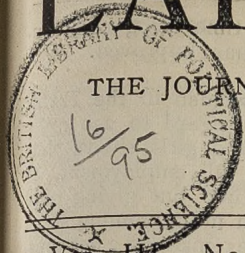


THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

The month of February has been abnormal as regards employment in out-door trades. Owing to the frost, which lasted through the greater part of the month, many branches of out-door labour were almost at a standstill, the result being a considerable increase in the number of the unemployed, and of applicants for poor-relief. Towards the close of the month matters improved, but at the end the percentage of unemployed in unions connected with the Building Trades was more than twice as great as at the corresponding time last year.

During the month the labour market has also been disturbed by differences between employers and employed in the Boot and Shoe and other important Trades, threatening to lead to widespread stoppages of work. For further details, see pages 80 and 82. Notwithstanding the above causes of depression, there are some signs of improvement in employment in the skilled trades generally, and there has been, on the whole, a slight reduction in the percentage of unemployed members of unions making returns, which would have been more marked but for the severity of the weather.

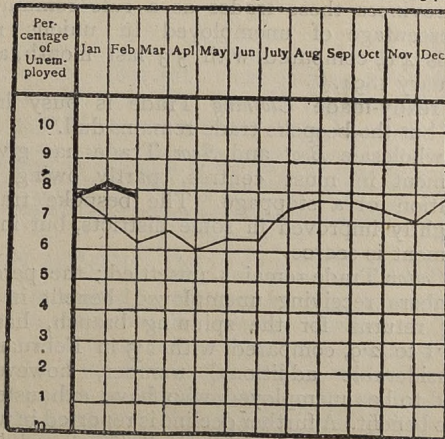
Eighty-four trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 385,594, report the total number of unemployed members at the end of February to have been 30,624, or 7·9 per cent.,* compared with 8·2 per cent. in the 76 unions making returns for January, and 6·3 per cent. in the 43 unions making returns for February last year.

If, in order to eliminate to some extent the effect of the frost, we exclude the Building Trades from the calculation, the percentage of unemployed members in the remaining unions was 7·6 at the end of February, compared with 8·2 for January, and 6·6 for February 1894.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1894 and of January and February 1895.

The thick line applies to 1895, the thin line to 1894.



* If only the 76 unions making returns for both January and February included, the percentage is 8.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

per week, in other English counties 5.66 days, in Scotland 5.90 days, and in Ireland 4.12 days.

The number of workpeople employed at these 87 iron mines was 11,735, of whom 6,739, or 57.43 per cent., were at mines working full time, or 24 days in the four weeks; 3,630, or 30.93 per cent., at mines working 22 and under 24 days; 503, or 4.29 per cent., at mines working 20 and under 22 days; and 863, or 7.35 per cent., at mines working less than 20 days.

(c) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN FEBRUARY.

EMPLOYMENT in this Industry in February was not quite so good as in the previous month, though better than in February of last year, when some of the Scottish furnaces had not resumed work after being damped down in consequence of the Scottish coal dispute at the close of 1893.

Returns which have been received from 109 ironmasters, and which relate to nearly 90 per cent. of the total number of furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, state that these masters had 296 furnaces in blast at the end of February, or 11 more than they had in February 1894. At these 296 furnaces 19,679 persons were employed, or 3.7 per cent. more than were employed at the 285 furnaces in operation at the corresponding date of last year.

Returns which have been received from 109 ironmasters, and which relate to nearly 90 per cent. of the total number of furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, state that these masters had 296 furnaces in blast at the end of February, or 11 more than they had in February 1894. At these 296 furnaces 19,679 persons were employed, or 3.7 per cent. more than were employed at the 285 furnaces in operation at the corresponding date of last year.

As compared with January last a net decrease of five in the number of furnaces in blast is shown in the returns, six furnaces having been damped down in Cumberland, and one blown out in Cleveland, against one re-lit in Lancashire and one in Ayrshire. The decline in the number of workpeople employed was only 160, however, or less than 1 per cent., though a few more workpeople were stated to be on short time than in January.

The following is a summary of the returns received:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Feb. 1895.	Feb. 1894.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb. 1895.	Feb. 1895.	Jan. 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb. 1895.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	92	89	+3	92	93	-1
Cumberland & Lancs ...	28	37	-9	28	33	-5
S. and S.W. Yorks. ...	10	10	...	10	10	...
Lincolnshire	14	14	...	14	14	...
Midlands	72	67	+5	72	72	...
Glamorgan and Mon. ...	17	16	+1	17	17	...
Other districts	8	8	...	8	8	...
Total England and Wales ...	241	241	...	241	247	-6
SCOTLAND	55	44	+11	55	54	+1
Total furnaces included in returns ...	296	285	+11	296	301	-5

The following additional particulars respecting the Pig Iron Industry in Cleveland are taken from the monthly circular issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association:—

Production.—The total production of pig iron in February was 225,811 tons, as compared with 253,276 tons in the previous month and 212,163 tons in February 1894.

Stocks.—These amounted to 305,155 tons at the end of February, an increase over the previous month of 35,762 tons, and over February 1894 of 144,496 tons.

Shipments.—The shipments of pig iron from Middlesbrough during February amounted to 46,853 tons, being 733 tons more than in January, though 22,210 less than in February of last year.

(d) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN FEBRUARY.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 231 returns referring to 351 parishes, and 8 returns from Agricultural Labourers' Unions, reports as follows:—

Employment during the first three weeks of February

was in a number of districts of a very unsatisfactory nature, except in Scotland and the North of England, where the hiring system prevails, but, even there, the day labourers or odd men were frequently unemployed, more particularly in the North of England. In a number of counties there was very little work to be done except manure carting and threshing, apart from the care of stock, and in a good many districts the greater part of the threshing had been finished before February. Some reports state that on farms where a large number of sheep and cattle are kept extra hands had to be employed to attend to them. When the frost first broke, about February 20th, the men began to return to work in a number of districts, but, as the thaw was so gradual, and there were usually frosts at night up to the 5th or 6th of March, work was not resumed so soon as had been anticipated. Reports from most correspondents state that farm work is very backward, and that, if the weather is favourable, there is every prospect of the labourers obtaining good employment for some time.

ENGLAND.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland, as most of the farm servants are hired by the year or half-year, only the day labourers are affected by bad weather. Reports from the Alnwick, Berwick, Belford, Glendale, and Rothbury Unions state that either there were no men out of work, or else only a few day labourers, who would resume work when the thaw was complete. Five reports from the Kendal Union, and the West and East Wards of Westmoreland are of a similar character. Reports from the Carlisle and Cocker-mouth districts of Cumberland state that a few odd men were out of work during the frost, but that in the latter district they were obtaining work at the end of the month. At Penrith a considerable number of odd men were out of work during the hard weather, but full employment was anticipated on the break-up of the frost. Reports from the Garstang Union of Lancashire state that a number of odd men were out of work at Garstang, Pilling and Upper Rawcliffe during the frost, but prospects are said to be favourable when the frost is out of the ground, both in this district and throughout North Lancashire. There are satisfactory reports from the Fylde Union and the Liverpool district. From Cheshire it is reported that at Tarporley, in the Tarvin Union, only six or seven men were out of work during the frost, and that they were returning to work at the end of the month. In the Nantwich Union work was also being resumed before March 1st. Reports from the Unions of York and Croft-in-Darlington are not unsatisfactory. In the Easingwold Union at Myton all are said to be in work. At Brandsby only a few oddmen have been out of employment, but at Stillington, a district where there are a number of small freeholders, there has been considerable distress among the labourers. Also at Crayke, a number of men are said to be in irregular work. Reports from the Howden and Aldborough Unions state that men who have been out of work will obtain it when the frost breaks. In Derbyshire, employment in the Belper Union has been satisfactory; at Kirk Langley it is said that, out of a population of 625, only four or five oddmen were stopped work. In Durham it is said that very few men have been unemployed.

Midland Counties.—In the Midlands six reports from Shropshire state that there were not many men out of work in February. In some cases the extra care in the management of stock kept the men well employed. Seven returns from two unions in Warwickshire say that on the whole the number of men out of work has not been large, and that prospects of employment are favourable. The care of stock gave additional employment. Nine reports from the Melton Mowbray, Leicester, and Barrow-on-Soar Unions are not unsatisfactory, considering the state of the weather. Care of stock and threshing have given a good deal of work. A report on 26 parishes in the Melton Mowbray Union states that in nine of the parishes in the Union 20 men were in irregular work and two were out of work between February 20th and March 5th, out of a total number of 117. In Rutland, five reports out of six are on the whole satisfactory, while one from Wymondham states that about a fourth of the men were out of work. Near Worcester regular men have been employed, while a large fall of timber during the autumn gave oddmen employment. At Evesham, where about 10 per cent. had been out of work, those unemployed were commencing work about February 20th. A report from the Pershore Union is of a satisfactory nature. Two reports from the St. Neots district of Hunts. state that only stock

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

men were employed during the frost, and it is said that 40 per cent. of the oddmen were in want of work. Coal and bread have been distributed by a committee. A report from the Newark district of Nottinghamshire states that very few men were out of work in February.

Eastern Counties.—In a number of districts in Suffolk, particularly in the Western half, employment was much affected by the continuance of the frost and snow, but about February 20th the labourers began to return to work in a number of districts, and in some all had obtained work by March 1st. Generally speaking, farmwork is so backward that prospects are favourable for some time. In the Thingoe Union, comprising 47 parishes, 215 men were stated to have been out of work up to February 25th, and it is said that work will be scarce there until the middle of April. A report from the Hoxne Union states that a number of men were out of work during the frost, but that most had resumed work by March 1st. In the Blything, Mil-denhall, Woodbridge, Ipswich and East Stow Unions prospects of employment are said to be favourable, but rather unfavourable in the Plomesgate Union. In Cambridgeshire regular men in a number of cases appear to have been found employment, but oddmen were out of work in a good many districts. At Littleport and Chatteris about 25 per cent. are said to have been out of work, but at the latter place they were resuming it at the end of the month. At Elm about 15 per cent. are stated to have been without work, and 50 per cent. at Whittlesey up to February 20th, but after that date they all found employment in the latter place. At Upwell and Leverington men who had been out of work began to resume it about the 20th. Prospects of work are said to be favourable in the Peterborough, Wisbech, Royston, Linton, and Chesterton Unions.

Home Counties.—In Berkshire reports from East Lockinge state that some men were out of work up to March 1st, but at Hampstead Norris very few men were out during the frost. In Oxfordshire, the numbers in irregular work in villages near Oxford are said to have been normal for the time of year. Some men were out of work at Wallingford, Little Melton, Haseley, and Chalgrove, but after February 20th most of them obtained it. At Waterstock about 20 per cent. were out of work during the frost, but prospects are said to be good. In Thame parish extra men were employed with stock. Reports from the Buckingham and Newport Pagnell Unions are favourable since February 20th. In the Luton district of Bedfordshire a number of men were out of work during the frost, but they began to return to work about February 20th. In the Holling-bourn Union of Kent employment was satisfactory after the thaw commenced.

Western Counties.—In the Western counties reports from Dorsetshire are not on the whole unsatisfactory. It is stated that after the thaw commenced in Wiltshire work began to be more plentiful. In East Wiltshire only the oddmen generally suffered through the weather. Favourable reports come from districts in the Pewsey, Warmminster, Westbury and Wilton Unions. Since February 20th work is said to have been fairly satisfactory in the Highworth and Swindon Unions. In Gloucestershire, reports from Cirencester say that there have practically been no men out of work. At Westbury-on-Trym, in the Barton Regis Union, and at Hawkesbury in the Sodbury Union, about 10 per cent. were out of work up to February 20th, when the frost broke. At Teddington in the Winchcombe Union, about a third of the labourers were said to be out of work up to the commencement of the thaw. Two reports from Leominster, in Herefordshire, say that the men were fully employed throughout February, while at Bromyard, in Bromyard Union, about a third of the men were out of work until the frost broke, when they recommenced employment. In Somersetshire, in the Wells district, it is reported that during the frost men on dairy farms were fully employed, while on arable farms they averaged about three days a week. At Wellington employment has been quite satisfactory. At Somerton, in the Langport Union, about a third were out of work during the frost. Reports from the Crediton Union of Devonshire state that the men all obtained work after February 20th. It is reported from the Redruth Union of Cornwall that at the end of February very few men were in want of employment.

SCOTLAND.

Reports were received from 17 counties in Scotland. As the system of engaging farm servants by the year or half year chiefly prevails, the great majority of the farm servants have regular employment. But in districts where there are day labourers their

employment seems to have been considerably interfered with, and in some cases entirely stopped, as long as the frost and snow lasted. Drainers also had little or no work during the continuance of the hard weather. It is reported that three-fourths of the day-labourers were unemployed in Lanark parish during the frost. At Dunblane, in Perthshire, 10 per cent. are said to have been in irregular work. Day labourers are reported to have been out of work in the counties of Fife, Kirkcudbright, Banff, Haddington and Wigtown. A large employer of agricultural labour in Roxburghshire reports that daily labourers in the neighbourhood of towns and villages were off work for eight weeks earning no wages.

(e) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE AND HAT TRADES IN FEBRUARY.

INFORMATION has been received from women correspondents with regard to the employment of women and girls in 230 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills. In the case of 170 mills the numbers employed are stated approximately. If the same average number be assumed to be employed in the remaining 60 mills as in those for the same trade for which numbers are stated, the information may be summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate estimate of Women and Girls employed.	
		Number.	Percentage.
Full time	161	18,184	59
Ditto, but partial employment	39	8,671	28
Short time	25	3,339	11
Closed for repairs	1		
“ through disputes	1	735	2
“ through bad trade	3		
Total	230	30,920	100

Cotton Trade.—According to this estimate, 23,262 were employed in the cotton mills reported on. Of these, 53 per cent. were employed in mills working full time, 36 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment, 8 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 3 per cent. of the number were closed during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trade.—The number of women and girls in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is estimated at 6,758. Of these 81 per cent. were employed in mills working full time, 1 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment, and 18 per cent. in mills running short time.

Silk Trade.—The number of women and girls employed in the silk mills reported on is estimated at 900. Of these 52 per cent. were in mills working full time, 32 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment, and 16 per cent. in mills running short time.

Felt and Silk Hat Trade.—Out of about 639 women and girls reported on in Denton, 28 per cent. were employed in hat works working full time, and 72 per cent. in works on short time.

(f) DOCK LABOUR IN LONDON IN FEBRUARY.

THE severe weather and the ice in the Thames have seriously affected the employment of Dock labour during February, and the average daily number of dock labourers employed during February in all the docks in the port of London shows a marked diminution compared with January, the average for the four weeks ending 23rd February having fallen from 8,811 to 7,458, a decrease of over 15 per cent. The estimated maximum number employed during the four weeks was 9,360 on January 29th, and the minimum 6,050 on February 9th. Some revival of employment took place during the last week of February.

Detailed figures:—(1) The total estimated number of dock labourers employed daily in the Docks in the Port of London during each week in February, whether through the Dock Companies or by shipowners, is as follows:—

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

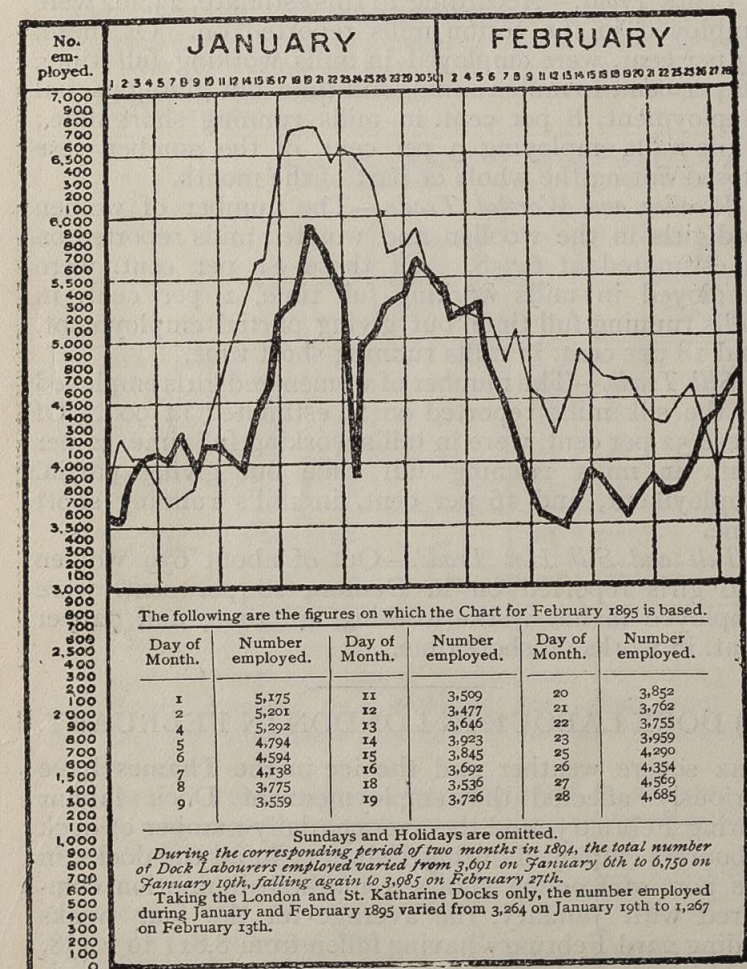
Period.	Dock Labourers engaged by Dock Companies directly or through Contractors.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1895.	Total Dock Labourers employed in Docks.	
	1895.	1894.		1895.	1895.
1st week in February ..	7,931	7,546	+385	1,181	9,112
2nd " " "	6,512	6,994	-482	745	7,257
3rd " " "	5,578	6,353	-775	1,317	6,895
4th " " "	5,464	7,464	-2,000	1,104	6,568
Average for 4 weeks ending Feb. 23rd...	6,371	7,089	-718	1,087	7,458
Average for 4 weeks ending Jan. 26th ...	6,985	7,491	-506	1,826	8,811

The dock labourers engaged by the shipowners and others directly in the Victoria and Albert Docks varied from 338 on February 9th to 1,568 on February 14th, the average, as stated above, being 1,087, besides an average number of 535 stevedores, coalies, and lighter-men.

(2.) The following chart shows the daily fluctuations of dock employment by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during January and February. The number employed during February varied from 5,292 on February 4th to 3,477 on February 12th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of January and February 1895. The corresponding curve for January and February 1894 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included.

(The thick curve applies to 1895, and the thin curve to 1894.)



The Wharves.—Owing to the delay of ships through ice in the river, discharging work at the wharves in Thames Street has been very slack. The Colonial wharves have been fairly busy. The wharves at Wapping have been very quiet owing to the delay of ships. The wharves on the south side of the river have been pretty well employed, the Tea Trade having been fairly brisk.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN FEBRUARY.

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

The number of seamen engaged during February, at the principal ports of the United Kingdom, as the crews of foreign going vessels, was 24,465, or 4,856 less than in February 1894. The largest decrease at any one port was again at Cardiff, while London and the Tyne ports also show considerable decreases. Reports from Hull and Leith state that many vessels were laid up owing to the severe winter.

The supply of seamen and firemen was stated to be equal to or in excess of the demand, at all the ports included in the table.

The prevailing rates of wages at the various ports remain unaltered.

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in February 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in February 1895.			Total in Feb. 1894.	In-crease in 1895.	De-crease in 1895.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Feb. 1895.			
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	34	1,961	1,995	2,751	...	756
Sunderland ...	32	300	332	465	...	133
Middlesbrough ...	28	336	364	451	...	87
Hull ...	52	523	575	961	...	386
Grimsby ...	16	31	47	170	...	123
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	20	185	205	211	...	6
Newport, Mon. ...	61	789	850	1,085	...	235
Cardiff ...	339	3,873	4,212	5,250	...	1,038
Swansea ...	76	294	370	436	...	66
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	254	7,486	7,740	8,301	...	561
London ...	113	4,321	4,434	5,223	...	789
Southampton ...	...	1,311	1,311	1,409	...	98
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth ...	...	306	306	493	...	187
Glasgow ...	130	1,480	1,610	1,936	...	326
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	...	22	22	98	...	76
Belfast ...	...	101	101	81	...	20
Total February 1895	1,146	23,319	24,465	...	...	4,856
Do, February 1894	1,982	27,339	...	29,821	...	...

(h) FISHING INDUSTRY IN FEBRUARY.

The total declared value of the fish landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during February was £474,151, a slight increase as compared with February 1894, when the value was £473,809. The largest increase was in the value of fish landed on the West Coast of Scotland, viz., £9,068, the East Coast showing a decrease of £6,314. The English and Welsh Coasts show a large decrease on the whole. The following table gives the values for the different coasts of the United Kingdom:—

Locality where Landed.	Estimated Value of Fish (including Shell Fish) landed in the United Kingdom in			
	Feb. 1895.	Feb. 1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
ENGLAND AND WALES.				
East Coast ...	£ 310,481	£ 308,669	£ 1,812	—
South " ...	30,201	34,899	—	4,698
West " ...	23,209	26,591	—	3,382
Total ...	363,891	370,159	—	6,268
SCOTLAND.				
East Coast ...	71,249	77,563	—	6,314
Orkney and Shetland ...	4,428	780	3,648	—
West Coast ...	24,370	15,302	9,068	—
Total ...	100,047	93,645	6,402	—
IRELAND.				
North Coast ...	499	162	337	—
East " ...	5,329	5,642	—	313
South " ...	1,062	1,551	—	489
West " ...	3,323	2,650	673	—
Total ...	10,213	10,005	208	—
Grand Total for United Kingdom ...	474,151	473,809	342	—

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON.

The total quantity of white fish landed in the United Kingdom in February was 743,235 cwts., valued at £460,098, as against 552,228 cwts., valued at £448,827 in February 1894, or increases of 191,007 cwts. and £11,271 respectively. The shell fish landed during the month was valued at £14,053, being £10,929 less than the value for February of last year.

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

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—Returns have been received relating to 327 branches of 74 trade unions in the London District with a membership of 61,233, of whom 4,325, or 7.1 per cent., were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 7.2 per cent. for January.

In the Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding Trades a slight improvement is noticeable. Reports from 92 branches of 24 unions connected with these trades show that out of a membership of 18,843, 1,462 (or 7.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 8.4 in January and 6.4 in February 1894.

All branches of the Building Trades, with the exception of the plumbers, were largely interrupted during the month in consequence of the severe weather. Reports from 173 branches of 7 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,826, show that 1,150 (or 9.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 8.9 per cent. in January, and 5.5 per cent. in February 1894. The bricklayers, stonemasons, and mill-sawyers, with an aggregate membership in the London district of 9,686, describe employment as dull; the carpenters and joiners, plasterers, painters, and stone carvers, with an aggregate membership of 15,125, as bad; the plumbers, with a membership of 1,215, as good.

The Furnishing and Wood-working Trades continue to decline, 34 branches of 15 unions, with an aggregate membership of 5,959, returning 497 (or 8.3 per cent.) as unemployed, against 7.5 per cent. in January, and 5.8 in February 1894.

The Printing and Bookbinding Trades improved somewhat during the month, though the Lithographic Trade continues slack. Fifteen unions, with an aggregate membership of 18,844, return 761 (or 4.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 5.2 last month, and 5.7 in February 1894.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Wholesale Clothing Trade has revived, full time being worked. The West-end Tailoring Trade was dull, but improved slightly towards the close of the month. The East-end Bespoke Trade still remains dull. The Hat Trade is depressed for the season of the year. The fur skin dressers report employment as better than for several years past.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the wholesale manufacturing branch has improved, and has been more regular, but the slipper-makers are slack. There has been a slight improvement in the high-class bespoke branch.

The Leather Trades continue to decline, short time being worked in some branches. Returns from four unions, with an aggregate membership of 1,275, show that 61 (or 4.6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.4 in January.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—All branches of the Glass Trade remain depressed, the bottle blowers having a considerable number unemployed; the bevellers, silverers, &c., report many members only partially employed. In the Pottery Trades the moulders are slack, the throwers depressed, the pipe machine hands fairly busy, and the terra cotta moulders fair for time of year.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment at the Docks has been greatly affected by the severe weather and the ice on the river, the average daily number of dock labourers employed during the four weeks ending February 23rd being estimated at 7,458, compared with 8,811 for the previous four weeks, a decrease of over 15 per cent. Further details respecting dock employment in the Port are given on pages 69 and 70. The lightermen and coalies report work as very slack. The number of seamen shipped was 4,434, a decrease of 20.7 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and of 15.1 per cent. as compared with February 1894.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Employment in the Tobacco Trades continues fair. The bakers and confectioners report fewer unemployed, though trade generally is not brisk. The Silver Trades report 3.3 per cent. entirely unemployed, and a considerable percentage of their membership on short time. The farriers are fairly well employed. The brush-makers report a slight improvement, the ivory

* When it is stated in these reports that "the carpenters," "the plumbers," &c., make certain reports, reference is usually made to the Unions connected with these trades, unless it is otherwise specified.

and bone branch describing employment as good. Short time is reported to be the rule in the Mat and Matting Trade.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Only one fresh dispute was reported during the month, viz., a strike of corn porters who came out on strike against a proposed alteration in the rate of wages. An important judgment has been given restraining the Building Trades' Federation from issuing a black list. For particulars see page 89.

Labour Bureaux.—The fresh applications registered during February by the five Labour Bureaux making returns numbered 1,503 from workpeople and 531 from employers, as compared with 1,946 and 422 respectively in January last. The number of persons for whom work was found through the Bureaux during last month was 1,008, of which number 665 were employed by the local authorities having control of the Bureaux.

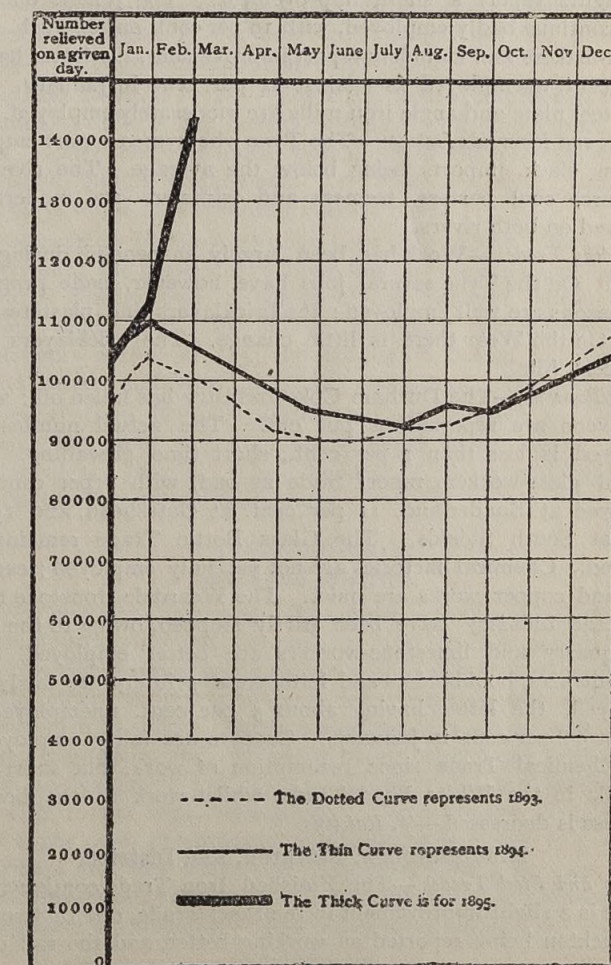
Winter Distress.—Of the 94 district reports from parts of 28 out of 30 unions in London and of West Ham, 52 state that the distress has been exceptional. Of these 52, 18 state that the distress was increasing at the end of the month, 10 that it was stationary, and 24 that it was diminishing. Of the exceptionally distressed districts, 24 were in South London and 18 in North London. The distress is almost universally attributed to the weather, and in several cases to illness. Labour yards have been opened by the guardians in several districts, and the relief work noted in previous numbers of the GAZETTE has been continued and extended by several local authorities. A considerable amount of relief has also been given through various charitable agencies.

Pauperism.—The proportion of paupers relieved in London on one day in the middle of February was very much higher than the corresponding day in January, the rates per 10,000 of population being 342 and 268 respectively. The rate was 253 in February 1894.

The greater part of the increase was among the outdoor paupers, who numbered 72,970, compared with 39,931 in February 1894, while the numbers of indoor paupers were 71,146 and 66,562 in the same two periods. The bulk of the increase was in the southern district, particularly Southwark, Camberwell, and Greenwich, which, between them, accounted for 18,536, or about half of the total increase of pauperism for the whole Metropolis.

In West Ham the rate has also largely increased, viz., from 286 per 10,000 of population in January, to 402 last month, the figure for February 1894 being 278.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1893, 1894, and 1895:—



EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE, &c.

The table below gives the proportion of paupers to population in the different districts of London, and in West Ham, on the last day of the second week in January and February 1895 respectively :
Rate of Pauperism per 10,000 of population.

District.	In-door.		Out-door.		Total.	
	Feb. 1895.	Jan. 1895.	Feb. 1895.	Jan. 1895.	Feb. 1895.	Jan. 1895.
London :						
West District...	158	150	59	33	217	183
North " ...	149	144	163	106	312	250
Central " ...	332	315	163	146	495	461
East " ...	204	195	85	71	289	266
South " ...	145	140	277	151	422	281
West Ham ...	54	52	348	234	402	286

The above figures and chart relate to pauperism on one day in the second week of February. Later returns for the Metropolis show that the rate increased from 342 in the second week to 356 in the third week, but fell to 333 in the fourth week.

The number of vagrants relieved on one day in the second week of February was 1,078, in the third week 1,015, and in the fourth week 1,065, the numbers for the last two weeks being below those for February 1894.

ENGLAND : NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Durham.*—Employment at the collieries has slightly improved. The number of members in receipt of "stoppage" pay is 1,785, or 31 per cent., as compared with 33 in January.—*Northumberland.*—The Steam Coal Trade is depressed. Three or four pits have only made one day a week, and a few others not more than 10 days during the month; seven or eight pits, however, have worked full time. There are 240 unemployed miners receiving out-of-work allowance, or 12 per cent., as against 13 in January.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—*On the Tyne.*—The severe weather retarded shipbuilding during the first half of the month. Employment in the yards is moderate. Ship repairs and boiler work have been fairly good. The Elswick ordnance and engine factory maintains improvement. In several departments overtime and double shifts are resorted to. Employment in the marine engine shops shows a slight decline. Electrical engineers are busy. Of the shipbuilders, boiler-makers, and engineers, 2,189 are unemployed, or 212 per cent., as against 263 per cent. in January. *On the Wear.*—Shipbuilding continues quiet; marine engine building is slack, and some firms are reducing their staff. Ship repairing and work in the dry docks is moderately good. Of the engineers, boiler-makers, and shipbuilders, 1,239 are unemployed, or 301 per cent., as against 278 per cent. last month. The shipwrights report a slight improvement. The joiners on both rivers continue badly employed, with 19 per cent. out of work. The pattern-makers and moulders report improvement, the latter having 16 per cent. unemployed as against 24 per cent. in January. The local steel plate and angle iron mills are moderately employed.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The Tyne wherry-men report employment as slack, imports being below the average. The riverside labourers, coal porters, teamers and trimmers are moderately employed on both rivers.

Building Trades.—Work has been largely suspended during the month. On the Tyne several jobs have, however, made progress. The masons are well employed; the bricklayers and plasterers are dull. On the Wear there is little change. The bricklayers have 9 per cent. idle.

Miscellaneous.—The Durham Coke Industry has fallen off; about 100 ovens are reported as put out. The actual number unemployed is less than 1 per cent., short time prevailing. The pressed glass-workers report trade as bad, with 8 per cent. unemployed at Sunderland, 12 per cent. at Gateshead, and 15 per cent. at South Shields. The Glass Bottle Trade remains unchanged. Chemical factories are not yet fully employed; cement, lead and copper works are quiet. The Weardeale ironstone mines and Lead Industry have been partly stopped, owing to the frost. The quarry and limestone-workers are better employed. The paper-makers, bookbinders and letterpress printers are fairly well employed, the latter having about 5 per cent. unemployed, as against 38 per cent. in January. Coopers are fairly employed in the Chemical Trade since resumption of work, but short time prevails in the White Lead Trade, whilst work in the brewery business is depressed.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Finished Iron Trade continues dull. There is a slight improvement in the Steel Trade, one or two mills at Stockton being reported as working better, and the rail mill at

Eston as working steadily. The plate mills are not working so well owing to the slackness in shipbuilding. The works at Hartlepool also are only moderately employed, the steel smelters only working about half time, and the labourers three-quarter time. Foundries and bridge works remain about the same. The blast-furnace men and the Cleveland miners report no change.

Engineering.—The percentage of engineers unemployed remains the same; at Hartlepool it has gone up from 5 to 10 per cent., and at Middlesbrough from 12 to 17 per cent. At Stockton the moulders report that several more men have obtained work, and most of the pattern-makers have obtained work in this or other districts. The moulders report no change at Middlesbrough, and at Hartlepool over 20 per cent. still out of work. The smiths and strikers report 30 per cent. unemployed at the Hartlepoons, with moderate employment elsewhere.

Shipbuilding.—Owing to the improvement in the weather, employment has been a little better in some departments, but the percentage of unemployed continues high. The shipbuilders and boiler-makers report over 18 per cent. at Thornaby, and 25 per cent. at the Hartlepoons as out of work, and slightly less at Stockton and Middlesbrough. The shipwrights report 25 per cent. at Hartlepool and nearly 80 per cent. at Middlesbrough, where the want of employment is to a considerable extent temporary owing to work not being ready. The joiners (including house joiners) report 23 per cent. at Hartlepool, and 25 per cent. at Stockton and Middlesbrough, but a fair amount of work is in hand to be done when the weather improves.

Building Trades.—These trades continue slack all over the district. The mill sawyers at Hartlepool report 5 per cent. unemployed, the mills, with one exception, working three-quarter time.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen and riverside workers report trade as bad. At the Docks employment has been better during the month, but was quieter at the end.

Miscellaneous.—The printers are fairly busy at the Hartlepoons, moderately so in the rest of the district. The tailors and most of the minor trades report no improvement. The general labourers report a large percentage unemployed at the Hartlepoons, and great want of employment in the rest of the district.—*A. Main.*

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—There is no improvement in the Spinning Trade, and the employers are taking steps to bring about a 5 per cent. reduction in wages. The operative spinners report 35 per cent. on out-of-work benefit, exclusive of 45 on strike. In addition, a considerable number of spinners and twiners have exhausted their claim for out-of-work pay and are unable to find employment. In the towns surrounding Oldham numbers of operatives are out of work, and full employment is becoming more rare. Calico weavers report a slight improvement, but there is no change in the Velvet Trade. Reelers and twiners are moderately employed; ring frame tenters are fully employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment is not so good as in January. The machine-makers are moderately employed, but the millwrights, engine-fitters, turners and general fitters are slack. The brass-founders and finishers are fully employed, while the moulders are slack. The boiler-makers report an improvement, but are only partially employed.

Building Trades.—At the end of the month the bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, and masons, were again fairly well employed. The plumbers are busy, and painters and decorators are moderately employed. The flaggers and slaters report employment as slack.

Miscellaneous.—The gas-workers are fully employed. The skip-makers report employment as better; the cabinet-makers, coach-makers and wheelwrights as slack; the wood-turners and wood-sawyers as moderate; the printers, brush-makers, and tailors as dull. The tinplate-workers, cloggers, blacksmiths and millers are fully employed; the coal miners, paviors, railway and tramway employees report no change.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—The Cotton Trade remains depressed. Preliminary steps have been taken by the master cotton spinners to bring about a reduction of the wages of the operatives at the rate of five per cent., but nothing definite has yet been settled.† The spinning operatives' branch shows a moderate decrease in the

* The percentage of engineers reported as in receipt of unemployed benefit on page 5 of the January GAZETTE should have been 35, and not as stated.
† See page 82 for later information.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—LANCASHIRE, &c.

number unemployed. The mills throughout the district are working full time, but trade is not good. In Wigan employment is not quite so good as usual, two firms being only partially employed. In the weaving branch there are signs of a decline. In Chorley and neighbourhood employment in the spinning department is fairly good, but weaving is reported to be slack.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineering continues unsatisfactory, although orders are a little more plentiful, and the percentage of unemployed members is under 5. A large number of skilled artisans are out of work or only partially employed. The iron machine-makers are fairly busy, some departments being exceptionally active. Iron turning and the connected trades have been somewhat depressed, but are improving. The steel-smelters, roller-turners and Metal Trades are not so well employed. Unskilled labour in iron works is reported as better employed than in January.

Building Trades.—Owing to the weather there has been a complete dearth of employment in almost all branches, the one exception being the Plumbing Trade. Many masons, painters, slaters, plasterers, flaggers, &c., have been unemployed throughout the month. The carpenters, joiners, and cabinet-makers are only partially employed. Outdoor labourers have been especially affected by the severe weather.

Miscellaneous.—The Bleaching, Finishing and Dyeing Trades are on the whole fairly well employed. The printers, tailors, shoemakers, bakers and confectioners, tramway employees and railway workers are moderately busy. The cloggers, tinplate-workers, blacksmiths, skip-makers, gas-workers, brush-makers, millers and wheelwrights are not so well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

Burnley, Accrington, and District.

Cotton Trade.—The Weaving Industry has shown a further decline, an additional number of looms being stopped in the Blackburn, Burnley, Nelson and Darwen districts. The Hard Waste Trade, which is a season one, is declining. No improvement is reported in the Sateen Trade. During the month the new list for weaving stove work came into operation. In the spinning department the employers are discussing the advisability of reducing wages 5 per cent. In the Kirkham district a linen mill employing over 500 workpeople is about to close.

Building Trades.—These trades, so far as masons, bricklayers, labourers and quarrymen are concerned, have been at a standstill in consequence of the weather. The joiners report work as only moderate. The plumbers and those engaged in brickmaking continue busy. The painters and decorators are slack.

Miscellaneous.—The Iron and Machine Trades continue moderately good. The Letterpress Printing Trade continues fair; cabinet-makers and tailors are slack. During the month the number of unemployed has greatly increased, mainly owing to the weather.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In the Engineering Trade the percentage of unemployed has been slightly reduced. The Locomotive Trade continues depressed. In Warrington wire-drawing has fallen off, whilst wire weavers are fully employed. Nearly all grades of iron-workers are slightly busier in Warrington.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinning in Manchester, Stockport and Warrington shows no change; some of the mills are still running short time. In Macclesfield the Cotton Trade is pretty good. In the Silk Trade there is little change; the weaving and dyeing departments are fairly well employed, but the silk dressers are slack.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring Trade continues bad throughout. The Wholesale Clothing Trade shows no improvement. The Ready-made Mantle Trade, umbrella-making, cap-making and shirt-making remain about the same; in waterproof garment-making a falling off has taken place.

Building Trades.—These trades have been practically at a standstill owing to the frost, and consequently show an increase in the number unemployed in all branches, with the exception of the plumbers, who report trade as good, and the stonemasons who describe it as moderate, with a diminution in the number unemployed. Only a small percentage of the plasterers in Manchester have been employed. In Warrington the position has not been so bad.

Printing and kindred Trades.—There is no change to report in these trades. The letterpress and lithographic printers and the bookbinders report trade as bad.

Miscellaneous.—The Dressing, Dyeing and Finishing Trade is bad; the number unemployed has increased, and many are only

working from 10 to 20 hours per week. The braziers and sheet metal-workers are but moderately employed, and a few more are unemployed. Coach-building is bad, with the exception of the railway shops, which are kept well employed. The Upholstering Trade is bad. The fustian cutters at Macclesfield are fairly well employed. In Warrington, coopers, cabinet-makers, tinplate-workers and coach-makers are fairly well employed; flint glass cutters are slack.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Pig Iron Trade does not improve. The steel-workers at Barrow are slack, and the proposed reduction in wages has had a disturbing influence. In the other steel works of the West Coast no notice of reductions has been given, but trade remains in an unsatisfactory state, numbers of all classes being out of employment.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Marine engineers continue busy, and shipbuilders are fairly well employed, but other branches of engineering are slack. Owing to the stoppage* at the Barrow Iron and Steel Works, a number of fitters, turners, smiths, pattern-makers and other branches of the Engineering Trade have been indefinitely suspended from work.

Building Trades.—The Building Trades remain dull; numbers are out of work, but some branches have slightly improved since January.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and kindred Trades, the bakers and confectioners and tailors are moderately employed; the paper and pulp-makers are busy; jute-workers are slack, numbers working short time.—*J. D. Cooper.*

Liverpool and District.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—There has been a falling-off in employment at the Docks, particularly towards the close of the month. The Mersey flatmen report employment as dull, and the upper Mersey watermen have nearly all been unemployed, owing to the canals being frozen.

Metal Trades.—The moulders and pattern-makers report trade as brisk, with nearly full employment. The whitemiths report little change, with 12 out of 102 members unemployed. The core-makers are brisk. The sheet metal-workers report no change.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—There is no change in employment in these industries, a large percentage of the riveters, platers, &c. being unemployed.

Building Trades.—There has been an almost entire suspension in all branches of these trades during February, owing to the frost. Towards the end of the month an improvement was noticeable. The carpenters and joiners report 20 per cent. receiving unemployed benefit, and 15 per cent. unemployed but not entitled to benefit; the plumbers report full employment.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—There is a decided improvement in the Chemical Trade in St. Helens, although full employment is not given. Three large chemical works, closed since December, have re-opened, finding employment for about 600 men. One large plate glass works at Ravenhead is again busy.

Miscellaneous.—Employment has been fair in the railway goods department; the carters have been busy in clearing the quays of the large consignment of cotton of the previous month. The printers report 100, out of 840 members, unemployed; the upholsterers 29 out of 145; the saddlers 6 out of 64; the shoe-makers report employment as slack; the tailors as bad.—*J. Sexton.*

A report from *Winsford* states that employment in the Salt Industry has been worse in some departments, owing to the freezing of the canals. The Chemical Trade is still depressed. The fustian cutters are fairly busy.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The improvement in these industries has continued, although the weather has retarded outside work. The shipwrights report trade as fair, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the ship-joiners as improving, with fewer unemployed; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as moderate, with 14 per cent. unemployed; the smiths and strikers as better, with 6 per cent. unemployed, as against 12 per cent. in January; the iron-founders as bad, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the engineers as moderate, with 88 per cent. unemployed, as against 9 per cent. in January; the drillers and hole cutters as moderate, with 5 per cent. idle; the machine-workers as moderate, but slightly better; the iron and steel dressers as moderate. The sail-makers report 5 per cent. out

* On March 1st.

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

of work. The unskilled labourers employed in engineers' shops and ship yards are reported to have 250 unemployed, or 20 per cent.

Building Trades.—Building operations have been almost completely suspended. The plumbers, bricklayers, slaters, and tilers report employment as moderate; the lath-renders as fair; the mill-sawyers and wood machinists as moderate, with fewer unemployed; the carpenters and joiners as bad, with 12 per cent. unemployed, as against 8 per cent. in January; the plasterers and painters as bad.

Shipping and Seamen.—The state of employment for seamen, river craft, canal boatmen and dock labourers, owing to the frost, has been bad, many of the latter having been entirely without work during the month.

Fishing Industry.—During the later part of the month the steam trawlers have been able to fish and get their catches to market with more regularity. The fish curers have been fairly well employed. Employment on the fish pontoons and at the dock connected with the Fishing Trade has been fair. The fishermen report 13 per cent. out of work, as against 11 per cent. in January. The engine-room men have 3 per cent. unemployed.

Seed Crushing, Oil, Paint, Varnish and Colour Works.—Employment in the seed crushing mills, though not so brisk, has been fairly good. A slight improvement is reported in the paint and colour works; some of the mills are still running with reduced numbers, others are on short time.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners report trade as bad, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the flour millers as moderate, but improving; the letterpress printers, book-binders, machine rulers, brush-makers, tailors and cabinet-makers as bad; the lithographic printers and coopers as moderate; the gas-workers as declining. At Selby the lace-workers and flax-workers have no unemployed; a number of general labourers are out of work.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Mining.—In the Leeds district work has been rather better, the cold weather causing a slight improvement in the demand for house coal. The Waterloo Main and Middleton pits have worked full time, but on the two seams of the Low Moor Company the average has been four days per week. At Wakefield work still varies considerably. Park Hills and Haigh Moor only average two days, Stanley Main Seam four days. At Denaby Main full work continues.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—These trades continue dull; the engineers in Leeds report no change, with about 14 per cent. unemployed. At Wakefield, this trade is slightly worse. The iron-founders are still slack, with 13 per cent. unemployed. At Stanningley, trade has been bad, crane-making being the only department fully employed. In Leeds and Stanningley the boiler-makers are quiet, the stove grate workers are dull, the white-smiths have 25 per cent. out of work, the machine-workers 18 per cent., and the pattern-makers 10 per cent.

Textile Trades.—The willeys and fettlers report trade as not good, with 96 per cent. unemployed, but the Blanket Trade continues fair. At Morley, most mills are busy, some running overtime. At Yeadon and Stanningley there is no improvement. The Dyeing Trade at Leeds has improved. The Linen Trade is dull.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot and Shoe Industry has been exceptionally well employed during the greater part of the month, falling off slightly at the end. Bespoke tailoring is slack; in ready made clothing employment has been better, and most firms are now working full time.

Leather Trades.—Employment in tanning has been fairly good, and, but for the frost, full employment would have been general. The leather shavers report trade as quiet, but improving towards the close of the month.

Glass Bottle Trade.—This industry has not improved, and in the general bottle department 40 per cent. are unemployed. In the flint glass branch from 11 to 13 per cent. are returned as unemployed in Yorkshire.

Building Trades.—Owing to the frost these trades have been practically at a standstill during the greater part of the month. A number of masons and bricklayers have resumed work, but a large percentage of the latter are still unemployed. The plasterers report two-thirds of their members out of work, some having been so for nearly three months. The joiners are slack, and quarry work at Morley is suspended.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printing is only moderate, with about 6 per cent. unemployed. Lithographic printing is fair, with 3 per cent. unemployed. The coach-makers have 9 per cent. and the brush-makers 14 per cent., unemployed. The cardboard box-makers

are fairly busy. The cabinet-makers are quiet, with 3 per cent. unemployed.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Textile Trades.—The Woollen Trade in and about Huddersfield shows no change. One firm has been working night and day, and a number of others are working overtime, but some are on short time. The Heavy Woollen Trade continues to improve, although some mills are working short time. The Blanket and Rug Trade is quiet, as usual at this season. The Worsteds Trade shows no decline in Huddersfield, although one firm has stopped overtime. In Bradford the weaving branch is improving, but wool sorting is bad. The Worsteds Trade, both in the Worth Valley and Keighley, does not improve, and in Halifax is only moderate. The Cotton and Silk Trades are quiet in all parts of the district.

Metal Trades.—The Iron Trades are still reported as bad in all parts of the district. In Huddersfield the engineers report 5 per cent. unemployed, the iron-founders 11.8 per cent. In Halifax the engineers have 14 per cent. unemployed. In Keighley trade is quiet. The wire-workers in Brighouse are busy; in Halifax the trade is not so good.

Building Trades.—Owing to the frost the number of unemployed was large. During the last week, however, employment improved considerably, and many of the quarrymen also began to work. The joiners are still quiet, however.

Miscellaneous.—The printers and dyers report employment as fair; the cabinet-makers as moderate; the tailors as quiet.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—The pits in Yorkshire continue to work very irregularly, some working five or six days per week, others only three days. The men at a colliery near Wakefield, after one week's stoppage, returned to work, the questions in dispute being referred to the Joint Committee for settlement; it has now been found necessary to refer the matter to an independent umpire. The men at a colliery near Castleford have also returned to work on a similar understanding after a fortnight's stoppage. The Yorkshire Miners' Association has agreed to a grant of £500 to send to the relief of members thrown out of work by the setting down of collieries or parts of collieries through bad trade, breakage of machinery, &c. One hundred and thirty-four men and boys at a colliery near Barnsley received notice owing to the exhaustion of part of the colliery; the notices terminated on February 26th. There are altogether from 700 to 800 men "playing" in Yorkshire on account of collieries or portions of collieries being set down.—*J. Wadsworth.*

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Press and furnacemen, planers, drillers, slotters and benders engaged upon the patent armour plates are well employed. The makers of Cerves tubes and Purves flues are busy. Men engaged in heavy steel forgings for guns are well employed. The demand for Siemens steel is well maintained in all branches, but the Bessemer Steel Trade is quiet. The workmen employed on steel tyres, axles, springs, and railway material generally are making better time. For best crucible steel for tools and best file steel there is an increased demand. The merchant iron-rollers report trade as worse, 5 per cent. being out of work; but railway spring fitters are making fuller time. The boiler-makers are slack, with 5 per cent. unemployed. The engineers report trade as better, with 5 per cent. unemployed instead of 7 per cent.; and the iron and steel-founders have 8.5 per cent. unemployed as against 13 per cent. in January. At Rotherham the Iron Trade is slack; the steel-workers are making full time. At Renishaw the moulders are slack, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the pump-makers are quiet.

Cutlery and Tools.—Many table cutlers are only partly employed. Best pen and pocket-knife workmen are moderately well employed, but those on common work are slack. The razor grinders are slack. The edge tool grinders have 7 per cent. unemployed, and about 20 per cent. on short time. The engineers' tool-makers are slightly better, with 3 per cent. unemployed as against 5 per cent. The wool shear forgers, benders, and grinders are only moderately employed. The file-makers are better employed. The skate-makers have been exceptionally busy.

Building Trades.—The frost has severely affected these trades. The carpenters and joiners report trade as bad, with 13 per cent. unemployed; the painters, decorators, and plasterers as slack; but bricklayers report trade as better, no good men being out of employment except for the frost. The plumbers have been fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—The railway wagon builders and carriage builders

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

report better employment. The Silver Trade is depressed, with about 4 per cent. of the smiths and finishers out of employment. The Electro. Spoon and Fork Trade is quiet. The handle and scale cutters have about 10 per cent. out of work, and more than half only partly employed. The letterpress printers report improvement with 10 per cent. unemployed; the bookbinders are well employed. Brass workers are fairly busy. Bakers have been busier, owing largely to the relief orders. At Rotherham the Bath Trade is fairly good; the potters have no men out of work, and only 2 per cent. on short time; the glass bottle-makers are moderately busy. *S. Utley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

Coal Mining.—In Ripley soft coal is being worked from four to four and a half days, hard coal only three days per week. In Ilkeston district from four and a half to five days per week were being worked, but towards the close of the month employment declined again, about 3 per cent. being unemployed. In Clay Cross gas coal has been worked five days, house coal about four days, steam coal five days per week. In Staveley (Chesterfield) district, both hard coal and house and gas seams have been worked four to five days. In Dronfield, four days per week has been the average, about 7 per cent. being idle.

Quarrying.—Quarrying in all districts is quieter, the severe weather having a bad effect.

Iron Trade.—The Iron Trade continues slack, fully 15 per cent. being totally unemployed. The Malleable Iron Trade is fair.

Engineering.—The engineers report a further decline, about 10 per cent. being unemployed. The locomotive works are moderately employed; the boiler-makers report 7 per cent. idle; all bridge, girder, and boiler yards are quiet. Engineering in Glossop, New Mills, Ripley, Chesterfield, and Long Eaton, continues moderate, but dull in Burton-on-Trent and Ilkeston, about 5 per cent. being unemployed. The iron-moulders report trade as bad in Derby, with 33 per cent. out of work; as slack in Butterley, with 20 per cent. idle; as declining at Somercoates, with 5 per cent. unemployed.

Other Metal Trades.—The stove grate workers are slack. The farriers and general smiths are fairly busy. In Long Eaton the lace machine builders and cycle works are active.

Textile Trades.—The Lace Trade in Derby is quiet; in Long Eaton it is depressed, 5 per cent. being out of work and 50 per cent. only partially employed. The Silk Industry is quiet, and the Cotton Trade in Belper is slack.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring and Boot and Shoe Trades are dull; dress and mantle-makers are fairly busy; the Hosiery Trade in Belper district is slack.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers report trade as fair; the carpenters and joiners as quiet; the stonemasons and gas-fitters as moderate; the plumbers as busy. House painters and decorators are slightly better, a few more men having obtained employment.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report trade as very dull, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the bookbinders as fair; the lithographic printers as bad, with 6 per cent. out of work.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners, upholsterers, cabinet-makers and coach-builders in private shops report trade as moderate; elastic web-weavers, surgical bandage-makers and basket-makers as quiet; dyers and brush-makers as fair; paper-makers, paper-stainers and colour-mixers as good; sawyers and wood-workers' machinists as brisk; and all timber yards fairly busy. In Long Eaton district the wagon-builders are fully employed; wagon-repairers are slack. In Burton-on-Trent the coopers report trade as fair. The railway carriage and wagon builders were reported as slightly better in February, but on March 8th they were put on four days a week.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The reports on the different branches of the Lace Trade show no change, the percentages of unemployed being much the same as in January.

Hosiery Trade.—Female labour on seamless goods is well employed, but the trade generally is bad; many are unemployed, and short time is the rule. On woollen goods employment is fairly good at Hucknall, but at Carlton, Arnold, and Kirkby the hand-frame branch is bad. In Sutton-in-Ashfield 30 per cent. of the hand-frame branch are totally unemployed. Mansfield is fairly well employed on common goods.

Coal Mining.—The Coal Trade is not brisk. The pits are working from 2½ to 5 days per week. A few men have been thrown out of work through the stopping of a seam of coal at the Newcastle pits.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The engineers report 9 per cent. unemployed. Lace machine building has improved, but hosiery machine building is bad. The Cycle Trade is quiet. At Beeston trade is fairly good, with no unemployed. The steam engine-makers and boiler-makers report employment as dull, the former with 3½ per cent. unemployed; the tool machinists and iron-founders as bad, the former with 25 per cent. and the latter 20 per cent. idle; the brass-founders as slack, with 6 per cent. idle; the iron-dressers as quiet, with 9 per cent. idle; the bobbin and carriage-makers as improved, with 4 per cent. unemployed. At Newark the engineers and boiler-makers report trade as improving, with no unemployed. At Retford the iron-founders report trade as moderate. At Mansfield the engineers have no unemployed, but trade is not brisk: the iron-founders are quiet, with 10 per cent. unemployed.

Building Trades.—The weather in the early part of the month completely stopped outdoor operations. At the close of the month few were unemployed. The carpenters and joiners report an improvement, with 6 per cent. unemployed. The builders' labourers had 500 unemployed in the early part of February, but have now only 20 out of work. The bricklayers are fairly brisk. The mill-sawyers report improvement, with 6 per cent. unemployed. At Newark and Mansfield employment is reported as bad; at Retford as fairly good; at Worksop as not brisk, with 4 per cent. unemployed.

Railway Works.—Employment is good at Colwick, Netherfield, and Toton Sidings. The Worksop and Mansfield district is not so fully employed. At Newark and Retford trade is fairly good, and none are out of employment.

Miscellaneous.—The farriers and cabinet-makers report employment as good; the bakers as not quite so good; the tailors, cotton doublers, silk throwsters and coach-makers as bad, the latter with 16 per cent. unemployed. About 200 clothing factory operatives have been thrown out of work through a fire. The elastic bandage-makers report employment as depressed, with 5 per cent. idle; the lithographic printers as not so brisk; the book-binders as quiet, but with no unemployed; the boot and shoemakers as moderate, with 5 per cent. unemployed. The female cigar-makers report no improvement. Gas-workers are fairly busy. *W. L. Hardstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment has been full in all branches of the Leicester trade. In Northampton also there is an improvement, and at Kettering and Wellingborough the operatives are fully employed. Both makers and factors have been accumulating large stocks in anticipation of a stoppage of work resulting from the differences between employers and workmen.

Hosiery, Yarn, and Wool-Spinning Trades.—The Leicester Hosiery Trade improves slowly, about 10 per cent. of the operatives being wholly out of work. At Hinckley and Loughborough a number of workpeople are on short time. There is a little more activity in the Yarn Trade, and the worsted spinners report a slight improvement.

Elastic Webbing Industry.—Business has been slacker in all branches of this trade, and short time has been general among the majority of the operatives.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—With the exception of the electrical branch, the General Engineering Trades are quiet, about 4 per cent. being out of work. The machine builders and kitchen range-makers are busy; the boiler-makers and iron-founders slack. Makers of boot and shoe machinery are in full work, and hosiery needle-makers are better employed. The Cycle Trade is improving rapidly, and skilled labour is in demand.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—At the South Leicester coal pits the men are working from four to six days per week. Trade is moderate in the Stone Quarrying Industry, employment being less regular.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment is good among the letterpress jobbing and lithographic printers, the former reporting 5 per cent. out of work, while some of the latter are working overtime; with bookbinders trade is good, and employment regular.

Building Trades.—Although the weather has now become rather more favourable for building operations, trade lacks animation. The bricklayers report 4 per cent. unemployed; the builders' labourers 7½, and the house painters and decorators 30 to 40 per cent.; the carpenters, and joiners 8 per cent. at Leicester, and 18 to 20 per cent. in other parts of the district. The stonemasons are irregularly employed, and the plasterers moderately so. Few new building contracts are being entered into in the Leicester District, pending the decision of the conference of employers and employed as to whether wages.

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

shall be advanced. The plumbers and gas-fitters are exceptionally busy. The brick and tile-makers are not so fully engaged.

Miscellaneous.—The operatives in the Wholesale Tailoring Trade are working overtime in some cases, but employment is slack in the bespoke branch. The basket-makers report trade as good; the dyers and trimmers as quiet, with 5 per cent. out of work; the cigar-makers and felt hatters as not so regular, 12 per cent. of the latter being unemployed; the rail and tramway coach-builders, pattern-makers, blacksmiths, box-makers and shoe last-makers as good; the carriage and electric light lamp-makers and gas stokers, the wool sorters, bakers, confectioners and saddlers as moderate; the cabinet-makers and upholsterers as depressed. The railway men and navvies are regularly employed; general labourers form the largest portion of those out of work.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment has slightly improved, and at a few manufactories the operatives are busy. Some works were partially stopped for want of clay, canals being frozen. The hollow-ware pressers report an improvement in all branches, and sanitary-pressers and flat-pressers a slight improvement. The printers and transferrers show no improvement, and the women's union report trade as bad, with 2 per cent. unemployed. The ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggar-makers have a number still unemployed, and the crate-makers report no change.

Coal Mining.—There is a better demand for coal both for manufacturing and domestic purposes. At some of the collieries more men are being put on, but a number are still out of work.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Iron Trade remains depressed, numbers being out of employment or working short time. The Steel Trade is moderate, short time prevailing.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, boiler-makers and iron-founders in North Staffordshire report no improvement, 8 per cent. being out of work. Trade is bad at Crewe, 2 per cent. being out of work in the engineering department, and short time prevailing; bad at Congleton; moderate at Stafford.

Textile Trades.—At Leek the silk trimming weavers report a slight improvement, with 2 per cent. out of work. The hard silk and braid departments report no change. At Congleton the silk dressers and trimming weavers report a slight improvement. At Cheadle and Tean the tape workers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—The Building Trades generally are bad, mainly owing to the weather. The wood sawyers and machinists in the Potteries report trade as slack, with 10 per cent. out of work. At Stafford, the bricklayers report trade as moderate; the stone-masons as good, with no unemployed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In the Potteries the letterpress department is still depressed, 10 per cent. being unemployed. At Stafford the trade is fairly good. The lithographic artists and printers report trade as good, with 1 per cent. out of employment. The bookbinders report no change.

Miscellaneous.—The enginemen and stokers report trade as fairly good, with no unemployed. The railway servants at Stoke are fairly well employed; at Stafford 15 per cent. are out of work; at Crewe no change is reported. The tailors report trade as improving in the Potteries; as no better at Crewe; as bad at Stafford. The bakers report no change, 5 per cent. being out of work. The Boot and Shoe Trade at Stafford is fairly good. The gas-workers at Stafford are fairly well employed, with none out of work.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Puddlers have practically done nothing during the month, and most mill-rollers have only been partially employed. The manufacture of steel has been interrupted by the canals being frozen, it being impossible to transport the necessary raw material. Steel smelting has been largely at a standstill. In South Shropshire most of the iron and steel works are on short time.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—The engineers and constructive machinists have maintained the improvement reported, and have 4 per cent. unemployed. The tool-makers and machinists again report a slight improvement. The heavy iron-founders report trade as bad at Smethwick, Tipton, and Dudley; moderate at Wednesbury, and good at Stafford. Bridge, tank, girder, and boiler-makers are fully employed, and gasometer erectors moderately so. In the Cycle Trade many men are working overtime. Electrical Trades are busy, and the railway men continue to work full time. Iron door and safe-makers are slack.

Hardware Trades.—The wrought nail-makers in Dudley, Halesowen, and Bromsgrove districts are slack. There is no improvement in

the Hand-made Nut and Bolt Trade. Rivet-makers are doing little. The Chain Trade has been slack. The vice and anvil-makers are slack in the Dudley district, but busier at "The Lye." The Fender and Iron Bedstead Trades have slightly improved. The Edge Tool Trade is slack. The Lock Trade has improved slightly; the padlock branch continues busy, but the key stampers remain slack. The depression in the Iron and Tinplate Trades continues. The brass and copper-workers are slack. Iron Hurdle and fencing makers are fully employed. The Galvanising and Enamelling Industries have improved. Makers of hinges, latches, and catches are fairly well employed, and file smiths and cutlers are moderately so. The Steel Toy Trade is slack. A slight improvement has been recorded by the hollow-ware casters, but the wire drawers and small-iron moulders are slack. At Walsall the Hame, Chain, Spring Hook, and Harness Furniture Trades are short of work.

Coal Mining.—The weather has interfered with mining in the Cannock Chase district. One pit has been idle for a fortnight. Some have only been partially worked, and others have been doing two or three days per week. In the Black Country district the canals have been kept open. This has enabled the miners to work on an average about four-and-a-half days per week. In South Shropshire the men have worked six days per week.

Building Trades.—These trades have suffered severely, and all outside work has been practically at a standstill. Brickmaking has been entirely suspended. The carpenters have 33 per cent. out of work. The mill-sawyers and machinists are moderately employed. The plumbers are busy. The painters and decorators are slack. Work generally revived at the end of the month.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as fairly good, with about 4 per cent. unemployed; the railway men, gas stokers, oil, colour and varnish-workers as busy; the tailors, wheelwrights, smiths, coach-builders, cabinet-makers, furnishes, coopers and packing-case makers as slack; the bakers, confectioners, and boot and shoe-makers as moderate; the crate-makers, rope and twine spinners as improving. The Glass Trade in Dudley and Brierley Hill is reported as slack; at Wordsley and Stourbridge as improved. Carpet weaving at Kidderminster is bad; the spinners are fully employed. The Leather Industries of Walsall are slack.—*W. F. Me.*

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—General engineering is reported moderate, electrical engineering is good, and underground-workers are well employed. The tool-makers report trade as quiet, with 26 out of work.

Brass and Copper-workers.—Chandelier making is depressed, and many men are suspended. Gas fitting work is more steady, but there is short time at some works. Electric fitting workers are slack. Cabinet brass-work is exceptionally depressed, and 8 per cent. are unemployed. Plumbers' brass work maintains the improvement reported. Copper-smiths' work has again fallen off, and there are 10 per cent. out of employment.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—Jewellery work maintains the slight improvement reported. Silversmiths' work has recovered a little. Electro-plate work is bad; many firms are on short time.

Other Metal-workers.—Bedstead work is reported bad. Cycle work is improving. Metal-rolling is quiet. Iron tube work is fairly good. Tinplate-workers are slack. Wire-drawing is fair. The Safe Trade has improved. Ironplate working is depressed. Smiths and strikers are badly off for work. Carriage iron-workers and nut and bolt-workers are busier.

Building Trades.—There has been a stoppage of all out-door work for several weeks; with better weather it seems probable that work will be found for all.

Furniture and Wood-working.—There is full employment for makers of school furniture; coopers are rather better employed; cabinet-workers are becoming slacker.

Wagon and Carriage Building.—Railway carriage work is moderately good; railway wagon building remains unsatisfactory, many are on short time, and 24 members are out of work.

Other Trades in Birmingham.—The Sporting Gun Trade is flat; military-workers are better employed; ammunition-workers are brisk. Saddlery and harness work is quiet; 40 per cent. are on short time, and 10 per cent. unemployed. Flint glass work continues bad. Glass cutting is also depressed, one of the largest firms placing their men on four days a week.

Trades in South Staffordshire.—Iron-working has been seriously interrupted through the frost; the freezing of the canals has affected the carriage of fuel and goods. In some cases there is an accumulation of work through the stoppage, but in the majority of instances

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—EAST AND S.W. COUNTIES.

ENGLAND: SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.

Coal Mining.—The Forest of Dean Coal Trade has been a little more active. A general reduction in wages of 7½ per cent. has been accepted over the whole coalfield. The terms of settlement include an agreement that this shall be considered the minimum rate of wages until September 30th, 1896. In the Radstock district trade generally has improved, and nearly all the men are in full employment. The Bristol miners report trade as moderate, with about 150 of their number totally unemployed.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—The iron-moulders report employment as fair, with 3 per cent. idle; the engine-fitters, tool-makers and machinists, and cycle-workers as moderate; the pattern-makers as fairly good; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as declining, with about 18 per cent. unemployed; the shipwrights as depressed. The hollow-ware workers, galvanizers and iron-workers, suspended in November, are still unemployed. At Gloucester the railway wagon and coach builders, and those engaged in the engineering departments, report employment as slack.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring Trade has improved. The ready made clothing operatives report employment as fair; the bespoke hands as unusually slack. A slight recovery is noticeable from the depression which has existed for some time past in the Glove-making Trade at Yeovil. At Taunton the shirt and collar-makers are reported as busy.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—In Bristol the boot and shoe operatives report employment as fairly good in all departments; in the Kingswood district as declining. At Street (Somerset) the Machine-sewn Trade is reported as busy; the Hand-sewn Trade is reported as slack.

Building Trades.—The painters, decorators, bricklayers, and builders' labourers report employment as improved. The carpenters, joiners, and masons as bad; the plumbers as fair; the latrenders as dull at Gloucester, Bristol, and Bridgwater. At Taunton the carpenters report trade as fair; the masons and bricklayers as good. At Weston-super-Mare the carpenters and painters are in full employment; the stone-masons are slack.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment has been scarce with sailors and firemen until the end of the month, when the demand for sea-going men became a little brisker. Work has been slack with quayside labourers.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The cabinet-makers and upholsterers report employment as not so brisk; the basket-makers as fair; the brush-makers as dull; the mill-sawyers, wood-cutting machinists, and turners as bad, some working only three-quarter time; the shop and bar-fitters as quiet; the box and packing-case-makers as slack; the coopers as improving.

Miscellaneous.—The lithographic printers report employment as still declining; the letterpress printers as good; the bookbinders as not busy for the season. At Bath a general slackness prevails. The curriers are busy. Employment is scarce, with glass bottle-makers.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industry.—The Metal Mining Industry of Cornwall has shown further depression, owing to the frost and the flooding of a mine. The Clay Industry and quarrying are reported as fairly good but for the weather.

Engineering and Ship Repairing.—There has been a further improvement in the Engineering and kindred Trades. Most of the shops are reported as better employed, and the number of unemployed has again declined.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made department of the Tailoring Trade has been busy, but interfered with by a fire at a factory at Plymouth, a large number of persons being thrown out of work for a time. The bespoke department is generally quiet throughout the district. The Boot and Shoe Trade is fairly well employed at Plymouth, but in other parts of the district is rather quiet.

Building Trades.—Owing to the weather, the bricklayers, plasterers, and labourers have done little work; the carpenters, plumbers, and painters are slack, with numbers unemployed; the masons and stone cutters have been moderately employed.

Dock Labour and Shipping.—The coal porters have been busy; grain porters and general dock labourers continue quiet; seamen remain quiet, and many are still idle.

Miscellaneous.—The wheelwrights, smiths, coach-builders and saddlers report trade as moderate; the Letterpress Printers and kindred Trades as still slack; the bakers, cabinet-makers and

it has made but little difference, and trade seems getting worse. Most of the trades of the district have suffered; the light iron-founders, and the vice and anvil-makers report a distinct falling off.—*W. J. Davis.*

A report on *Coventry and North Warwickshire* states that the Cycle Trade is good. The general Engineering Trade continues to increase. In the Watch Trade there is a fair amount of work, but prices are low. The Ribbon Trade shows signs of improvement. The Wool, Plush, Velvet, and Hosiery Trades are fairly well employed. The Elastic Web Trade is quiet. The Hat Trade is also quiet. Printing in all its branches is good. The Stone Quarrying, Clay Working, and Building Trades have been at a standstill, owing to the severe weather. The miners have been fairly busy during February, working four to six days per week.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers and blacksmiths have been slack at Norwich; at Thetford and Yarmouth fairly busy, with few unemployed; busy at Beccles, where boiler-makers are working eight hours per week overtime in one firm. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft the shipwrights are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—At Norwich the Boot and Shoe Trade has slightly improved; some large firms are working full time. The tailors are short of work; the clothing factories are fairly busy and working full time. At Cambridge the tailors report trade as dull, and at Beccles as bad. At Norwich and Yarmouth the silk and crape factories are working full time.

Building Trades.—Throughout the district these trades have suffered severely from the weather. The plumbers have been busy. At Cambridge a slight change for the better has taken place, but 20 per cent. of the carpenters are still out of work and a large percentage of bricklayers; the number of unemployed labourers has been reduced as the sewerage works have employed a good many. At Newmarket the carpenters are fairly busy.

Fishing.—At Yarmouth and Lowestoft the trawl fishing has been good.

Miscellaneous.—The printers at Norwich, Yarmouth, Fakenham, and Beccles have been slack, many men being out of work. The cabinet-makers at Norwich report employment as bad; the maltsters throughout the district as busy; the coach-builders at Norwich as good; at Beccles as improving, full time being resumed on the 24th February, after 26 weeks of three-quarter time; the sail-makers at Yarmouth and Lowestoft as fairly busy.—*G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.—At Ipswich the engineers report trade as still depressed, but improved; at Leicester and Wickham Market as dull; at Chelmsford as moderate. Those engaged in the Iron Trade at Bury St. Edmunds are well employed. At Ipswich little has been done in the shipbuilding yards, owing to the weather; the boiler-makers are better employed, with 5 per cent. idle.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot and Shoe Trades have been dull at Ipswich and Colchester, but a slight improvement took place at Ipswich towards the close of the month. The Wholesale Clothing Trade has not improved at Ipswich, but is good at Colchester. The stay and corset-makers report employment as good at Ipswich and Sudbury.

Mat Making and Silk Weaving.—The mat weavers report employment as depressed at Sudbury, good at Lavenham, and moderate at Long Melford, Hadleigh, and Glemsford. Silk weaving at Sudbury is reported as good.

Building Trades.—At Ipswich the carpenters report trade as bad, with 17 per cent. unemployed; the bricklayers and stonemasons as improved; the plasterers as dull; the painters as still depressed; the bricklayers' labourers as improving. At Colchester the carpenters and bricklayers report employment as bad. At Chelmsford and at Bury St. Edmunds trade is good. At Sudbury the carpenters report employment as moderate; the bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers as bad; the painters as fair.

Shipping.—The Shipping Trade at the Port of Ipswich has been exceptionally dull.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers at Ipswich report a continued depression, with nearly 10 per cent. out of work; at Bury St. Edmunds and Colchester employment is reported as moderate. The cigar-makers and coach-builders at Ipswich are slack; the general labourers are dull. Trade continues moderate at the horticultural works.—*R. W. Mather.*

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

upholsterers as quiet. The Fishing Industry has experienced further depression. The number of unemployed general labourers has increased, but many have been employed by the local authorities and committees of relief funds.—*J. Welland.*

WALES.

Cardiff, Swansea, and South Wales District.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipping has been good, and reports received from the chief ports indicate that shipping, unshipping and dock labour generally have been moderate. The sailors and firemen and ships' officers report dulness of employment, with a downward tendency in wages.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Every branch of this industry has been fairly well employed during the month. The engineers average about 3 per cent. unemployed throughout the district. At Newport during part of the month there were no unemployed. At Barry employment has been remarkably good. The boiler-makers have been busy, the supply of workmen in the district being hardly equal to the demand. The shipwrights have also been fairly busy. The moulders report trade as bad. The fitters' helpers, boiler-makers' helpers, and other labourers have been well employed. The engineering firms in the outlying and colliery districts have not been so busy as in January, and attribute this to the unsettled state of the Coal Trade.

Steel, Iron, and Tinplate Trades.—The steel and iron works are slack. The Tinplate Trade is still unsettled; few works that are running have all the mills in motion. During the month reductions of from 10 to 12½ per cent. have taken place at several works.

Building Trades.—These trades are still inactive owing to the weather, but, wherever possible, builders have re-started their men. The number out of work in all branches is daily being reduced, but the painters and decorators are reported to have still about two-thirds of their members out of work.

Miscellaneous.—The smelting and spelter works are doing little. The chemical works are dull, and short time is anticipated. The fuel works are also slack, some in Cardiff working short time. The steam sawyers and lath-renders report trade as moderate.—*T. Davies.*

South Wales Mining District.

Coal Mining.—The Steam Coal Trade has improved during the last half of February. The demand for house coal has quickened, but no appreciable advance in price has taken place. The pit wood market is improving, the Coke Trade is fairly good, and the demand for patent fuel continues brisk. Few men are unemployed. The threatened lock-out of the colliers and other workmen employed at the Associated Collieries of South Wales and Monmouthshire continues to be the all-absorbing question in the district. The general feeling seems to be that a lock-out will be averted, but this hope is not shared by some who fully understand the situation.—*W. Evans.*

Further reports from *South Wales* state that the notice given by the associated employers of South Wales and Monmouthshire to their workmen, to terminate contracts at the end of March, has not changed the conditions of the Steam Coal Trade, the market remaining firm. The Coke Trade continues quiet, but the pit-wood is in a bad condition. The depression in the Tinplate Trade is keenly felt in Monmouthshire; 17 mills are idle at Blairston and Nantyglo, leaving about 350 workers unemployed in the county. Through the stoppage in Glamorganshire 4,000 to 5,000 tin-plate workers are reported to be out of employment.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining.—In Mid and East Lothian the coal miners report employment as slightly improved, five days' work per week having been generally obtained the last half of the month. In West Lothian eleven days' work per fortnight has been obtained in some districts, in the other districts five days per week has been the rule.

Mineral Oil Industry.—The Mineral Oil Industry continues good; the shale miners and other classes of workers are fully employed. At 15 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian, in which 2,063 men were employed in February 1894, the number employed is now 2,374, or nearly 15½ per cent. more.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The iron-moulders in both the Falkirk and Edinburgh districts report employment as bad; the tinsmiths and gas meter-makers, copper-smiths, and pattern-makers as unchanged; the blacksmiths and brass-founders as worse; the engineers in Leith as improved, in Edinburgh as unchanged. Returns from 14 branches of unions show 12½ per cent. unemployed.

Shipbuilding.—The shipyards in Leith have been much busier, principally with repair work. The boiler-makers return 6½ per cent. as idle, and the shipwrights 2½ per cent. The ship-joiners have been fairly well employed. The shipwrights and boiler-makers in Inverkeithing report employment as improving. In Alloa the shipwrights have no unemployed. In Grangemouth employment is bad. The boiler-makers in Kirkcaldy report employment as bad, with 30 per cent. idle.

Textile Trades.—The carpet weavers in Midlothian continue well employed. The Woollen Industry in Galashiels, the Hosiery and Woollen Industries in Selkirk, and the Hand-made Hosiery Trade in Hawick continue dull. In Hawick the machine-made hosiery branch shows a slight improvement; the Woollen Industry continues dull; the dyers are slack. In Dunfermline the Linen Industry has improved; the factories are running full time.

Building Trades.—With the exception of the plumbers and plasterers, who report employment as good, all branches report trade as bad, mainly owing to the weather. The painters report an improvement, with a reduction of the number out of work.

Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.—The brush-makers and upholsterers report employment as bad; the cabinet-makers as quiet, with more unemployed; the French-polishers as improving. Returns from 7 branches of unions show 4½ per cent. unemployed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The Shipping Industry continues dull; many seamen and firemen are unemployed. The dock labourers and coal porters report employment as slack.

Printing and allied Trades.—The typefounders continue to work five days per week. The compositors, stereotypers, lithographic printers and artists report employment as good; the bookbinders as declining. Returns from seven branches of unions show 1½ per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The shoe-makers, tailors and gilders report employment as bad; the coopers as worse, with 10 per cent. idle; the bakers, horse-shoers, saw-mill operatives, glass-cutters and stone-throwers as quiet; the skimmers as dull; the coach-makers and curriers as improving, the former with 5 per cent. idle, and the latter with 7 per cent.; the indiarubber-workers and basket-makers as fair. To relieve the distress among general labourers the Corporation has found employment for 400 during February at stone-breaking and road cleaning.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Some of the yards were closed altogether for a period of 10 days, owing to the weather. The joiners and shipwrights report no improvement, although the orders in hand are said to contrast favourably with those of the corresponding period of last year, especially in Greenock and Port Glasgow, where, however, a great number have been unemployed.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The steel-smelters report trade as unchanged; the employers have requested a reduction of 10 per cent. The millmen report trade as fairly good; owing to the introduction of machinery a number of men are idle at almost every works. The steel-workers have received notice of a reduction of 5 per cent. in wages of men earning over 30s. per week. In Motherwell the Steel Trade is fair; notices of reduction of from 5 to 10 per cent. in wages have been given in the smelting and rolling branches.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report little improvement, and the blacksmiths none. During January and February the blacksmiths, with 2,370 members, have spent £600 in unemployed benefit; and the iron-moulders, with 6,390 members, £2,800. In Paisley the moulders, engineers, and blacksmiths are dull. Nut and bolt making is fair; bridge building, range, stove and ornamental fitting are dull. The tool-makers and machinists report employment as bad, but fair in cycle and general machine making; the hammermen as slightly improved; the file-makers as fair; the enginemen and cranemen as good, with few unemployed; the horse-shoers as not so good. The iron-grinders have no idle men; the iron-drillers and iron-dressers have many idle, owing to the frost; the pattern-makers have 10 per cent. unemployed; the brass moulders report trade as good.

Building Trades.—Throughout the district these trades have suffered from the severe frost, but should the weather continue to improve work would be plentiful.

Wood-working Trades.—The wood-turners, wood-carvers and coopers report no improvement. The coach-makers report trade as improved with only 3 per cent. idle; the lath-splitters as good; the cabinet-makers have 17 per cent. idle.

Textile Trades.—The Weaving Industry shows no change; the

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

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Nearly all branches of the Building Industry suffered from the weather at the beginning of the month, but a better state existed towards the close, and the carpenters, joiners, brick and stone layers, and painters are finding employment. The stone-cutters are fairly well employed, and trade with the plasterers holds good, but the plumbers are dull. At Drogheda and the Curragh also building work was suspended, owing to the severity of the weather, and relief funds were started for the unemployed.

Wood-working and Furnishing Trades.—The sawyers, lath-splitters, packing-case makers, and upholsterers report trade as dull. The cabinet-makers and coopers keep fairly busy. In the Coachbuilding Industry employment was fair, but was dull with the saddlers.

Iron Trades.—These trades have been dull in all branches.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and boot and shoe-makers report employment as dull. Dressmakers and other women workers have been better employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—The Printing Trade has been very quiet during the month, 194 men signed the unemployed roll, 52 receiving the out-of-work allowance. The lithographic printers are still dull; the binders and paper-rulers, cutters, machine assistants, despatch workers, stereotypers, and bookfolders are fairly busy.

Provision Trades.—Employment is fair with the Bakers, Confectioners, Butchers, and Food Trades generally. The hotel and club assistants, grocers' assistants, and purveyors' assistants report trade as fair; the mineral-water operatives as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Work is fair in the bottle factories not affected by the dispute. The cork-cutters, basket-makers, brush-makers, shipwrights, fishermen, sailors and firemen report trade as slack; the corn-millers, tobacco-workers, tram-men, railway servants, and hairdressers as fair; the organ-builders, silversmiths, quay and riverside labourers as good. The Corporation labourers, with extra men, were busy during the early part of the month, but work among them is again normal.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

General.—Employment has been abnormally quiet in all departments, the out-workers suffering most owing to the weather. The returns received from 52 societies, with a membership of 18,216, show 1,348, or 7½ per cent., to be unemployed, as against 1,259, or 6½ per cent. of the membership, in January.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of the 8,115 members employed in these trades from whom returns have been received, 553, or 6·8 per cent., are out of employment, as against 552, or 7·0 per cent. of the membership, at the end of January. The blacksmiths, brass-founders, engineers, iron turners, and carpenters and joiners report trade as dull; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as slack; the iron-founders as quiet; the strikers' and blacksmiths' helpers as moderate; the general labourers' and platers' helpers as improving; the pattern-makers, shipwrights, enginemen, and cranemen as fair; the hand-drillers, hole-cutters, and machine-workers as fairly good.

Linen Trades.—Of the 4,119 members in these industries, 288, or 7·0 per cent., are stated to be unemployed, as against 283, or 6·9 per cent. of the membership in January. The flax roughers report trade as bad; the hackle and gill makers, power loom tenters, and power loom yarn dressers as dull; the beetling enginemen, shirt collar and apron cutters, flax dressers, bobbin turners, spindle and flyer-makers, and linen lappers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Of the 709 members of societies employed in these trades, five are said to be totally unemployed, while the tailors are reported to be only partially employed.

Building Trades.—Out of the 2,464 employed in the Building Trades, 324, or 13·1 per cent., are unemployed, as against 277, or 11·3 per cent., of the membership in January. The painters', bricklayers', and plasterers' labourers report trade as bad; the bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, and plasterers as dull; the mill-sawyers and wood-working machinists as fair, and the plumbers as good.

Furnishing and Wood-working.—In this group of 7 trades with 480 members, 50, or 10·4 per cent., are reported to be unemployed, as against 43, or 9·0 per cent. of the membership in January. The cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French-polishers and brush-makers report trade as quiet; the coach-builders as bad; the packing-case makers as dull, and the coopers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The four societies in this group, with a membership of 784, report 53, or 6·8 per cent., as unemployed, as against 44, or 5·7 per cent. of the membership in January. The

warpers are still slack. The carpet-weavers in Glasgow and Paisley are on full time, but in Glasgow have occasionally to wait for work.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report an improvement. The clothiers' operatives as fair; the tailoresses as bad during the month but with better prospects. The boot and shoe operatives show no improvement, but in Kilmarnock trade is good.

Miscellaneous.—The spindle and flyer-makers report trade as brisk in the spindle department; the wire-weavers as dull. The railway men and carters have been fairly well employed. The tobacco pipe-makers report trade as not so good; the bookbinders, cork cutters, flint glass cutters, calico engravers, and plate glass-workers show no improvement. The saddlers report trade as bad, with 8 per cent. idle; the glass bottle-makers as fairly busy, but the medical branch as dull. The letterpress and lithographic printers report no change. The bakers have 25 per cent. idle in Paisley, and a number in Glasgow are only partially employed. The dock labourers have been fairly well employed.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Industries.—The improvement previously reported in the Linen Trade of this district has been barely maintained. The Jute Industry continues unsatisfactory, but the proportion of unemployed has not materially changed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Most branches of the Engineering Trades show improvement. The pattern-makers report employment as fairly good; the turners and machine-workers as good; the fitters as fair; the blacksmiths as good, with 4 per cent. unemployed; the iron-moulders as moderately busy, with fewer idle. Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders show little change, but the shipwrights report that a fair start has now been made in the yards, although the percentage of unemployed is slightly higher.

Clothing Trades.—In the last week of the month, the Tailoring Trade showed a marked improvement; the number of tailors unemployed is diminishing, and women workers are well employed. The Boot and Shoe Trade is moderate.

Building Trades.—But for the weather these trades would have been unusually busy. The masons, plasterers, and builders' labourers have suffered most. The carpenters and joiners show a small percentage of unemployed. The painters report a little improvement; the plumbers are busy; the slaters fairly so.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report trade as satisfactory; the lithographers and bookbinders as moderately busy; the cabinet-makers and upholsterers as still slack; the bakers as normal; the saw-millers as good; the paviors as unsteady; the dock and general labourers as slack; bleachfield workers have improved, but a number remain unemployed.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

Quarrying.—Work in the quarries was resumed the last week of February. The sett-makers would be fully employed but for the weather. Several monumental stone-cutters are unemployed for want of material from the quarries, otherwise trade is moderate. The granite polishers are working short hours, with almost 12 per cent. unemployed.

Building Trades.—The Building Trades as a whole are busy, but affected by the weather; work was resumed at the end of the month on the usual working scale of 51 hours per week. The plumbers are busy. The saw-millers and wood-cutting machinemen report trade as good, but are only working 8½ hours per day.

Fishing.—In February the trawl boats landed 34,106 cwts., realising £15,841, and line boats 11,362 cwts., realising £4,220, an increase in quantity landed, but a decrease in value realised as compared with January.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, with 49·7 per cent. idle, the shipwrights, with 23·3 per cent., and the blacksmiths, with 8 per cent., report trade as bad; the iron-moulders as slightly improved, with 19·5 per cent.; the engineers as dull; the pattern-makers as moderate, with 7 per cent. idle; the tinplate-workers as still improving, with none idle.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report trade as improving; the lithographic printers, with 13 per cent. idle, the flax, cotton, jute, and paper-workers, saddlers, hand-sewn boot and shoe-makers, carpet weavers and coachbuilders as moderate; the rope and twine spinners and hemp dressers as good; the bakers, cabinet-makers, and chair-makers as dull; the wood-carvers and wood turners as fair; the upholsterers, with 15 per cent. idle, the tailors, boot and shoe-makers, riveters and finishers, and general labourers as bad.—*W. Johnston.*

letterpress printers report trade as bad; the bookbinders and machine rulers as fair; and the lithographic printers as good.

Miscellaneous.—In this group of 8 societies, with a membership of 1,545, 75, or 4.9 per cent., are unemployed, as against 54, or 2.9 per cent. of the membership in January. The butchers report trade as bad; the hotel and club assistants and sail-makers as quiet; the bakers, railway servants, and tinplate-workers as fair; and the locomotive engine drivers and firemen, and paviors as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron ship-builders in Cork and Passage West report trade as fair. The fitters, turners, smiths, pattern-makers and moulders report trade as bad; the coppersmiths, brass-moulders and brass-finishers as fair in Cork, Limerick and Waterford. The Cycle Trade is improving.

Building and Wood-working Trades.—The bricklayers and masons report employment as good; the plasterers, stucco-workers, painters, plumbers and gas-fitters as dull; the carpenters as quiet; the builders' labourers as fair. The coopers, mill-sawyers and wood-working machinists report trade as good; the cabinet-makers as dull.

Food and Clothing.—The flax and tweed operatives in Blarney, Douglas and Cork report trade as steady; the boot and shoe operatives, beef and pork butchers as fair; the tailors as bad; the creamery operatives and bacon curers as good; the bakers and confectioners, grocers' and wine merchants' assistants as dull.

Fishing.—The sea fishery round the South and West Coast has been dull in consequence of the weather. The river fishery also has not been prosperous.

Miscellaneous.—The book-binders and letterpress printers report trade as dull; the brewery workmen, railway servants and corporation labourers as good; the cork cutters as fair; the hackney car drivers as dull; the coal porters, general quay labourers, tinsmiths, sailors and firemen as bad.—*P. O'Shea.*

UNEMPLOYED COMMITTEE.

On February 13th a Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to enquire and report as to the extent to which distress arising from want of employment prevails; as to the powers at present possessed by Local or Central authorities in relation to such cases, and as to any steps which may be taken, whether by change in legislation or administration, to deal with the evils arising therefrom. The Committee was further directed to make an Interim Report on the immediate steps which might be taken to meet the distress this winter. This Interim Report was presented to Parliament on March 11th, and has been circulated (price 1d.).

THE CRISIS IN THE BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

DURING the past month the long-threatened crisis in the Boot and Shoe Trade has become acute, and notices have been issued for a general lock-out in the trade.

The accounts which have appeared in the GAZETTE, especially in the November, December, and February numbers, with regard to the earlier stages of the dispute, have sufficiently described the general causes which have led up to the stoppage, but it is desirable here to give a brief summary.

The two most important organisations in the Boot and Shoe Trade are the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, numbering about 44,000 members, and the Federated Association of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers. In the chief centres of the Boot and Shoe Trade, such as Leicester, London, Northampton, Kettering, Leeds, Bristol, &c., rates of wages are mainly determined by elaborate piece-work statements, applicable to each district. For the determination of disputed questions arising out of these statements, or otherwise affecting the trade, local joint Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration have been for some time in existence, while questions of wider range have been dealt with by a National Conference, meeting in Leicester, of which for some time past Sir Henry James has acted as umpire. Of late there has been increasing friction in the relations between employers and employed in the trade, which has affected the smooth working of this system of conciliation and arbitration. Various local and accidental causes have contributed to this state of things, but in

the main it may be regarded as a symptom of the transition stage through which the industry is now passing, owing to the introduction of machinery, chiefly for "lasting" and "finishing." The introduction of such machinery has naturally produced changes in the organisation of the trade which have affected agreements and the recognised statements of wages, and have given rise to important questions as to the conditions under which the machine work should be carried on. Generally speaking, hand work is done on the piece-work system, while operatives working machines are paid at time rates. The Union is desirous of the introduction of a piece list applicable to machine work, and one of the questions at present in controversy is the basis on which such a piece list should be constructed.

Charges have been made by manufacturers of attempts to restrict output from the new machines on the part of the men with a view to affecting in their favour the rates to be embodied in the proposed piece lists. On the other hand, counter charges of overdriving are made by the men against some employers.

Another question closely connected with the transition state of the industry is that of the sending of various portions of the work by manufacturers to be performed outside the limits of the district to which the wages statement under which they are working relates. It is the custom, for example, for some manufacturers in Leicester and Northampton to have the leather for certain classes of boots cut out and machined in those towns, sent out into the country to be lasted, and brought back into town to be heeled and finished by machinery. To this practice, known among the workmen as the "basket system," the Union object. No objection is raised to branch establishments in the country districts, but the Union claim that work cut out in a town ought to be completed within that town under the conditions prescribed by the local statement. On the other hand, the manufacturers point out that the practice of sending out work into the country is a very old one, and that to abolish it would inflict hardship on the country workpeople, besides being an illegitimate interference with the right of the employer to choose the place in which his work or any part of it should be done. With reference to this controversy it is to be remembered that the so-called "indoor" movement which has taken place of late years in the chief urban centres of the trade, under which the manufacturers have agreed to carry out in their factories or workshops, lasting and finishing which formerly were given out to be done off the premises, has only extended to the districts governed by the various piece-work statements, and regulated by the local Arbitration and Conciliation Boards.

The transition from hand work to machinery has raised important questions of principle with regard both to the organisation of the trade and the rates of remuneration, and it is stated by the employers that the Boards of Arbitration and Conciliation have of late been used to discuss classes of questions which they did not originally contemplate as subject to their jurisdiction. Complaints have also been made by the employers of the non-observance of certain awards of arbitrators on the part of the men (see GAZETTE, December, 1894, page 371). Owing to the increasing friction the Employers' Federation during November last submitted to the Union seven proposals, the object of which was described to be: "by affirming certain principles to restrict the operation of the Arbitration Boards to the work for which they were originally intended." These seven proposals were quoted in full in the November GAZETTE (see page 348). They expressly reserved from the consideration of the Boards certain matters, including any change of wages within the next two years; the introduction at present of a piece-work statement for machine work; any restriction of employers in the internal management of their factories in introducing machinery, or having work done where they pleased; and the restriction of output by the Union.

The events which followed the issue of these proposals have been already described in the GAZETTE for December and February. The employers resolved to withdraw from the National Conference, and to instruct the local Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration not to consider matters covered by the seven proposals. The Executive of the Union, on the other hand, rejected the employers' proposals, but suggested a meeting between the executive of the two bodies for mutual explanation (for the full text of the Resolutions, see GAZETTE of February, page 49). Their decision was supported on a ballot of their members by 5,046 against 1,930. The total number voting was 6,976, or less than a quarter of the financial members entitled to vote. The effect of the vote was to prevent the Executive from having power to accept the employers' proposals (or any of them) in the form as issued.

The Employers' Federation met at Kettering on February 13th, and passed the following Resolution:—

"That this Federation regrets the action taken by the delegates of the National Union in rejecting the whole of the employers' proposals; it cannot see any possible utility in a conference with the Executive Committee of the National Union, the resolution of its delegates absolutely precluding them from accepting any one of the proposals which we are invited to discuss; the reasons for such proposals have already been fully explained in the report of the Federation dated 5th December 1894. Further, in the opinion of this Federation, it would be impossible under these circumstances to go into a conference without the implied surrender of our just rights as manufacturers upon the exercise of which the success of our business and the employment of our workpeople depend. That, so far as is known, there is no matter in dispute other than these propositions, but when, and as other disputes arise in connection with subjects admitted to be within the province of arbitration, this Federation, established for the very purpose, will continue to maintain that mode of settlement. That the Union executive having recently refused to carry out the decision of the umpire in the St. Albans case, which resulted in the resignation of the President of the late Conference, this Federation is of opinion that sufficient guarantees should be given on both sides for the faithful carrying out of the result of such arbitration. That this resolution be submitted to each association in connection with the Federation, with the request that a meeting of members be called to express their opinions thereon."

On February 18th the Executive of the Union met at Leicester, and adopted the following Resolution:—

"That this Executive of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, having considered the long and vague resolution passed at the Employers' Federation meeting at Kettering, hereby decides that, as the employers have not definitely withdrawn their proposals, but have refused to meet this Executive in a national conference, instructions be issued to the workmen's sides of the various Boards of Arbitration affected, requesting them to immediately make an effort to carry into effect the third proposal made by the delegate meeting, which reads as follows: 'Failing this, that the proposals be withdrawn by the Employers' Federation, and full powers given to local boards of arbitration to deal with all questions affecting employers and workmen in their particular districts, in accordance with their several rules, and, further, that the branches be requested to report forthwith the result of their efforts.'"

The Union next took steps to ascertain what the attitude of the employers would be on the various local boards, in respect to the subjects covered by the seven proposals of the employers. Thus the Northampton branch applied for a full meeting of the local Arbitration Board to consider the question of certain new extras in the various statements. On February 23rd a meeting of Northampton manufacturers refused this request, on the ground that the proposed subject contravened the first of the seven propositions of the Federation (that no change in the piece-work statements should take place for two years). The men treated this reply as equivalent to the breaking up of the Board.

Again, on February 28th, at a meeting of the Leicester Board, after a long discussion on the validity of an umpire's award before being entered on the minutes of

the Board, a motion was made on behalf of the operatives:—

"That this Board decides that all work cut in Leicester shall be made and finished in Leicester, and paid for in accordance with the prices and conditions at present in operation in Leicester."

The manufacturers having declined to discuss this question, as contravening the fifth of their propositions, the workmen decided to retire from the Board.

On the following day the Union served notice on six firms in Leicester, giving a week's notice to leave employment unless they promised not to have any more work made in the country and finished in Leicester; and to advance the minimum wage of press-men by 3s., and that of clickers by 2s. a week. Notices were also served on three firms at Northampton for an advance of wages. The demands were in all these cases refused. On March 6th the Employers' Federation resolved to meet this strike by a general lock-out. The following is the text of the Resolution passed at this meeting:—

"That, having regard to the constant refutation of the awards of umpires and arbitration boards by the executive of a workmen's union, this Federation considers that any further attempt at a conference or arbitration with them is utterly useless."

"That the Union executive, having given notice of a strike, at nine factories, of members in connection with the Federation, whom we are obliged effectually to support, the Federation calls upon all members of the local associations to give notice of the dismissal of all workers in their factories, to take place at the end of next week, the numbers of non-union workers in the various departments to be ascertained in the meantime and their position further considered."

Several offers of mediation have been made in various quarters, but hitherto without success. Sir Henry James has caused it to be understood that he would be willing to assist in settling questions in dispute, and on March 6th the Board of Trade communicated with both sides, offering, if desired by both sides, to use their good offices to promote a conference, with a view of bringing about a settlement of the differences, no action being taken in the meantime by either side against the other. The efforts to prevent a stoppage, however, have not been successful. The Union has offered to submit all the questions at issue to the arbitration of Sir Henry James, but the employers decline to consider them as fit subjects for arbitration, and further express doubts as to the possibility of enforcing any award that might be given.

Time-workers, for whom alone a week's notice is necessary, will not cease work until March 16th. The Union, however, determined to withdraw piece-workers at once, and a large number left their employment as soon as they had finished the work in hand.

The dispute when it reaches its full extent will probably apply to most of the chief centres of the trade in England, but Scotland and Ireland will not be directly affected. Norwich, Stafford, Stone, Wellingborough and Hinckley districts are not included in the Employers' Federation, and the Co-operative Boot and Shoe Works will also be unaffected.

Reports from the various districts show that about 10,000 piece-workers had ceased work up to March 11th, of whom 6,500 were in the Leicester, Northampton and Kettering district. An additional number of over 50,000, chiefly time-workers, are expected to cease work on March 16th. These totals include a large number of women and boys.

The Manufacturers' Federation has made arrangements to give financial support to the weaker employers, and the Union, which has about £60,000 in hand, will pay strike pay at the rate of 10s. a week to such of its members as are affected.

On March 13th the Executive of the Federation resolved:—

"That the manufacturers belonging to the Federation be empowered to employ non-union workmen, on condition that they will sign a declaration that they do not belong to the Union, and will not, during the present strike, contribute either to the Union funds or to the support of the strike."

This decision will to some extent reduce the number of men who will come out at the end of the present week.

CO-OPERATIVE CONTRACTS IN ITALY.

By an Italian Law passed in July 1889 provisions were made with a view to enabling contracts for the execution of public works to be undertaken by co-operative associations of working men, provided that the value of the work in each case should not exceed £4,000, and that the contract be one in which the value of the labour predominates (as compared with the value of materials, &c.). From figures supplied by the Italian Ministry of Public Works, through Sir D. Colnaghi, H.M. Consul-General at Florence, it appears that the total number and value of the contracts given out by that Ministry under these provisions to co-operative associations has been as follows:—In 1889, 27 contracts, value £18,243; in 1890, 157 contracts, value £146,933; in 1891, 119 contracts, value £65,462; in 1892, 104 contracts, value £69,050; in 1893, 171 contracts, value £94,385; in 1894, 135 contracts, value £59,913; in all, 713 contracts, value £453,986.

NOTICE OF ACCIDENTS ACT.

A SUMMARY of the accidents reported to the Board of Trade during February under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894* is given in the tables below, from which it will be seen that reports have been received of 324 accidents, by which 11 persons were killed and 319 injured.

It is not improbable that the number of accidents which occurred during the month and which should have been reported is greater than appears from the tables, the requirements of the Act being not yet generally known.

Table showing the number of separate accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act during the month of February 1895, and the number of persons killed and injured in such accidents.

A.—Distinguishing Nature of Employment.

Group.	Nature of Works, &c.	Construction or Repair.			Use or Working.*		
		No. of Accidents.	No. of persons killed.	No. of persons injured.	No. of Accidents.	No. of persons killed.	No. of persons injured.
I.	Bridge...	1	...	1	...	...	...
	Canal ...	1	...	1	7	1	6
	Dock ...	35	2	35	90	1	90
	Gaswork ...	4	1	3	35	1	35
	Harbour ...	1	...	1	...	...	...
	Pier ...	2	...	2	3	...	3
	Port ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Quay ...	...	...	...	8	...	8
	Railway ...	15	...	15	...	...	...
	Tramroad ...	...	...	...	5	1	4
	Tramway ...	2	1	1	13	...	13
	Tunnel ...	16	...	17	...	...	...
	Other Workst ...	8	...	9	1	...	1
	II.	Buildings ...	31	...	31	73½	2½	71½
III.	Traction or other steam engine or machine in the open air	Act does not apply.					
	Total ...	88	4	88	236	7	231

B.—Distinguishing Nature of Injury.

(The Groups are the same as in Table A.)

Nature of Injury.	Group I.		Group II.		Group III.
	Construction or repair.	Use or working.	Construction or repair.	Use or working.	Use or working.
Fractures ...	4	13	...	1	...
Dislocations ...	...	3	...	...	...
Ruptures and other severe injuries to body ...	19	20	...	3	...
Injuries to eye ...	3	3	...	7	...
Other injuries to head or face	15	19	...	6	...
Other injuries to arms or hands ...	19	36	...	31	...
Other injuries to legs or feet	24	58	3	20	...
Miscellaneous injuries ...	1	8	...	3	...
Total ...	85	160	3	71	...

* Section 6 of the Act states that "Nothing in this Act shall apply to any employment which is for the time being regulated by any Act of Parliament administered by the Secretary of State or by inspectors appointed by him, or shall require notice to be given of any accident of which notice is required by any other Act to be given to the Board of Trade."

† Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

‡ On buildings more than 30 feet high by means of scaffolding.

§ In buildings more than 30 feet high in which more than 20 persons, not being domestic servants, are employed for wages.

THE SITUATION IN THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.

THE adjourned Conference between representatives of the Central Association of Master Builders of London and the delegates from the various trades was held at the offices of the Central Association of Master Builders of London, 31 Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., on Monday, the 11th March, when the proposed amended working rules for the London district were considered. (See GAZETTE for November 1894.)

The Conference lasted upwards of three hours, and was adjourned to Tuesday, the 19th March, for the representatives of the workmen to consider the following conditions, which the employers state must be accepted before any rules can be agreed to:—

"We agree to the principle of a Conciliation Board, subject to the following:—

"I.—Rules IX. and X. to be omitted as rules, but to be inserted as a preamble to the Working Rules.

"II.—That an independent arbitrator be appointed.

"III.—That no strike whatever shall take place until the dispute has been before the Conciliation Board.

"The further details to be arranged at a subsequent meeting of one representative of each trade, and an equal number of master builders."

The trades to be represented are the masons, bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and joiners, painters, plumbers, smiths, and labourers.

The following are the proposed rules IX. and X. referred to:—

"IX. That no workmen shall be placed under any disability by reason of being or not being a member of a Trade Society.

"X. That no objection shall be raised to sub-letting work, provided the other Rules are observed.

"XI. That six months' notice on either side shall terminate the foregoing Rules."

THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE AND THE SLIDING SCALE.

SINCE 1875 the wages of miners in South Wales and Monmouth have been chiefly regulated by sliding scales, and, up to the end of 1893, five such scales have been in existence. The agreement about to terminate is that of February 17th 1893. This agreement had to continue in force until the 30th of September 1894, and thenceforth until either party gave six months' notice of termination, such notice to be given on the 1st day of April 1894, or on the first day of any succeeding October or April. The rate of advance or reduction in wages under the scale in question is 8½ per cent. on every shilling of rise or fall in the price of coal. Under the previous (1890) scale the rate had been 10 per cent. On the 29th September last, notice was given on behalf of the miners that the sliding scale agreement in force should terminate on March 31st 1895. Since that time several meetings have taken place between the representatives of both parties. The principal demands of the miners are:—

1. The reversion to the 10 per cent. scale of 1890.
2. The establishment of a minimum wage.
3. The appointment of an umpire to decide in all cases of dispute where the Joint Committee fails to agree.

On February 23rd these proposals were fully discussed at a conference of representatives of employers and employed, but no agreement was arrived at. At the beginning of the present month the Associated Coal-owners gave notice to their miners that all contracts should terminate on March 31st. An important conference of delegates from the collieries was subsequently held at Cardiff, when it was decided that a ballot of the miners should be taken as to whether the notice of termination of the sliding scale should be withdrawn, or whether a conciliation board should be formed.

WAGES IN THE COTTON SPINNING TRADE.

THE Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations had agreed that if firms owning four-fifths of the spindles in the districts of these Associations would pledge themselves to enforce a wages reduction of 5 per cent. by stopping their mills, the stoppage should be made general all over the district. Owing to the non-response of outside districts and of non-members in the Federation districts, the Executive Committee of the Federation on March 12th decided to take no immediate action. The Bolton Association, not included in the Federation, had obtained the required pledge from its members, but is not expected to take action alone.

THE CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL AND OTHER BILLS AFFECTING LABOUR.

SINCE the last issue of the GAZETTE the Government Bills dealing with the Amendment of the Factory and Truck Acts, and with Conciliation and Arbitration in Trade Disputes, have been printed.

The text of the operative clauses of the Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill is given below.

The Factories and Workshops Bill, which consists of 52 clauses besides schedules, is too long to print in full, but it is hoped in a future number to give a summary of this Bill and the Truck Acts Amendment Bill.*

1. Where a difference exists or is apprehended between an employer, or any class of employers, and workmen, or between different classes of workmen, the Board of Trade may, if they think fit, exercise all or any of the following powers, namely:—

(a) inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference, and make such report, if any, thereon as appears to the Board expedient; and

(b) invite the parties to the difference to meet together, by themselves or their representatives, under the presidency of a chairman mutually agreed upon or nominated by the Board of Trade or by some other person or body, with a view to the amicable settlement of the difference.

2. In the case of any difference to which the foregoing section applies, the Board of Trade may, on the application of any of the employers or workmen interested, and if the Board, after taking into consideration the existence and adequacy of means available for conciliation in the district or the trade, and the circumstances of the case and of the application, are of opinion that the circumstances are such as to justify them in proceeding under this section, appoint a person or persons to act as conciliator or as a board of conciliation, and the person or persons so appointed shall inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference by communication with the parties and otherwise, shall endeavour to bring about a settlement of the difference, and may make such report as he or they may think fit.

3. If it appears to the Board of Trade that in any district or trade where disputes are of frequent occurrence adequate means do not exist for having disputes submitted to a board of conciliation for the district or trade, they may appoint any person or persons to inquire into the conditions of the district or trade, and to confer with employers and employed, and, if they think fit, with any local authority, as to the expediency of establishing a local board of conciliation or arbitration.

4. Where it appears to the council of any county or borough that adequate means do not exist within their county or borough for having disputes between employers and workmen submitted to a conciliator or board of conciliation, they may appoint, or aid in appointing, a conciliator or board of conciliation for their county or borough, or for any part of their county, or for any trade carried on within their county or borough, and may, if they think fit, pay out of the county or borough rate or fund, as the case may require, any expenses of or incidental to the work of any conciliator or board of conciliation appointed by them, or of any board of conciliation on which they are represented.

5. (1) For the purpose of enabling a conciliator or board of conciliation to obtain information about facts relating to any particular difference existing or apprehended between any employer, or any class of employers, and workmen, or between different classes of workmen, the Board of Trade may, if they think fit, by order, invest the conciliator or board of conciliation, with all or any of the following powers, namely:—

(a) power, for that purpose, to administer an oath, and require any person examined to make and sign a declaration of the truth of the statements made by him in his examination;

(b) power, for that purpose, to require, by summons signed by the conciliator or by a member of the board of conciliation, the attendance of any such person as the conciliator or board may think fit to call before him or them and examine as to any matter relating to or bearing on the difference, and to require answers or returns to such inquiries as the conciliator or board of conciliation may think fit to make;

(c) power, for that purpose, to require the production of any books, papers, and documents which the conciliator or board of conciliation may consider material.

(2) Provided as follows:—

(i.) A witness summoned under any such powers shall be allowed such expenses as would be allowed to him if attending on subpoena to give evidence before any court of record; and

(ii.) A person shall not under any such powers be compelled to produce any document which he could not be compelled to produce on the trial of an action, nor to produce any books or accounts showing the profit or loss in his trade or business, nor to produce the books or accounts of any trade union, nor to answer any question as to profit and loss or as to books or accounts of a trade union which he objects to answer.

(3.) If any person—

(i.) having been required in pursuance of powers conferred under this section to attend as a witness before any conciliator or board of conciliation, and having had a tender

* The Bills can be obtained from Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, E.C., at the following prices:—Factories and Workshops Bill, 2d.; Truck Acts Amendment Bill, 3d.; Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill, 1d.

made to him of the expenses, if any, to which he is entitled, refuses so to attend; or (ii.) refuses or neglects to make any answer or to produce any document in his possession which he may be required under this section to make or produce;

he shall for each offence be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

6. (1) Where there is a written agreement to submit to arbitration present or future differences between an employer, or any class of employers, and workmen, or between different classes of workmen, the Arbitration Act, 1889, shall apply subject to the following modifications, namely:—

(a) Subject to any written agreement to the contrary, a person shall not be required to produce any books or accounts showing the profit or loss in his trade or business, nor to produce the books or accounts of any trade union, nor to answer any question as to profit and loss, or as to books or accounts of a trade union which he objects to answer;

(b) The power given by section five of the Act to the court or a judge to appoint an arbitrator, umpire, or third arbitrator, may be exercised also by the Board of Trade.

(2) Where there is an agreement to refer to arbitration any question as to the rate of future wages, or the future price of labour or workmanship, the parties to the arbitration, or any of them, may deposit or otherwise secure a sum of money to be paid in the event of any breach of the award.

7. The Board of Trade shall keep a register of boards of conciliation and arbitration, and may record, in such manner and with such particulars as to the Board may seem expedient, the constitution and proceedings of such boards.

8. The Board of Trade shall present to Parliament annually a report of their proceedings under this Act.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION

IN FEBRUARY.

Sanitary Pressers' Dispute at Hanley.

So far back as October 29th 1894, a misunderstanding, resulting in stoppage of work, arose at the Cliff Vale Potteries, Hanley, between the firm and that section of the operatives known as Sanitary Pressers. The cause was the introduction by the firm of a new kind of basin which did not come within the conditions provided for in the price list of the firm, and the parties differed as to the price to be paid for the work. At first only 21 persons out of 150 engaged as Sanitary Pressers were affected, but at the end of the year further complications arose, and the Pressers' Unions withdrew the whole of their members. This caused a stoppage of all the auxiliary labour engaged in this department of the works, and eventually 300 people were thrown out of employment. The employer at once offered to refer the dispute to arbitration under certain conditions, but the men refused to assent. The attention of the Board of Trade was called to the position of the dispute by the local correspondent in the district, and on February 14th an official of the Labour Department visited Hanley, and in conference with the employer and the officers of the trade unions concerned, arranged for a reference of the matters in dispute to an open arbitration before an umpire to be appointed by the Board of Trade, the men agreeing to return to work at once, pending the decision of the umpire. Accordingly at the beginning of the following week the men resumed work after a stoppage of nearly four months. At the request of the Board of Trade, the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., has consented to act as umpire, and the parties will meet on the 18th March. Mr. Mundella will also confer with the local Chamber of Commerce as to the establishment of a permanent Conciliation Board for this important branch of the trade of the district.

The Durham Coal Trade Conciliation Board.

THE representatives of the employers and workmen constituting the recently formed Conciliation Board in the Durham Mining Industry having failed to agree mutually to the appointment of an umpire, have, in accordance with Rule 4 of their constitution, requested the Board of Trade to make such appointment, after conferring with each of the parties forming the Conciliation Board, in accordance with the provisions of the rule. The conference between the Board of Trade and the representatives of each section of the Conciliation Board took place on February 26th, when the Board of Trade undertook to appoint an umpire. The appointment has not yet been announced.

CO-OPERATION IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February one new association of consumers for distribution was registered in England and one dissolved, while two others at Brighton and Stevenage, and another at Holytown, in Scotland, have commenced to wind up their affairs.

In Ireland seven new co-operative dairies and agricultural societies have been registered, and a co-operative newspaper published.

The report of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society for the quarter ending December 22nd 1894 has been received during February. It shows that in the distributive departments the sales amounted to £2,582,217 an increase of £44,109 over the corresponding quarter of 1893, and the net profits* to £39,129, compared with £16,959.

In the manufacturing departments, the sales, *i.e.*, transfers to distributive departments, amounted to £184,496, an increase of 6·1 per cent., and the net profits* to £6,549, as compared with a loss* of £6,756 in the corresponding quarter of 1893. For the first quarter since September 1892, a profit* is shown upon the working of the society's corn mill.

The report of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society for the quarter ended December 29th 1894 has also been received. It shows that in the distributive departments the sales amounted to £810,032, an increase of nearly 1 per cent. upon the corresponding quarter of 1893, and the net profits* to £26,225, an increase of 40·5 per cent.

In the manufacturing departments, the sales, *i.e.*, transfers to distributive departments, amounted to £113,093, an increase of 39·0 per cent. over the corresponding period of 1893, and the net profits* to £5,025, an increase of 17·3 per cent.

The reports of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society for the whole of the year 1894 show the total sales in the distributive departments to have been £9,443,938, a decrease as compared with 1893 of £82,229, and the net profits* £126,192, an increase of £42,036. In the manufacturing departments, the sales, *i.e.*, transfers to distributive departments, amounted to £763,226, an increase of £8,050 over 1893, and the net profits* to £12,364 as compared with a net loss* in 1893 of £1,247.

The following table showing the production, expenses and profits during 1894 of the manufacturing departments of the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies are compiled from the published accounts of the two societies:—

Table showing Particulars of the Productive Work carried on by the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies in 1894, as compared with 1893:—

	English Co-operative Wholesale Society.		Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.	
	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.
Cost value of Productions	£ 783,778	£ 729,144	£ 380,797	£ 293,089
Expenses (excluding raw materials).				
(a) Amount of wages paid†	146,042	130,926	74,604	68,260
(b) Sundry expenses	27,241	24,780	10,760	8,051
(c) Interest on capital employed ...	14,087	14,176	7,753	6,136
(d) Depreciation of property	15,468	14,979	5,184	3,950
Sales, <i>i.e.</i> , transfers to Distributive Departments	763,226	755,176	341,842	295,644
Net profit*	12,364	—	18,617	16,817
Net loss*	—	1,247	—	—

Returns received from eight corn mill societies for the year 1894, with a total share and loan capital of £442,976, show total sales amounting to £939,685, as compared with £1,100,397 in 1893, a decrease of £160,712, and total profits to the amount of £45,461, or 10·3 per cent. upon the share and loan capital, as compared with 10·4 per cent. in 1893.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—A report from Toronto states that there are large numbers of working men out of employment in that city. Reports from farmers on the Bay of Fundy and near New Glasgow in Nova Scotia state that so many of the young men prefer other employment to farming that there are many excellent farms to be bought or rented at a low rate. Reports from Regina, Battleford, Qu'Appelle, Indian Head and Calgary, in the North-West Territories, and from Winnipeg in Manitoba, state that there is no demand for more labourers in those places, whether mechanics, miners, or farm hands, but at Grenfell and Kennell

* After providing for interest on capital and depreciation of property.
† Including wages of management.

there is some demand for farm hands and a few carpenters. A report from New Westminster, in British Columbia, states that commercial and industrial depression still prevail in the province, and that many are out of profitable employment; the report adds that no persons should go there now without considerable means, either to support themselves, or to buy land and stock, for which there are good opportunities.

In a volume of returns of the Census, taken in the year 1891, which has just been issued, it is stated that one great feature in the returns of industrial establishments was the specialization of trades that had taken place during the previous 10 years.

New South Wales.—The expected strike at the Newcastle Collieries, in consequence of a reduction in the hewing rate, has for the present been averted, but trade is still very dull there, as well as at the Bulli Mines in the south of the Colony. Various public works are being pushed on by the Government in order to provide work for the unemployed in the Colony. The Report of the Labour Bureau for 1894 states that 14,968 persons found work in 1894 through the help of the Bureau, and that the prospects of increased employment this year are bad. Some of the unemployed are being found work by the Government in connection with the thinning-out of forests, some of the men receiving as much as 7s. a day. The Minister of Lands has visited the village settlements at Pitt Town and Wilberforce, and is stated to have expressed the opinion that the settlers had worked well, but that the settlements could never be self-supporting owing to the poor quality of the land.

Victoria.—The Committee of the Cabinet appointed to see what economies could be effected in the Public Service, owing to decreased revenue of the Colony, have recommended various reductions of staff and other changes in the Post and Telegraph Department by which a saving of £100,000 a year might be effected. The production of gold in 1894 was 2,552 ozs. more than in 1893.

South Australia.—The Legislature has recently passed an Act of Parliament, authorising the establishment of an irrigation settlement at Lake Bonney, a few miles west of Renmark, on the River Murray. The land is to be divided into blocks of 10 acres, and to be sold at not more than £22 an acre. Provision is also made for a limited number of settlers without capital, who are to work on the settlement at the regular wages of 3s. 6d. a week, of which amount £1 per week will be retained as purchase money for the settler's block. A Factories Act has also been passed recently, and an Act to facilitate the settlement of industrial disputes by means of public and private boards of conciliation.

Queensland.—Gold miners have been doing well; the production of gold in 1894 was 57,390 ozs. more than in 1893.

Western Australia.—Free passages to the Colony are now being offered again to female domestic servants. The export of gold in 1894 was 207,131 oz., which was twice as much as the export in 1893.

New Zealand.—According to the December report of the Department of Labour, the Clothing and Tailoring Trades were brisk at Auckland, Wanganui, and Oamaru; the Boot Trade at Napier, Nelson, and Oamaru; the Engineering Trade at New Plymouth, and Nelson; and the Building Trade at Wanganui and Rangiora. In other places trade was quiet, and the Building and Engineering Trades were dull in towns like Napier, Wellington, Westport, Hokitika and Dunedin; at Christchurch the Building Trade was fairly good, but the Engineering Trade was dull. The demand for unskilled labour was amply supplied; but owing to shearing and other farm work being in full swing there was a marked decrease in the number of men out of work.

Cape Colony.—Considerable numbers of immigrants continue to arrive, most of whom go on to the South African Republic; those that remain at Cape Town are unable to find work.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

State of Employment in February.—The *Office du Travail* reports that owing to the continued severity of the weather in February matters were distinctly worse than at the corresponding period of last year. The *Building Trades* reported large percentages of masons, plasterers, stonecutters, and painters out of work. In most parts employment was said to be scarcer than at the same period of last year. In the *Textile Trades* work was more plentiful, especially in the Silk Industry. **Metal Trades.**—In Meurthe-et-Moselle metallurgical workers were busy, but in other parts slack. In engineering shops work was on the whole scarce, Saint-Denis, Marseilles and Vierzon being the exceptions. Musical and mathematical instrument makers were busy. **Glass and Pottery.**—Glass-workers in the Nord were said to be doing one-fourth less work than before. Pottery work was somewhat interfered with by the cold weather. Porcelain-making in Limoges was reviving, but many workers were still idle.

Labour Disputes in February.—Ten fresh disputes took place during February, compared with 18 in January. Six old disputes were still in progress at the beginning of February. Six of the fresh disputes were in the Metal Trades, the other four being in the Tobacco, Textile, Leather and Printing Trades respectively. Six disputes were settled during the month; two ended favourably, and one unfavourably for the workers, and two were compromised. In the remaining case work was resumed on an inquiry being promised into the grievance complained of. The strike of power-loom weavers of Roanne, begun on the 20th of December last, was settled by compromise on the 25th February.

GERMANY.

The following is based on information supplied through the Foreign Office by Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, under date of March 2nd:—

Labour Disputes.—During February, 14 fresh and 4 old disputes were reported. The fresh disputes consisted of 3 among leather-workers, 2 each among weavers and wood-workers, and 1 each among colliers, granite polishers, potters, tobacco-workers, printers, brewers and button-makers. Only the strikes of weavers and button-makers assumed serious proportions. The weavers' strike in Aix-la-Chapelle and Burtscheid is said to have originated in an attempt by the employers to reduce wages, resulting in a counter-move of the weavers, who demanded an increase. The movement, which began in the end of January, affected altogether about 800 operatives, but, owing to several mills conceding the demands, only about 200 were out at the end of February. The Cloth Manufacturers' Association have passed a resolution binding themselves not to negotiate with strikers, and have elected a committee of 15, from among whom any employer whose operatives are on strike may select three referees to examine and give a decision on the matter. Should the referees be unable to settle the dispute in accordance with their decision, or should the operatives refuse to submit thereto, or endeavour to coerce the employer, the strikers' names will be made known to the union of employers, who will consider what further steps are to be taken.

The strike of button-makers affecting six firms in Schmölln (Saxe-Altenburg), originated in the demand made at one establishment for a new price list. The factory owners decided in the end to draw up a uniform price list. Of four strikes reported as terminated, two were compromised, one failed, and one succeeded. The latter was the strike of penknife fitters of Solingen reported in last month's GAZETTE.

In Magdeburg, a meeting of social democrats passed

* From information supplied by the *Office du Travail*.
† Supplemented by information published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.

a resolution to boycott owners of assembly rooms who refuse the use of the same to their party.

Accident Insurance 1893.—The statistics for 1893, which have now been published by the Imperial Insurance Department, show that there were on an average 18,118,856 workpeople, &c., insured against accident under the Law during that year. In the course of the year, 264,130 (286,265)* persons were reported as having met with accidents during work; of these 62,729 (55,654) were declared entitled to compensation. 6,336 (5,911) died of their injuries and left relatives, &c., to the number of 12,763 (11,835) to be compensated. The total amount spent in 1893 in compensation for accidents, including those of previous years, was £1,908,000 (£1,617,000), *viz.*, on behalf of 333,869 persons. The total expenditure on account of accident insurance amounted to £2,951,000, of which £307,000 were spent in administration; the total receipts came to £3,464,000, while the reserve fund at the end of the year amounted to £5,045,000.

Female and Child Labour in Factories.—The factory inspectors' reports for 1893 show that seven per cent. more women were employed in that year than in 1892 in Germany in trades coming under the factory law, the figures for the two years being as follows:—

Years.	From 16 to 21 Years of age.	Over 21 years of age.	Total.
1893	249,209	367,411	616,620
1892	229,638	346,795	576,433

An increase in the employment of girls from 14 to 16 years of age is also recorded. It amounted to 5·7 per cent., *viz.*, from 69,322 in 1892 to 73,265 in 1893.

The number of children under 14 employed in factories, &c., fell during the same period to the extent of nearly one-half, as shown by the following table:—

Years.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1893	3,730	2,181	5,911
1892	7,426	3,913	11,339

SWITZERLAND.

The following is based on notes by Herr Greulich, the Swiss workmen's secretary, transmitted by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, under date of February 27th:—

Local Labour Movements.—A partial printers' strike which had broken out at Lucerne, was, after a short time, settled in favour of the men. In this way a threatened general strike in this town has, it is said, been averted.

The printers of the town of Zürich are again endeavouring to get the 9-hours day introduced. Since the great strike of 1890, in which the workmen were totally defeated, no negotiations on the subject have taken place. As, however, the 9-hours day has in the meantime been introduced in Berne and Neuchâtel by voluntary arrangement between employers and workers, the Zürich printers thought they would be able to get the same demand accepted. The principals, however, decline to enter into negotiations. No strike is anticipated.

The watch-makers of Grenchen (Canton Soleure) have decided to establish a local workmen's secretaryship, the chief task of which will be the extension of the organisation, which is said to be very imperfect in this trade.

The organised working brewers of East Switzerland having succeeded last year in improving their position, the Bâle coopers and brewers have begun a movement for better wages. Their chief demands are: a 10-hours day with a maximum of two hours' work on Sundays and holidays, minimum wages of £2 12s. for 12 working days, no compulsion as to board and lodging, a fortnight's notice, no dismissals for belonging to a trade union, and the workmen's labour bureau to be used. A number of brewery owners have agreed to enter into negotiations. Should it come to a strike, which is unlikely, a boycott of the breweries would be proclaimed.

* The figures in italics and brackets refer throughout to the corresponding particulars for 1892.

The Embroidery Industry.—The Department for National Economy of the Canton of St. Gall intends to compile statistics as to the number, kind, and efficiency of the embroidery machines, and invites the Governments of the neighbouring cantons to do the same. A high official of the Canton of Appenzell has already taken such a census in hand for the latter canton, from which it appears that there are 2,194 machines belonging to 1,078 owners, showing a decrease of 234 since 1890, when the last census was taken.

The Apprenticeship Law.—The Cantonal Council of Neuchâtel has decided to appoint an official to superintend the carrying out of the law on apprenticeship, and to organise the apprentice examinations. A motion for the election of this official by the working classes was rejected by the Council.

Labour Colony.—In East Switzerland it is proposed to establish a workmen's colony. A number of persons have combined to purchase a large estate, and expect to do a good work and diminish the number of unemployed. The fact, however, that not only the unemployed but loafers and discharged criminals will be admissible may prevent any influence in diminishing the want of employment.

Arbitration and Conciliation.—The text of the law relating to Industrial Tribunals in the Canton of Lucerne (referred to in the October GAZETTE), shows that these tribunals, formed for the settlement of civil disputes between employers and employed, consist of a common president for all the various industrial groups, and of four members for each group, of whom two must be employers and two workmen. The Cantonal Government decides as to the formation of tribunals for single communes or for several communes together, and also as to the number of groups to be formed. The Superior Court elects the President and Vice-President of the industrial tribunal, who must be neither employers nor workmen. Disputes up to the amount of £2 can be settled by the Boards of Conciliation; disputes up to the amount of £20 by the Industrial Tribunals.

On application made to the President of the Industrial Tribunal he calls together the committees of conciliation of the industrial groups, and this body—the Board of Conciliation—calls upon the parties to the dispute to appear before it, and if not successful in effecting a compromise, or not competent to pronounce judgment, refers the case to the Industrial Tribunal. Any party to the dispute who refuses to obey the summons of either the Board of Conciliation or the Industrial Tribunal is liable to a fine. The proceedings before the court in either case are verbal and public. If one of the parties refuse to produce a document, the assertion which the opposite party founds on the document in question is considered already proved. The judgments of the Industrial Tribunals have the validity of those of ordinary courts. Appeal can be made from them to the Judicial Commission of the Superior Court.

BELGIUM.

State of Employment.—The various trades of the Centre district were described in *Le Peuple* of February 6th as very slack. On the 1st of February about 20 glass furnaces stopped work, depriving about 250 operatives of employment. Coal mines and smelting works were working five days a week. The Quarrying Industry was slackest of all, partly owing to the snow. A report from Soignies states that through lack of orders the working-day has been reduced to seven hours since December 1st. Distress was said to prevail among the quarrymen, and the Council of Aldermen had authorised house-to-house collections, with the object of providing food and clothing for the distressed workers. In the Charleroi district 1,000 glass-workers were said to be idle through the closing of glass-works; other establishments were said to be reducing wages to avoid the necessity of closing. This has given rise to a movement for organising a general strike of glass-workers. A ballot taken on the question has resulted in a decision to strike from April 1st.

Labour Disputes.—Reports of 6 fresh disputes and of 3 old ones were published in *Le Peuple* during February. Two of the fresh disputes were among coal miners, 2 in the Clothing Industry (boot-

makers and garment-makers), and the others among quarrymen and engineering-shop workers. The most serious appears to have been that of 300 shoe-makers belonging to 5 out of 6 establishments in Peruwelz (Province Hainaut), owing, it is said, to the employers having formed a combination to reduce wages. Four strikes were reported during the month as ended, the result in each case being favourable to the workpeople. The strike of skin dyers in Brussels, reported on last month, appears to have only affected two establishments, and is reported to have ended in favour of the workers in the establishment in which it originated.

Regulations for Match Factories.—A Royal Decree, published in the *Moniteur Belge*, of February 22nd, fixes rules to be observed in the manufacture of matches containing white phosphorus. All processes connected with preparing the composition and with drying must be carried out in rooms specially set apart. Provision is made for mechanical ventilation. The permanent committees of provinces are authorised to grant exemptions from these rules.

Liège Provincial Council and the Truck Law.—Truck abuses in Belgium are dealt with by the Law of August 16th 1887, regulating the payment of wages, all payments except in legal currency being held void. The permanent provincial committees may, however, authorise employers to deduct from their men's wages the cost of food, fuel and clothing, if supplied at cost-price. On December 12th the permanent committee of the Province of Liège revoked the authority it had given in this way to certain manufacturers. Appeal was made on the following day to the Crown, with the result that the revocation order was cancelled by a Royal Decree, which appeared in the *Moniteur Belge* of February 4th and 5th last, chiefly on the ground that such permission could only be revoked if it was shown to have been abused, and that no charge of this nature had in this instance been brought.

The Higher Council of Labour and the Labour Department.—A committee of the Higher Council of Labour, which has been considering the question of labour statistics, has made a report defining the object of such statistics and the methods by which they should be obtained. Among other proposals of the committee is one for a monthly *Bulletin*, issued at a very low price, giving information on matters of immediate interest. The staff of the Special Administration of the Department of Labour entrusted with the collection of the statistics should include women and working men.—*Le Peuple*.

LUXEMBURG.

Operations of the Labour Exchange.—(See pages 242-3 of the GAZETTE of August 1894.) The report on the operations of the Labour Exchange, just issued by the Government of Luxembourg, states that from the date on which it began operations (December 1st 1892) to the end of December 1894, 1,904 applications were registered from persons wanting employment. Of these, 1,701 are said to have been satisfied. During the same period 3,626 applications were registered from employers, offering an aggregate of 4,759 situations. Of these applications, 3,514, having reference to 4,427 situations, are said to have been satisfied or withdrawn.

HOLLAND.

The following information has been supplied by Sir H. Rumbold, H.M. Minister at the Hague, under date of February 25th:—

The Labour Market.—The long continued frost has provided plenty of work in Amsterdam and other Dutch towns during the past two months. The closing of the canals has necessitated transportation by cart or hand-cart, and the difficulty has frequently been to find sufficient people for the work. The scheme referred to in the January GAZETTE for providing employment for more or less skilled labour by manufacturing simply constructed articles for sale or distribution among the poor, has not, in the opinion of H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, proved a complete success. A sum of about £4,000 was, with much difficulty, collected in aid of the project. It appears to have been somewhat feebly supported, to be very limited in its operation, and to have threatened several times to collapse.

National Labour Secretaryship.—The first annual report* of this institution, which was established in the end of 1893, has been issued, and states that in February last 22 trade federations, and general workers' associations, consisting of 330 sections and 15,728 members, were affiliated to it. It was established in conformity with a resolution passed at the Brussels International Socialist Congress of August 1891. Its main aims are to bring the various

* Het Nationaal Arbeids-Sekretariaat in Nederland (Zijn Ontstaan Werking).

federations both of general workers' unions and trade unions into touch with one another, so as to facilitate joint action, and to collect and spread information relative to workers' organisations.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Law Regulating Labour on Sundays and Holidays.—The following are the chief provisions of a law for the regulation of Sunday labour, which will come into operation on the 1st of next May. The text of the law has been received through the Foreign Office from Sir E. Monson, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, under date of February 8th.

Industrial labour on Sundays is forbidden. The Sunday rest must last at least 24 hours, and begin not later than 6 a.m. on that day. Sunday work in certain exceptional cases may be authorised by special decree of the Minister of Commerce, and the granting of exemption to manufacturers supplying public wants may be entrusted to district authorities subject to the consent of the communes and trade guilds concerned. When Sunday labour exceeds three hours, a rest of 24 hours must be assured to those engaged in it on the following Sunday, or on a week day, or else one of six hours each on two week days.

The administrative authorities in Galicia and Bukovina may allow Sunday manufacturing labour when not carried on in public, and provided the employers and workpeople regularly observe a 24 hours rest on some other day of the week according to their faith. Sunday trading of all kinds is limited to six hours, without any exception so far as employees are concerned.

Labour Disputes in February.—During February the *Arbeiter-Zeitung* contained reports of 7 fresh disputes, and of 4 remaining unsettled since January. Three of the fresh disputes were in the Metal Trades, 2 among pearl button-makers, and 1 each among stone-cutters and wood-turners. All the fresh strikes were confined to single establishments. A strike of stone-cutters in Buda-Pesth began on February 4th at one establishment, owing, it is said, to the lowness of wages, threatened, however, towards the end of the month to become general. The master stone-cutters were said to have united and given their men a fortnight's notice from February 16th unless they signed an undertaking hostile to the trade union interests. In a strike of metal-workers of Vienna the demands of the men implied neglect of the employer to comply with the accident insurance law. Four disputes were reported during the month as settled, all in favour of the workers. The number of fresh disputes reported during January was 16.

Workpeople's Associations.—The monthly journal of the Central Statistical Commission (*Statistische Monatschrift*) for January, contains a statement of the various kinds of voluntary associations of the working classes existing in Austria at the end of 1893. It shows the total number, not counting branch societies, to have been 2,242. These included 726 sickness and burial societies, 572 mutual improvement societies, 453 trade unions, 174 co-operative societies (136 being for purposes of co-operative supply), 136 workmen's clubs, 51 benevolent societies, 46 reading unions, 24 political societies, 18 provident societies, the remaining 42 being described as general workers' industrial unions.

Joiners and 10-hours day.—The demand of the journeyman joiners of Pilsen for a 10-hours day was acceded to on February 10th by the general assembly of the Guild of Joiners. No strike took place.

ITALY.

Reduction of Hours of Government Workers.—Mr. C. A. Payton, H.M. Consul at Genoa, under date of February 25th, has sent particulars of a scheme for an average working day of 9 hours throughout the year which the Italian Ministry of Marine has decided to introduce shortly into the arsenal and dockyard of Spezia. The new rules will apply to about 7,000 persons now working 10 hours a day. There will be no reduction of pay. The hours of work, and the length of the mid-day interval vary from month to month, but are so arranged as to give a yearly average of 9 hours a day actual work. Thus the daily hours in January and December are 7½, in February and November 8½, and from March to October, inclusive, 9½.

Strikes and Lock-outs, 1892 and 1893.—The report just published by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, shows that, compared with 132 industrial strikes recorded in 1891, there

were 119 and 131 in 1892 and 1893 respectively, the number of persons involved being 34,733, 30,800, and 32,109 in 1891, 1892, and 1893 respectively for which full particulars under this head were available. In 1892 two-thirds, and in 1893 one-half of all Italian strikes took place in Lombardy, Piedmont and Sicily. The following table shows the percentage proportion of strikes arising out of the under-mentioned causes, and also the percentage proportion of workpeople engaged in each class of strikes in 1892 and 1893.

Causes or Objects of Disputes.	1892.		1893.	
	Proportion per cent. of			
	Strikes.	Strikers.	Strikes.	Strikers.
For increased wages	34.0	22.0	42.0	42.0
" reduced hours	3.5	6.0	9.0	5.0
Against reduction of wages... ..	20.0	25.0	18.0	12.0
" lengthening of work day	3.5	2.0	1.0	1.0
Other causes	39.0	45.0	30.0	40.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

In the following statement the strikes are classified according to their results:—

Results of Strikes.	1892.		1893.	
	Proportion per cent. of			
	Strikes.	Strikers.	Strikes.	Strikers.
Successful	23	17	30	45
Partially successful	33	30	35	35
Unsuccessful	44	53	35	20
Total	100	100	100	100

Strikes were of most frequent occurrence in the Textile, Mining, Metallurgical, and Building Trades, and in railway construction. The average numbers engaged in a strike in each of the years 1891, 1892, and 1893 were 272, 263, and 253, and the total estimated numbers of days of work missed, 258,059, 216,907, and 234,323 respectively.

Besides the above strikes the report records 10 agrarian strikes in 1892, in 9 of which 3,504 persons were engaged, and 23 such strikes in 1893, affecting altogether 12,390 persons.

No lock-outs took place in 1892. Five were recorded in 1893, the total number of persons affected being 257.

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following information is based on reports received from Mr. Percy Sanderson, H.M. Consul at New York, under dates of February 5th, 22nd and 26th:—

Brooklyn Tramway Strike.—On February 5th most of the cars were again running, and the strike was practically at an end, the companies having been able to replace such men as were unwilling to continue in their service on the old terms.

From the report of the New York State Board of Mediation and Arbitration, obtained for the department through the same channel, it appears that five companies were originally affected by the strike. One of these (the Coney Island and Brooklyn Company) effected a settlement. In the case of the Brooklyn City and Newtown Company an agreement was brought about on January 17th through the efforts of the Board of Mediation. The Board also made overtures to the other three companies. Two of these, the Brooklyn Heights Company and the Atlantic Avenue Company, refused to enter into any negotiations. The Queen's County and Suburban Company had, at the outbreak of the strike, engaged several new men, whom they were unwilling to discharge. In the end they consented to reduce the number of these to 50, and to fill up all the other places from among their former men. Although on all other points involved the men came to an agreement with the employers, the executive committee of the Knights of Labour decided, that unless all the men were taken back they could not any of them return to work. The efforts of the Board to conciliate the two parties were therefore fruitless. The Board also publish the result of their inquiry into the causes of the strike. In addition to the points referred to in the last number of the LABOUR GAZETTE (page 55), it appears that the men found fault with the company's interpretation of a 10-hours working day, which is made compulsory by a State law. In the 10 hours the company only included the time when the

cars were actually on the rails, and did not reckon the time of waiting at each end, which amounted to about 48 minutes per day. The State Board recommended that the law should be modified so that the 10 hours should include this waiting time.

Strike of Electrical Workers.—A strike of the men belonging to the Union of Electrical Workers, of New York, for an 8-hours working day at 2½ dols. (9s. 4½d.) a day, instead of a 9-hours day at 2 dols. (8s. 4d.), has also been reported. The Association of Electrical Contractors, representing the employers, agreed to consider the proposition on condition that if accepted it should not take effect for three months. As a compromise the men suggested their terms should be accepted from April 18th, instead of May 18th. This was refused and the strikers were notified that the shops would remain open to them till February 25th, but that if they returned they would have to give 90 days notice of any proposed change. The Union of Electrical Workers consists of only a few hundred men, but other trades mainly connected with building, have been ordered to strike in sympathy with them. This strike has, however, been only partially carried out, the number of men on strike, other than electrical workers, being estimated at 2,000, while the whole number engaged in the Building Trades in New York is considered to be about 50,000. The bricklayers and masons have refused to join the strikers, though their work is to some extent interfered with by the action of other trades. The work has been stopped on 31 buildings, and the erection of 15 others has been delayed by the dispute. The control of the strike is to a great extent in the hands of the Board of Walking Delegates, which represents unions having a gross strength of 14,000.

PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information supplied by Capt. R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, under date February 26th:—

Trade Disputes.—There have been few strikes during the month. The lock-out in the Tinplate Trade is virtually over, most of the mills having resumed work. The state of the trade is said to be very unsatisfactory.

Knights of Labour.—The United Mine-workers have seceded from the Knights of Labour, owing to the refusal of the New Orleans Convention, held last November, to admit their delegates. An attempt is being made to organise a new "Independent Order of the Knights of Labour." This has been joined by the District Assembly No. 3 (comprising 2,500 members in Western Pennsylvania), which was suspended for insubordination, and by many other seceding district assemblies. It is claimed that the newly-organised body will outnumber and possibly cause the complete disruption of the old.

New Combination of Employers.—An effort is being made to form a combination of the leading Plate-glass Companies. The avowed object is "to prevent a demoralisation of the trade by the cutting of rates." The joint capital is to amount to ten million dollars.

THE NEW ZEALAND INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT, 1894.

In the exercise of powers conferred by this Act (a summary of which was given in the preceding number of the GAZETTE) the Governor of New Zealand has issued notifications declaring that the Colony is divided into six industrial districts, in each of which one of the deputy registrars of the Supreme Court of the district is to be appointed Clerk of Awards under the Act, and that the Board of Conciliation in each district shall consist of four members, in addition to the Chairman; and has made regulations under which the Act is to be carried out. These regulations relate to the registration of industrial unions and associations, to the filing with the Clerk of Awards in each district of industrial agreements, to the proceedings in connection with the election of Boards of Conciliation and of their Chairmen with the reference of industrial disputes to such Boards, with the summoning of witnesses, and with the reference of a dispute (on which the report of a Board of Conciliation is not accepted by any party) to the Court of Arbitration, power being given to that Court to prescribe rules of procedure and practice relative to all matters with which it has to do. The scale of fees payable in respect to proceedings under the Act is laid down; and the necessary forms are set forth in a schedule.

LABOUR CASES IN FEBRUARY.

THE following are among the legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour, of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month. Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines Regulation Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, are summarised in another column.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Forfar Sheriff Court, February 2nd and 26th.—Plater sued ship-building and engineering company for £500 damages for injuries received, or alternatively for £390 under Employers' Liability Act. Pursuer was one of a squad of platers engaged by foreman plater, and was injured by fall of derrick, near which he was working, owing to alleged neglect of defenders' servants in fixing the same. Wages were paid in lump sum to one of squad and afterwards divided, but, though they took their orders from the most experienced workmen of squad, these men were not their masters, and all were under the orders of defendant company's foreman. Defence denied liability, and contended that pursuer was a sub-contractor not a servant. Sheriff found that relation between defender and pursuer was that of employer and servant, as defenders had power to dismiss and give orders to the men at any time. Judgment for pursuer for £150.

Perth Small Debt Court, February 8th.—Dairymaid sued dairy farmer for damages for injuries to health caused by milking cows suffering from disease. Sheriff found that defender was responsible, in that he had not taken proper steps to stamp out the disease among the cattle, and had not given the pursuer reasonable opportunities of consulting a doctor when she was first affected, when the disease was easily curable; also that he was not entitled to deduct any part of wages for time of pursuer's illness. Decree for 14s. wages, and board wages for week before term, 30s. damages to meet doctor's account, and 30s. expenses.

Court of Appeal, February 6th.—Workman had sued stonework contractors for damages for injuries received by falling over the upturned edge of a tramway in an imperfectly lighted tunnel, under control of Corporation, and not of defendants. County Court Judge gave judgment against defendants, who appealed on the ground that there was no evidence of liability. Judgment in favour of appellants.

North Shields County Court, February 17th.—Boy rivet catcher sued dock company for £50 damages for injuries received by falling through an open hatch. Negligence was alleged against defendant company in allowing a boy of 12 to work overtime in contravention of the Factory and Workshops Act, in not covering the open hatch, and in not lighting the deck while workmen were at work. Defence, that the hatch was open in order that a man might throw into it the rivets which he was heating at a fire beside it, that a fire of waste was burning in the hole to throw a light up the hatch, and that plaintiff stopped to watch the man at his work and knew the hatch was open. Judgment for defendant company.

Dundee Sheriff Court, February 16th.—Rigger sued engineering firm for £218 damages for injuries received. Pursuer was thrown into ship-hold through the slipping of a rope by which he was being hoisted to adjust some tackle. Defence denied liability, and alleged contributory negligence. Sheriff-substitute gave judgment for defenders, and pursuer appealed. Sheriff adhered to interlocutor appealed from, finding defenders not liable, no negligence being proved on part of anyone to whose orders the pursuer was bound to conform.

Cavdiff County Court, February 19th.—Turner claimed £50 damages from firm of ironmongers for injuries received by falling against unfenced machinery. Judgment for plaintiff for amount claimed.

Manchester County Court, February 20th.—Boiler-maker sued railway carriage and iron company for £83 damages for injuries sustained through incompetence of fellow-workman in defendant company's employ. Plaintiff and others were working night and day to finish an iron shield, and it was plaintiff's duty to hold a chisel for another man to strike; this man missed a stroke, the hammer striking plaintiff on the head. Defence that plaintiff had accepted a dangerous service, had made no complaint to foreman as to "striker's" competence, and further that the "striker" was a competent man. Judge held that there had been press of work and an incompetent striker had been employed. Judgment for plaintiff for £75 and costs.

Dewsbury County Court, February 20th.—Apprentice sued firm of pattern-makers for £200 compensation for injuries received in working a planing machine. Machine was provided with a guard, but it was optional whether workmen used it. Defence, that there was no danger in working machine, and that plaintiff did not exercise proper caution. Judgment for defendants; execution stayed to give opportunity for appeal.

Cambridge County Court, January 23rd and February 20th.—Bricklayer sued builders for £50 damages for injuries received through fall of bricks from sling by which he was raising them; he contended basket should have been provided instead of sling. Defence that use of sling was unauthorised, and that there was contributory negligence on plaintiff's part; foreman said he had ordered removal of sling and tackle on previous occasion, but had not

forbidden use when put up in fresh position. Jury gave verdict for plaintiff, damages £10, but found there was contributory negligence on plaintiff's part. Judge held that latter part of verdict nullified former, and gave judgment for defendants without costs.

(2) MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT.

Southampton Police Court, February 4th.—Master of steamship belonging to Steam Packet Company, charged certain members of crew with disobeying lawful commands. Orders had been given to work overtime, for which some of the men claimed to be paid 9d. an hour, and on being told usual rate was 6d., declined to work winches for that. Prosecution brought evidence to show it was sailors' duty to work winches, and contended that payment for overtime was a recognised gratuity, the usual rate in the company being 6d. an hour. Defence urged that the command was not a lawful one, and that terms of agreement were incomplete in not stipulating precise rate of overtime, and that 9d. an hour was the customary rate. Magistrates dismissed case, ordering Company to pay £2 2s. costs.

(3) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

West London Police Court, February 19th and 26th.—Builder was summoned by labourer, who claimed 3s. 9d. for seven hours waiting for wages after expiration of hour's notice. This was a test case for magistrate's decision. By rules agreed upon between master-builders and workmen, a man was entitled to an hour's notice, and to be paid at expiration of notice. Defendant was not member of Master Builders' Association, but it was stated that copy of rules had been sent to all, and non-members complied with them. Defence denied knowledge of rules, and that it was custom to pay wages for waiting. Magistrate held balance of evidence to be in favour of defendant. Case dismissed.

(4) TRADE UNION AND CONSPIRACY ACTS.

Queen's Bench Division, February 8th, 11th and 12th.—Two members of the Shipwrights' Union sued the chairman, secretary, and London district delegate of the Boiler-makers' and Iron and Steel Ship Builders' Society for damages for having maliciously induced and conspired together to induce iron and steam shipbuilding company to discharge plaintiffs because they had previously been doing work on an iron ship. Defence, that this was not an action against the trade society, but against individual members; that two defendants, chairman and secretary, were not consulted by third defendant; that rules and practice of trade society left it to third defendant's discretion to take course of action pursued by him; that members of trade society were entitled to intimate intention of leaving work if persons were employed contrary to regulations. Verdict, that there was no conspiracy, as defendant chairman and secretary had nothing to do with the matter; that third defendant did maliciously induce company to discharge plaintiffs; that the rules and customs of trade society permitted third defendant to take such action; third defendant to pay £20 damages to each plaintiff. Judgment against third defendant for the amount found by jury, and for the other two defendants with costs.

(5) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT.

Bradford Borough Court, February 15th.—Member of a friendly society claimed £5 10s., amount of sick pay due under rules. For plaintiff it was stated that on a certain night in September he was 12 weeks in arrear, and on that night his wife attended at the lodge and paid one month's contribution to the outside "tyler," who omitted to hand it to the secretary, with the result that plaintiff was thrown out of benefit. About that time plaintiff met with an accident, but the allowance which he claimed from society was refused. Defence contended that at the time of the alleged payment no contribution card was produced, and no entry appeared on the lodge-books of any payment having been made. Magistrate held that the "tyler" was an agent of the lodge, and that he received the money which he omitted to pay over. Judgment for plaintiff for amount claimed and £1 4s. costs.

(6) FACTORY ACT.

Rochdale Police Court, February 20th.—Factory inspector charged manufacturer with breach of Factory and Workshops Act, in leaving shuttles insecurely fenced. Evidence was brought to show that shuttles without guards were dangerous to work. Defence, that only one accident had occurred with 1,500 looms in last 15 years, and that workpeople had objected to guards when it was proposed to apply them. Inspector said he brought this as a test case—only 80 per cent. of the looms in district having shuttle guards. Being test case, magistrates imposed nominal fine of £1 1s. and costs.

(7) MISCELLANEOUS.

High Court, Chancery Division, February 8th.—Firm of builders moved for an injunction to restrain officers of the London Building Trades' Federation from publishing a "black list" containing names of workmen remaining in plaintiffs' employment during continuance of a strike. Plaintiffs were considered to have broken an agreement that no workman should be placed under any disability by reason of belonging or not belonging to a trade union, and were thereupon requested by defendant Federation to discharge two foremen, the effect of their refusal being that all the union men were called out on strike. The list complained of contained the names of workmen remaining in plaintiffs' employ and those introduced to replace men on strike. Defence contended that the object of the list was not to injure the employers but to consolidate trade unions. Judge held that issue of list was doubtless intended to benefit the members of Federation, but the principal object was to injure those persons whose names appeared in the list and the firm employing them. Injunction granted. Defendant Federation appealed against this decision, and on 6th March the appeal was heard and dismissed.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February the number of industrial prosecutions under the Acts specified in the tables below was 234, compared with 202 in the previous month and 225 in February 1894. Of these 234 prosecutions, 176 were under the *Factory and Workshop Acts*, 175 being against owners or managers, and 1 against workpeople. Convictions were obtained against owners or managers in 166 cases, the average penalty and costs imposed being £1 15s. 8d., and in the conviction against a workman £1 11s. Under the *Mines Acts*, out of 46 prosecutions there were 41 convictions, 4 being against owners or managers, and 37 against workpeople. The penalties, including costs, averaged £4 5s. against the former and 15s. 8d. against the latter. A conviction was obtained in each of the 12 prosecutions under the *Merchant Shipping Acts*, 4 of which were against owners or masters of vessels, 1 against seamen and 7 against boarding house keepers, the penalties averaging £10 17s. 3d., £2 10s., and £3 15s. 5d. respectively.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Total Amount of Penalties.	Total Amount of Costs.
BY OWNERS, MANAGERS, &c.				
Neglecting to Limewash	2	2	0 12 6	0 14 3
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	3	2	1 6 0	3 16 9
Allowing Children to Clean Machinery in Motion, &c.	1	...	...	...
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	19	18	7 13 0	7 16 3
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment.				
Before or after the legal hour	42	41	40 6 6	22 18 6
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	14	12	11 5 6	10 10 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	14	14	4 16 0	4 12 0
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays	5	5	3 5 0	1 18 0
At night	4	4	1 6 0	2 10 6
Employing children full time	1	1	0 2 6	0 10 0
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.				
Not keeping registers	16	15	5 16 0	5 3 3
Not affixing or properly filling up notices and abstracts	42	40	15 13 6	12 12 6
Not sending notices required by Act	7	7	5 2 0	5 7 0
Obstructing an Inspector in the Execution of his Duty	2	2	0 7 0	0 11 0
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not Affixing) Special Rules	3	3	1 5 0	1 13 6
BY WORKMEN.				
Employing Young Persons during meal times, or without proper interval for meals	1	1	1 0 0	0 11 0
Total for February 1895	176	167	99 16 6	81 4 6
Total for February 1894	174	160	184 8 2	97 10 1

* Supplied by the Home Office.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.
By Owners, Managers, &c.—					
Fencing ... ..	...	...	...	...	£ s. d.
Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Shafts and Manholes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	6	4	...	2	17 0 0
By Workmen—					
Safety Lamps	4	4	...	...	3 3 6
Shot-firing and Explosives	3	3	...	...	3 0 0
Timbering	6	6	...	...	5 6 6
Lucifer Matches, &c.	6	6	...	...	5 8 6
Riding on trams	8	8	...	...	4 8 0
Miscellaneous	12†	10	...	...	7 12 6
Total for February 1895	46	41	1	2	48 10 0
Total for February 1894	35	34	...	1	31 10 6

* Supplied by the Home Office.

† The result in two of these cases was "not proven."

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:—				
Submerging Disc ... ..	...	...	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Carrying excessive deck cargoes ... ..	...	...	...	...
Carrying grain in bulk between decks	4	4	40 0 0	3 9 0
Carrying passengers without certificate ... ..	...	...	...	...
Illegally engaging seamen ... ..	...	...	...	...
Not providing life saving appliances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Under Sea Fishery Act 1883 ... ..	...	...	...	...
By Seamen	1	1	2 0 0	0 10 0
By Boarding-House Keepers:—				
Illegal Boarding	2	2	1 0 0	11 13 8
Illegal Supply	5	5	11 10 0	2 4 6
Total for February 1895	12	12	54 10 0	17 17 2
Total for February 1894	16	14	126 0 0	27 11 9

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING the month of February 3,020 new applicants for work were registered by the 9 bureaux furnishing returns.

A comparison of the figures supplied by 8 of these bureaux that also made returns for February of last year shows that the number of fresh applicants last month, viz., 2,948, was 152 in excess of the number registered in February 1894, when the total was 2,796.

Work was found by the 9 bureaux during last month for 2,599 persons, of which number 2,139 were employed by local authorities (including 1,090 employed by the Distress Committee at Plymouth), and 460 by private employers. Of the 3,395 persons remaining on the registers at the end of February, 3,072 were men, 139 lads and boys, and 184 women and girls.

(1) Work Done in February.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Work-people on Register, No. of Fresh Applicants during Feb., No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authority), At end of Feb. 1895, At end of Feb. 1894, Work-people, Em-ployers.

(2) Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of February.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Engineering, Metal Trades, etc.), Women and Girls, Grand Total.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Ser-vants, Others, Total Women and Girls, Feb. 1895, Feb. 1894.

* Of this number, 1,090 were employed by the Distress Committee and 180 by the Corporation. † Women and Girls are not at present registered at Salford and Plymouth.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.) RETURNS of pauperism for the 35 selected urban districts show that the number of persons relieved on one day in the middle of February was 406,381, or 278 per 10,000 of population.

These figures are much larger than those for January, the increase being made up of 48,365 outdoor and 5,379 indoor paupers, representing in all 37 per 10,000 of population. In the southern district of the Metropolis, the rate has risen 131 per 10,000; in West Ham, 116 per 10,000; in the Stockton and Tees district, 106; and in the North Metropolitan, 62. Other districts which show considerable increases are Bristol, with an increase of 44 per 10,000; North Staffordshire, with 42; Bradford, with 38; and Wolverhampton, with 36.

Compared with February 1894, relief was granted last month to 66,897 more persons, an increase of 46 per 10,000 of population. The greatest increases are in the Southern district of the Metropolis and in West Ham, amounting to 162 and 124 per 10,000 respectively. In the Northern district of London the rate has risen 72 per 10,000; in Wolverhampton, 61; in Bristol and Hull, 55 each; in North Staffordshire, 50; and in Newcastle 49.

The number of vagrants in London on one day in the middle of the month was 1,078, as compared with 1,290 in the previous month, and 1,037 in February 1894.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of February 1895, Paupers on corresponding date in 1894, Rate per 10,000 of Population, Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of Population.

Table for ENGLAND & WALES, listing Metropolitan districts (West, North, Central, East, South) and Total Metropolis.

Table for Other Districts, listing Newcastle, Stockton & Tees, Bolton, Wigan, Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Hull, North Staffordshire, Nottingham, Leicester, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff & Swansea, and Total "Other Districts".

Table for SCOTLAND, listing Glasgow, Paisley & Greenock, Edinburgh & Leith, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie, and Total for the above Scottish Districts.

Table for IRELAND, listing Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford & Limerick, Galway, and Total for the above Irish Districts.

Table for Total in January 1895, listing Total in January 1895, Total in February 1895, and Total in February 1894.

* Based on the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas. † 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. ‡ The apparent increase of Pauperism in the Edinburgh and Leith District is due chiefly to an alteration made by one of the parishes in the principle of making the Return. § Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.*

THE number of fatal accidents to the undermentioned classes of workpeople reported in February was 463, which compares with 440 in February 1894, distributed as follows:—

Table with columns: Railway Servants, Miners, Factory and Workshop Operatives, Seamen, Total. Rows for February 1895 and February 1894.

On the total of the four classes there was an increase of 23 as compared with February 1894. Miners and railway servants show an increase in the number of fatalities, and seamen and factory and workshop operatives a decrease. In addition, 3 railway servants were killed on the Companies' premises, but not by movement of railway vehicles.

Of the 1,397 non-fatal accidents reported, 276 were to railway servants by movement of trains, 357 in mines, and 764 in factories and workshops, as compared with 220, 312, and 752 respectively in February 1894. Accidents of a non-fatal character at sea are not reported. In addition to the 276 railway servants injured, and included in the tables, 606 others were injured on the Companies' premises [see note (†) below].

NOTE.—The exact percentage which the number killed in each of these classes of employment bears to the total number employed cannot be stated, the figures, where given, being either for the number employed at a previous date, or for a portion only of those liable to accident, but the following particulars may be useful in forming some idea of the proportion that the numbers employed bear to the persons injured or killed:—

Railways.—A Parliamentary Paper (402 of 1890) gives the number of persons employed on 31st December 1889 by railway companies in the United Kingdom as 381,626.

Mines.—The number employed in and about mines can be given more closely, being 718,747 in 1893, including persons employed on private branch railways and in washing and coking coal.

Factories and Workshops.—From a Parliamentary Paper (402 of 1890) it appears that the number of persons actually at work in factories when the returns were furnished to the Home Office was 3,270,835, but there are no figures available as to the number of persons employed in workshops, although the number is very large.

Seamen.—The returns of the number of seamen employed in British registered vessels in 1893 give 240,974 persons of all grades.

Railway Servants.†

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.) A.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of February 1895.

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Fractures and Dislocations, Contusions, &c., Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries.

B.—Distinguishing England, Scotland and Ireland; and accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents.

Table with columns: England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Killed, Injured.

Miners.

(Supplied by the Home Office.) Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines, during the month of February 1895.

Table with columns: Cause of Accident, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Killed, Injured.

* For Accidents reported under the Notice of Accidents Act of 1894, see page 82. † In addition to the accidents included in the tables, 3 railway servants were killed and 606 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of railway vehicles was not concerned, making a total for the month of 45 railway servants killed and 882 injured from all causes. Of the foregoing 606 servants injured, 1 suffered amputation, 39 fractures and dislocations, 73 contusions, &c., 136 cuts, sprains, bruises, burns, &c., while 357 suffered unspecified and miscellaneous injuries. ‡ Occurring in connection with the movement of railway vehicles and including accidents from the servants' own want of caution or misconduct. § The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July 1893, page 66.

Factory and Workshop Operatives.‡

(Supplied by the Home Office.) Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of February 1895.

Table with columns: Killed, Causing Amputations, Fractures, Injuries to Face, Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes, Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries, Total Persons Injured.

Table for Males, listing Adults (over 18), Young Persons, Boys, and Total Males.

Table for Females, listing Adults (over 18), Young Persons, Girls, and Total Females.

Table for Total Males and Females for Feb. 1895.

Table for Total for February 1894.

Seamen.

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.) Table showing the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of February 1895 as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes.

(Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Table with columns: Class of Vessels, By Wreck and Casualty, By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty, Total, Sailing, Steam, Sailing, Steam, Sailing, Steam, Total.

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Trade Union periodical returns, and newspaper reports. Application for particulars is made to the Employers and Trade Unions affected in each dispute, and the information so obtained up to the latest moment is used.)

FIFTY-FIVE new disputes occurred in February 1895, as compared with 57 in January and 57 in February 1894. Particulars obtained with regard to 47 of these disputes show that 6,463 workpeople were involved. Of the 5 disputes in the Building Trades, 2 were on questions of wages, and 3 on questions of working arrangements. Seven disputes occurred in the Clothing Trades, 1 of which was a wages question, 1 a demand for the discharge of an official, the remaining 5 being due to dissatisfaction with working arrangements. Nine of the 13 disputes in the Metal Trades were on wages questions, 2 were on questions of unionism, and 2 on questions of working arrangements. Thirteen disputes occurred in the Mining Industry, 7 of which were due to wages questions and 6 to questions of working arrangements. Six of the 9 disputes in the Shipbuilding Trades were on questions of wages, 2 were questions of unionism, and 1 was a refusal to work during a strike of fellow-workmen. The disputes in connection with Dock Labour and Miscellaneous Trades were all due to wages questions, as was one of the disputes in the Textile Trades, two others of which were due to questions of working arrangements, the remaining one being for reinstatement of a discharged colleague.

The geographical distribution of the 55 disputes was as follows:—Northern Counties, 19; Midland Counties, 8; Western Counties and Wales, 8; London, 1; Scotland, 14; Ireland, 4; Isle of Man, 1.

Eleven old disputes affecting 801 workpeople were settled during February, and at the end of the month it was known that 11 new and 19 old disputes, 26 of which involved 2,870 workpeople, were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY 1895.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termin-ation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Plasterers ...	Falkirk and District	For an increase in wages of 1d. per hour ...	5	24	Feb. 2	Feb. 16	An immediate advance of 1d. per hour, with promise of another 1d. per hour on 14th May
Ditto (Strike and lock-outs)	Saltash, St. Budeaux and Plymouth	Against refusal of employer to allow walking time to a job	1	16	25	March 1	Men's demands conceded.
Painters ...	Douglas ...	For advance in wages of 1d per hour (6d. to 7d) for 8 months in the year	...	...	27	...	Still unsettled.
Carpenters ...	Cardiff...	Against a proposed change from day to piece work	1	27	1	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto (in Salt Works)...	Middlesbro' ...	Objection to certain work being let out to a sub-contractor	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Clothing Trades.							
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Armley, Leeds	Refusal to work pending settlement of a price list in respect of a new lasting machine	1	35	4	Feb. 5	Price list arranged.
Lasters and Finishers (Boot and Shoe)	Leicester ...	For dismissal of a foreman ...	1	About 50	11	12	Foreman discharged.
Tailors ...	Glasgow ...	Against reduction in wages of 10 to 30 per cent.	1	11	14	...	Men replaced by non-unionists.
Lasters and Finishers (Boot and Shoe)	Leicester ...	Against system of sending work out of the town to be partially made up	1	100 dir. 150 indir.	15	...	No details of settlement.
Boot and Shoe Operatives (Lasters and Finishers)	Northampton	To enforce indoor labour ...	1	45	18	March 4	Employer agreed to find workshop accommodation for the hands.
Finishers (Boot and Shoe)	Ditto ...	Against disproportionate employment of boy labour	1	20	19	Feb. 19	Reduction in the number of boys to approved ratio—1 boy to 3 men.
Cardigan Jacket Makers	Leicester ...	Against alteration of working system, from piece to day work	1	12	25	...	No details of settlement.
Metal Trades.							
Safe Makers ...	Widnes ...	Against assignment of extra work without increased payment	1	20	1	...	No details of settlement.
Blast Furnacemen and other Iron Workers	Millom ...	Against reduction in wages of 5 to 10 per cent....	1	300	2	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	1	200	9	...	Ditto.
Pipe Moulders ...	Newport ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	30	5	13	Work resumed without any reduction.
Chain Makers ... (Strikers)	Tipton... ..	Against employment of a non-union "striker"...	1	72	11	16	Work resumed on previous terms in order to give legal notice.
Boiler Makers' Helpers	Barry, Cardiff	For increase in wages of 6d. per day as "dirty" money	1	40 dir. 12 indir.	12	12	Increase granted for the work in hand.
Brass Workers ...	Birmingham...	Dissatisfaction with prices ...	1	28	17	...	Still unsettled.
Saw Smiths ...	Sheffield ...	Dissatisfaction with low rate of wages, against a threatened reduction, and altered conditions of working	1	12 dir. 10 indir.	17	...	Ditto.
Boys (Tinplate Works)	Pontardulais...	Against withdrawal of payment for Saturday when only required to work five days per week	1	25 dir. 150 indir.	18	23	Summonses issued for breach of Rules, nine boys fined, remainder paying cost of summonses only.
Iron Moulders ...	Cork ...	Against introduction of non-union men ...	1	17	28	...	Still unsettled.
Carpenters and Blacksmiths (Tinplate Works)	Neath ...	Against reduction in wages of 5 per cent. ...	1	400 dir. and indir.	22	...	Ditto.
Brass Workers ...	Rotherham ...	Against proposed alterations in working arrangements	1	56	Lasted 3 days	...	Amicable settlement effected after employer had taken out summonses
Anchor Smiths ...	Gateshead ...	Against a reduction in piece-work prices ...	...	About 35	...	...	Still unsettled.
Mining.							
Coal Miners ...	Near Wakefield	Dissatisfaction with one clause in a new agreement, arranged by union officials, alleged to have the effect of reducing wages	1	600	1	7	Work resumed, question being referred to the Standing Joint Committee, who have appointed an umpire to decide the matter.
Ditto ...	Armadale, West Lothian	Against proposed reduction in wages of 2d. per ton	1	55	2	Mar. 2	Reduction of 1d. per ton accepted on main coal, and ad. on ball coal.
Ditto ...	Castleford ...	Against proposed alteration in method of working, an increase of 4d. per ton for which being desired	1	1,000	About 5	Feb. 20	Work resumed temporarily on the old system, the question to be referred to arbitration.
Ditto ...	Cambuslang...	Against proposed system of fines and dismissal for sending up "dirt" with coal	1	...	6	...	New system withdrawn.
Ditto ...	Blaina, Mon...	Against introduction of new system of working...	1	770	7	9	Work resumed without alteration in system.
Ditto ...	Wishaw ...	Against reduction in wages in an unprofitable section of the mine	1	126	About 7	About 11	The section in question closed.
Banksmen ...	Wakefield ...	Against requirement to bank coal with one man less than formerly	1	35 dir. 460 indir.	15	15	Another man added.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY 1895—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termin-ation.	Result.
Coal Miners ...	Motherwell ...	Against reduction in wages of 2d. per ton in one section of the pit	1	...	Feb. 19	March 4	Section closed, and work found for the men in other parts of the pit.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Refusal to accept reduced wages ...	1	...	22	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Armadale ...	Dispute in regard to dirt scale and weighing machine	1	...	27	Feb. 28	Satisfactory settlement arrived at.
Ditto ...	Bathville, Lothians	Against a reduction in wages of 1 1/2d. a ton ...	1	28	16	28	Reduction of 1d. per ton accepted.
Hauliers ...	Merthyr ...	Men refused to go to work without a supply of food for horses	1	24	25	25	Men fined for absence from work.
Coal Miners ...	Armadale ...	Against reduction in wages of 2d. per ton ...	1	180	28	...	Still unsettled.
Shipbuilding.							
Apprentice Shipwrights	Passage West, Cork	Work refused to them upon declining to dock a vessel during an existing strike of the shipwrights	1	14	4	14	Summonses issued, but afterwards withdrawn. Resumed work when the shipwrights did.
Riveters and Holders-up	Belfast ...	Riveters desired increased tonnage rate on very large vessels, and holders-up required assistance in certain intricate parts of the work	1	168	5	15	Work resumed on previous terms, the stoppage being in contravention of an existing agreement.
Platers' Helpers ...	Middlesbro' ...	Dispute as to wages to be paid on a change from piece to time work	1	300	6	...	Still unsettled.
Boiler Makers ...	Leith ...	For payment according to Clyde rates upon a particular class of work, according to an alleged existing agreement	1	40	8	21	Clyde rates to be paid on the work in question.
Boiler Makers and Platers' Helpers	Belfast ...	Certain counter-sinkers having struck for an increase of 2d. per plate, the other men were locked out	1	60	15	March 1	Work resumed pending a settlement, to be effected in a fortnight.
Boiler Makers ...	Kinghorn ...	Against reduction in wages of 6d. per 100 rivets upon a particular class of work	1	40	21	1	Reduction accepted.
Mill Sawyers and Machinists	Hull ...	For advance in wages... ..	1	22	21	1	An advance of 1s. per week granted.
Ship Joiners ...	Troen ...	Objection to employment of two non-union joiners who refused to become members of union	1	40	27	Feb. 23	One man joined union, and the other was discharged by employer.
Shipwrights ...	Barrow-in-Furness	Against employment of two men on caulking who were not shipwrights	1	400	28	March 7	Discharge of the two men.
Dock, &c. Labour.							
Dock Labourers ...	Glasgow ...	For an advance in wages of 1s. per day ...	1	50	...	...	No details of settlement.
Corn Porters ...	London, E ...	Against a reduction in wages ...	1	...	23	...	Ditto.
Textile Trades.							
Burlers (males)...	Morley ...	For advance in wages of 1/2d. per hour ...	1	6	2	Feb. 9	An advance granted equal to about 1s. per week.
Jack-frame Tenters ...	Ashton-under-Lyne	Against discharge of one of their number for manner in which work was performed	1	18	19	21	All allowed to resume work.
Spinners ...	Farnworth ...	Dissatisfaction with quality of material supplied	1	...	27	March 1	Employer agreed to compensate for bad material.
Bobbin Turners ...	Barnsley ...	Against employment of women to do certain work, and at a lower rate of wages	1	40	27	...	Still unsettled.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Rubber Tyre Makers...	Manchester ...	Against reduction in piece-work prices of 15 per cent.	1	40	7	Feb. 8	Reduced price accepted.
Upholsterers, Polishers, and Chair Makers	Keighley ...	Against reduction in wages of 5 to 30 per cent....	1	30	20	...	Still unsettled.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termin-ation.	Result.
Wherry-men ...	Newcastle-on-Tyne	Refusal by employers of new list of prices, including part payment of towage expenses	4	90	1894, 3 April	Feb. 6	Dispute submitted to two arbitrators, who decided against the men.
Miners ...	Near Barnsley	Dispute as to prices to be paid on a change from day to piece-work	1	80	26 Oct.	9	Amicable settlement arrived at.
Sanitary Pressers (Pottery Trade)	Hanley ...	Dispute as to price to be paid for making a certain article	1	150	29 Oct.	16	Work resumed, the question in dispute to be referred to an arbitrator, nominated by the Board of Trade.
Boot and Shoe Lasters and Finishers	Ipswich ...	Against employment of men at less than the recognized rate of wages	1	12	5 Dec.	...	Shop blocked to unionists.
Filters (Shipbuilding)	Barrow-in-Furness	For extra payments on trial trips of torpedo-boat destroyers	1	16	21 Dec. 1895.	6	Work resumed on previous terms.
Upholsterers ...	Liverpool ...	Objection to employment of apprentices ...	1	5	7 Jan.	20	Work resumed upon the basis of 1 apprentice to 6 journeymen.
Boot and Shoe Riveters and Finishers	Irthlingboro'...	Against charge of 3d. per week for use of gas, and for enforcement of indoor labour	1	25	22 Jan.	2	Employer agreed to employ indoor labour and to abolish charge for gas.
Shipwrights ...	Belfast ...	Demarcation of work dispute with joiners ...	1	232	28 Jan.	12	Work resumed on previous terms.
Millmen (Hoop and Strip Iron)	Mossend, Lanarkshire	Against reduction in wages of about 20 per cent.	1	16	28 Jan.	16	Work resumed without any reduction.
Shipwrights ...	Passage West, Cork	Against employment of joiners upon work alleged to belong to shipwrights	1	50	29 Jan.	14	Question submitted to arbitration.
Coal Miners ...	Birstall, Leeds	Against alteration in system of payment...	1	125	30 Jan.	14	Altered method accepted.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in January are still pending:—painters, Dundee; glass-bottle makers, Dublin; plumbers, Halifax; coal miners, West Lothian, (since finished, March); linen reelers, Killyleagh.

The following which commenced before January are also still pending:—curriers, Cleckheaton; coal miners, Dronfield; tailors, Airdrie; woollsorters, Saltaire; dyers, Wyke and Greetland; coal miners, Tyldesley (reported in last month's issue as commencing in January); cotton operatives, Heywood; cotton weavers, Cliviger; fustian weavers, Bury; wire-drawers, Halifax.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.
Beetling and Finishing Hands	White Abbey, Belfast	Against a reduction in piece-work rates of from 10 to 15 per cent.	1	13	17 Jan.
Plasterers ...	Sheffield...	Against the employment of men from other towns ...	1	30	20 Jan.
Power-loom Overlookers ...	Heaton Norris...	Against a reduction in wages ...	1	90	26 Jan.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers* and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many of the principal Employers' Associations and Trade Unions, and in some cases by the Employers concerned.)

The number of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages during February is considerably less than in the previous month, being only about 15,750 as compared with 140,000 in January; but the downward tendency in market rates of wages noticed in recent issues of the GAZETTE still continues, reductions in wages affecting 15,400, and increases about 350 only. The largest bodies of men whose wages have been reduced are coal miners, wrought nail-makers and tinplate workers.

In the Forest of Dean, 4,200 house coal miners have suffered a reduction of 7½ per cent., and 400 others (steam coal miners whose wages were already 5 per cent. below those of house coal miners) of 2½ per cent., while in the Airdrie and Slamannan districts the wages of about 3,000 miners have fallen 6d. per day.

Wrought nail-makers in the Midlands, numbering between 4,000 and 5,000, are now earning 1s. to 1s. 6d. less in a full week than at the beginning of February, while in the Tinplate Trade, the reduction which commenced in November has during February been enforced by other firms. The reductions reported this month affect 1,619 persons, and are 10 or 12½ per cent. off piece rates, with, in some cases, an increased output. With regard to these reductions, it may be noted that an increase in the output modifies to some extent the effect on the earnings of piece workers of a fall in the piece rate.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of Change.	Number of work-people directly affected.	Details of Change.		Estimated Earnings in a full week (exclusive of overtime) at date of change.			
				Increases.	Decreases.	Before change.	After change.	In-crease per week.	De-crease per week.
BUILDING TRADES.									
Carpenters and Joiners†	Worksop ...	1st Mar.	27	3d. per hour (7d. to 7½d.)	...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Plasterers ...	Falkirk ...	16th Feb. 4th May	27	3d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.) 3d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.)	...	32 4½ 31 10½	34 8 34 0	2 3½ 2 1½	...
COAL MINING.									
Miners ...	Forest of Dean†	4th Mar. 18th Mar.	4,200 400	7½ per cent.†	...	—	—	—	—
Miners ...	Airdrie and Slamannan	14th Feb.	3,000	6d. per day ...	...	—	—	—	—
Ditto ...	Glenbuck, Ayrshire	Feb.	About 300	6d. to 1s. per day ...	...	—	—	—	—
Ditto ...	West Lothian...	4th Feb. 21st Feb. 21st Feb. 2nd Mar.	100 20 80 20 50	2d. per ton ... 1d. per ton ... 2d. per ton ... 2d. per ton ...	...	—	—	—	—
TINPLATE TRADE.									
Tinplate Workers ...	Carleon ...	...	96	12½ per cent. ...	...	—	—	—	—
	Tynevudd... ..	...	60	12½ per cent. ...	...	—	—	—	—
	Treforest ...	21st Jan.	200	12½ per cent. ...	...	—	—	—	—
	Panteg ...	...	210	10 per cent. ...	...	—	—	—	—
Tinplate Workers ...	Pontypool ...	...	240	10 per cent. ...	...	—	—	—	—
	Neath ...	15th Feb.	40	12½ per cent. ...	...	—	—	—	—
Blacksmiths ...	Neath ...	120 to 130	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	Neath ...	150	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Blacksmiths ...	Neath ...	1st Jan. 15th Feb.	250	10 per cent. with a maximum output of 40 boxes	...	—	—	—	—
	Neath ...	4th Feb.	5	1s. 6d. per week ...	...	30 0	28 6	...	1 6
NAIL TRADE.									
Wrought Nail Makers ...	Halesowen, Dudley and Blackheath District	About beginning of Feb.	4,000 to 5,000	1s. to 1s. 6d. per week	...	13 0 14 0	11 6 13 0	...	1 0 1 6
SHIPBUILDING.									
Riveters ...	Leith ...	22nd Feb.	100	1d. per rivet (2d. to 3d.) on certain work	...	50 0	51 0	1 0	...
Boiler Makers ...	Kinghorn, Fife ...	1st Mar.	40	6d. per 100 rivets off a certain class of work	...	—	—	—	—
Platers, Riveters, Caulkers, and Holders-up	Belfast ...	15th Feb.	540	2½ per cent. off piece rates	...	—	—	—	—
DOCK LABOUR.									
Coal Tippers (Hydraulicmen)§	Swansea§ ...	1st Mar.	24	1d. per day ...	...	—	—	0 6	...
TEXTILE TRADES.									
Cotton Reelers ...	Heywood ...	6th Feb.	80	1s. per week ...	...	14 0	15 0	1 0	...
Weavers ...	Savile Town, Dewsbury	28th Feb.	15	About 10 to 12½ per cent. on piece rates	...	—	—	—	—
Burlers ...	Morley ...	15th Feb.	6	3d. per hour ...	...	14 2	15 4	1 2	...
Hostiery Sock Hands ...	Leicester ...	18th Feb.	350 to 400	10 per cent. ...	...	50 0	45 0	...	5 0
BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.									
Boot and Shoe Riveters ...	Nottingham ...	25th Feb.	5	8d. per dozen (2s. 4d. to 3s.)	...	—	—	—	—
WOODWORKING TRADES.									
Mill Sawyers and Wood Cutting Machinists	Hull... ..	1st Mar.	22	1s. per week ...	...	28 0	29 0	1 0	...
GLASS BOTTLE TRADE.¶									
Finishers ...	Glasgow, Alloa and Portobello	21st Jan. 28th Jan. 9th Feb.	67 136 67	1s. 6d. per week ... 1s. per week ... 3½d. per week ...	...	—	—	...	1 6 1 0 0 3½
Blowers and Gatherers ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	...
Wetters Off ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	...
Takers In ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	...
CORPORATION EMPLOYEES.									
Night Soil Men ...	Sedgley ...	1st April	6	4d. per day (2s. 8d. to 3s.)	...	16 0	18 0	2 0	...
Road Men ...	...	...	16	2d. per day (2s. 8d. to 2s. 10d.)	...	16 0	17 0	1 0	...
Tinsmiths and Gasfitters ...	Edinburgh ...	27th Feb.	14	2s. 2d. per week ...	...	25 6	27 8	2 2	...

* In all cases the accuracy of Newspaper reports is inquired into before the information is used here.
 † A code of working rules has also been agreed to at Worksop, which among other provisions gives better terms for overtime and Sunday labour.
 ‡ The general settlement includes an agreement that no further reduction in wages shall be asked for before 30th September 1895. The men reduced 2½ per cent. are steam coal miners, and before the change were working at 5 per cent. lower rates than the house coal miners.
 § In addition to this advance 36 men have been changed from day to piece workers, and all the 60 men will receive an extra allowance for waiting time, &c.
 ¶ The glass bottle makers have been required to increase their weekly output of bottles for the same weekly wage as before; this is said to represent the decrease stated in the Table.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Number of work-people directly affected.	Details of Change.		Estimated Earnings in a full week (exclusive of overtime) at date of change.			
				Increases.	Decreases.	Before change.	After change.	In-crease per week.	De-crease per week.
TRAMWAY SERVICE.									
Tramway Drivers and Conductors*	Edinburgh ...	23rd Feb.	...	8 ...	3s. 6d. per week ...	27 0	23 6	...	3 6
				22 ...	...	26 0	23 0	...	3 0
				25 ...	...	25 0	22 0	...	3 0
				13 ...	...	24 0	21 0	...	3 0
				11 ...	...	23 0	20 0	...	3 0
				14 ...	...	22 0	19 6	...	2 6
				27 ...	...	21 0	18 6	...	2 6
				9 ...	...	20 0	18 0	...	2 0
				21 ...	...	22 0	20 0	...	2 0
				21 ...	...	21 0	20 0	...	1 0
MISCELLANEOUS.									
Rubber Tyre Makers ...	Manchester ...	8th Feb.	40	15 per cent. off piece rates	—	—	...	—	

* See also under "Decreases in Hours of Labour."

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

ABOUT 800 persons were affected by the six cases of reductions in hours reported during the month. Of these, 484 were Government employees engaged in the London Postal Telegraph Factories, whose hours of labour were reduced to 48 per week without loss of pay. Of the remainder, 196 were tramway drivers or conductors at Edinburgh, whose hours were reduced from 61 to 54 per week.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Number of work-people directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change.	After change.	De-crease per week.
Workpeople in* Postal Telegraph Factories	London ...	1st Mar.	484	54	48	6
Carpenters and Joiners	Worksop ...	1st Mar.	27	55½ all year round	49½ in winter (14 wks.)	6
Brick burners ...	Nottingham South	25th Feb. 18th Feb.	12 About 55	70 53	65 48	5
Turners, Fitters, Labourers, and Apprentices	Shields	...	...	...	...	5
Shop Assistants ...	Carnforth ...	26th Jan.	29	55½	53½	2
Tramway Drivers and Conductors†	Edinburgh...	23rd Feb.	196	61	54	7

* The 484 workpeople employed in the Postal Telegraph Factories include the following occupations: Mechanics (163), cabinet-makers (8), carpenters and assistants (24), French polishers and assistants (10), labourers (33), storemen and assistants (40), fitters and assistants (14), basket hands (38), various factory hands (61), gutta-percha wiremen (64), electric light hands (12), other occupations (7).
 † Reductions were made at the same time in the wages of Drivers and Conductors whose wages exceeded 20s. and 18s. per week respectively. (See under "Changes in Rates of Wages.")

FOREIGN TRADE IN FEBRUARY.

Imports.—The total value of imports during the month was £28,134,489, as compared with £33,984,085 in February, 1894. This represents a decrease of £5,849,596, or 17·2 per cent. The decrease is very general, but is especially noticeable in non-durable articles of food and drink, and in raw materials for textiles. The former show a decrease of £1,972,199, more than a third of which is due to the large falling off in the importation of sugar; the latter a decrease of £1,954,466. This decrease shows itself in all the principal classes of goods. The value of sheep and lambs' wool was £1,041,709 less than last year, while the importations of flax, hemp, and jute, taken together, and of raw silk, are less than half those of February 1894. The importation of raw cotton shows only a slight decrease.

British and Irish Exports.—The exports, which from October last have been in excess of those for the previous year, show for last month a decrease in value of £1,711,054, the amount being £15,968,395, as against £17,679,449. This decrease of 9·7 per cent. is chiefly accounted for by the large decrease in value of the exports of cotton piece goods, which fell from £4,662,060 to £3,697,736. The exports of coal decreased in value by 31 per cent. and in quantity by less than 21 per cent. The value of the exports of most metals also decreased.

Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—These are again less than for the corresponding month last year, the amount being £4,407,824, as against £5,051,720, a decrease of £643,896.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions during February was 1,784,192 tons, as against 2,136,770 tons in February 1894. The vessels entered

from all foreign countries, with the exception of Italy, Greece, and Austria, show a decrease. The large decrease—from 61,641 tons to 19,650 tons—in vessels entered from the northern ports of Russia is probably in part due to the frost. The total tonnage cleared decreased from 2,582,748 tons to 2,200,780 tons. The tonnage of all vessels entered coastwise decreased from 2,380,269 tons to 2,182,818 tons, and of vessels cleared from 2,274,251 tons to 2,106,905 tons.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during February amounted to 553,957 bales, as against 468,175 bales in the corresponding period of 1894, an increase of 85,782 bales. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns, and the exports, both show a decrease. The following table gives the figures for the month ended 28th February in each of the last two years:—

	Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.		Exports.
		Bales.	Bales.	
1895 ...	553,957	250,266	...	25,914
1894 ...	468,175	266,753	...	29,783

British Corn.—A large reduction is again shown in the average prices per quarter of British corn for the week ended 23rd February, when compared with the prices for the corresponding week of last year. The figures are as follow:—

	Average price per Quarter at—		Decrease.
	February 1895.	February 1894.	
Wheat ...	19 10	24 5	4 7
Barley ...	22 2	28 0	5 10
Oats ...	13 9	18 4	4 7

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom for the four weeks ended 23rd February, amounted to £4,707,938, or £366,629 less than for the corresponding period of last year. The receipts from passenger traffic were £1,674,390, a decrease of £208,963, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,033,548, a decrease of £157,666.

Hay Imports.—During February the quantity of hay imported was 5,703 tons, as compared with 26,745 tons in February 1894. The great difference between the quantities is due to the relatively good hay crop of 1894 compared with that of 1893. In both periods more than half of the quantity imported was from the United States.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankruptcies gazetted during last month again shows a decline as compared with the corresponding month of 1894, the figures being 340 for February 1895, and 404 for February 1894, or a decrease of 64. Of the 340 bankrupts, 35 were publicans, hotel-keepers, &c., 30 farmers, 20 builders, 19 grocers, and 11 butchers.

GERMAN MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

A VOLUME of statistics of the larger German towns has been published annually since 1890, under the direction of Dr. M. Neefe, head of the Statistical Bureau of Breslau, assisted by the chiefs of a number of other Municipal Statistical Offices, including that of Berlin, each of whom undertakes the compilation of one or more of the sections into which the volumes are divided. The subjects to be dealt with each year are previously determined at a conference of the collaborators, and each section when completed is sent to Dr. Neefe, who acts as editor. The volume for 1894, published recently, contains statistics on economic social and administrative matters in 42 out of the 47 towns in Germany with populations exceeding 50,000. The matter is arranged in 21 sections, under each of which a comparison may be made among different towns in the Empire. The subjects dealt with in the present volume include statistics of population, education, poor relief, dwellings, meat prices, savings banks, public pawnshops, industrial courts (conciliation and arbitration), trade guilds and sickness insurance.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The total number of British and foreign passengers who left this country for places out of Europe during February was 9,741, or 800 more than in February 1894.

British and Irish.—Of the above total the passengers of British and Irish origin, viz., 6,759, are again in excess of the number for the corresponding period of last year, the increase being 774. The numbers of British and Irish passengers to the United States and the principal Colonies have all increased, as may be seen from the following figures:—

	February 1895.	February 1894.
United States	4,012	3,326
British North America	440	399
Australasia	626	577
South Africa	1,075	956
Other places	606	727
Total	6,759	5,985

Foreign.—In addition to the British passengers there were 2,982 foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, as compared with 2,956 in February 1894, an increase of 26 only.

Alien Immigration—The total number of aliens who arrived at various ports in the United Kingdom from the Continent during February was 3,097, being 786 less than in February 1894, when the number was 3,883. The total of those stated to be en route to America, however, has increased from 1,419 in February 1894 to 1,607 in February 1895. The total number of aliens not stated to be en route to America was 1,490 (including 520 sailors), as against 2,464 (including 822 sailors), in February 1894.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN FEBRUARY.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in February, it will be seen that 5 Trade Unions, 1 Co-operative Association of Consumers, 7 Associations of Producers, 2 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 31 new Friendly Societies, and 40 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Thirty Building Societies, 1 Industrial and Provident Society, and 2 Trade Unions are reported as having ceased to exist, or to be in process of "winding up."

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

I.—Trade Unions.

England and Wales.—London County Council Employees' Protection Association, 38 Reeves Road, Bow, E.; London Jewel Case Makers, Eagle Tavern, Farringdon Road, E.C.; Amalgamated Enginemen, Boilermen, and Firemen of Great Britain and Ireland, Legs of Man Inn, Market Place, Wigan; United Drillers and Hole Cutters, Royal Station Hotel, Dalton St., Byker.

Scotland.—None registered. *Ireland.*—Brokers' and General Dealers' Trade Union, 128 Capel Street, Dublin.

II.—Industrial and Provident Societies.

(A) Associations of Consumers.

England and Wales.—Hanley Ind. and Prov. Soc., 25 Clarence St., Hanley.

(B) Associations of Producers.

Ireland.—Urlingford Agricultural Soc., Urlingford, co. Kilkenny; Johnstown Agricultural Soc., Johnstown, co. Kilkenny; Toomevara Co-op. Dairy Soc., Toomevara, co. Tipperary; Galmoy Agricultural Soc., Galmoy, co. Kilkenny; Ballina; Killaloe Co-op. Dairy Soc., Ballina, co. Tipperary; Mourne Abbey Co-op. Dairy Soc., Mourne Abbey, Mallow, co. Cork; Bohola Agricultural Soc., Bohola, co. Mayo.

(C) Miscellaneous.

England and Wales.—National Co-op. Festival Soc., 49 Bedford St., London, W.C.; London Household's and Owners' Mutual Protection Assoc., 30 Heygate St., Walworth Rd., London, S.E. *Scotland.*—None registered.

III.—Friendly Societies.

(A) New Friendly Societies.

England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 7; Specially authorised, 4; Juvenile, 8; Dividing, 3; Working Men's Clubs, 7. *Scotland.*—None registered. *Ireland.*—Specially authorised, 2.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.

England and Wales.—I.O. Rechabites, S.U., 11; G.I.O.L. Caledonian Corks, 5; G.N.O. Odd Fellows, 3; Junior Steam Enginemen and Loco. Men, 3; various others, 15. *Scotland.*—I.O. Rechabites, S.U., 3. *Ireland.*—None.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

I.—Trade Unions.

England and Wales.—Liverpool Tailors', Machiners', and Pressers' Benefit Trade Union, and the London Clothworkers' Union. *Scotland.*—None dissolved. *Ireland.*—None.

II.—Industrial and Provident Societies.

England and Wales.—London Co-op. Baking Society. *Scotland.*—None dissolved. *Ireland.*—None.

III.—Building Societies.

Thirty Building Societies in England and Wales are in process of dissolution.

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

THE number of mines opened or re-opened in February was 13, and abandoned 24, as compared with 12 and 33 respectively in January. Twelve of the 13 mines opened or re-opened were collieries, and so were 7 of the 24 mines abandoned. Of the new collieries, 4 are in Lancashire, and 1 each in the counties of Durham, Derby, Stafford, Carmarthen, Glamorgan, Fife, Clackmannan, and Ayr.

COAL:—

New Mines.

Durham.—Rainton Colliery Meadows Pit (High Main Seam). *Lancashire* (4).—Outwood (Three Yards Seam), Pilkington; Slopes (Yard Seam), Little Lever; Bower (Major Seam), Oldham; Bankfield, Ashton-under-Lyne. *Derbyshire.*—Field House (Tupton Three Quarter Seam), Brampton, near Chesterfield. *Staffordshire.*—Monway (Thick Seam), Wednesbury. *Carmarthenshire.*—Glyngwernen, Llanelly. *Glamorganshire.*—Gelly (Foxhole Seam), Swansea. *Fifeshire.*—Bowhill (Lochgelly Seams), Cardenden. *Clackmannanshire.*—Sheriffyards, No. 2 Pit, Alloa. *Ayrshire.*—Barglachan, No. 2 Pit (Maid Seam) Cumnock.

COAL AND FIRECLAY:—

Tyrone.—Derry, Coalisland.

COAL:—

Mines Abandoned.

Yorkshire (3).—Walkley Lane (Blocking Bed), Heckmondwike; Thorncliffe Spring (Halifax Bed), Kirkburton; Popplewell (Stone Coal Seam), Bradford. *Lancashire.*—New Lester, Little Hulton, (sinking, temporary discontinuance). *Staffordshire.*—Codsall (Fire-clay and Thick Coal Seams), Old Hill. *Stirlingshire.*—Drumclair (No. 1 Pit, Arnloss), Slamannan. *Lanarkshire.*—Motherwell, No. 2 Pit (Splint Seam), Motherwell.

IRON ORE WITH ALUM CLAY:—

Antrim.—Cullinane, Glenarm.

LEAD ORE:—

Cardiganshire (3).—*Bodcoll, near Devil's Bridge; *Glan Castell, Ponterwyd; *Gothic, Rheidol Valley. *Denbighshire.*—*Tynyddol, near Llanfairtalhaiarn. *Flintshire* (9).—*Black Mountain, near Nerquis; *Great Calcot, near Holywell; *Hopeful, Holywell; *Lisbon, Gwernymynydd; *Lloc, Lloc, Holywell; *True Blue, near Holywell; *Wallside, near Holywell; *West Pant-y-go, near Halkyn.

GOLD ORE:—

Flintshire.—*Penmachno, near Cilcen, Mold. *Merionethshire* (2).—*Dolgoed, Ganllwyd; *Llanaber, Barmouth.

CEMENT STONE:—

Flintshire.—*Nant, near Holywell.

* Small workings.

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