ploughing is generally in a forward state, and there has been but little loss of time owing to wet weather." A large employer of labour in the Bosmere and Claydon Union writes as follows: "Our labourers are fully employed, and we have quite a sufficiency just now. The end of the year will see farm work generally in a fairly forward state owing to the open weather. Very little more corn land, other than the sheep feeding land, remains still unploughed, and arrears have been overtaken. There is an abundant root crop, which, of course, gives employment. Much of the threshing is already done. Fencing and generally adjusting the farm is now going on, and will probably get better attention than usual. At all events, work is sufficiently advanced to spare the labour for it, if money can be found to devote to such a purpose."

Reports from Essex say that work was generally regular, and that owing to the open weather which prevailed through the month, farm work got well forward. Reports state that threshing and ploughing were interfered with to some extent by wet weather, but very few men lost time, and generally men were found employment hedging and ditching or at work under cover. In the following Poor Law Unions the supply of labour is said to have been sufficient: Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, and Tendring. A correspondent in the Ongar Union writes as follows:—"The regular staffs of the various farms remain about the same, with perhaps a small reduction in the number. But for irregular or extra work, such as threshing, there is a continued scarcity of men, and tramps and inferior men have to be taken on. Crops were good enough to keep men fully employed up to date in getting hay, straw, corn, etc., to market, but the rainy and stormy days have caused men to lose several days' work."

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Agricultural employ-

ment in Kent is said to have been generally regular in December. A few men lost a little time in some districts owing to wet weather. A correspondent in the West Ashford Union states that men not in charge of animals lost on the average a day a week during the month, owing to wet weather. In the following Poor Law Unions the supply of labour is said to be sufficient: Eastry, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Maidstone, and in Cranbrook, except in the case of lads to go with horses. In the following Unions the supply is described as scarce: Blean, Bridge, Elbam, Faversham, Tenterden, Isle of Thanet, Malling, and West Ashford. A correspondent in the Faversham Union writes as follows: "The supply of labourers is very short. There is great difficulty in obtaining men for woodcutting, also for working steam threshing machines. In consequence of the short supply of men and the extra cost of labour, a large part of this parish has been put down by the owners to grass, and many cottages shut up." In the Isle of Thanet Union the supply of lads from 16 to 20 years of age is said to be specially short. A correspondent in the Bridge Union writes: "The supply of labour is very scarce as regards respectable labourers to live in cottages. Several cottages are empty in the neighbourhood."

In Surrey employment was generally regular, but in some districts casual men lost time. A report from the Godstone Union states that this class lost a good many days owing to the wet. The supply of labour is said to be short in the Farnham, Godstone, Hambledon, and Dorking Unions. In Sussex agricultural labourers generally had regular work, though the wet weather caused a little irregularity, mainly in the case of casual men or men on piecework. Threshing and wood-cutting were somewhat interfered with. The supply of labour is said to have been sufficient in the Poor Law Unions of Cuckfield, Ticehurst, Lewes, Newhaven, and Rye, and scarce in the Unions of Hailsham, Horsham Havant, Petworth, and Uckfield. In the Chailley Union there is said to have been a great demand for carters and ploughmen. In the Ticehurst Union it is stated that there were more men available owing to some slackness in the building trade. A correspondent in the Hailsham Union writes: "The weather was very wet, so that it has been difficult to work on the land, but most hands were kept on, as employers were afraid that otherwise they would not have them when they wanted them." An employer in the Newhaven Union writes: "Men have been more easy to get (except stockmen) than for some months past."

Employment in Hampshire was generally regular, though there was some irregularity in a few districts, mainly in the case of casual hands or men employed at piecework. The supply of labour is said to be sufficient in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Lymington, Petersfield, Kingsclere, and Stockbridge, and scarce in the Unions of Alton, New Winchester (in the case of cowmen and carters), and in the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (Surrey and Hants). A correspondent in the Christchurch Union writes as follows: "The continued wet weather throughout the month has greatly hindered farm work. Hands have not been dismissed, but there has been great difficulty in finding them employment." In Bershire there was some irregularity of employment among casual men and those employed on piecework. A large employer in the Wantage Union writes: "The weather was very wet, consequently a good many men at piecework lost some time." A correspondent in the Hungerford Union says: "The weather, although very wet at times, did not affect the regularity of employment, it being usual in this district to find work under cover when necessary." In several Unions men are said to be scarce, but on the whole the supply of labour does not appear to have been so scarce in December as in previous months.

Thirteen reports have been received from Wiltshire relating to eleven Poor Law Unions. It is generally stated that there was very little time lost through wet weather, the men being generally found suitable work when too wet to work on the land. A correspondent in the Mere Union writes:—"The weather being mild cattle were kept in the open fields so that not quite so many men were wanted to look after them." The supply of labour is said to have been sufficient in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes (short in some parishes), Marlborough, Mere, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. In the Warminster Union the supply of labour is said to be scarce, and in the Chippenham Union, especially in the case of shepherds and carters. A correspondent in the Wilton Union reports that labour is scarce owing to the doubling of a railway line and the work undertaken by the War Office on Salisbury Plain. The conditions of employment in Dorsetshire in December were, generally speaking, similar to those

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; LONDON.

in Wiltshire and comparatively few men lost time on account of the wet weather. Most reports say that the supply of labour was about sufficient in December. A scarcity is reported in the Wareham and Purbeck Union and also in the Sturminster Union. A correspondent in the last named Union writes:—"There has been a very short supply. In fact if a man left any employment there was no fresh applicant for his place."

In Somersetshire reports state that agricultural labourers were generally well employed. A correspondent in the Yeovil Union writes: "The exceedingly wet weather has been bad for employment, but work under cover is always found." A correspondent in the Chard Union says: "Cider-making gave a good deal of work, but some men lost work through continued wet." In the following Poor Law Unions the supply of labour is said to have been sufficient for the work in December: Bridgwater, Clutton, Chard, Frome, Langport, Wellington, Wincanton, and Yeovil. In the Wincanton Union there is said to be a dearth of drainers and hedgers. In the following Unions men are said to be scarce: Axbridge, Taunton, and Wells. Agricultural labourers in Herefordshire are said to have been generally well employed, and reports generally state that labourers are scarce.

In Gloucestershire employment is said to have been generally regular, though a few men lost a little time owing to wet weather. A correspondent in the Wheatthurst Union writes: "The weather being so very unsettled, the threshing machines were standing idle and the land was too wet for carting out manure. A few odd hands were not fully employed." In most Poor Law Unions the supply of labour is described as "sufficient" or "just sufficient," but in the Unions of Northleach, and Stow-on-the-Wold it is described as "very short." In the Wheatthurst Union there is said to be a difficulty in getting men to look after animals. A correspondent in the Northleach Union writes: "The root crop was a very heavy one, but as we have not sufficient labour to clear the swedes and cut them for the sheep and cattle, the animals have to gnaw them." Agricultural labourers in Devonshire and Cornwall are said to have been generally well employed during the month. A correspondent in the Newton Abbot Union writes as follows: "Owing to the wet during the last month, farm work has fallen into arrears, but the men have been well employed. The supply of labour is scarce. Farmers could employ many more men if they could get them."

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves shows a decline as compared with a month ago, but an improvement compared with a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves during the five weeks ended December 29th was 17,440, as compared with averages of 18,411 in the preceding four weeks, and 16,390 in the corresponding period of 1899.

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

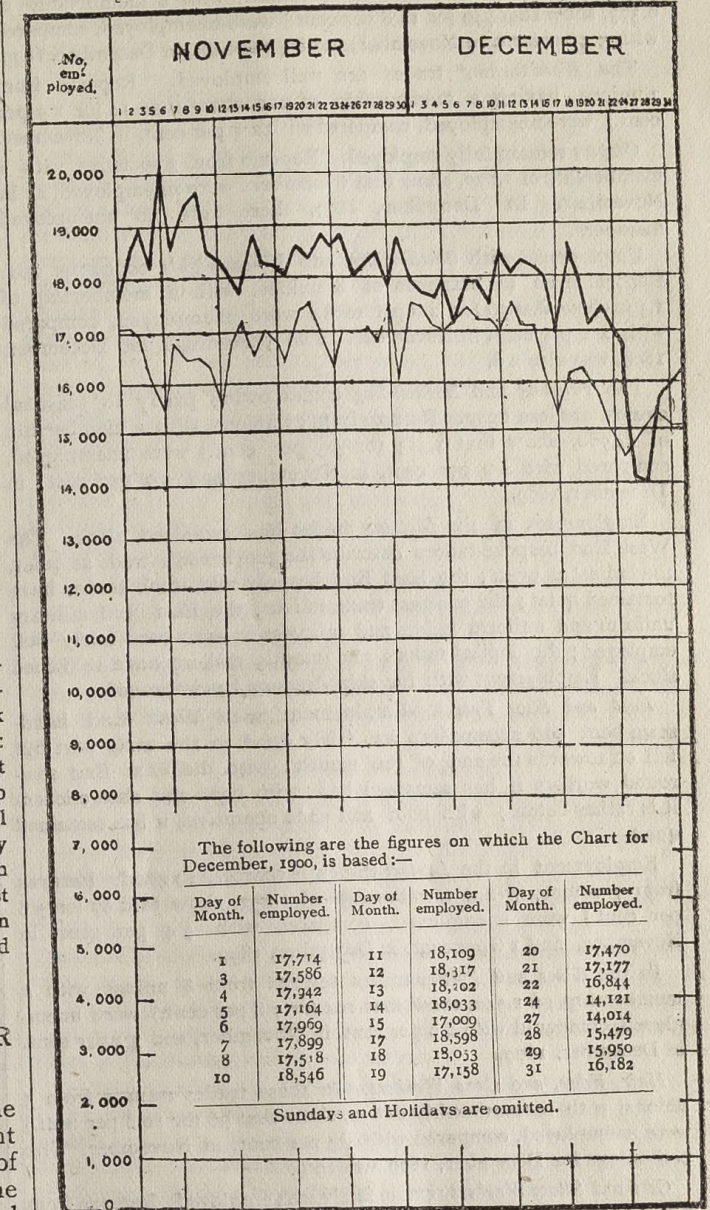
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Dec. 1	8,973	2,510	11,483	6,711	18,194
" " " 8	8,420	2,562	10,982	6,698	17,680
" " " 15	8,508	2,818	11,326	6,710	18,036
" " " 22	8,445	2,745	11,190	6,350	17,540
" " " 29	6,750	2,724	9,474	5,417	14,891
Average for 5 weeks ended Dec. 29th, 1900	8,324	2,668	10,992	6,448	17,440
Average for Dec., 1899	7,242	2,861	10,103	6,287	16,390
Average for Nov., 1900	9,170	2,529	11,699	6,712	18,411

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in December ranged from 14,014 on the 27th to 18,598 on the 17th.

During December, 1899, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 13,795 on the 27th to 17,518 on the 12th.

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

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



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on page 22.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

General.—The state of employment during December was generally not so good. Returns from 476 branches of 124 unions, having an aggregate membership of 80,662, show that 3,851 (or 4·8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3·2 per cent. in November, and 3·4 per cent. in December, 1899. It must, however, be borne in mind that the last week in December is always a week of broken employment, so that comparison with November is somewhat misleading.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding trades has remained fairly good. Returns from 158 branches of 30 unions, with an aggregate membership of 23,557, show that 726 (or 3·1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·4 per cent. in November, and 2·3 per cent. in December of last year. With sailmakers employment is bad.

The Building trades are not so well employed, though but little change has taken place during the month. Returns from 188 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 13,787, show that 522 (or 3·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·7 per cent. in November, and 0·8 per cent. in December, 1899. The carpenters and joiners, and stonemasons, describe employment as quiet; the bricklayers, stonemasons, and

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

painters and decorators as dull; the plasterers and plumbers as bad.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has fallen off considerably. Returns from 47 branches of 14 unions, with a membership of 6,373, show that 749 (or 11·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5·5 per cent. in November, and 8·4 per cent. in December, 1899.

The *Woodworking* trades are well employed. Reports from 3 unions, having a membership of 921, show that 14 (or 1·5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·5 per cent. in November.

Coopers remain fully employed. Reports from 2 societies, with a membership of 1,070, show that 6 members were unemployed, as in November. In December, 1899, there were no unemployed members.

Employment with *Coachbuilders* and *Wheelwrights* continues fair. Reports from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,392, show that 36 (or 2·6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·1 per cent. in November. The percentage for December, 1899, was also 2·6.

The *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades, owing partly to seasonal causes, are less busy. Returns from 25 unions, with a membership of 24,780, show that 1,313 (or 5·3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·2 per cent. in November and 3·9 per cent. in December, 1899.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades has remained slack. The West End bespoke tailors describe the gentlemen's trade as quiet, the ladies' as brisk; the East End bespoke and stock trades have remained quiet; the contract trade is fair; the East End military uniform and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been fairly well employed; the ladies' tailors and mantle makers have remained slack. Employment with fur skin dressers has improved.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with West End hand-sewn boot and shoemakers was fairly good in the early part but fell off towards the end of the month; with the East End sew-round workers it has remained bad; with boot and shoe clickers it is rather better; with boot and shoe operatives it has remained quiet.

Employment in the *Leather* trades is scarcely so good. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,751, show that 67 (or 3·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·4 per cent. in November, and 1·6 per cent. in December, 1899.

In the *Glass* and *Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,340, show that 104 (or 7·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6·6 per cent. in November, and 3·1 per cent. in December, 1899.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 892, show that 96 (or 10·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·3 per cent. in November. The percentage for December, 1899, was 19·9.

Gold and Silver Workers remain fairly well employed. Returns from 7 unions, having a membership of 1,080, show that 21 (or 1·9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·5 per cent. in November, and 3·3 per cent. in December, 1899. Diamond workers are better employed.

In the *Tobacco* trades employment has been scarcely so good. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,340, show that 64 (or 2·7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·8 per cent. in November, and 6·2 per cent. in December, 1899.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves was 17,440 in the five weeks ended December 29th, as compared with 18,411 in the preceding four weeks, and 16,390 in December, 1899. Employment in mid-stream has been good. With stevedores, lumpers, coal porters, and deal porters it has been fair; with corn porters moderate. With fruit porters in Thames-street it has been good, the average daily number of men employed being 395, compared with 313 in November, and 387 in December 1899.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland*.—Steam and house coal collieries have averaged 5·13 and 5·33 days per week respectively for the four weeks ending December 22nd, as against 5·44 and 5·40 days in November. The Coal Trade Conciliation Board has decided that wages remain unchanged. *Durham*.—Several pits have been idle a day or two owing to a dispute. Collieries producing house, manufacturing, gas, and coking coal, have averaged 5·31, 5·34, 5·04, and 5·51 days per week respectively, as against 5·50, 5·39, 5·47, and 5·54 days in November. Returns from 121 pits employing over 57,000 men and boys show an average working week of 5·38

days, as compared with 5·48 days in November. Coke workers continue dull.

Metal Mining.—Employment continues good at the ironstone and lead ore mines.

Quarrying.—Quarries have worked 5 days per week in the Coxhoe and Haswell district; full time at Stanhope and Frosterley. Employment has fallen off in the Gateshead district; it is fairly steady at Blyth.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Steel plate mills at Spennymoor, Consett and Newburn, have averaged four shifts per week. At Jarrow two plate mills and one angle mill have worked full time, as well as six smelting furnaces. Smelters generally, however, continue dull. The finished iron and steel works at Wolsingham are well employed. Forgemens are scarcely so busy.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne*.—The demand for fitters and turners remains good. All departments in the ordnance factory continue exceptionally busy. Most boiler-shops are working double shifts. Repair work has been fairly plentiful. Riveters and caulkers, have been well employed. Branches with 12,879 members have 180 (or 1·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 190 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) in November. *On the Wear*.—At the engine shops, except for holidays, employment has been good. Shipyard platers and riveters have been in good demand. Shipsmiths continue steadily employed. Of the 5,222 members of these trades 131 (or 2·5 per cent.) are idle, as against 65 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) in November. Sailmakers are busy on the Wear, fairly well employed on the Tyne. Employment of pattern-makers has improved. Less than full time has been worked by chain and anchor smiths.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal porters and shippers have not been so busy. Trimmers and teemers report employment as moderate; Tyne watermen as steady; tug-boat men as still good. Dock and quayside labourers have had less employment. Lumpers and riggers in the lower reaches of the river have been fairly employed. There has been a better demand for sailors and firemen.

Building Trades.—With the exception of slaters and tilers all branches continue to be affected by the bricklayers' dispute.

Printing and allied Trades.—Three paper mills have worked full time, two little over half time. One mill has been idle a week. Letterpress printers and bookbinders on both rivers are fairly busy.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Lathrenders report employment as slack; cabinet makers, upholsterers and mill-sawyers as fair. Coopers are somewhat better employed.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour continue busy. Pressed glass makers have worked four shifts per week. Chemical factories have been idle ten days through holidays. Employment in whitelead works has been better. Copper workers continue rather quiet.

Fishing.—This industry has again been interrupted by the weather. Catches have, however, been fairly good, and prices high.

J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—Employment with the Cleveland miners has fallen off. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines furnishing returns was 5·77 days per week during the four weeks ending December 22nd, as compared with 5·64 days per week during the four weeks ending November 24th, and 5·53 per week in December 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,826 the corresponding number a year ago being 6,902.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment generally at the finished iron and steel works has fallen off. Employment is slack with the blast-furnacemen, a number of furnaces having been stopped. It is fair at pipe, chair and general foundries, bridgeworks and metal expansion works. Holidays in some cases have been unusually prolonged.

Engineering.—Employment with engineers at the commencement of the holidays was good at Middlesbrough, Stockton, and South Bank, fair at Bishop Auckland, moderate at Darlington and Hartlepool; with ironfounders good at Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton, moderate at Darlington; with patternmakers and smiths and strikers fair. Branches of these trades with 4,447 members have 86 (or 1·9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 76 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Shipbuilding.—Employment generally is reported as fair at most yards.

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

Building Trades.—Bricklayers report employment as fair at Darlington, moderate or dull elsewhere; plumbers and slaters as fair; plasterers and masons as moderate; painters as slack; joiners as rather quiet.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fair at Hartlepool, moderate at Middlesbrough. Dock labour is moderate at Hartlepool, slack at Middlesbrough. River-side labour is slack generally.

Miscellaneous.—Millsawyers and woodworking machinists report employment as fairly good; printers as moderate at Hartlepool, Stockton and Middlesbrough; cement and concrete workers, pulpworkers, tailors and cabinet makers as fair; saltworkers as moderate.

A. Main.

Cumberland and Barrow District.

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

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry has improved, but is still worse than a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended December 22nd at 21 pits covered by the returns, was 5·39 per week, as compared with 5·13 in November, and 5·96 a year ago. The number employed at these pits in December was 6,881, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,468.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended December 22nd, at the 46 mines from which returns have been received, was 5·90 per week, as against 5·87 in November, and 5·94 a year ago. The workpeople employed at these mines in December 1900 and 1899, numbered 5,662 and 5,870 respectively.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and Lancashire blast furnaces shows little change as compared with November, but is much worse than in December, 1899. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of December was 43, as compared with 44 at the end of November and 54 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 43 blast furnaces in December was 3,641.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning*.—In Oldham and the surrounding districts and in Stockport, Mossley and Stalybridge, employment continues good. It has slightly declined in Rochdale district, and is moderate in Ashton-under-Lyne and Dukinfield. Winders and reelers report employment as moderate; cardroom operatives, ring frame spinners and throstle frame tenters as good; twiners as slack. *Weaving*.—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as moderate on calico and velvet goods, slack on fustian goods; beam and sectional warpers as moderate; ball warpers as slack.

Woollen and Silk Trades.—Woollen workers in Stockport, Rochdale, and Milnrow districts report employment as fairly good. Employment with the silk-dressers of Rochdale is reported as very unsatisfactory.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—At engineering shops employment is reported as moderate; at textile machine making firms as bad. Irongrinders and glazers report employment as slack, short time being worked. Blacksmiths, pattern-makers, boiler-makers, spindle and flyer makers and millwrights report employment as good; gasmeter makers, tinplate workers and coremakers as moderate; plate and machine moulders and tool makers as slack.

Building Trades.—Employment is quiet in all sections. *Coal Mining*.—Employment is reported as good, full time being worked at the pits in Oldham, Chadderton, and Royton.

T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning*.—Employment in Bolton and neighbourhood continues good, nearly all mills being fairly active and working full time. In Chorley, Heywood, Wigan, Hindley, Westhoughton and Adlington, employment is reported as fair; in Leigh and Tyldesley as moderate. Cardroom operatives continue moderately well employed throughout the district. *Weaving*.—Employment is reported as good on the whole in Bolton; fair in Wigan and Bury; moderate in Chorley.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers in Bolton report employment as good at two firms, moderate at the rest. Machine fitters continue irregularly employed. Engineers and steam engine makers report employment as fair in Bury, moderate in Wigan and Chorley. Steel rolling mills at Wigan are fairly active.

Building Trades.—Employment in Bolton and surrounding district continues fair in most branches. In Bury, Wigan, and Chorley employment is irregular.

Coal Mining.—Employment is good in Bolton, Little Lever, and immediate district, and slightly less active in Wigan, Hindley, and Westhoughton.

Miscellaneous.—Leather workers report employment as still slack; printers as good; shoemakers as fair; tailors as moderate.

R. Tootill.

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Weaving*.—Employment is reported as moderate in the Blackburn district, bad at Preston, fairly good at Burnley, Darwen, Nelson and Colne. Hard waste weavers are not busy. Twisters and drawers are moderately well employed. Warp dressers, winders and warpers report an improvement. *Spinning*.—Employment is fair at Blackburn and Accrington, good at Darwen. Ring spinners, and card room workers are fully employed throughout the district. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers, and warp dressers in the district, with 3,531 members, have 93 (or 2·6 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of November.

Building Trades.—Employment with painters continues slack; it is moderate with other branches.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers is reported as bad at Todmorden, moderate at Colne and Blackburn; with ironfounders as moderate at Todmorden and Blackburn. Machine shops are not so busy.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Employment with coal miners in the Burnley and Accrington districts continues good. Quarrymen remain fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is slack with woollen block printers; fair with cabinet makers, moderate with calico printers and dyers, brickmakers, and letterpress printers; slack with tailors.

W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 23,430 members have 929 (or 4·0 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 973 (or 4·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers in Manchester, Warrington, Macclesfield and Romley report employment as moderate; in Northwich as good; one branch of ironfounders as good, two branches as moderate; boiler-makers, and machine workers as good; sheet metal workers as fair; brass founders as quiet; wire drawers in Warrington as good; wire weavers and file cutters as moderate; smiths and strikers as moderate in Manchester and Northwich, good at Earlstown, bad at Warrington.

Building Trades.—In Manchester bricklayers, stonemasons and decorative glass workers report employment as moderate; concreters as fair; plasterers, painters and plumbers as bad. In Warrington, Northwich and Macclesfield employment generally is moderate. Bricklayers' labourers are slack throughout the district.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet makers, upholsterers, and French polishers report employment as quiet; coachmakers as fairly good; wheelwrights as moderate; brewers' coopers as bad.

Textile Trades.—Cotton operatives report employment as moderate; silk workers as bad in all branches; fustian cutters and bleachers, dyers and finishers as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke department of the tailoring trade is bad, and in the wholesale department slack. With felt hat makers, cloth cap makers, and shirt makers it is reported as quiet; with boot and shoe makers as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate; stereotypers and lithographic artists as fair; bookbinders and machine rulers as good; lithographic printers and pattern card makers as bad.

Transport Trades.—Employment continues good.—G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Boiler-makers and iron ship builders report employment as improved; brass founders, whitesmiths and shipwrights as good; copper-smiths as fair; iron-founders, drillers and hammermen as rather quiet; fitters, turners, patternmakers and ship joiners as dull; ship painters and scrapers as slack.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet makers, French polishers and upholsterers report employment as dull; mill-sawyers, woodcutting machinists and coopers as fair; coach-makers and painters as quiet.

Transport Trades.—Dock labourers report employment as fair; quay and railway carters as again showing improvement; seamen and firemen as good in Liverpool, rather dull in Birkenhead; Mersey flatmen as dull.

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

Building Trades.—All branches report a decline.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as slightly improved; ready-made tailoring operatives as rather quiet; boot and shoe makers as fairly good.

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

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers and all branches of glassmakers report employment as good, chemical workers report no improvement.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners and quarrymen continue well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Saddlers and harness makers report employment as fair; gasfitters as rather dull; paviors and tramway layers as not quite so busy.—C. Rouse.

A report from *Winsford* states that employment in the salt trade has been dull. The shipwrights, boiler-smiths and carpenters report employment as dull; the moulders as moderate. Employment is reported as dull in the building trades in Winsford and Middlewich; as good with chemical workers in Middlewich. Fustian cutters in both towns report employment as good.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering works and boiler shops at Hull is moderate; in the shipbuilding yards and on general repairs slack. Employment generally is slack at Grimsby and Selby, bad at Beverley, moderate at Goole. It is moderate with engineers at Doncaster.

Building Trades.—At Hull the slaters and tilers report employment as good; the plumbers and lathrenders as bad; other branches as moderate. At Selby employment generally is good, at Beverley and Driffild moderate, at Doncaster slack.

Transport Trades.—At Grimsby the dock labourers report employment as good; the sailors and firemen as moderate. At Hull and Goole both classes report employment as fair. Railway workers generally are well employed.

Fishing Industry.—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull report employment as good, at Grimsby as moderate; the trawl fishermen, curing-house and other fishing trade workers as moderate.

Seed-crushing, Oil-cake, Paint and Colour Trades.—The seed crushers and oil cake mill workers report employment as good; the paint, oil and colour workers as moderate.

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

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coopers, cabinet makers, coachbuilders, millers and wood-working machinists report employment as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The tanners and leather belt and lace makers report employment as fair; the tailors as slack; the brushmakers as bad.—W. G. Milington.

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,143 members have 312 (or 3·8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 237 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trade in Leeds, except in the textile machinery department, has been fair. Boiler-makers and steel workers report employment as good; ironfounders as moderate; machine-workers and tinplate workers as fair; spindle-makers, brassworkers and wool comb, hackle and gill makers as slack. Employment at Wakefield is fair; at Stanningley moderate.

Clothing Trades.—In the ready-made tailoring trade employment has been quiet. Jewish operatives are slack. Bespoke tailors are quiet. Employment has been good in boot and shoe factories in Leeds, Heckmondwicks, and Pudsey; slack with slippermakers.

Textile Trades.—In the Leeds mills some improvement has taken place, and although some firms are still on short time, the majority are fully employed. Blanket raisers and linen workers report employment as fair; warpdressers, twisters, willeys and fettlers as improved.

Building Trades.—In Leeds employment is moderate, at Harrogate quiet.

Mining.—At the pits in Leeds, Castleford, and Pontefract full time continues.

Leather Trades.—Employment is good with tanners, fair with curriers, slack with saddlers and harness makers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment with printers fell off at the end of the month; with lithographers it is moderate; with bookbinders and machine rulers good; with paper mill workers quiet.

Glass Trades.—With glass bottle makers and flint glass workers employment is fair; with decorative glass workers moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Brushmakers, cabinet makers and coachmakers are slack. Wheelwrights and smiths are well employed.—O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—At Bradford and Keighley, employment continues bad; in Halifax it is not good; in Huddersfield it appears to be a little worse. Woolsorters and woolcombers are slack, short time being still prevalent.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield continues fair. Some firms in the Colne Valley are working overtime, but at a few firms weavers are irregularly employed. In the heavy woollen district employment is no better than last month, and is rather quiet.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham is dull. Dyers at Bradford are quiet; 3,000 are still working short time, and a number are out of work, but about 200 are working overtime. Dyers at Huddersfield report employment as bad.

Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as bad in Bradford, Halifax, and Keighley, as fair in Huddersfield and Dewsbury; ironfounders report employment as fair in Dewsbury, moderate in Halifax, not so good in Huddersfield and Keighley, bad in Bradford.

Building Trades.—Employment has declined throughout the district, and is bad at Bradford.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good in the glass bottle trade; rather quiet in the bespoke tailoring and printing trades; poor in the ready-made tailoring trade.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 17,110 members have 232 (or 1·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 169 (or 1·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Branches with 7,008 members have 63 (or 0·9 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of November. Engineers, boilermakers, Siemens steel smelters, iron and steel dressers, coremakers and machine workers are well employed. Iron and steel founders, engine and crane men, and locomotive engine drivers report employment as moderate; wire drawers and stove-grate workers as quiet; railway-spring makers and Bessemer steel workers as slack. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders are busy. Steelworkers at Parkgate and Eccles, and ironworkers at Masbro' are fairly well employed. With spring and axle-makers employment is quiet; with bath makers at Rotherham bad.

Cutlery and Tools.—Haft and scale pressers and all classes employed on table, pen and pocket cutlery and razors are well employed. File workers generally report employment as moderate; engineers' toolmakers as fair. Edge-tool grinders, are busy. Sawsmiths are quiet.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment has declined. Braziers, sheet-metal workers, platers and gilders are fairly well employed; silversmiths report employment as bad; all other branches as slack. At Rotherham employment in the brass trade is bad.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 77 of the principal collieries employing upwards of 53,000 men and boys show an average of 5·60 days per week worked, as compared with 5·55 in November.

Building Trades.—Employment has fallen off in Sheffield. At Barnsley it is moderate; at Rotherham and Normanton fairly good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment in all branches continues good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding.—Railway wagon and carriage builders and bobbin makers continue busy; coach makers are quiet; cabinet makers are slack except at Barnsley. Box-makers are slack.

Linen Trade.—Employment at Barnsley is slack.

Clothing Trades.—In Sheffield the bespoke tailors are fairly busy. In Barnsley employment with bespoke and ready-made tailors, and boot and shoe makers is moderate.

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

Glass Trades.—At Sheffield, Rotherham and Mexbro', the glass bottle-makers are fairly busy; at Barnsley slack. Flint glass-workers are moderately employed throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Gas workers, and the majority of railway men, street masons, and paviors and electrical workers are well employed. Chemical workers, quarrymen, farriers and general labourers report employment as fair. At Barnsley down quilt and paper makers are busy; quarrymen and general labourers are moderately employed. At Masbro' potters are busy.—S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 8,004 members have 191 (or 2·4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 149 (or 1·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 72 collieries employing upwards of 28,000 men and boys show an average of 5½ days per week worked in December, as compared with 5½ days during November.

Quarrying.—Employment with limestone quarrymen has improved during December. Chert quarrymen are busy.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as good in Chesterfield, moderate in Derby, Burton, Glossop, Ilkeston, Ripley, and Long Eaton; brass moulders and finishers in Burton and Derby as slack; iron and steel dressers, ironfounders and boilermakers as fair in Derby, moderate elsewhere; lace machine builders in Long Eaton as moderate; cycle makers as slack; farriers as good; wire drawers as fair.

Textile Trades.—Cotton weavers in Glossop, card and blowing room operatives, and surgical bandage makers report employment as good; calico printers as quiet; calico engravers as bad; lace workers as not good; elastic web weavers as bad; hosiery workers in Ilkeston and Belper as moderate; hard silk winders and doublers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives in Chesterfield, and bespoke tailors report employment as good. Factory tailoring operatives and makers of underclothing are fully employed. Employment with dress and mantle makers and milliners is declining.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is moderate.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby, but is slack in Long Eaton. Timber yard workers and coopers are fairly well employed.

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

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment in Nottingham has declined and is reported as dull in the larger and important branches, although fairly good in several of the minor sections. At Beeston, Stapleford, Bulwell and Kimberley, it is either moderate or dull.

Hosiery Trade.—The hand frame branch and rib top makers report employment as good on best work and on military contracts, but employment generally has further declined.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Fitters and mechanics are reported as fairly well employed on lace and hosiery machines, rather quiet on cycles, and slack or bad on general work. Employment is moderate with ironfounders, carriage makers and carriage straighteners; quiet with toolmakers; fair with needlemakers and brassfounders; good with boilermakers. It has declined with wheelwrights and blacksmiths, machine workers, smiths and strikers, and is bad with electrical workers. At Grantham employment generally is fairly good. With blast-furnacemen at Bulwell it has declined. Branches with 3,012 members have 93 (or 3·1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 77 (or 2·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is dull at Nottingham, and rather quiet in other parts of the district.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is reported as quieter with cabinet makers and coachmakers; fairly good with millers, upholsterers, French polishers, coopers, and packing-case makers; moderate with boxmakers.

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

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as moderate; ready-made tailoring operatives and mantle makers as fairly good; boot and shoe operatives as improved.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 28 collieries employing some 16,200 men show an average of rather more than 4½ days worked per week, a slight decline on November.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as improved with gas workers; as quiet with saddlers and leather dressers; as good with stationary-engine drivers, colliery engine men, and engine and crane men; as moderate with female cigar makers; as fair with bakers and confectioners. Railway workers report employment as less active though still good.

W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment has improved somewhat at Leicester, Hinckley and Anstey. It is quiet at Northampton, Daventry and Finedon; slack at Kettering, Desborough and Wellingborough.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is slack with ready-made tailoring operatives and bespoke tailors; good with corset makers and dressmakers; less regular with milliners, silk hat and cap makers.

Hosiery and Wool-spinning Trades.—Workpeople employed on pants, shirts and fancy hosiery are fairly well employed at Leicester and Loughborough. In the hose and half-hose branches work continues slack. It is good with trimmers at Leicester, but dull at Hinckley. Wool-spinning operatives are regularly employed.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment is good in the shoe gusset branch; dull in other departments.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In the boot and shoe machinery and type-making branches employment is satisfactory. At Leicester and Loughborough it is slack in the general and electric branches. It has improved slightly with cycle-makers.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment with coalminers shows little change. It remains good in all departments of stone quarrying, and is fairly good at the limestone works.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Leicester, Northampton, Loughborough and Rugby. Lithographic printers and bookbinders are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as slack with bricklayers, builders' labourers, joiners and painters. It is fair with stonemasons, slaters, tilers and plumbers.

Leather Trades.—Tanners and curriers are fairly well engaged at Northampton and Leicester, slack at Wellingborough.

Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment is reported as less regular with coachmakers and wagon builders and repairers. It is fair with cabinet makers, upholsterers and French polishers; slack with millers at Leicester.

Miscellaneous.—With railway workers employment is not so good in the mineral branch. It is good with farriers, gas stokers, saddlers, and tile and terra cotta workers; fairly good with cigar-makers; improving with cardboard box makers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment has been quiet. Most factories were closed for a week for holidays. Hollow-ware pressers have averaged 4½ days per week. Sanitary pressers report a further decline. Flat pressers have worked five days per week. Printers and transferrers continue fairly busy. Encaustic tile makers, artists, gilders, decorators, packers and crate makers have been fairly busy. Stilt and spurmakers have averaged 5 days per week. Designers, modellers, and mould makers are well employed. Throwers, turners and handlers are slack. Ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggarmakers have been fairly busy.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is dull, and all branches report a further decline.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment generally is good. *Mining and Quarrying.*—Coal and ironstone miners continue busy. Stone quarrymen are working well.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade is fairly good. At Congleton silk dressers are busier, and dyers are working full time; fustian cutters report employment as slack; silk and tape workers at Cheadle and Tean continue busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as slack. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone report a further slight improvement.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners have 3 per cent. unemployed. Bricklayers for the time of the year are working well.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers are fairly busy.

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

Lithographic artists and printers report employment as moderate. Bookbinders and machine rulers are working full time.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers and gas workers are busy. I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In East Worcestershire and South Staffordshire employment has fallen off in all branches of the iron and steel trades. In the sheet iron trade it is bad. In Shropshire the mills and forges are fairly well employed; the wire mills are slack.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment continues good in the engineering departments. An improvement is reported by cycle and motor makers. At Walsall the malleable iron workers are busy.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of edge tools, Brazil and plantation hoes, steel traps, malleable nails and protectors, electrical and gas fittings, heating apparatus, horseshoes, iron fences, hurdles, nuts and bolts. It is fair with railway axle, tyre, spring and carriage workers, with filesmiths, brassworkers, tinplate workers, spectacle frame makers, and the steel forgers at Wednesbury; moderate with iron plate workers at the Lye and Bilston. It has fallen off with the block chain makers at Cradley Heath. Employment is quiet with stampers and piercers, makers of stamped and light hollow-ware, gunlocks, tubes, black castings, and builders' ironmongery, with galvanisers and the anchor smiths at Cradley. It is slack with makers of latches, keys, locks, tips, tacks, cut nails, with the anvil and vice makers at Dudley, the chain makers and strikers at Old Hill, the nail makers at Hales-owen, and the spike and rivet makers at Black Heath.

Coal Mining.—On Cannock Chase employment has fallen off, half time being worked generally. At Tipton, Oldbury and Dudley the pits are working on the average $4\frac{1}{2}$ days per week; in the Hales-owen and Old Hill districts 5 days per week. In Shropshire employment at the pits is fairly good, at Tamworth it is a little slack.

Building Trades.—Employment is dull generally.

Glass Trades.—At Wordsley, Stourbridge and Brettle Lane all branches of the flint-glass trade are moderately employed.

Leather Trades.—The collar, harness and gig saddlers are not so busy. In other branches employment is good.

Clothing Trades.—There has been a decided improvement in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments. In the boot and shoe trade employment is good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is not good.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 19,067 members have 576 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 464 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Ten branches of engineers return employment as moderate, two as good; smiths and strikers as good; tool makers and ironfounders, as moderate; patternmakers as quiet. At Coventry and Redditch employment is reported as moderate, at West Bromwich as good. Employment in the cycle trade at Coventry is reported as bad, at Redditch as moderate; with electrical engineers as good; in the motor industry as still fair, but quieter.

Brass and Copper Trades.—In the brass trade employment is reported as fair. Metal rollers are moderately employed. Copper wire drawers are fairly well occupied. Fender and fire-brass makers report employment as quiet; at Dudley as bad.

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

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of axles, stoves, hinges, tubes, wrought hollow-ware, matchettes, and steel toys, report employment as good; tinplate workers, nail and oddside casters, file hand cutters and makers of machine-made rivets, cut nails, and edge tools as fair; wire nail makers and iron plate workers as quiet; bedstead makers as bad. At West Bromwich employment with spring and hollow-ware makers is reported as fair; in the nut and bolt trade as moderate; with iron workers as quiet. At Redditch fish-hook makers are busy; needle makers are quiet.

Building Trades.—Plumbers return employment as moderate, but employment generally is bad. At West Bromwich carpenters report employment as fair; bricklayers as moderate. At Coventry and Redditch employment is quiet.

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

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

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and woodworking machinists, coopers, cabinet makers, and coachmakers report employment as fair; carvers as bad. Employment in the railway and waggon shops continues good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with saddlers, gasworkers, and fitters, and in the military section of the gun trade; in the sporting section it is quiet. Letterpress printers report employment as moderate. At Coventry the watchmakers return employment as fair, weavers as quiet.—A. R. Fehcott.

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

Clothing Trades.—Ready-made tailoring factories are working full time. Bespoke tailors are fairly busy; dressmakers and boot and shoe operatives are slack; corset makers fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Silk and crape workers are not busy. Mat and matting weavers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment in Norwich is unsettled by the bricklayers' dispute. In other parts of the district it is good.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Shipwrights and mast and block makers are well employed at Lowestoft and Yarmouth. Electrical and general engineers are fully employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers are not busy. Bookbinders are fairly well employed.

Fishing Industry.—With the exception of trawl fishing, which is not good, this industry is at a standstill.

Miscellaneous.—Maltsters, organ builders, horticultural builders millers, oilcake workers, and saw mill workers are well employed. Workers in chocolate and sweet factories are on short time. Mineral water workers are not busy.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with engineers at Colchester, as good elsewhere. It is good with boiler-makers and moulders, dull with shipwrights.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull in the home trade, good in the export trade. Factory tailoring operatives in Ipswich and district are fairly employed. Corset makers are well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the mat and matting industry is good at Sudbury, Long Melford, Hadleigh and Lavenham; dull at Glemsford. The silk and crape workers at Halstead, and the factory silk workers at Sudbury report employment as good; hand-loom workers at Sudbury and furniture-silk weavers at Braintree are quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Printers report employment as good at Beccles, Bungay, Colchester and Chelmsford; dull at Ipswich. Lithographers and bookbinders have been busy.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour has been good at Harwich; fair at Ipswich. Employment is reported as good with brickmakers, maltsters, cabinet-makers and upholsterers; fair with farriers, dull with bricklayers and general labourers.

R. W. Mather.

**ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.
Bristol and District.**

General.—Branches of societies (not including coal miners) with 11,331 members have 469 (or 4.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 406 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair; the bespoke tailors as slack; the wholesale garment makers as fairly good. Hat makers are quiet.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The engineers, smiths and strikers, patternmakers and ironfounders report employment as moderate; boiler-makers as good; sheet iron and tinplate workers, toolmaker and brass finishers as fair; coachmakers as fair in Bristol, good at Gloucester, quiet at Swindon; shipwrights as slack.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Forest of Dean is moderate; in the Radstock district good; in and around Bristol fair.

Building Trades.—Employment at Bristol is moderate with plumbers; bad with painters; dull in other branches. It is moderate at Gloucester, Bath, Trowbridge, Swindon, and Hereford; dull at Taunton and Weston-super-Mare.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally is slack at Stroud and Tiverton, bad at Twerton-on-Avon, dull at Trowbridge.

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

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The cabinet makers report employment as moderate; upholsterers, polishers, sawyers, machinists and turners as quiet; coopers, lathrenders, and boxmakers as fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographic printers and engravers as moderate; bookbinders as fair; paper and paper bag makers as quiet; card-board boxmakers as good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment generally has been fair during the month.

Miscellaneous.—The cocoa and chocolate workers, bakers and tobacco-workers report employment as fair; the glass bottle-makers as good; the general labourers as slack. Electric car drivers are in demand.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Tin and copper miners continue well employed. In granite quarries employment has fallen off and is dull except in the western quarries. In limestone and slate quarries it is quiet. China clay workers are well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as moderate generally; ironfounders, boiler-makers, iron and steel shipbuilders and shipwrights as good in the Government establishments, but not so good in outside shops; brassworkers and tinplate workers as fair. Branches with 2,838 members have 16 unemployed, as against 25 at the end of November.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues dull.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as dull. Boot and shoe makers as fair. The improvement in collar and cuff factories has been maintained.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers are well employed and lithographic printers moderately so in Plymouth, Devonport and Exeter; elsewhere work is quiet. Bookbinders and paper rulers report employment as slightly improving.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and woodworking machinists report employment as bad; French polishers and upholsterers as quiet; coachbuilders as dull.

Dock and Quayside Work.—On the quayside general work has been dull. In the docks coal lumpers and grain carriers have been fairly employed. On clay and stone at Penryn, St. Austell, and Teignmouth work is good.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing has been bad on the whole and interfered with by stormy weather.

Miscellaneous.—Brickyard workers, excavators and navvies report employment as fair; brushmakers as dull; bakers as moderate. In market and fruit gardens scarcely anything can be done owing to bad weather.—W. Hedge.

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment at the coal mines, although not so brisk, continues good. It is also good at the lead and blende mines.

Quarrying.—Except in the Bethesda district employment is good at the slate quarries of Carnarvonshire, moderate at Festiniog. Employment at the granite set quarries is brisk; at the freestone, lime and roadstone quarries good.

Building Trades.—At Oswestry employment is slack; at Wrexham fair. At Colwyn Bay it is fair with joiners, slack with painters.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers at Oswestry report employment as fair, at Ruabon as good; the ironfounders at Wrexham as good; the coach makers at Rhyl as fair; the enginemen and boiler-men at Mostyn as good. Employment is reported as steady with blastfurnacemen, steel workers and wagon builders.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment in the woollen and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire during the month has been good. The bespoke tailors at Carnarvon and Rhyl report employment as quiet.

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

Brick and Terra-Cotta Trades.—Employment continues good in the Mold district; it is slack in the Ruabon district.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Returns show that generally the collieries have worked very regularly. The collieries in the Neath district have resumed full time, but are not brisk.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been a good average. In the iron ore, pitwood and timber trades dock workers have been better employed than usual. Increased activity in the shipment of crews has been noticeable.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Employment shows an improvement. Branches of engineers and ironfounders with 3,195 members have 77 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 83 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. Boiler-makers, shipwrights, helpers and general labourers were well employed at the end of the month.

Building Trades.—Except in the outlying districts nearly all branches report employment as bad. Branches of carpenters and joiners, and plumbers with 1,766 members have 119 (or 6.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 90 (or 5.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment shows a decline. Several important works are not working full time, and generally in the mechanics' department overtime has ceased.

Miscellaneous.—Lithographers and letterpress printers report employment as good. Metallurgical and chemical industries are quiet. Wagon builders and lifters and patent-fuel workers report employment as good.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.—Employment in this industry showed a marked decline compared with November, and was much worse than a year ago. At the end of December 313 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), as compared with 345 in November, and 397 at the end of December, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of December is estimated to be about 15,600.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches of societies with 12,830 members have 467 (or 3.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 893 (or 6.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Lothians is not so brisk, but continues good on the whole.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 29 mines employing 3,172 workpeople show that 2,623 were employed in mines working full time, and 549 in mines working 22 and under 24 days during the four weeks ended December 22nd.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,175 members have 95 (or 4.4 per cent.) idle, as against 107 (or 4.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. Branches in Falkirk with 3,672 members have 44 (or 1.2 per cent.) idle, as against 49 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November; about 300 ironfounders are on short time.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 632 members have 43 (or 6.8 per cent.) idle, as against 18 (or 3.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Textile Trades.—Employment with woollen spinners and weavers is good in Selkirk and Galashiels; in Hawick both spinners and weavers are having some broken time. The hosiery workers in Selkirk, Galashiels and Hawick are well employed. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as fair.

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

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,070 members have 95 (or 8.9 per cent.) idle, as against 75 (or 6.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as good; the coal porters and dock labourers have been well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,314 members have 29 (or 0.9 per cent.) idle, as against 28 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

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

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment has been fair. Branches with 15,304 members return 764 (or 5.0 per cent.) as idle, as against 528 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment has been fairly good during the month. Branches with 32,628 members return 1,000 (or 3.1 per cent.) as idle, as against 1,154 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Mining.—In Dumbartonshire collieries have averaged 11 days per fortnight. In Lanarkshire work has been fairly good. In Stirlingshire it has been more regular. Coal and ironstone mining has been fairly good in Ayrshire, good in Renfrewshire.

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

Building Trades.—Employment is fairly good with slaters, glaziers and joiners; dull in other branches.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors, tailors' machinists and pressers report employment as dull; clothiers' operatives and mantle makers as quiet. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as improved; knee shoe makers as fair; slipper-makers as dull.

Textile Trades.—Carpet weavers report employment as improving. Cotton weaving is fairly good on the whole. Employment in the silk trade is fair. In Newmilns employment is slack in lace mills; dull in muslins; fairly good in other branches; in Kilbirnie, Paisley, Greenock and Port Glasgow employment is good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as not so busy; bookbinders as improved; stereotypers as fairly good.

Glass Trades.—Bottle makers, decorative glass workers and flint glass cutters are busy.

Transport Trades.—Tramway men, railway men, carters and hackney carriage drivers are busy. Sailors and firemen and dock labourers have been well employed during the month.

Miscellaneous.—Bakers, pipe makers and finishers, potters, stoneware throwers, paviors, sett makers, gilders, curriers, spindle and flyer makers, scale-beam makers and cigarette makers, are busy. French polishers, mattress makers and brush-makers continue dull; saddlers are not so busy.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry is good, with a scarcity of labour in some branches. In the linen trade it remains moderate.

Coal Mining.—At the Fifeshire collieries employment continues fairly steady. Returns from pits employing 12,959 workpeople show an average of 5.3 days per week worked during the four weeks ending December 22nd, as compared with 5.2 days per week in November.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the engineering trades is fair on the whole, although with iron-moulders there is some slackness. The shipbuilding yards show no more activity, but employment with shipwrights is still good. Branches of societies with 2,166 members report 120 (or 5.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 131 (or 6.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—Employment in the various sections of the building trades is still dull, and in the furnishing trade continues quiet. Branches with 1,787 members return 194 (or 10.9 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 162 (or 9.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks has continued good.

Fishing Industry.—The stormy weather has prevented the boats from going to sea regularly, but fair success attended the haddock fishing towards the end of the month. A number of boats have been prosecuting the winter herring fishing, and on some days moderate catches were landed. The sparring fishing has been poor.

Miscellaneous.—In the printing and kindred trades employment has been good on the whole. Tailors and boot and shoe workers have been fairly well employed; bleachfield workers moderately so; floorcloth and linoleum makers have been busy.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies (omitting building masons and painters) with 4,745 members have 302 (or 6.4 per cent.) idle, as against 238 (or 5.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November.

Quarrying.—The masons and granite polishers report employment as fair; quarrymen and sett makers as good.

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

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

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,348 members have 80 (or 5.9 per cent.) idle, as against 66 (or 4.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders, shipwrights, blacksmiths, patternmakers, brassfinishers and horseshoers report employment as fair; engineers and ironmoulders as dull; tinplate workers as good.

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

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

Fishing.—In December, at the Port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 76,646 cwts., valued at £61,503, a decrease in quantity, but a slight increase in value as compared with November.

Miscellaneous.—The upholsterers, gasworkers, hackney carriage drivers, and comb makers report employment as good; saw-millers as quiet; bakers as bad; saddlers as dull; cabinet makers and general labourers as fair.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Carpenters, slaters, plasterers, and whiteners report employment as fair; painters as moderate; bricklayers as slack. Plumbers are still affected by a dispute.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Boilermakers, ironfounders, steam-engine makers, brassfounders and finishers report employment as good; whitesmiths as fair; engineers as moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers, saddlers, upholsterers, mill sawyers, brushmakers, cabinet makers, cart and wagon builders, and carpet planners report employment as fair; lath splitters as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers and machine minders report employment as good; bookbinders as dull; stereotypers as fair.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment with bootmakers is dull; with silk weavers good.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers report employment as fair; basket makers as bad; grain and general labourers, bottle-makers, stationary engine drivers, paviors, purveyors' assistants, confectioners, and mineral water operatives as good.—*E. L. Richardson.*

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches with 8,434 members have 218 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 201 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. Employment generally is not brisk.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 3,841 members have 96 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 91 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The power loom tenters report employment as bad; beetling enginemen, linen lappers, and women workers as dull; flax dressers, flax roughers, buckle and gill makers as moderate; power loom yarn dressers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches (excluding the carpenters and joiners who are still affected by a dispute) have about 24 per cent., mostly painters, unemployed. All sections report employment as either bad or dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches of societies with 876 members have 74 (or 8.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 60 (or 6.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The French polishers, mill-sawyers, and upholsterers report employment as dull; coachbuilders as slack; cabinet makers as quiet; packing-case makers as fair; coopers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches of societies with 891 members have 38 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 37 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; lithographic artists and designers as slack; letterpress printers as fair; machine rulers as quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as bad.

Miscellaneous.—Branches of societies with 1,888 members have 49 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of November. The bakers, butchers, carters, railway servants and municipal employees report employment as fair; locomotive engine drivers as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders fitters, turners, brass finishers and smiths report employment as fair throughout the district; iron moulders and copper-smiths as dull.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches is reported as bad.

Woodworking Trades.—The coopers, coach makers, and packing-case makers report a decline.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment with flax, tweed, and feather operatives continues fair; with tailors and boot and shoe operatives it is bad.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as fair with beef and pork butchers, bakers, and tramway employees; as dull with corporation employees, quay labourers, and coalporters.—*P. O'Shea.*

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during December was 412, or 45 more than in November, and 115 more than in December, 1899.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary Table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,435,110 persons (according to the latest available figures), 383 were reported killed, or 110 more than in December, 1899, and 7,767 injured by accidents, as compared with 6,983 reported injured in December, 1899. These figures give one death in December, 1900, for every 14,191 persons employed in those industries. During the year 1900, 4,443 persons were reported killed and 92,015 injured, as against 4,093 reported killed and 84,476 injured in the corresponding period of 1899.

In the remaining occupations included in the Tables, 29 persons were reported killed, and 1,085 injured in December, as compared with 24 killed and 1,051 injured in December, 1899.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	Dec., 1900.	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1900.	Dec., 1899.	
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	49	53	349	440	534,141
Other Accidents	4	6	920	1,016	—
Total Railway Service	53	59	1,469	1,456	534,141
Mines	93	73	393	329	764,166
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	7	10	67	69	97,995
Shipping	166	76	181	181	231,284
Factories	64	53	5,857	4,948	3,807,024
Total of above	383	273	7,767	6,983	5,435,110
Workshops	2	—	36	13	—
Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 21, 23	20	21	995	836	Cannot be stated.
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	7	3	144	202	—
Grand Total	412	297	8,853	8,031	—

DETAILED TABLES.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Railway Service—						
Brakemen and Goods	6	66	—	34	6	100
Guards	3	23	—	50	3	73
Engine Drivers	4	44	1	64	5	103
Firemen	—	9	—	12	—	21
Guards (Passenger)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	7	8	—	78	7	87
Porters	6	43	—	232	6	280
Shunters	10	67	—	19	10	86
Miscellaneous occupations (including Contractors' Servants)	13	83	3	431	16	514
Total for December, 1900	19	349	4	920	53	1,269
Total for December, 1899	53	440	6	1,016	59	1,456
Mines—						
Explosions of Firedamp	3	9	—	—	3	9
Falls of ground	40	134	—	—	40	134
Shaft accidents	7	7	—	—	7	7
Miscellaneous	22	175	21	68	43	243
Total for December, 1900	72	325	21	68	93	393
Total for December, 1899	60	279	18	50	73	329
Quarries over 20 feet deep.						
Explosives or Blasting	—	6	—	—	—	6
Falls of ground	1	11	—	—	1	11
During Ascent or Descent	—	1	—	—	—	1
Miscellaneous	6	40	—	9	6	49
Total for December, 1900	7	58	—	9	7	67
Total for December, 1899	8	58	2	11	10	69

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Shipping—						
On Trading Vessels—						
Sailing	34	—	18	19	52	19
Steam	61	3	45	147	106	150
On Fishing Vessels—						
Sailing	3	—	2	2	5	2
Steam	1	1	2	9	3	10
Total for December, 1900	99	4	67	177	166	181
Total for 3 months Oct. to December, 1900	205	12	212	511	417	623
Total for 3 months Oct. to December, 1899	180	33	197	501	377	534

	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Factories—						
(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—						
Adults	55	1,382	—	134	55	1,516
Young Persons	8	481	1	117	9	598
Children	—	4	—	4	—	8
Total	63	1,867	1	255	64	2,122
(b) Other Accidents—						
Adults	—	3,114	—	98	—	3,212
Young Persons	—	479	—	41	—	520
Children	—	2	—	1	—	3
Total	—	3,595	—	140	—	3,735
Total Factories—						
December, 1900	63	5,462	1	395	64	5,857
December, 1899	61	4,628	2	330	63	4,943

	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Workshops—						
Adults	1	18	—	9	1	27
Young Persons	1	4	—	5	1	9
Children	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Workshops—						
December, 1900	2	22	—	14	2	36
December, 1899	—	13	—	—	—	13

	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Factories & Workshops (classified by trades).						
Textiles—						
Cotton	1	232	—	118	1	350
Wool and Worsted	—	84	—	47	—	131
Other Textiles	—	40	—	39	—	79
Non-Textiles						
Extraction of Metals	5	132	—	—	5	132
Founding and Conversion of Metals	4	927	—	7	4	934
Machines, Engines and Engineering	13	1,140	—	8	13	1,148
Ship and Boat Building	6	803	—	—	6	803
Wood	3	200	—	2	3	202
Chemicals, &c.	6	159	1	4	7	163
Other Non-Textile Industries	27	1,762	—	134	27	1,916
Total for December, 1900	65	5,484	1	409	66	5,893
Total for December, 1899	61	4,641	2	330	63	4,961

	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 21, 23						
Docks, Wharves and Quays	10	409	—	—	10	409
Warehouses	5	329	—	1	5	330
Buildings to which Act applies	4	137	—	1	4	138
Laundries	1	9	—	19	1	28
Total for December, 1900	20	884	—	21	20	905
Total for December, 1899	21	810	—	26	21	836

	Construction or Repair.		Use or Working.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894—						
Bridge	1	4	—	3	1	7
Canal	2	2	—	—	2	2
Railway	1	50	—	—	1	50
Tramroad	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tramway	—	3	—	18	—	21
Tunnel	—	26	—	—	—	26
Other Works	2	35	1	3	3	38
Traction Engines	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total for December, 1900	6	120	1</			

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1900.

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

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during December affected 26,599 workpeople, by, on balance, an advance of 10 1/4 d. weekly per head, 18,383 workpeople receiving advances averaging 1s. 9 1/4 d. weekly per head, and 8,216 sustaining decreases averaging 1s. 1 1/4 d. weekly per head.

Increases.—The principal increase was that affecting 12,000 bricklayers in the London district.

Decreases.—The decreases affected 8,175 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Durham, West Cumberland, Lancashire and North Staffordshire, and 41 building trade operatives in Scotland.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 765 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting 10,753 workpeople in the iron and steel industries took effect under sliding scales, and the remaining changes, affecting 15,081 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

Summary of Changes in 1900.—See special article on page 3.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table for COAL MINING. Includes entries for Halesowen, Nottingham District, and Oakengates.

Table for IRON AND STEEL TRADES. Includes entries for Consett and Jarrow, Cleveland and Durham, Middlesbrough, Teams, Gateshead, West Cumberland, Workington, Barrow-in-Furness, Ulverston, and North Staffordshire.

Table for OTHER METAL TRADES. Includes entries for North and South Shields, Potteries, and Walsall.

Table for EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Includes entries for Newcastle-on-Tyne, Leeds, Pontypridd, Broughty Ferry, Forfar, and Glasgow/Leith.

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

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1900.

THE changes in hours of labour reported in December affected 147 workpeople, whose working time was reduced by 2 hours per week.

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

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of December, and also during the year ended December 31st, 1900, with comparative figures for 1899:—

Table with columns: Group of Trades, No. of Unions, Membership of Unions, No. of Unions, Membership of Unions.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended January 5th amounted to £7,894,424, an increase of £206,768 (or 2.7 per cent.), as compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during December was £702,787, an increase of £53,897 as compared with December, 1899.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during December numbered 329, being 17 less than in December, 1899, 8 less than in December, 1898, and 11 more than in December, 1897.

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

TRADE UNIONS IN DENMARK.

THE following account of trade unions in Denmark is based on a recent article* by Hr. J. Jensen, Chairman of the General Federation of Danish Trade Unions.

The total number of the Danish trade unions is 1,196, with an aggregate membership of 96,359. Of these 1,196 trade unions, 1,156, with a membership of 89,326, belong to central federations, of which there are 52, each of these organisations dealing with a separate group of occupations; the remaining 40 unions (with an aggregate membership of 7,033) are independent local societies.

In addition to the central federations formed for separate trades, there is the general federation above referred to, which deals with all trades, and to which 1,074 of the Danish trade unions (1,051 being unions belonging to central federations, and 23 being independent local societies), with a total membership of 82,140, are affiliated.

The Table below classifies the Danish trade unions according to groups of trades:—

Table with columns: Group of Trades, No. of Unions, Membership of Unions, Group of Trades, No. of Unions, Membership of Unions.

It is estimated that, so far as concerns the workpeople employed in industry and handicraft (over 18 years of age), rather more than three out of four men and nearly one woman in four are members of trade unions, while in some trades (especially in building trades) fully 95 per cent. of all the workpeople are organised.

It is stated that dispute pay is paid by 1,136 unions, with an aggregate membership of 88,763; unemployed pay by 465 unions, with 32,220 members; travelling pay by 676 unions, with 37,135 members; sick pay by 78 unions, with 3,932 members; accident pay by 82 unions, with 5,563 members; and funeral benefit by 191 unions, with 10,050 members; 48 unions, with 5,424 members, do not pay any benefits of the classes just referred to.

* Correspondenzblatt der General Kommission der Gewerkschaften Deutschlands, November 12th, 1900.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty fresh disputes were reported as having begun in December, 1900, compared with 48 in November, 1900, and 28 in December, 1899. In these 20 disputes, 1,991 workpeople were directly and 1,657 indirectly affected, a total of 3,648, which compares with 18,099 in November, 1900, and 6,116 in December, 1899.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 1 dispute took place, involving 208 workpeople; in the mining industry 4 disputes, involving 490 workpeople; in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades 5 disputes, involving 704 workpeople; in the textile trades 3 disputes, involving 1,108 workpeople; in the transport involving 704 workpeople; in the textile trades 3 disputes, involving 995 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades 4 disputes, involving 143 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 20 disputes, 3 arose on demands for advances, and 5 on objections to reductions in rates of wages. Five disputes arose on other wages questions, 4 on the employment of particular classes or persons, and 3 on questions of working arrangements.

Results.—Twelve new disputes, involving 2,723 workpeople, and 4 old disputes, involving 637 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 16 new and old disputes terminated, 5, involving 942 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 6, involving 676 persons, in favour of the employers; and 3, involving 831 persons, resulted in compromise. With regard to the remaining 2 disputes, involving 911 persons, certain points are still under consideration. At the end of December, 29 old disputes, involving altogether about 6,000 workpeople, were reported to be still unsettled.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The aggregate duration in December of all the disputes, new and old, was about 210,000 days, compared with 215,500 days in November, 1900, and 70,000 in December, 1899.

Summary for 1900.—The aggregate duration was 3,785,000 working days, compared with 2,516,416 in 1899. See special article page 4.

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

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER, 1900.

		1 Dispute.		BUILDING TRADES.		208 Workpeople affected.	
Locality.	Occupation.	Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.*	Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
Blackpool and St. Anne's	Carpenters and Joiners	208	...	Dec. 8	...	Against proposed reduction in wages of rd. per hour	No settlement reported.
4 Disputes. MINING. 490 Workpeople affected.							
Wigan (near)	Coal Hewers and Drawers	19	...	5	7	Against notice to discontinue payment of special allowance when working in difficult places	Work resumed on employers' terms.
Stoke-on-Trent	Waggoners, Drivers, Jiggers, Takers-off, and Other Workpeople	119	237	10	4	For advance in wages	Work resumed on old terms.
Aberavon	Coal Hewers	30	...	1	—	Against introduction of a price list in lieu of day wages	Work resumed on old conditions pending the fixing of a price list.
Armadales	Coal Miners	85	...	17	...	Because certain men were allowed to work while others were idle	No settlement reported.
5 Disputes. METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 704 Workpeople affected.							
Blyth	Platers' Helpers, Platers and Marker	81	32	15	2	Refusal of employers to continue system of paying "subs" before regular pay-day	Work resumed unconditionally.
W. Hartlepool	Platers, Riveters, Caulkers, Cutters, Holders-up & Helpers	470	...	10	23	To compel certain members of trade union to pay fines for breach of apprentice rules	Men paid the fines.
Sheffield	Silversmiths	20	...	11	...	For payment of standard prices, equal distribution of work, and right of free association	No settlement reported.
Birkenhead	Ship Joiners	75	2	3	...	Dispute as to alteration in working rules	No settlement reported.
Greenock	Sailmakers	24	...	4	6	Because certain work had been performed by joiners instead of sailmakers	Work resumed unconditionally.
3 Disputes. COTTON MANUFACTURE. 1,108 Workpeople affected.							
Burnley	Weavers and Other Workpeople	251	58	22	2	Alleged unfair dismissal of a weaver	Dismissed weaver reinstated.
Preston	Spinners, Piecers, Crockers, Cardroom Hands, Weavers, &c	51	400	20	...	Alleged bad material and low wages	No settlement reported.
Reddish, Stockport	Piecers, Spinners, Cardroom Hands, &c.	63	285	3	12	For appointment of all minders from among the piecers	Two piecers to be promoted for every outsider appointed.
3 Disputes. TRANSPORT TRADES. 995 Workpeople affected.							
N.E. Railway	Mineral Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, Shunters, &c.	225	584	10	7	Against instructions for brake vans to be used indiscriminately instead of each guard having a van specially allotted to him	Work resumed, pending conference for arrangement of future conditions.
London, E.	Carmen	130	...	3	2	For advances in wages of 3s. and 2s. per week	Advances granted averaging 2s. 6d. per week.
London, E.C.	Carmen	56	...	17	...	For advance in wages	No settlement reported.
4 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 143 Workpeople affected.							
Leeds	Tailors, Machinists, &c. (Jewish)	16	...	14	...	For weekly wages instead of piece rates, for employment of union men only, and against being compelled to work on Saturdays	No settlement reported.
Manchester	Slipper Operatives	7	5	20	...	Against proposed reduction in price of 3d. per dozen pairs	No settlement reported.
Swadlincote	Sanitary Pressers and Other Workpeople	48	54	12	19	Against discharge of a colleague	Work resumed, case of discharged workman to be considered afterwards.
Buckle	Bakers	13	...	17	1	To obtain employers' signatures to working rules	Employers signed the rules.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.*	Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
Hindley	Cotton Weavers and Other Workpeople	130	20	Nov. 23	14	Against dismissal of a colleague	Work resumed on employers' terms, some of the strikers summoned and fined for leaving without notice.
Derby	Coal Hewers and Other Workpeople	453	...	Nov. 27	6	For advance in prices of 1d. per ton for working with lamps	Advance granted of 3d. per ton.
Bristol	Tinplate Workers and Other Workpeople	5	9	Nov. 12	—	For minimum rate of wages of 7d. per hour	Some returned on old terms, others were replaced.
Cardiff	Engineers and Smiths' Hammermen	16	4	Nov. 30	8	Refusal to work with a non-unionist	Non-unionist withdrawn.

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

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December 383 fresh applications for work were registered by eight Bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns, and 461 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 157 persons, of whom 76 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

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

WORK DONE IN DECEMBER.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Perma-nently.	Tem-porarily.
Summary by Bureaux.				
Central Bureau—50, Chancery-lane, W.C.	34	30	14	4
Society for Promoting Training and Employment—22, Berners-street, W.	27	30	7	19
Y. W. C. A.—26, George-street	335	218	44	13
Hanover-square, W. (2)	33	47	13	15
Other Bureaux	34	58	14	14
Total of 8 Bureaux	461	383	92	65
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	16	36	5	1
Shop Assistants	2	5	1	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	31	29	12	16
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	25	25	5	18
Apprentices and Learners	6	4	2	1
Domestic Servants	352	221	60	26
Miscellaneous	29	63	7	13
Total Number in December, 1900	461	383	92	65
Total Number in November, 1900	756	662	144	76
Total Number in December, 1899	470	374	141	—
Dundee Labour Bureau	8	60	4	1

The number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 554 to 352, and the number of servants applying from 369 to 221; the number engaged for permanent employment fell from 107 to 60. The number of fresh applications from employers for dressmakers and milliners fell from 70 to 31, and the number requiring such situations from 34 to 29; the number engaged through the Bureaux fell from 33 to 28. Of the 8 situations offered at the Dundee Labour Bureau, 4 were for mill and factory operatives; of the 60 wanting situations 39 were mill and factory operatives, and 15 were charwomen.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1878. ORDER OF HOME SECRETARY FIXING STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY AND DUE ATTENDANCE.

By Section 26 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, it is provided that, when a child of 13 years has obtained from a person authorised by the Board of Education a certificate of having attained such standard of proficiency in reading, writing, and arithmetic, or such standard of due attendance at a certified efficient school, as may be fixed by the Home Secretary, with the consent of that Board, that child shall be deemed to be a young person for the purposes of the Act.

The Home Secretary, with the consent of the Board of Education, has, by an Order published in the *London Gazette* of January 1st, ordered that, so far as concerns England and Wales, the standard for the purpose of a certificate of previous due attendance "shall, in the case of any child, be 350 attendances after such child has attained five years of age in not more than two schools during each year for five years, whether consecutive or not." (The number of attendances required by the standard hitherto in force is 250.)

A note is appended to the Order pointing out that "in districts where the Bye-laws made by the School Authority under the Elementary Education Acts apply to children between 13 and 14 years of age, a child must also satisfy the conditions of total exemption prescribed by the Bye-laws, before he can be legally employed full time in a factory or workshop."

The new Order (which will take the place of the existing Order of August 7th, 1893), is to take effect from and after July 1st, 1901.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during December was 11,409, as compared with 10,437 in December, 1899. During the year 1900* the number of passengers was 299,238, being 58,542 (or 24.3 per cent.) more than in 1899.

British and Irish.—Of the 11,409 passengers in December, 6,812 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 1,466 as compared with a year ago, chiefly due to a larger number proceeding to South Africa. The number of British and Irish passengers for the twelve months shows an increase of 23,103 (or 15.8 per cent.) the figures for 1900* being 169,465, and for 1899 146,362. The following Table shows that there has been a marked increase in 1900 in the numbers bound for the United States and South Africa:—

Destination.	Total for year ended—				
	Dec., 1900.	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1900.*	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1898.
United States	2,965	2,669	102,841	92,482	80,494
British North America	94	196	18,818	16,410	17,640
Australasia	1,310	1,055	14,980	11,467	10,693
South Africa	1,331	583	20,857	14,432	19,756
Other places	882	843	11,969	11,571	12,061
Total	6,812	5,346	169,465	146,362	140,644

Foreign.—The remainder of the 11,409 passengers in December, viz., 4,597, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 514 less than in December, 1899. For the year 1900* and 1899 the numbers are 129,773 and 94,334 respectively.

Alien Immigration.—During December 6,702 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 2,023 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 425 as compared with December, 1899. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,679,† or 745 more than a year ago. For the year 1900* the number of aliens en route to America or elsewhere was 71,696, and the number not so stated, 77,441,† compared with 49,947 and 64,246† respectively in 1899. The figures for the different periods are shown in the following Table:—

	Total for years ended—			
	December, 1900.	December, 1899.	December, 1900.*	December, 1899.
Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	4,679†	3,934†	77,441†	64,246†
Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	2,023	2,448	71,696	49,947
Total	6,702†	6,382†	149,137†	114,193†

QUEENSLAND LABOUR BUREAU AND RELIEF.

This Bureau in 1899 registered 6,568 unemployed (as against 6,272 in 1898) of whom 5,750 either obtained engagements or were assisted to reach localities where work was procurable (as against 6,074 in 1898). This increase in the supply and falling off in the demand for labour is attributed largely to special conditions resulting from the long drought on the one hand and the exigencies of sugar farming on the other.

The total cost of Government relief throughout the Colony was about £5,262, or £611 less than in the preceding year. Of this £2,819 was expended on food in Brisbane. The average monthly number of families fed was 336 in the first and 323 in the latter half of the year.

* These figures for the year 1900 are subject to correction in the annual returns. † These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,050 in December, 1900; 972 in December, 1899; and 14,962 and 13,562 respectively for the years 1900 and 1899.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of December was 333,444, corresponding to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1900.

Compared with November, 1900, an increase is shown of 7,027 in the number relieved, and of 4 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. All the districts show an increase in the rate, the largest increases being in Dublin, (13 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford, and Limerick District (10), Central London (9) and Hull, Leicester, Bristol, and Galway (8 each).

Compared with December, 1899, the number of persons relieved has increased by 3,727, but the rate per 10,000 remains the same. Nineteen districts show decreases, of which the largest are Belfast (20 per 10,000), Wigan (18), Wolverhampton (13), Paisley and Greenock District (12), and Central London (10). In the other sixteen districts increases are shown, the most marked increases being in Dublin (21 per 10,000), Manchester (19), Cork, Waterford, and Limerick District (11), and Bradford (10).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of December, 1900.			Rate per 10,000 of estimated population.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolises.						
West District ...	10,846	2,689	13,535	167	+ 2	- 6
North District ...	14,566	8,289	22,855	212	+ 1	- 6
Central District ...	7,024	2,917	9,941	447	+ 9	- 10
East District ...	12,726	4,370	17,096	238	+ 3	- 5
South District ...	21,147	18,610	39,757	229	+ 5	- 3
Total Metropolises ...	66,309	36,875	103,184	296	+ 4	- 5
West Ham ...	2,453	8,694	11,147	237	+ 7	+ 9
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	1,589	3,974	5,563	143	+ 3	- 2
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,077	3,680	4,757	216	+ 4	- 6
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	3,614	7,721	11,335	151	+ 5	+ 5
Wigan District ...	1,755	6,458	8,213	203	+ 2	- 18
Manchester District ...	9,188	8,226	17,414	197	+ 2	+ 19
Liverpool District ...	10,113	7,262	17,375	187	+ 5	+ 2
Bradford District ...	1,376	3,012	4,388	120	+ 3	+ 10
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,100	3,503	4,603	122	+ 3	+ 4
Leeds District ...	1,942	5,306	7,248	164	+ 3	- 2
Barnsley District ...	592	2,910	3,502	104	+ 3	- 9
Sheffield District ...	2,507	2,971	5,478	143	+ 3	- 3
Hull District ...	1,273	5,009	6,282	266	+ 8	+ 2
North Staffordshire ...	1,807	6,190	7,997	231	+ 5	+ 8
Nottingham District ...	1,811	5,088	6,899	181	+ 6	- 5
Leicester District ...	1,188	2,787	3,975	190	+ 8	- 3
Wolverhampton District ...	3,261	12,280	15,541	276	+ 4	- 13
Birmingham District ...	4,519	2,833	7,352	134	+ 4	+ 7
Bristol District ...	2,578	6,833	9,411	283	+ 8	- 4
Cardiff & Swansea ...	1,735	6,663	8,398	238	+ 3	+ 4
Total "Other Districts" ...	53,025	103,006	156,031	186	+ 4	+ 1
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District ...	4,040	15,375	19,415	224	+ 4	+ 7
Paisley & Greenock District ...	651	2,436	3,087	196	+ 3	- 12
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,604	5,405	7,009	192	+ 5	+ 8
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	1,006	2,764	3,770	188	+ 3	- 1
Aberdeen ...	513	2,702	3,215	232	+ 4	+ 4
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	367	1,234	1,601	177	+ 4	+ 4
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	8,181	29,916	38,097	210	+ 4	+ 4
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District ...	6,605	4,682	11,287	319	+ 13	+ 21
Belfast District ...	3,333	280	3,613	108	+ 4	- 20
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ...	4,436	4,948	9,384	406	+ 10	+ 11
Galway District ...	343	358	701	202	+ 8	- 5
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	14,717	10,268	24,985	262	+ 9	+ 3
Total for above 35 districts in December, 1900	144,685	188,789	333,444	206	+ 4	...

* 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.
† Including Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

DURING December the 10 Bureaux furnishing Returns registered 1,442 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,355 in December, 1899, an increase of 87. Work was found by these Bureaux for 925 persons, of whom 607 (423 males and 184 females) were engaged by private employers, 197 (including 2 females) by Local Authorities, and 121 males by the Salvation Army. The number remaining on the registers at the end of December was 994, as against 1,076 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in December.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Worked by Bureaux.			
	Dec., 1900.	Dec., 1899.	Dec., 1900.	Dec., 1899.	Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authorities.	
London.								
St. Pancras ...	125	121	85	168	81	99	...	48
Battersea ...	86	79	38	23	35	23	...	54
Islington ...	215	265	57	68	31	63	...	406
St. Martin ...	106	112	113	110	61	52	...	5
Hackney ...	75	103	2	26	2	9	...	94
Salvation Army ...	225	139	101	44	{ 101 } { 144* }	36	...	...
Provincial.								
Ipswich ...	24	9	46	29	17	13	...	...
Plymouth ...	188	176	134	162	123	125	...	6
Liverpool ...	80	63	5	3	1	...	...	2
Glasgow ...	318	294	325	126	155	152	...	3
Total of 10 Bureaux	1,442	1,355	886	759	728	716	197	564

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

Engaged by Private Employers.	Men.	No. permanently engaged.		Total.
		Engaged.	Temporarily engaged.	
Building Trades	22	42	64
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c.	30	18	48
Porters and Messengers	39	10	49
General Labourers	37	9	46
Other Occupations	39	13	52
Lads and Boys
Total Males	194	229	423
Women and Girls:—				
Dressmakers and Semstresses	58	15	73
Domestic Servants	21	69	90
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	12	8	20
Other Occupations
Total Females	91	95	184
Total engaged by Private Employers	285	322	607
Engaged by Local Authorities.				
Men, Lads and Boys:—				
Roadmen	1	44	45
Dustmen	40	40
Stone Breaking	10	62	72
Other Occupations	2	...	2
Women and Girls
Total engaged by Local Authorities	13	184	197
Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.				
Men	121	121
Grand Total for 10 Bureaux	288	627	915

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

Occupation.	No. on Register at end of	
	Dec., 1900.	Dec., 1899.
Men:—		
Building, Engineering and Metal Trades ...	140	124
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c. ...	97	82
Clerks and Warehousemen ...	35	54
Porters and Messengers ...	93	94
General Labourers ...	275	311
Other Occupations ...	65	96
Total Men ...	701	761
Lads and Boys ...	95	85
Women and Girls:—		
Charwomen, Daily Work, &c. ...	125	151
Servants ...	36	45
Others ...	37	34
Total Women and Girls ...	198	230
Grand Total for 10 Bureaux ...	994	1,076

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.
† Of these, 88 were stated to be engaged as boardmen and bill distributors.

FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Summary for December.

The trade returns for December, 1900, show an increase as compared with the corresponding period of 1899 in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, and in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, but a decrease in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for December, 1900, were valued at £46,446,662, as compared with £40,738,896 for December, 1899, an increase of £5,707,766, or 14.0 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £28,699,192, as against £27,664,380 in December, 1899—a net increase of £1,034,812. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures alone were valued at £23,611,972 in December, 1900, and £22,038,489 in December, 1899—an increase of £1,573,483, or 7.1 per cent. The value of foreign and colonial merchandise exported in December, 1900, shows a decrease as compared with December, 1899, of £538,671, or 9.5 per cent.

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

	Month ended 31st Dec.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1899.	1900.		
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	£ 17,701,626	£ 19,519,064	£ 1,817,438	—
Metals ...	2,443,192	2,980,731	537,539	—
Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances ...	404,926	408,700	3,774	—
Oils ...	854,319	856,491	2,172	—
Raw Materials for Manufactures Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles ...	11,000,481	13,599,449	2,598,968	—
Articles ...	8,334,352	9,091,227	756,875	—
Total ...	£ 40,738,896	£ 46,446,662	£ 5,707,766	—

The imports of wheat in December, 1900, show an increase of 314,730 cwt. in quantity, and £167,893 in value, as compared with December, 1899. Barley has increased 333,570 cwt., and £87,829. All other kinds of corn (except peas and maize) show a decrease in both quantity and value, viz., oats, 135,900 cwt., and £24,397; beans, 26,520 cwt., and £6,826; oatmeal, 8,630 cwt., and £9,597; maize meal or Indian corn meal, 73,249 cwt., and £15,585; and other kinds of corn and meal, 33,580 cwt., and £7,058. Peas show a decrease of 17,880 cwt. in quantity, and an increase of £5,172 in value, and maize or Indian corn a decrease of 418,200 cwt., and an increase of £134,331.

The imports of raw cotton have increased 923,131 cwt. in quantity and £3,466,783 in value, and flax, hemp, jute, thrown silk and goats' wool, other than mohair, also show increases in quantity and value. On the other hand, the imports of raw silk, goats' wool (mohair), and sheep or lambs' wool show decreases in both quantities and values—the latter article as much as 9,438,775 lbs. and £644,147. Other raw materials in general show decreases in quantity and value, the chief exceptions being sheepskins and wood and timber (hewn).

Exports.—The following Table shows the value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month ended 31st December, 1900, as compared with a like period of 1899, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month ended Dec. 31st.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1899.	1900.		
Animals, living ...	£ 78,884	£ 60,132	—	£ 18,752
Articles of Food and Drink ...	1,020,394	1,189,741	169,347	—
Raw Materials ...	2,578,063	3,293,001	714,938	—
Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, viz.—				
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	8,260,334	8,630,194	369,860	—
Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery and Ships) ...	3,500,575	3,087,981	—	£ 412,594
Machinery and Millwork ...	1,593,013	1,593,854	841	—
Ships, new (not registered as British) ...	632,270	857,322	225,052	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,899,047	524,691	—	£ 4,374,356
Total ...	£ 23,038,489	£ 23,611,972	£ 573,483	—

The exports of coal, coke, and fuel in December, 1900, show an increase of 115,561 tons in quantity and £799,543 in value as compared with December, 1899. The exports of sheep and lambs' wool show a decrease of 764,800 lbs. and £40,269.

The exports of cotton yarn have decreased 2,872,500 lbs. in quantity but increased £19,105 in value, and the exports of cotton

piece goods have decreased 18,829,400 yards in quantity, but show an increase in value of £311,013. Jute yarn has shown a decrease in quantity and value, but jute piece goods have decreased in quantity 705,100 yards, and increased in value £11,979.

Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during December, 1900, amounted to 2,999,199 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,384,798 tons, as against 2,809,763 tons entered, and 3,286,120 tons cleared in December, 1899. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes, during December, 1900, amounted to 2,326,588 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,289,375 tons, as against 2,443,062 tons entered and 2,411,012 tons cleared in December, 1899.

The Year's Trade and Shipping.

Trade.—The total aggregate value of the trade of the United Kingdom for the year 1900, as compared with 1899 and 1898 was as follows:—

	1898.	1899.	1900.
Imports ...	£ 470,545,000	£ 485,036,000	£ 523,633,000
Exports ...	294,014,000	349,555,000	354,551,000
Total ...	£ 764,559,000	£ 834,591,000	£ 878,184,000

The increase in the value of the trade of 1900 over that of 1899 and 1898 respectively, is therefore seen to be as follows:—

	Increase of 1900 over 1899.	Increase of 1900 over 1898.
Imports ...	£ 38,597,000	£ 53,088,000
Exports ...	£ 25,016,000	£ 60,537,000
Total ...	£ 63,613,000	£ 113,625,000

Shipping.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the year ended December, 1900 amounted to 36,195,510 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 43,742,219 tons, as against 36,225,876

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN DECEMBER.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in December it will be seen that 1 Trade Union, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 4 Co-operative Associations for Production, 1 Working Men's Club, 17 Friendly Societies and 37 branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 2 Building Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during the month. Two Trade Unions, 5 Industrial and Provident Societies, 17 Friendly Societies, 549 branches of Friendly Societies, and 14 Building Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled, while one Co-operative Society is stated to have amalgamated with another Society.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—Scottish Hackney Carriage and Tramway Employees Union, 47, Belmount-street, Aberdeen. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—Kirriemuir Coal Soc., Ltd., James-street, Kirriemuir; St. Andrews Co-op., Soc., Ltd., 69, Market-street, St. Andrews. Ireland.—Ballyshannon Co-op. Home Industries, Ballyshannon Lace School, Donegal. (B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—Hull General Shipwrights, Ltd., Oddfellows' Hall, Lowgate, Hull; Cymmer Corrwg and Gwynfi Co-op. Bakery Soc., Ltd., Glamorgan House, Cymmer, Glamorgan. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Broughshane Co-op. Agricultural and Flax Soc., Broughshane, Antrim; Drumholme Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Bridgetown, Donegal. (C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Tudhoe and Spennymoor Working Men's Club and Institute, Ltd., Club House, King-street, Tudhoe Grange, Spennymoor. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 3; Dividing, 7; Collecting, 1; Specially authorised, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 3. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Specially authorised, 1. (B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—34. Scotland.—3. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—2. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—International Cigarette Makers; Clyde Steam Tug Boatmen's Soc. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Cambridge Builders, Ltd., Friendly Societies Institute, Cambridge; Lovers of Zion Colonisation Soc., Ltd., 59, Bricklane, Spitalfields, London, E.; Llanhilleth Working Men's Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Store Premises, Llanhilleth, Crumlin, Mon. (amalgamated with another society); Lichfield Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 5, Bone-street, Lichfield; Hinckley Boot Productive Soc., Ltd., John-street, Hinckley. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 6; Dividing, 2. Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 5; Female, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Ordinary Friendly, 1; Branches, 549. Scotland.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 1. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 2; notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; notice of termination of dissolution, 6; notice of commencement of winding-up, 2. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

HOMEWORK IN BELGIUM.*

THE Belgian Labour Department has issued the third volume of the series of Reports embodying the results of the inquiries which it has caused to be made respecting homework in Belgium. The present volume deals with the nailmaking industry in the Walloon district, and the glovemaking industry in the provinces of Brabant and East Flanders. Each industry forms the subject of a Report by a separate investigator. As to the subjects dealt with in the two preceding volumes of this series, see GAZETTE, August, 1900, p. 256.

* Les Industries à Domicile en Belgique, Volume III., Ministère de l'Industrie et du Travail, Office du Travail, Brussels, 1900. Société belge de Librairie, Rue Treurenberg, 16. Price, about 2s. 6d.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN DECEMBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con-victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:				
Neglecting to Limewash ...	9	9	£ 2 11 0	£ 3 11 0
Allowing Wearing Apparel to be made in a place where there is infectious disease ...	1	1	4 0 0	1 0 0
Neglecting to provide separate or suitable sanitary conveniences ...	5	5	1 3 0	0 9 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	23	23	70 10 6	11 17 9
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	41	41	33 8 6	18 15 6
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour ...	54	54	37 12 6	15 17 8
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	94	92	49 2 6	46 17 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	7	7	1 10 0	3 14 0
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays ...	2	2	4 0 0	0 4 0
At night ...	13	13	20 18 0	5 16 6
Other ...	3	3	3 5 0	2 9 2
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers ...	23	23	25 12 6	3 7 0
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	16	16	13 13 0	3 19 6
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	10	9	13 5 0	3 12 3
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ...	4	4	2 0 0	3 6 0
Other Offences ...	3	3	2 0 0	1 15 0
By Workmen:				
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c. ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 12 6
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules ...	1	1	0 1 0	0 5 6
Employment before or after legal hours ...	2	2	1 0 0	1 1 0
By Parents:				
Conniving at personation of young persons...	11	10	0 5 0	4 5 0
Total for December, 1900...	323	319	286 7 6	137 16 4
Total for December, 1899 ...	260	248	239 1 6	109 3 10

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu-tions.	Con-victions.	Cases with-drawn.	Cases dis-mitted.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Shafts and Man-holes...	1	—	—	—	£ 5 0 0
Miscellaneous ...	1	—	—	—	11 11 2
By Workmen:					
Safety Lamps ...	2	2	—	—	2 9 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	5	5	—	—	4 12 0
Timbering ...	1	1	—	—	1 11 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c. ...	17	15*	—	2	22 18 0
Riding on Trams ...	20	20	—	—	20 10 0
Miscellaneous ...	47	46	—	1	37 14 9
Total for December, 1900	94	91	—	3	108 6 5
Total for December, 1899 ...	42	42	—	—	39 9 2

UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.—During December, 1900, there were no Prosecutions under this Act. In December, 1899, there were 7 Prosecutions and Convictions, and the Fines and Costs imposed amounted to £17.10s. 3d.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu-tions.	Con-victions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:				
Submersion of Disc ...	1	1	£ 100 0 0	£ 7 7 0
Trawling without Lights ...	1	1	7 0 0	†
Excessive Deck Cargo ...	1	1	20 0 0	2 3 2
By Seamen:				
Wilfully disobeying the commands of Chief Officer of Coastguard and Receiver of Wreck ...	5	5	10 0 0	†
Wilful breach of duty tending to endanger ship ...	1	1	†	...
Total for Dec., 1900	9	9	137 0 0	9 10 2
Total for Dec., 1899	6	6	137 14 0	5 8 8

* One offender was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment.

† Included in Penalties. † Six months' hard labour.