

# THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.

### I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

As pointed out in the GAZETTE for January 1894, special caution is always required in drawing inferences as to changes in the state of the labour market from the December returns of unemployed members of trade societies, owing to the disturbance to employment during the last week of the year (to which the figures relate) caused by the Christmas and New Year holidays. For this reason the most useful comparison is not with last month, but with the December of 1893.

On the whole, in spite of the apparent increase in the percentage of unemployed at the end of the month, reports received are not such as to indicate that the slight upward movement in the labour market which has recently been noticed has received any material check.

Sixty-seven trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 367,796, have made returns to the Department, showing the total number of unemployed members at the close of the year to be 28,484, or 7·7 per cent., compared with 7·0 per cent. in the 62 unions from which returns were received for November, and 7·9 per cent. in the 32 unions making returns for December 1893. (The percentage for December 1893 in the 26 societies which alone are included in the curve in the chart for that year was 8·4.)

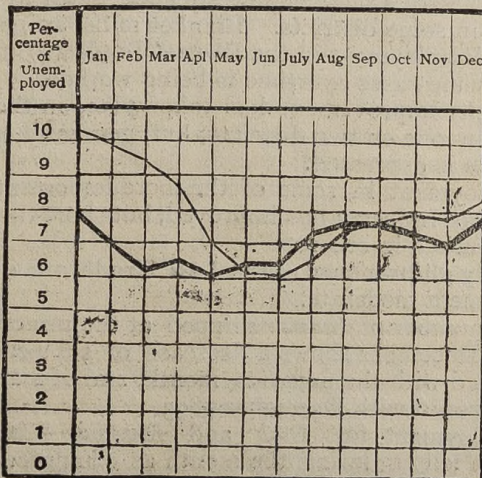
The proportion of unemployed in the 67 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent. ... .. .	16	79,008
3 and under 5 per cent. ... .. .	17	53,077
5 and under 7 per cent. ... .. .	11	69,329
7 and under 10 per cent. ... .. .	9	83,407
10 per cent. and over ... .. .	14	82,975
Total	67	367,796

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 1893, and of each month yet completed of 1894.

*The thick line applies to 1894, the thin line to 1893.*



**Employment in various industries.—Coal Mining.**—  
A summary of the returns received from the owners of



## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—GENERAL SUMMARY.

1,136 collieries, employing 292,231 workpeople, shows that the average number of days per week worked by the collieries in December was 4.97, an improvement as compared with the average of 4.80 for November.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment in the Iron Mining Industry remains about the same, the average number of days per week worked in the four weeks ended December 22nd at 98 iron mines in the United Kingdom, from which returns have been received, being 5.85, or exactly the same as during November.

The *Pig Iron* Industry also appears to have undergone practically no change during December, the number of furnaces in blast, covered by the returns received, being 269, or one less than in November, with no material difference in the number of persons employed.

The *Steel* Trade as a whole is scarcely so well employed, the heavier branches in several important centres being less active, though the workers in ship-plate mills are fairly well employed. The smelters are rather quieter.

The *Engineering* and kindred Trades have been considerably affected by the holidays, and the percentage of unemployed members of unions connected with these trades at the end of December was 9.7, compared with 8.7 for November and 10.3 for December 1893.

The *Shipbuilding* Trades as a rule are quiet, but prospects are reported as fairly good. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns has risen from 17.4 to 18.0. In December 1893 the percentage was 17.1.

A slight seasonal falling off is again observable in the *Building* Trades, and the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns has increased from 4.2 to 5.7, the percentage for December 1893 having been 5.8.

The *Furnishing* and *Woodworking* Trades show a decline in all branches, the percentage of unemployed members in unions making returns having risen from 4.5 to 6.3, compared with 6.8 in December 1893.

The *Printing* and *Bookbinding* Trades have fallen off to some extent when compared with last month, but not more than is explained by seasonal causes. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns is 4.5, compared with 3.7 in November and 6.1 in December 1893.

The ready-made *Clothing* Trade remains quiet, short time being worked in some cases. The bespoke trade is also dull in most districts. The *Hatters* show signs of improvement.

The wholesale *Boot* and *Shoe* Trade continues quiet in some centres, though steadier in others. The bespoke trade became quiet towards the close of the month.

The *Cotton* Trade is somewhat unsettled, and both spinners and weavers are, in consequence, only moderately employed. The percentage of unemployed for spinners is 2.8.

The *Woolen* Trade is not so good, short time being worked in some districts. Blanket mills are, however, busy. Employment in the *Worsted* Trade has improved, and in some cases overtime is being worked.

A slight improvement has taken place in the *Hosiery* Trade in one or two districts, but, generally speaking, the trade is depressed.

Employment in some of the more important centres of the *Silk* Industry has improved, but short time is still being worked in others.

Nearly all branches of the *Lace* Trade are quiet and employment moderate.

The number of *Seamen* shipped at the principal ports during December shows a decrease of 5.6 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and of 1.2 per cent. as compared with December 1893.

Employment for *Dock and Waterside* labourers in London fell off during the month as compared with the high level of November. At most of the other principal ports employment was fairly good.

*Agricultural* labourers have been on the whole better employed in December than in the corresponding month of last year.

**Trade Disputes.**—An appreciable decrease in the number of new disputes occurring in December has to be noted, 43 having been reported as compared with 56 in the previous month. The number in December 1893 was, however, only 24. Ten of these disputes took place in the *Building* Trades, nine in the *Textile* Trades, six each in the *Metal* and *Mining* Trades, four in connection with *Seafaring* and *Dock Labour*, two in the *Shipbuilding* Trades, one in the *Clothing* Trades, and the remaining five in miscellaneous trades. None of these disputes were of great magnitude.

Particulars obtained with respect to 36 of these disputes show that 5,838 persons were affected. Eleven old disputes, affecting 1,223 persons, were settled, but it was known that 10 new and 22 old disputes, affecting together upwards of 3,500 persons, were still in progress at the end of the month.

**Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour.**—During December the more important changes were reductions in wages, over 5,500 persons being known to have been affected in this way. This is considerably less than in the previous month, when over 117,000 workpeople were reported to have had their wages reduced. The number for December includes about 1,200 surface workers engaged at the Coal Mines in Cumberland, 1,620 blast-furnacemen in Cumberland and Lancashire, about 1,900 tinplate-workers in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and 400 glass bottle-makers in the North-eastern Counties. On the other hand, the reported increases in wages include 800 workpeople engaged in linen manufacture at Perth, and 550 plumbers at Edinburgh and Leith. Over 350 workpeople are reported to have had their hours of labour reduced, in most cases without loss of pay.

**Pauperism.**—Pauperism for December shows an increase compared with the previous month, as is usual at this season of the year. Compared, however, with December 1893, there is a decline. The aggregate number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected urban districts on a given day in December was 335,634 (or 229 per 10,000) compared with 325,884 (or 223 per 10,000) in November, and 339,511 (or 232 per 10,000) in December 1893.

**Emigration and Immigration.**—The total number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during December was 6,459, as compared with 6,075 in December 1893. The number of alien immigrants arriving in this country was 3,337, compared with 2,826 in December 1893. The increase is almost entirely among those en route to America.

## II.—EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

**Employment in various Industries.**—The *Engineering*, *Metal*, and *Shipbuilding* Trades in the aggregate show a further improvement upon last month, though considerable depression still exists amongst several of the trades in this group. Reports from 85 branches of 14 unions connected with these trades show that out of a membership of 15,031, 1,138 (or 7.6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 87 per cent. in November and 9.7 per cent. in December 1893. Full time has been resumed at Woolwich Arsenal.

The *Building* Trades, owing mainly to seasonal causes, show a decline when compared with last month, 155 branches of 6 unions, with an aggregate membership of 11,427, returning 642 (or 5.6 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 4.0 per cent. in November and 6.6 per cent. in December 1893. The bricklayers, plasterers, masons, carpenters, and mill-sawyers, with an aggregate

## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—LONDON.

membership in the London district of 21,328, describe trade as "dull," the plumbers, painters, and stone-carvers, with an aggregate membership of 3,345, as "bad."

The *Furnishing* and *Woodworking* Trades show a decline in nearly all departments. Returns from 29 branches of 11 unions, with an aggregate membership of 4,585, show that 308 (or 6.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the close of the year, compared with 4.8 in November and 7.6 in December 1893.

Some falling-off is observable in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* Trades, but not more than is usual during the latter part of December. Sixteen unions, with an aggregate membership of 19,435, report that 940 (or 4.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.4 per cent. last month and 6.1 per cent. in December 1893.

The *West-end Tailoring* Trade has continued dull throughout the month; the *East-end* trade was also dull at the beginning and end of December, though it revived somewhat for a time during the course of the month. The *Hat* Trade has revived to some extent. Owing to seasonal causes the *Furriers* describe trade as "bad," a large percentage being unemployed and a considerable number on short time.

The bespoke branch of the *Boot* and *Shoe* Trade was fairly good at the beginning, but slack towards the close of the month, it being customary for stock to be taken at the end of the year. The machine branch has been slack throughout the month, especially towards the end, and a large percentage of men are reported as only partially employed. Slipper-makers report employment as "fairly good" at the beginning of the month, but slack towards the close.

In the *Leather* Trades the curriers describe employment as "bad," the saddle and harness-makers and the portmanteau and trunk-makers as "quiet," the fancy leather workers as "fairly good."

Employment in the *Glass* Trades is described as "bad" by the makers, blowers and bevellers.

In the *Tobacco* Trades employment is described as "fair." The *Bakers* and *Confectioners* have been fairly busy during the month, though about 6 per cent. of the members in the London district have been idle.

The number of *Seamen* shipped was 4,986, or 7.5 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 5.7 per cent. more than in December 1893.

**Dock and Waterside Employment.**—The daily average number of dock labourers employed by the Dock Companies, either directly or through contractors, during December, shows a falling off of over 500, or nearly 7 per cent., compared with the exceptionally high average for November. Compared with December 1893, the figures practically show no change. Hitherto, the figures of dock employment published in the *GAZETTE* have been confined to persons employed directly or indirectly by the Dock Companies. In future the Department will be able to extend the figures so as to include labourers employed directly by shipowners and others in the Albert and Victoria Docks, where a large amount of work is done on this system.\* In the present number a monthly average only can be given, but in future numbers it is hoped to be able to show the daily fluctuations also.

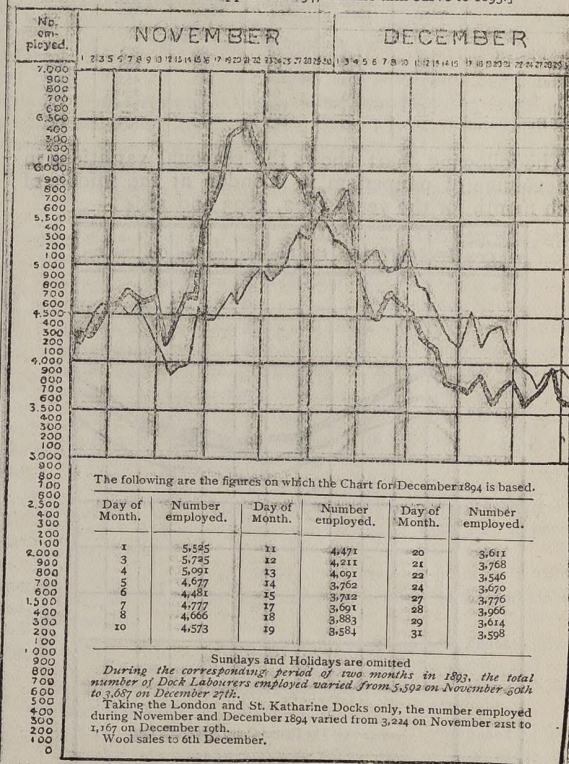
The total estimated number of dock labourers employed by all the Dock Companies in the Port of London for each week is as follows:—

	Estimated average daily number of Dock Labourers engaged by the Dock Companies.			
	1894.	1893.	1894.	1894.
			Increase	Decrease
1st week of December ...	9,047	8,058	989	...
2nd " " " " " " " "	7,673	7,615	58	...
3rd " " " " " " " "	6,667	7,304	...	637
4th " " " " " " " "	6,072	6,784	...	712
5th " " " " " " " "	6,865	6,493	372	...
Average for December ...	7,293	7,305	...	12
Ditto for November ...	7,817	7,151	666	...

\* The figures are supplied by the courtesy of the Shipping Federation. † In this week, on account of Christmas holidays, four days only were worked.

The daily average number of waterside labourers employed during December by shipowners and others directly in the Albert and Victoria Docks is returned as follows:—Dock labourers\* 1,662, stevedores 578, "coalies" 210. Thus the total average number of dock labourers employed at the whole of the docks in London whether by the companies, or contractors, or by shipowners, was 8,955. The falling off in employment by the Dock Companies is mainly traceable to the cessation of the Wool Sales, on December 6th. As will be seen from the chart below, employment by the London and India Docks Joint Committee gradually fell off during December, and employment in the up-river Docks fluctuated from 2,624 to 1,167 during the month.

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 November and December 1894. The corresponding curve for November and December 1893 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included. [The thick curve applies to 1894, and the thin curve to 1893.]



The watermen and lightermen report employment as fair, the coalies (winchmen and backers) as quiet.

**Wharves.**—The fruit-porters in Thames-street were very busy during the first three weeks of the month, but towards the end employment naturally fell off. Employment at the wharves along the waterside at Wapping has been active, and the wharves on the south side of the river have been well employed, especially during the first part of the month.

**Disputes and Trade Movements.**—Five fresh disputes were reported during the month, none being of great magnitude. The most important is a dispute in Hackney, involving 60 glass bottle-makers, on a question of extra remuneration for increased work, which is still unsettled. The others were disputes of trifling extent among corn-porters, bricklayers, tin and iron-plate-workers (ship), and electrical-workers.

**Labour Bureaux.**—The four Labour Bureaux making returns registered during December 957 fresh applications from workpeople, and 345 from employers,

\* Includes labourers employed for export as well as import in the case of companies which employ the same class of men in both departments.



EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PROVINCIAL REPORTS.—NORTHERN COUNTIES.

as compared with 1,567 applications from workpeople, and 419 from employers in November. The number who found work through the Bureaux in December was 445, or 34 less than in the previous month. Of this number, 241 were employed by the vestries by which the Bureaux are managed, and 203 by other employers.

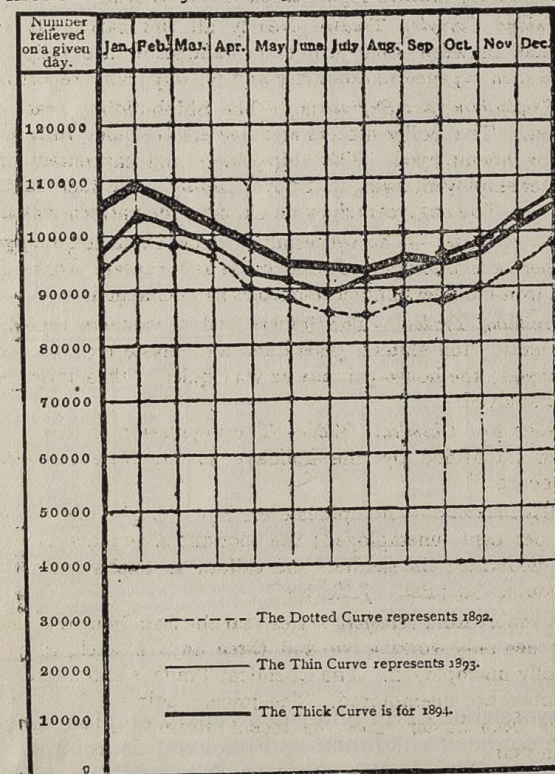
**Pauperism.**—The proportion of paupers in London on one day in the middle of December was higher than in the previous month, the rates per 10,000 of population being 248 and 242 respectively. The rate in December 1893 was 253 per 10,000. In West Ham the rate per 10,000 last month was 254, as compared with 232 in November and 284 in December 1893.

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 November and December 1894 respectively:—

Rate of Pauperism per 10,000 of population.

District.	In-door.		Out-door.		Total.	
	Dec. 1894.	Nov. 1894.	Dec. 1894.	Nov. 1894.	Dec. 1894.	Nov. 1894.
West District	147	144	28	29	175	173
North "	140	138	95	92	235	230
Central "	507	299	146	143	453	442
East "	188	185	62	61	250	246
South "	137	134	120	114	257	248
West Ham	51	49	203	185	254	232

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1892, 1893 and 1894:—



The number of vagrants relieved on one day was 1,265 in the second week, 1,116 in the third week, and 1,243 in the fourth week.

**Winter Distress.**—Reports have been received from 93 districts in London, situated in 27 out of 30 Unions. In the great majority of cases they point to the existence of a normal amount of winter distress. The only four districts in which distress is described as exceptional are parts of Paddington, Islington, Whitechapel, and Camberwell. In parts of Southwark slackness is reported among general and waterside labourers, tanners and carmen, and in Hackney among boot-makers. The only special steps reported with a view to the relief of distress are the opening of labour yards by the Guardians at Wandsworth and St. Saviour's, Southwark, and by the Hampstead Vestry, in addition to the yards open in November. Distress due to want of employment is said to be generally less than in December 1893, and in most districts not to be increasing.

III.—PROVINCIAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.\*

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—Durham.—With the exception of a few pits still working short time, the Coal Industry has been fairly steady. The percentage of unemployed union pitmen is 12, as in November. **Northumberland.**—The collieries are working irregularly, five or six pits not having worked more than five days per fortnight. At certain collieries, owing to bad trade, 220 pitmen are under notice. The miners have 30 members unemployed, or less than 1 per cent.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—On the Tyne.—Shipbuilding remains quiet. Five yards out of fifteen are fairly busy, the others are slack. Employment in the engineering shops has been good. Fewer pattern-makers are unemployed. Two or three boiler-making shops are working double shift, although one other firm is slack. The Elswick gun factory continues busy. Electrical engineers are busy. The engineers, boiler-makers and shipbuilders have 2,311 unemployed, or 27 per cent; this includes a large number suspended for the holidays. **On the Wear.**—Most of the shipyards have been laid idle for a fortnight for the holidays. Marine engineering establishments continue to give average employment to fitters and turners, although one firm has discontinued night shifts. Repair shops and dry docks have been slack. The smiths and forgers are but moderately employed. The shipbuilders, boiler-makers, and engineers have 859 unemployed, or 20.8 per cent. On both rivers the percentage of joiners unemployed is 7.6, and of shipwrights 16.5. The local steel plate mills are busy. Iron mills are slack. The steel bar and angle mills at one large firm are only working four days per week.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The coal porters report employment as fairly good, with about 10 per cent. unemployed on both rivers. Riverside labourers and wherry men continue slack. The demand for sea-going men has fallen off in the lower reaches of the Tyne.

**Building Trades.**—On the Tyne.—These trades continue active. The masons are busy, with less than 1 per cent. unemployed; the bricklayers have about 5 per cent. and the plasterers 7 per cent. out of work. **On the Wear.**—Building operations continue good. The bricklayers have about 4 per cent. unemployed; the plasterers and joiners report work as fairly good.

**Miscellaneous.**—The pressed glass-workers continue fairly busy, with about 10 per cent. still unemployed. The bottle-makers report improvement. The chemical factories are practically closed, over 800 men being idle, including 160 coopers. The White Lead and Cement Industries continue depressed. Brewery coopers are only moderately employed. The lime and stone quarries, especially the latter, are well employed. The Durham Coke Industry shows a slight falling off, with about 1 per cent. unemployed, but short time is more prevalent. The ironstone miners continue busy. The Lead Mining Industry is unchanged. The bookbinders, paper-makers, and letterpress printers are moderately busy, the latter having 5.4 per cent. unemployed, as against 5.8 in November.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

**Shipbuilding.**—The principal firm at Middlesbrough continues busy; the other yards are only moderate. At Thornaby, Stockton and Hartlepool there is practically no change. The shipyard joiners report trade as moderate. As most of the yards have been closed during the last week of the year, it is difficult to estimate the number of unemployed. One firm at the Hartlepool has obtained an order for two large steamers, which will considerably improve the state of employment there.

**Engineering.**—There is again a slight improvement, the percentage of unemployed up to the beginning of the holidays being rather less in all parts of the district.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—These Trades have been quiet, but the prospects in the finished iron and steel works are good. At Hartlepool the works continue slack. Bridge works are fair, a firm at Middlesbrough having obtained a good order, and employment is better. Work at the blast furnaces and at the Cleveland ironstone mines continues fairly good; the foundries report no change.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Building Trades are moderately employed throughout the district. At Hartlepool the bricklayers report trade

\* 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.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PROVINCIAL REPORTS (continued).—LANCASHIRE, &C.

as fair; the labourers as moderate; the saw millers as slack; the joiners have about 4 per cent. unemployed. The sailors and firemen report trade as quiet; the riverside and dock labourers as not so good; the printers as moderate; the tailors as bad; the salt workers as good.—*A. Main.*

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—The spinning branch shows no improvement. The mills are mostly working full time, but the spinners report 4.8 per cent. of their members as unemployed. In the surrounding districts there are a large number of cotton operatives out of work. The Weaving Industry has slightly improved, and reelers and twiners are more fully employed.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—In most branches trade is reported as bad; the engineers have 9.2 per cent. on the funds. The cotton machine makers for export are moderately employed, particularly in the ring frame departments. The moulders and boiler-makers are slack, with some unemployed.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers are only partially employed; the carpenters and joiners report trade as slack, but with none out of work; the flaggers as very slack; the plumbers as moderate; the painters and decorators as dull; the plasterers as fairly good.

**Miscellaneous.**—The skip-makers report employment as slightly improved; the brushmakers and tailors as very slack; the printers and cabinet-makers as moderate; the brass-workers and tinplate-workers as fair; the general labourers as slack.—*T. Ashton.*

Burnley, Accrington and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—The Cotton Industry shows no sign of improvement. More looms are being stopped in many of the large centres, and several employers have extended the annual holidays. The Shoddy or Hard Waste Trade keeps good, overtime being worked at several firms. The Coloured Goods Weaving Trade is still depressed. Sateen-makers report trade as bad, with a falling away in the number of looms engaged on this class of cloth.

**Building Trades.**—These trades are reported as slightly worse, so far as dressers and wallers are concerned, a number of men being unemployed, principally owing to the weather. Several are engaged on repairs rendered necessary by the recent storms. The joiners, painters, and decorators remain slack, the plumbers and slaters are well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Iron and Machine Trades remain moderate; in some departments extended holidays have been allowed, whilst in others overtime continues to be worked. The Letterpress Printing Trade is reported as fairly steady, with only a slight percentage of unemployed. Tailoring has slightly improved, and there are fewer unemployed. The coal miners, calico printers, and dyers report no change. The total of unemployed in all trades is not large for the time of year.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Little change is reported in these trades. The holidays have in several instances been extended. The File Trade at Warrington remains depressed. Wire weavers are fairly well employed, and the improvement amongst wire drawers has been maintained. The sheet metal workers have 6 per cent. unemployed, and the brass-founders and finishers are moderately busy.

**Building Trades.**—The Building Trades are moderate. The bricklayers report employment as dull. The carpenters and joiners have a few more unemployed, and the plasterers have 5 per cent. In Macclesfield the Building Trades, especially slaters, are fair.

**Textile Trades.**—The cotton spinners are moderately employed in Manchester and Warrington, whilst in Macclesfield the Cotton Trade generally is fairly good. In Macclesfield the improvement in the Silk Trade is maintained. Both hand-loom and power-loom weavers are fairly busy. The silk dyers are moderately busy, but silk dressers are dull.

**Clothing Trades.**—The wholesale Clothing Trade has declined. Employment in the ready-made Mantle Trade and the Cap Trade is bad. Employment amongst shirtmakers is not so plentiful. The Umbrella Trade has improved. Waterproof garment making is not so good as it has been. The Felt Hat Trade continues depressed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printing offices in Manchester and district have been better employed than at any time during the past year. The Lithographic and Bookbinding Trades have also improved.

**Miscellaneous.**—The dressers, dyers, finishers, and fustian cutters report employment as improved; the upholsterers as bad; the coach-makers at the railway shops as busy, but in the trade generally as moderate; the glass painters and glaziers as good. In Warrington the coopers, cabinet-makers, and coach-makers are fairly well employed.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Marine engineering has been fairly busy, and will shortly be brisk. The shipbuilders are well employed. **Iron and Steel Trades.**—The Pig Iron Trade continues depressed; another furnace has been blown out. The steel-workers are slack, but a few will be busy for some time on ship plates.

**Shipping and Railways.**—Shipping in the whole district has been bad during the month. Railway traffic has slightly improved, but short time still prevails in the workshops, although the holidays were short.

**Building Trades.**—All branches of these trades have been slack, but the severe gale of the 22nd December caused such destruction that all were at once employed, and have since been busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Printing Trade is moderately employed. The Baking and Confectionery Trade is busy. The paper and pulp works are busy. Jute workers are slack.—*J. D. Couper.*

Liverpool and District.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment at the Docks has been brisk during December, few being wholly unemployed, owing to the increase in cotton imports. There has been a slight falling off in the employment of coalheavers on the Liverpool side, owing to the laying-up for the winter of some large Atlantic passenger ships. The Mersey flatmen report employment as brisk.

**Inland Carrying Trades.**—Nearly all the barges on the inland canals between Liverpool and Manchester are fully employed. The men engaged in cross city and railway traffic report no change.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The Shipbuilding Trade continues quiet. The boiler-makers and riveters are quiet, fully 30 per cent. being unemployed. The ship-joiners and carpenters are a little better employed, owing to the overhauling of the liners laid up for the winter. The engineers show no change; the pattern-makers are dull.

**Metal Trades.**—The whitesmiths report trade as quiet, with about 10 per cent. unemployed; the brass and tinplate workers as quiet; the iron-moulders and core-makers as unchanged.

**Building Trades.**—The joiners and bricklayers report trade as moderate; the slaters, plasterers, and plasterers' labourers as unchanged; the house-painters as very quiet, with a large percentage unemployed.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—The depression in these trades has been intensified by the holidays in St. Helens, Widnes, and Runcorn.

**Miscellaneous.**—The upholsterers report employment as quiet, with 21 per cent. unemployed; the boot and shoe makers and repairers as moderate; the saddlers and tailors as unchanged; the general labourers as quiet.—*J. Sexton.*

A report from Winsford states that the Salt Industry remains dull, the men only working two and three days a week, while some are wholly unemployed. The Chemical Trade is still depressed, and a number are unemployed. The joiners, painters, brick-setters, &c., have been busier since the recent storms; otherwise trade has been dull.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment in these trades has slightly improved. The disastrous gales necessitated repairs, especially among fishing vessels. New orders have been booked by all the shipbuilding firms. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report trade as moderate, with fewer unemployed. The shipwrights have improved, but still have from 12½ to 15 per cent. unemployed. The ship-joiners also report improvement. The engineers report about 11 per cent. unemployed, a decrease from 12 per cent. in November. The iron and steel dressers report trade as good, with none unemployed. The brass-founders and finishers have improved, but still report about 11 per cent. out of work. The sail-makers report 50 per cent. as unemployed at first, but full employment at the end of the month owing to the gales. Unskilled labourers are slack, but show a slight improvement.

**Shipping and Seamen.**—The Lower Baltic and North European ports have remained open, and employment has therefore been better than usual at this season. There has been a good increase of tonnage entering and leaving the ports, giving employment to



## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PROVINCIAL REPORTS (continued).—YORKSHIRE.

seamen, dockside labour, warehousemen, and railway employees. The loading of coal from the ports in this district continues to be good, giving employment to hoist, crane, and tip men, and trimmers. Many vessels engaged in the Norwegian, Swedish, and other passenger trades, and others trading to St. Petersburg and Cronstadt, are laid up, but the number of seamen and others out of employment is not greater than usual.

**Building Trades.**—These trades continue good for the time of year. The severe gales caused an extraordinary demand for both bricklayers and slaters. The bricklayers, slaters, plasterers, and masons are fairly busy. The joiners report trade as bad, with about 10 per cent. unemployed; the mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists as bad, with 2½ per cent. unemployed and several mills working short time; the plumbers as moderate, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the painters as worse, with very few at work.

**Fishing Industry.**—Fishing showed no change until the gale of the 22nd December, when the fishing fleets suffered great damage. The quantity of fish landed during the latter part of the month was much diminished, and employment was slack for all engaged at the fish market, in landing, packing, dispatching and curing.

**Miscellaneous.**—The general trade of the district shows a slight improvement. The coopers report employment as moderate; the printers as good; the brush-makers as dull, with 13 per cent. unemployed; the cabinet-makers as fairly good, with 1 per cent. out of work; the tailors as slightly improved towards the holidays, but bad at the end of the month; the flour millers as good; the bakers and confectioners as moderate. The oil mills are fully employed. In Doncaster trade has been fairly good, with few unemployed.—*W. G. Millington.*

**Leeds and District.**

**Metal Trades.**—Some engineering shops are fairly busy, and even working overtime, but few firms have taken on men; and the number unemployed shows no decrease. At Wakefield there is no improvement. Iron-founding in Leeds has been dull, with about 14 per cent. unemployed; at Stanningley and Rodley rather better, the Wrought-Iron Trade improving. The whitesmiths are dull, with 8 per cent. unemployed. The machine-workers and boiler-makers report employment as bad, with 12 per cent. out of work. The stove-grate-workers and steel-workers are fully employed.

**Coal Mining.**—In the Leeds pits there is an improvement, four or four and a half days a week being general. At Morley some pits are on full time; at Wakefield one seam is being worked two days; at Nostell three days; and at Lofthouse four days. Around Normanton and Castleford most of the pits are working fairly well.

**Building Trades.**—Owing to the recent gale, some of these trades have been fairly busy, and in Leeds, masons, bricklayers and slaters have been in request. At Morley trade is declining, with many unemployed. The plasterers are reported to have a large percentage idle. The joiners are fairly busy in Leeds, but only moderately so in adjacent towns. Plumbing is moderate.

**Clothing Trades.**—The Boot and Shoe Industry is quiet. The ready-made Clothing Trade showed indications of improvement at the close of the month; bespoke tailoring is dull. Slipper-makers are moderately employed.

**Textile Trades.**—The willeys and felters report considerable increase in the unemployed. Spinning is fairly good, some mills working overtime. The Blanket Trade is brisk. Some flax-spinning mills show improvement, but a large number of operatives are out of work. At Morley most of the mills are running full time, and at Stanningley trade is improving; at Yeadon there is no improvement.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanning is not brisk, but there are few unemployed; the curriers, with 8 per cent. unemployed, and the leather shavers, with fully 50 per cent. on short time, are quiet.

**Glass Bottle Trade.**—A larger percentage of the bottle-makers are unemployed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Letterpress Printing Trade has improved, fewer being unemployed; the Lithographic Trade has declined, but only 1½ per cent. are out of work. The cabinet-makers, brush-makers and coach-makers report trade as bad, 10 per cent. of the latter being idle.—*O. Connellan.*

**Bradford, Huddersfield and District.**

**Textile Trades.**—The Woollen Trade in and around Huddersfield is less promising than in November or October, and less overtime is being worked. The Heavy Woollen Trade is about the same as in November, and in Dewsbury and Batley the unemployed are a few less than usual at this time of year. Those engaged in the Rag Trade

in this district are not so well employed. **Worsted manufacturing** in Huddersfield is in a better position, some firms working overtime. The **Worsted Trade** is also reported as improved in Halifax, Keighley, and the Worth Valley. In Bradford, however, there has not been much improvement. **Cotton spinning** is rather slack throughout the district. The **Silk Trade** is reported as improving, especially in Brighouse and neighbourhood.

**Metal Trades.**—Employment in these trades shows no change, except in Halifax, where an improvement has taken place. Keighley still maintains the slight improvement made in November. In Huddersfield 9½ per cent. of the engineers, and 15½ per cent. of the iron-founders are unemployed. The **Wire Drawing Trade** is moderate.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Building Trades do not show much activity, although many men are working who are usually slack at this season. The tailors and printers are quiet.—*A. Gee.*

**Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).**

**Coal Mining.**—There is little change in employment. Some pits have been working full time, and some only half time. The output is very large for the days worked. At a colliery near Wakefield 110 men have been thrown out by the disuse of the seam and about 30 have failed to obtain work elsewhere. At another colliery near Sheffield 90 men have received notice because working the seam is unprofitable. At a colliery at Tankersley 230 men working on one seam have received notice; the men in the other parts of the colliery have determined to give in their notices unless the notice to these men is withdrawn or some compromise effected. The men at a colliery near Sheffield stopped work for nine days on account of a dispute, went back to work, but have now stopped a second time. Another stoppage occurred at a colliery near Leeds on a wages dispute, and about 20 to 25 of the men have not yet succeeded in obtaining work elsewhere. Price lists arranged by a sub-committee of the joint board have been agreed to at a colliery near Wakefield, and at another at Castleford.—*J. Wadsworth.*

**Sheffield and District.**

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—The protracted holidays, in most cases extending from December 22nd to January 2nd, seriously interfered with the ordinary course of trade. In the armour plate branch, however, some firms have been working during the holidays. In shot and shell there is little doing. **Siemens steel-makers** are fairly well employed, and several firms are extending their plant. The planers, drillers, and slotters are well off for work. The blast furnaces producing foundry iron keep steadily at work, but rollers of merchant iron, plates, and angles are slacker, about 2½ per cent. of the rollers being idle, with 15 per cent. only partially employed. The engineers report trade as bad, with 8 per cent. out of work. Large steel forgings for guns, cranks, rods, and axles are quiet, but in small forgings several firms are better employed. Corrugated flues and tubes for marine boilers are quiet. In heavy castings, both iron and steel, some firms are not re-commencing work until January 7th. The iron-founders report trade as bad, with 15 per cent. out of work, and 12 per cent. only partially employed. The boiler-makers report an improvement, only 3 per cent. being out of work. The stove-grate makers are fairly busy, with 2 per cent. unemployed. The wire-drawers have only 3 per cent. idle, but a number are not making full time. The railway spring fitters are slack, with 4 per cent. unemployed. There has been a fairly good demand for best crucible cast steel for drills, stamps, tools, &c., and for Bessemer and Siemens steel billets. Rolling mills employed on work for local purposes, viz., file, blade, and tool steel, have been slack. In Rotherham and Parkgate the Steel Trade is fairly busy; the Iron Trade is slack; the Stove-grate and Brass Trades are fair. In the Chesterfield District there is a good output of foundry iron; the pipe-makers and iron-founders are fairly busy; the pump-makers are slack.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—In the pen and pocket knife branches there is a good demand for best qualities for the American market, but the country trade is quiet, whilst in common goods trade is dull. The table knife cutlers have been fairly well employed, but there was a decline at the end of the month. The table blade grinders report trade as slightly better; the men are all employed, but about 25 per cent. are on short time; at some firms the men have been allowed to work overtime in order to meet the "wheel rent" for the stop week. The razor grinders have about 5 per cent. unemployed, and a large number only partially employed. The hand and scale cutters are better employed than for the past twelve months, with about 7 per cent. unemployed, and an equal number on short time. The Saw Trade is slacker, for although only 2 per cent. are

## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PROVINCIAL REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

unemployed a much larger number are on short time. The joiners' tool-makers continue to be well employed. The engineers' tool-makers report trade as bad, with 5 per cent. out of work, and 40 per cent. partially employed. Hand cut file-makers have been busy. The Machine Made File Trade is slack. The Wool Shear Trade is quiet. The Spade and Shovel Trade is slack.

**Building Trades.**—The masons report trade as fair, with 1 per cent. unemployed; the bricklayers as good, with no unemployed; the carpenters and joiners as slacker, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the plumbers as fair; the painters as slack. At Rotherham the Building Trades are slacker; at Chesterfield fairly good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Railway carriage builders are slacker. Coach-makers report trade as bad, with 5 per cent. unemployed, and 50 per cent. only partially employed; the saddlers and harness-makers as slack, but with only 1½ per cent. unemployed; the letterpress printers as slightly improved, with 5 per cent. out of work; the bookbinders as good, with none out of work or on short time. The Britannia metal-workers report a slight improvement. Silver stampers and chasers report trade as quiet, and worse than in November. The confectioners have been busy. The chandelier and general brass-workers are busy.—*S. Utley.*

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

**Derbyshire District.**

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—The Coal Trade remains unsatisfactory generally. In one or two districts there is a slight improvement; in Alfreton and Ilkeston cannel and hard coal seams are being worked full time, and soft coal 4 days per week; in Kilburn district there is an improvement. Quarrying in all districts is reported as fair.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers and machinists are not so well employed. One or two firms suspended many workmen a few days before Christmas, nearly 7 per cent. being now unemployed. The locomotive works continue busy. The boiler-makers are quiet, with about 4 per cent. idle. The bridge and girder yards are dull. The iron-moulders report trade as moderate; the brass-moulders and finishers as good; the stove-grate-workers as slack, both in Derby and Belper districts; the shoeing and general smiths as fair. In Long Eaton lace machine builders continue fairly well employed. The Cycle Trade is slack. The Engineering Trade in Glossop, New Mills, Ripley, and Ilkeston districts continues moderate; but in Burton-on-Trent is dull, with 5 per cent. unemployed; in the Ghesterfield district it is slack, with nearly 20 per cent. idle. The improvement in the Iron Trade has been maintained, and employment is fair. Employment is good in the malleable iron branches.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers report trade as fair; the carpenters and joiners as improving; the plasterers as quiet; the stonemasons, gasfitters, and plumbers as moderate. The Building Trade is reported as moderate in Belper district, fair in Buxton and Clay Cross, good in Long Eaton and Burton-on-Trent districts.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers generally report trade as good; the lithographers as quiet, with 8 per cent. unemployed; the bookbinders as dull.

**Clothing Trades.**—The Tailoring Trades are moderate; dress and mantle-makers are fairly well employed. The boot and shoe operatives report trade as dull. The Hosiery Trade in Belper district is bad. The Lea hosiery mills continue fairly well employed.

**Textile Trades.**—The Lace Trade in Derby remains quiet and in Long Eaton depressed. The Silk Industry is quiet. The Cotton Trade in Belper and Glossop districts is slack.

**Miscellaneous.**—The bakers, millers, railway men, paper-makers, and hide and skin workers report trade as good; the surgical bandage-makers, elastic-web weavers, box-makers, and dyers as fairly good; the upholsterers, cabinet-makers, coach-builders in private shops as moderate; the paper stainers, colour mixers, basket-makers, brush-makers as slack; the railway carriage and wagon builders as dull.—*C. White-Deacon.*

**Nottingham and District.**

**Lace Trade.**—There is no material change to report in the Lace Trade. About 12½ per cent. continue unemployed, chiefly in the levers and curtain branches. The plain net branch is brisk and employment good. The warp lace branch is depressed, with 10 per cent. unemployed. Designers and draughtsmen have no unemployed, but trade is quiet. The warpers are quiet, with 5 per cent. unemployed. The curtain readers continue depressed, with

20 per cent. unemployed. The threaders, winders, and menders are only moderately employed, but few working full time. The female operatives report moderate employment, with about 3 per cent. out of work. The box-makers report no improvement, but have none unemployed. Bleachers report a decline. The dyers continue slack, with 8 per cent. idle. At Beeston trade is moderate. At Stapleford a few are better employed, but trade generally is quiet. At Bulwell the finishers and dressers are not working full time. Trade is quiet at Kimberley.

**Hosiery.**—There is a slight improvement reported in the Hosiery Trade, but men in the half-hose branch are slack, female labour on new machinery superseding male labour in this branch. Circular hosiery continues bad. The rib-top branch report a slight falling off, owing to stock-taking. The hand frame branch is much brisker, several firms making full time with orders in advance. Griswold knitters are not so well employed. Female workers in finishing departments are only moderately employed. In Sutton and Kirkby the hand frame branch continues depressed. At Mansfield, Arnold, and Carlton the power branch is quiet, many only working half-time. At Carlton the hand frame branch is busier. At Hucknall trade is fairly good.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—The engineers report trade as worse, with 14 per cent. unemployed. The Cycle Trade is not brisk. Hosiery machine builders are slack. Lace machine building is falling off. The boiler-makers report trade as dull; the steam engine-makers as unchanged, with 8 per cent. unemployed; the tool machinists as worse, with 33 per cent. idle; the brass-workers as declining, but with none unemployed; the iron-dressers as moderate, with 9 per cent. unemployed; the iron-founders as bad, with 23 per cent. idle; the carriage-straighteners as dull, with 20 per cent. unemployed. At Beeston the fitters and turners report 6 per cent. idle; the Cycle Trade remains quiet. At Newark the boiler-makers are busier, but the engineers are slack, with 4 per cent. unemployed. At Retford the engineers and iron-founders are quiet, with no unemployed. At Mansfield no change is reported.

**Building Trades.**—The carpenters and joiners report trade as fair, with 4 per cent. unemployed; the plasterers as fairly brisk; the bricklayers as moderate, with 15 per cent. idle; the plumbers as better, with no unemployed; the builders' labourers as fair, with a few idle; the cabinet-makers as fair, with no unemployed; the mill-sawyers as moderate, with 8 per cent. unemployed; the painters as slack, with a large percentage idle. At Mansfield and Worksop trade is fair, with 4 per cent. unemployed; at Newark quiet, with none out of work; at Retford, Hucknall, and Sutton fairly good, but for the weather.

**Railway Works.**—At Worksop trade is rather slack; at Colwick and Netherfield employment is brisk, except in the coal department, which is rather slack on account of the holidays. At Mansfield trade is good, with no unemployed; at Newark and Retford fair; and good at Toton Sidings.

**Miscellaneous Trades.**—The farriers report employment as improved; the coach-builders with 9 per cent. idle, and the elastic bandage-makers with 5 per cent. idle, as bad; the wheelwrights as slack, but with only 2 per cent. unemployed; the boot and shoe-makers as quiet, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the cotton doublers and spinners, and silk throwsters as moderate, short time being the rule; the lithographic printers as improved; the letterpress printers as quiet; the tailors and tailoresses as bad. At Newark and Retford the printers and bookbinders report trade as good; the gas-workers and general labourers as improved, but many unskilled workers are idle.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

**Leicester and Northampton District.**

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—At Leicester employment has been steadier than usual in December; at Kettering, and in most of the villages around, in which army boots and shoes are the chief production, workpeople are fairly well engaged; but at Northampton trade remains depressed, and large numbers of riveters and finishers are wholly or partially unemployed.

**Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Spinning Trades.**—All departments of the Hosiery Trade are depressed, a large percentage being on short time. Business is much disturbed by the unsettled state of the wages question. The output in the Yarn Trade is restricted. In the spinning mills trade is dull, and employment not so regular.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—The Engineering Trades have been moderately busy, the number of unemployed being unchanged. Workmen engaged in electrical engineering are on full time, but in the engine building, boiler-making and iron-founding branches



## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PROVINCIAL REPORTS (contd.).—MIDLAND COUNTIES (contd.).

employment is slack. Trade is quiet with hosiery machine-makers, but fairly good in the boot and shoe machinery department.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—Large numbers of the colliers continue to work short time. The demand for stone keeps good, and quarrymen are regularly employed. Trade is busiest in the sett-making and broken stone branches, and quietest with kerbmakers.

**Building Trades.**—The number unemployed has increased. The bricklayers and plasterers report about 5 per cent. unemployed; the carpenters and joiners 7 per cent. The house painters and decorators report 40 to 50 per cent. as on short time, or wholly unemployed. The stonemasons and builders' labourers are not so busy. The plumbers, glaziers, gasfitters and artisans engaged in brick, tile, and terra-cotta-making are still in full work.

**Miscellaneous.**—Business is quieter in the Elastic Webbing Industry, and moderate in both the wholesale and bespoke branches of the Tailoring Trade. Employment is good with lithographic and letterpress printers, bookbinders, cigar-makers, and shoe last-makers, and moderate with cabinet-makers, and basket-makers; fairly good with confectioners and silk hatters, but quiet in the felt-hatting branch, and with dyers, trimmers, coach-makers and cardboard box-makers; bad with upholsterers, French polishers, and woollsorters. Railway-workers, particularly in the passenger department, have been fully employed. Railway wagon and tramway coach-builders, fitters and winders are busy. General out-door labourers are still only moderately employed, but excavators on the new railway and waterworks are fully engaged.  
T. Smith.

**Potteries District.**

**Pottery Trades.**—The improvement in these trades has been well maintained. Stock-taking has commenced, and, until completed, there will be very little work for the operatives. The Christmas holidays have varied from two to twelve days. Numerous orders have come from the United States, and prospects are good. The hollow-ware pressers report little change in the general trade, but the sanitary department is not so brisk, 5 per cent. being out of work. The printers and transferrers report little change. Stock-taking has interfered with general work, an average of three days per week only obtaining at most firms. The flat-pressers report a slight improvement; the women's union a slight decline, with about 2 per cent. out of work; the ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggar-makers no change; the crate-makers a slight improvement, with 2 per cent. out of work.

**Metal Trades.**—The Iron Trade of the district is practically at a standstill, for stock-taking and repairs. The engineers, boiler-makers and iron-founders in the Potteries report employment as unchanged, with 8 per cent. out of work; at Crewe, as bad, with 7 per cent. unemployed, the holidays lasting 9½ working days; at Stafford, as moderate, with no unemployed; at Congleton, as bad, with 9 per cent. unemployed.

**Textile Trades.**—At Leek the trimming weavers report no change, but in the hard silk and braid department a slight improvement is apparent. The unemployed in all the departments of the Silk Industry average 2 per cent. At Congleton, the trimming weavers report trade as bad, with 5 per cent. out of work; the silk dressers as slightly improved.

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—At Stafford the boot and shoe operatives report trade as bad, with only three days' work per week. A number of manufacturers have closed their works for a fortnight; the holidays generally lasted one week.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers in the Potteries report a further decline, with 15 per cent. out of work; the carpenters and joiners report trade as fairly good, with 1½ per cent. unemployed; the wood sawyers and machinists as moderate, with no unemployed. The plumbers and painters throughout the district report trade as bad, with 5 per cent. idle. At Leek, the bricklayers report 10 per cent. out of work; the carpenters and joiners 8 per cent. At Crewe, all branches are slack. At Stafford, the bricklayers and stonemasons report trade as good, with none unemployed. A large number of labourers are, however, out of work, men from the rural districts, and also navvies from all parts of the country, having drifted into the town consequent on sewerage works having been undertaken.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as declining, with 8 per cent. out of work. The lithographic artists and printers report no change.

**Miscellaneous.**—The enginemen and stokers report no change. The railway servants are fairly well employed. Tailors in the Potteries are fairly busy. At Crewe, trade has considerably improved; at Stafford, a slight decline is reported.—I. S. Harvey.

**Wolverhampton and District.**

**Iron and Engineering Trades.**—Many of the works have been closed for a longer time than usual during the holidays. Some of the Shropshire firms are moderately busy in steel rolling, wire, bridge, girder, and merchant iron work. Steel smelting has not been quite so active. The engineers and constructive machinists have 4 per cent. unemployed, the number having steadily declined. The heavy iron-founders report employment as unchanged; the tool-makers and machinists as declining; the iron-door and safe-makers as normal, the boiler and tank-makers, bridge and girder constructors, and gasometer erectors as busy throughout the whole district, with a small percentage of unemployed. Full time is still worked in all branches at the railway works.

**Hardware Trades.**—The Cable Chain Trade has been somewhat better during the latter part of the month. The hand-made Nut and Bolt Trade still continues depressed. The Lock Trade is bad in all branches. The Spring Trap Trade is not so busy, and the key stampers are doing very little. There is no general improvement in the Brass and Copper Trades. Plumbers' foundry work is slack. The file smiths and cutters are also on short time. The slight improvement in the Ironplate Trade still continues, but there is no alteration in the Tinplate Trade. The edge tool-makers continue fairly well employed, and the Electrical Trades are busy. The improvement has been maintained by makers of latches, hinges, railway fittings, builders' and coach-builders' ironmongery. The cut nail, tack, and steel toy makers are slack. The galvanisers, enamellers, and japanners, small iron-moulders and hollow-ware casters are moderately busy. The Cycle Trade has improved, and is busier than usual at this season. The cast-nail makers are slacker, but the Malleable Casting Trade is busy.

**Coal Mining.**—There has been a slight improvement at some of the collieries in the Cannock Chase district, but others are working three and four days per week. In the Black Country short time is still worked, and in South Shropshire the Mining Industry is reported to be depressed.

**Building Trades.**—These trades are now declining. The carpenters have 60 unemployed, the dispute begun on April 2nd having ended unsatisfactorily for them. The bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers report trade as moderate, the masons, painters and decorators, bricklayers and general labourers, as fair; the mill sawyers, machinists and brickmakers as declining.

**Miscellaneous.**—The dry cask coopers are generally working short time. The crate and packing-case makers report employment as better; the printers as fairly good with 2 per cent. unemployed; the wheelwrights, smiths and boot and shoe makers as slack; the tailors as fairly good; the coach-builders as still slack; the gas stokers as busy; the oil, colour and varnish makers, rope and twine spinners as steady. The railway men, canal boatmen and carriers have all been busy with the season's requirements. Spinning and weaving in the carpet working districts show no change. In Walsall the Leather Trade is reported as bad, the holidays in many cases lasting a week or ten days. The Hame Trade is also bad. The bridle-bit makers are fairly well employed, but makers of locks and chains, and casters of harness furniture are slack.—W. F. Mos.

**Birmingham and District.**

**Brass and Copper Workers.**—Chandelier and gas-fitting workers have been fully employed; cabinet brass-founders fairly well. The plumbers' brass-founders show no improvement; 30 workmen were suspended in the middle of the month. Bedstead brass furniture workers have been busier, but are still depressed; the season holiday in the Brass Trade seems to lengthen every year, some works closing for 8, 14 or even 21 days. The coppersmiths report a slight improvement; the lamp-workers are fairly busy.

**Bedstead Workers.**—Trade is still improving a little; about 60 men are working overtime, but the majority are on short time, and there are 1·6 per cent. unemployed.

**Engineers and Metal Workers.**—The engineers report trade as moderate. One or two establishments have, however, been working overtime continuously. The tool-makers report trade as quiet. Wire drawing has been fair. The coach-makers still complain that the private trade is dull, with many on short time. Railway carriage work is busy. Workers on timen's furniture have been well employed, no firm working short time. Iron-moulders report no improvement. Tube-workers have found more employment on brazed tubes for chandeliers, gas fittings, and bedstead work. Metal rollers have been better employed. Cycle makers are beginning to get busier. The Sporting Gun Trade is quiet. Tinplate

## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PROVINCIAL REPORTS (contd.).—EAST AND S.W. COUNTIES.

working is more brisk, with fewer unemployed. Japanners, are busy. Electrical supply workers are in full employment.

**Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.**—There is a little activity in some branches of the Jewellery Trade. Silversmiths are moderately employed. The Electro-plate Trade is fairly good, several firms working overtime.

**Other Trades in Birmingham.**—Building operatives have been constantly employed. The carpenters have 4·8 per cent. unemployed. The cabinet-makers are quiet; the carvers are slack. Glass-bevellers are busy in all branches, one shop working overtime. Vegetable ivory button-workers are on 3 days per week; pearl button-workers are tolerably busy. Steel pen work is reported as indifferent. Gas-workers have full employment. Leather-workers on small articles, such as purses, &c., are moderately busy.

**Iron Trade in South Staffordshire.**—This trade is most depressed; many works closed two or three weeks for the holidays. The stoppage of one establishment at Deepfields has thrown 200 men out of work. Nor are the prospects for the new year more hopeful.

**Other Trades in South Staffordshire.**—Good and fairly regular employment prevails in bridge and constructive iron-work, steam pumps, railway carriage fittings, cables and heavy chains, and enamelled sign-plates. The Lock Trade is a little better. Good orders are in hand for heavy ironwork. Nail and small chain-workers experience no change.—W. J. Davis.

A report on Coventry and North Warwickshire states that the Cycle Trade has entered upon its busy season. Cyclometers, for measuring distances travelled, are being made for cycles and vehicles. Employment on indiarubber tyres for light vehicles is increasing. The Watch Trade is a little better. The Ribbon Trade is almost at a standstill. The plush, velvet, hosiery, and woollen branches are fairly active. Owing to the influx of mechanics and engineers into Coventry on account of the Cycle Trade, employers in general engineering are developing their business. The Building and Printing Trades are quiet. The Quarrying Trade is active. The production of bricks, tiles, terra-cotta, and draining and sanitary pipes keeps increasing. Hatters are not working full time.

## ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

(N.B.—Agriculture is dealt with in a separate report, see page 14.)

**Norfolk and District.**

**Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.**—At Norwich engineering is dull; several firms are on short time. At Thetford the trade is good, with no unemployed. At Yarmouth it is slack, but there are none idle; several smiths have been out of work all the month. The shipwrights at Yarmouth are slack, one-third having been out of work all the month. The sail-makers at Yarmouth have been slack, but will be busier in January, in consequence of great damage done by recent gales.

**Building Trades.**—At Norwich these trades are bad, a large number of carpenters, joiners, bricklayers, and labourers being unemployed; the plasterers are slack, but have few unemployed; the plumbers are fully employed. At Yarmouth these trades are fair; there are few carpenters and bricklayers unemployed, but many labourers are reported to be idle. At Cromer and Thetford these trades are fair, few carpenters and bricklayers being out of work. At Cambridge these trades are bad; a number of men have left the town during the month, thus reducing the number of unemployed. At Newmarket the Building Trades throughout are good.

**Clothing Trades.**—At Norwich the Boot and Shoe Industry is still depressed; many firms are on short time. The crape works are on full time. Some clothing factories are running short time. The tailors report trade as dull at Norwich and Yarmouth.

**Fishing.**—At Yarmouth the herring fishing has been good, but ended at Christmas, and large numbers of men are idle.

**Miscellaneous.**—The printers at Norwich, Yarmouth, and Fakenham are fairly busy, few being unemployed. At Norwich the cabinet-makers are slack. At North Walsham, Dereham, and Wells, trade generally is dull, but there are not a great many unemployed. At Norwich 54 wire weavers, who had been discharged, have been re-instated, two-thirds working each week.—G. Cleverley.

**Suffolk, Essex and District.**

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The depression in these trades continues. At Ipswich the engineers report trade as bad, with 6 per cent. unemployed; at Leiston and Wickham Market as bad, short time prevailing; at Colchester as still dull; at Chelmsford as improved. The boiler-makers and moulders are still moderately employed.

**Building Trades.**—At Ipswich the carpenters report trade as dull, with 12 per cent. unemployed; the bricklayers as moderate, only a few being wholly unemployed. At Colchester the carpenters report trade as dull, and the bricklayers as bad. No improvement is reported by the painters. At Lowestoft these trades are dull, but there are few unemployed.

**Clothing Trades.**—In the wholesale branch of the Tailoring Trade no improvement is noted at Ipswich. The export trade continues about the same, and the bespoke and home branches are quiet. At Colchester trade is moderate. The stay and corset makers are still well employed. The Boot and Shoe Trades are slack at Ipswich and Colchester.

**Mat-making and Silk Weaving.**—The Mat-making Industry is bad at Sudbury and Hadleigh, moderate at Glemsford and Long Melford, and fairly good at Lavenham. The silk weavers at Sudbury are better employed than they have been for years.

**Miscellaneous.**—The printers are moderately employed at Colchester, but have 10 per cent. unemployed at Ipswich. The cigar-makers report an improvement, but men have been discharged. The shipwrights at Lowestoft are in full work, with none out of work. Employment is difficult to obtain amongst general labourers and dock labourers. The herring fishing at Lowestoft has been good, while trawl fishing has been bad during the month.  
R. W. Mather.

## ENGLAND: SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES.

**Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.**

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—In the Radstock mining district the Coal Trade is below the winter average, the majority not working more than four days per week. Fifty men and boys are still out of employment in consequence of the late dispute. In the Bristol coalfield there is little change; 150 men are unemployed. In the Forest of Dean employment does not average more than three and a half days. The Stone Quarry Trade is fairly good. In the West Gloucestershire quarries employment is scarce.

**Engineering and kindred Trades.**—The engineers report employment as slightly improved; the brass-founders, tool-makers and machinists and cycle workers as bad; the galvanizers and those engaged in the hollow-ware branch as almost at a standstill. Trade is reported to have improved towards the end of the month in all departments of the railway works at Swindon. At Gloucester the engineers continue quiet; the railway wagon and coach-builders report trade as bad.

**Building Trades.**—These trades show a further decline, a large percentage of the stonemasons and bricklayers being unemployed. The painters and plasterers report trade as slack; the lath-renders as good. The carpenters and joiners have about 10 per cent. unemployed, an increase of 3 per cent. on November. At Bath the Building Trades are reported as bad; at Swindon as improving.

**Clothing Trades.**—The Ready-made Clothing Industry has improved considerably, and all firms but one are working full time. The Bristol Boot and Shoe Trade has also revived, and employment has been more regular. In the Kingswood district trade has been fairly good. At Street (Somerset) trade is rather slack, but has slightly improved.

**Textile Trades.**—The Woollen Industry at Wellington is in a prosperous state; all the mills are working full time. The Westford mills are moderately busy.

**Printing Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as good; the lithographic printers as fair; the bookbinders as not so brisk as usual at this time. These trades at Bath have improved; at Gloucester they are very dull.

**Dock Labour.**—During the month the general cargo and Continental imports improved. The Grain Trade has been fair; the Timber Trade dull.

**Miscellaneous.**—The basket-makers report trade as quiet; the cabinet-makers, mill-sawyers, and wood-turners as fair; the curriers as fairly good; the glass bottle-makers as improving. The bakers and confectioners have still 14 per cent. unemployed. Employment with general labourers is scarce.—J. Curle.

**Plymouth and South Western District.**

**Dock Labour and Shipping.**—Dock labour is reported as generally quiet, especially with casual hands, owing to the slackness of imports. Seamen also remain quiet.

**Engineering and Ship Repairing.**—These trades have continued to decline, and are reported as bad, with large numbers unemployed.



## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PROVINCIAL REPORTS (contd.).—S.W. COUNTIES, WALES AND SCOTLAND.

**Building Trades.**—These trades continue depressed. The bricklayers, wall-masons, plasterers, and carpenters and joiners are slack, with larger numbers unemployed. The plumbers are fairly busy. The painters and glaziers showed an improvement for the greater part of the month, but are again slack. At Exeter these trades are reported as moderate, except the painters, who are slack; at Torquay and district as bad. Depression is also reported in most parts of Cornwall.

**Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.**—Large numbers of metal-miners in Cornwall are reported to be unemployed, and it seems probable that some mines will be closed. The quarrymen and stone-cutters are reported as fairly busy generally throughout the district. The Clay Industry continues fairly good.

**Clothing Trades.**—The boot and shoe operatives are reported as generally quiet at Plymouth and Crediton and in Cornwall. The Tailoring Trade, both in ready-made and bespoke departments, is also reported as dull.

**Miscellaneous.**—The saddlers, wheelwrights, smiths and coach-builders are reported as fairly well employed; the Letterpress Printers, Bookbinders and Kindred Trades, Cabinet-makers, Upholsterers and Furnishing Trades as quiet. The bakers report trade as bad, with a large number unemployed, especially at Plymouth. Of the confectionery-makers thrown out of work by a fire in November about 50 are employed in temporary premises. Thirty persons at a coach-builder's establishment at Exeter have been thrown out of work by a fire. General labourers find it difficult to obtain work.—*J. Welland.*

## WALES.

## Cardiff and District.

**Building Trades.**—These trades are not so well employed. The masons and bricklayers report trade as bad; the carpenters and plasterers and builders' and general labourers as dull. The plumbers, house decorators and painters have not a large number unemployed.

**Ship Repairing and Engineering.**—Employment has been better, but the engineers, boiler-makers and shipwrights still report trade as bad; and the labourers are much depressed. The moulders are slack. Some of the engineering firms in the outlying and the colliery districts, however, have been busy and working overtime.

**Metal Trades.**—These trades show little change. The steel works at Ebbw Vale were stopped before the holidays, and are still idle, with the exception of a new tin bar mill and Bessemer department. The engineering department has been idle since the 22nd December, about 450 hands being affected; and the Steel Trade generally is dull. The Tinplate Trade is still slack and unsettled, and a general downward tendency in wages prevails. The Copper Trade remains dull, some works being put on short time during the month.

**Dock Labour and Shipping.**—The Import Trade has been dull, and the dock labourers have been badly employed, except in the iron-ore department at Cardiff, where the men have been fairly busy. The seamen are depressed, especially at Cardiff.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Chemical Industry is dull. The Steel Tubing Works at Landore are busy. The Patent Fuel Trade is dull, one firm at Swansea is idle through want of orders, about 300 men being affected by the stoppage. Employment was found by the Corporation for 179 men, for three days, out of the 369 whose names were entered on the register of unemployed. A few of these are still employed in stone-breaking.—*T. Davies.*

A report from Ebbw Vale states that the Steel Rail Trade of the district has shown a further decline, and the Tin Bar Trade is not so good. The smiths, fitters, boiler-makers, engine-drivers and carpenters were fairly employed at the early part of the month, but during the latter part were suspended indefinitely. The steel mills at Ebbw Vale have been closed for a fortnight, but are expected to re-start on the 7th January.

## South Wales Mining District.

**Coal Mining.**—At three collieries, each employing several hundred men, notices have been served by the employers to terminate contracts at the end of January. At one colliery 30 men, and at another colliery 100 men, have stopped work on account of disputes as to price lists. At another colliery 200 men have tendered a month's notice owing to a change in methods of working unaccompanied by changes in the price list. The Steam Coal Trade improved towards the end of month, but was not busy. There was a slight falling off in the demand for house coal, attributed to the non-arrival of shipping on account of severe weather. Both patent fuel and coke were in demand.

**Tinplate Trade.**—The position of the Tinplate Trade in Wales is unsatisfactory. Stoppages of works, requests for concessions, and demands for reductions of wages, are constantly reported.—*W. Evans.* (For further account of Tinplate Trade, see page 19.)

## SCOTLAND.

## Edinburgh and District.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment in the shipyards is much the same as in November; the shipjoiners are fairly well employed, but the shipwrights and the boiler-makers have many idle.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers, pattern-makers, blacksmiths, copper-smiths, and iron-moulders report trade as bad; the tinsmiths and gas meter-makers as fair; and the brass-founders as good, with none idle. Returns from eleven branches of unions show 11.3 per cent. unemployed.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The Shipping Industry is quiet, but fewer sailors and firemen are idle; several engaged in the Baltic Trade belong to the Orkney and Shetland Islands, and go home while the Baltic is closed, thus diminishing the number of unemployed. Dock labourers and coal porters have been moderately employed during the month.

**Textile Trades.**—The Hosiery Trade in Hawick is considerably depressed, especially in the hand-made department, the number out of work being larger than usual. In Selkirk work is fairly steady. In the Woollen Industry trade generally is quiet. In Hawick and Galashiels a number of the mills are running short time. In Selkirk the spinners are in some cases on short time. Weaving is fair. Carpet-weaving in Midlothian continues good.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers, masons, and joiners report trade as fair; the plasterers, lath-splitters, glaziers, and plumbers as good; the slaters as quiet; the painters have a considerable number out of work.

**Coal Mining and Mineral Oil Industry.**—The Coal Trade in the Lothians has been steady during the month, and the miners have generally been fully employed. All branches of the Mineral Oil Industry continue good.

**Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.**—The upholsterers, French polishers, and brush-makers report trade as bad; the cabinet-makers as quiet, though not exceptionally so for the time of year. Returns from seven branches of unions show 7.3 per cent. out of work.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—The compositors report employment as slightly improved; the press and machine-men and lithographic artists as good; the bookbinders and stereotypers as fair. The type-founders, who have only been working four days per week for the last twelve months, are now working five days per week. Returns from six branches of unions show 2 per cent. unemployed.

**Miscellaneous Trades.**—The coopers, glass-makers, glass-cutters and saw-mill operatives report trade as good; the saddlers and coach-makers as dull, with 4 per cent. idle; the curriers, tanners and horse-shoers as quiet; the tailors and shoe-makers as bad; the hatters as improved; the bakers as fairly good; the india-rubber-workers as fairly steady.—*J. Mallinson.*

## Glasgow and West of Scotland.

**Shipbuilding.**—The shipwrights have been better employed during the month, and have good prospects of work, but they have several idle. The joiners report no improvement. At Paisley shipbuilding is dull; at Port Glasgow it has improved slightly; at Greenock some yards are busy and some slack.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The steel smelters report trade as dull, fewer furnaces working than in November; the millmen as bad, some of the works only working half time. The iron-workers have been fairly busy; a reduction notified at one of the works has been withdrawn. At Motherwell the Steel Trade is dull, especially in the plate-rolling department, only 7 smelting furnaces out of 16 at one firm being in work.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers and blacksmiths report no change. The stove and ornamental fitters report employment as better in all branches, with a few idle men; the file-cutters, iron-grinders, hammermen, and horse-shoers as good; the sewing machine makers as slightly improved; the cycle-makers as more promising; and the pattern-makers as dull. At Paisley all branches of these trades report employment as slack. At Motherwell engineering is dull, bridge building and nut and bolt making fair. At Greenock engineering is fair. At Airdrie and Coatbridge the blacksmiths and engine-makers are busy; the pattern-makers and iron-workers dull.

## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—PROVINCIAL REPORTS (continued).—SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

**Building and Wood-working Trades.**—The masons report employment as unchanged; the joiners as fairly good; the coopers as still dull, with several unemployed; the bricklayers as good, and all the men fully employed; the encaustic tile-layers as not so good during the month, but improving; the coach-makers as unchanged, with 4 per cent. idle; the paviors as still dull, with many unemployed; the plasterers and lath-splitters as good; the plumbers as improving; the sett-makers as firm, with no unemployed; the saw-millers as bad during the month, with fair prospects; the wood-turners as still dull; the wood-carvers as slightly improved. The painters have one-third of the men employed.

**Textile Trades.**—No change is reported in the Weaving Trade. The power loom beamers report trade as bad; the warpers as declining, 33 hours a week being the average worked; the dyers as bad; the spindle and flyer-makers as busy, all working full time and overtime for a week previous to the holidays; the carpet-weavers as still improving.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors report employment as slightly improved; the tailoresses as exceptionally quiet; the boot and shoe operatives as good, with few unemployed, and some factories working overtime; the shoe-makers as quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—The tobacco pipe-makers report employment as steady; the plate-glass workers as improved; the carters as brisk; the letterpress printers as very dull, with a number unemployed; the lithographic printers as showing no decline; the bookbinders and curriers as fairly good; the saddlers as quiet, several working short time, but with few unemployed; the wire-weavers as dull; the sailors and firemen as improved; the dock and general labourers as fair.—*A. J. Hunter.*

## Dundee and District.

**Textile Trades.**—The Jute and Linen Industries show a slight improvement. With the re-starting of a jute mill in Dundee between 200 and 300 hands have found employment; other works are busier, and the number of unemployed has been materially reduced. At Forfar three firms are employing their usual number and running full time; three factories are working 50 hours per week; in one only 40 hours are being worked. At Arbroath, where machinery has been standing idle during the year, both in the spinning and weaving departments, the outlook is now more promising.

**Shipbuilding.**—With the exception of some rather extensive repairing work the shipyards have been slack, but good orders are reported. At Montrose employment has been brisk, and seems likely to continue so. At Kinghorn, and at Inverkeithing, good orders have been received. The boiler-makers report a large percentage of unemployed, and the shipwrights still show upwards of 40 per cent. idle.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—There is not much change to report in these trades. In foundries devoted to land engines and machine-making, work is fairly plentiful, and the engineers, moulders, blacksmiths, and kindred trades show a slightly decreased unemployed list.

**Building Trades.**—The masons are fully employed. The joiners, lath-splitters, plasterers, plumbers, and slaters are not so busy, and painters are still very slack.

**Clothing Trades.**—The slackness reported in the Tailoring Trade has increased. Of 189 men recently locked out 109 remain unemployed. The shoe-makers are fairly busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—The letterpress printers report trade as satisfactory; the lithographers are fully employed, and the bookbinders fairly busy; the cabinet-makers and upholsterers continue slack; the bakers, saw-millers, packing-case makers, paviors and general labourers have been well employed.—*P. Reid.*

## Aberdeen and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as bad, with 24.2 per cent. idle; the shipwrights as dull, with 11 per cent. idle; the iron-moulders as bad, with 33.6 per cent. idle; the engineers and pattern-makers as dull, one old-established firm of engineers having closed its works; the blacksmiths as bad, with 4 per cent. idle; the tinplate-workers as moderate, with 22.3 per cent. idle. The Iron Trade generally is depressed.

**Quarrying and Granite Works.**—Quarrying has been good, but affected by stormy weather. The sett-makers report trade as good, with none idle; granite polishers as moderate. Monumental yards are still dull.

**Building Trades.**—The masons, carpenters and joiners, plasterers,

and plasterers' labourers report trade as good; the slaters as exceptionally busy; the plumbers as moderate; the painters as better than usual at this season.

**Fishing.**—In December the trawl boats landed 37,712 cwt., realising £21,883; and line boats 8,121 cwt., realising £4,439—an increase in quantity and value on November.

**Miscellaneous.**—The letterpress printers report trade as better, but with 10 per cent. idle; the lithographic printers as moderate, with 6 per cent. idle; the coach-builders, saw-millers, and machinists as good; the rope and twine-spinners, wood-carvers, wood-turners, jute-workers, boot and shoe-makers, and dock labourers as fair; the flax, cotton and paper-workers, and comb-makers as moderate; the cabinet-makers, with 7.8 per cent. idle, the upholsterers, with 12 per cent. idle, the bakers and general labourers as dull; the tailors as bad.—*W. Johnston.*

## IRELAND.

## Dublin and District.

**Building, Woodworking, and Iron Trades.**—The Building Trades are dull, and a number of stone-cutters, bricklayers, carpenters, joiners, slaters, and painters are idle, but employment is still fair with the plasterers, lath-splitters, sawyers, and packing-case makers, and the plumbers are busier. The builders' labourers have several idle. The upholsterers have been dull; the cabinet-makers show no improvement. Trade has been fair with the coopers, coach and carriage-builders, farriers, saddlers, and harness-makers; dull with the engineers, boiler-makers, and whitesmiths.

**Food and Clothing Trades.**—Work was brisk among the bakers and confectioners. The butchers, poulterers, butchers' assistants, and bacon-curers have been busy. The shop-assistants were fairly well employed at first, but have become slack. The hotel and club-assistants, waiters, and cooks are busy, and mineral water operatives fairly busy. Employment has been slack with the tailors and others engaged in the Clothing Trade, but better in the Shoemaking Industry. Dressmakers and needlewomen were busy at the beginning of the month, but had to take holidays towards the end.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as fairly good; 165 members were unemployed, of whom 108 received benefit. The Lithographic Trade is still dull, but trade continues fair with the bookbinders, machine-rulers, printers' assistants, paper-cutters, and despatch-workers. The book-folders were fairly well employed during the month; the stereotypers report a decline.

**Miscellaneous.**—The fishermen were busy at first, but have been considerably affected by the weather. The bottle-makers are still active. The cork-cutters, basket-makers and brush-makers have been moderately busy. The tram-men, railway servants, dock labourers, and general labourers have been busy, but employment has been scarce for sailors and firemen. Employment has been fair with cabmen, carmen, tobacco-workers, and corn-millers; dull with textile-workers and shipwrights.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

## Belfast and District.

**General.**—The returns received from 79 branches of 50 societies, with a membership of 17,784, show 1,287, or 7.2 per cent., to be unemployed, as against 1,204, or 6.1 per cent., of the membership in November.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Of 7,433 members employed in these trades, 598, or 8 per cent., are unemployed, as against 701 out of 8,751 members, or 8 per cent., at the end of November, three branches having failed to make returns. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, iron-founders, machine-workers, engineers, and iron-turners report trade as bad; the furnishing trades as quiet; the blacksmiths, carpenters and joiners, enginemen and cramenen, general labourers and platers' helpers as fair, and the brass-founders as good.

**Linen Trades.**—Of the 4,120 members in these industries, 298, or 7.2 per cent., are unemployed, as against 182, or 4.5 per cent., of the membership in November. The hackle and gill makers, flax-roughers, and yarn-dressers report employment as bad; the beetling enginemen as dull; the bobbin-turners as quiet; the spindle and flyer-makers as moderate; the shirt, collar, and apron cutters, flax dressers, and linen-lappers as fair.

**Building Trades.**—Out of the 2,362 members employed in these industries, 247, or 10.5 per cent., are reported as unemployed, as against 149, or 6.3 per cent., of the membership in November. The house painters and the carpenters and joiners report trade as bad;



EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

the plumbers and bricklayers' assistants as dull; the bricklayers as fair; and the mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists as good. Miscellaneous.—In this group of 23 branches of trade societies, with a membership of 3,869, 144, or 3·7 per cent., are stated to be looking for work, as against 172, or 3·9 per cent. in November. The tailors and furniture-workers, letterpress printers, and lithographic artists report trade as quiet; the coach-builders as dull; the bookbinders and machine-rulers, butchers and assistants, railway servants, tinplate-workers, packing-case makers, and the hotel and club assistants as fair; the locomotive engine drivers, lithographic printers, paviors, and coopers as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

**Building Trades.**—These trades have shown a slight decline during the month, especially among the masons, plasterers, bricklayers, stucco-workers, and builders' labourers in Cork, Limerick and Waterford. The carpenters report trade as fair; the plumbers and gasfitters as dull.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report trade as fair; the engineers as bad; the shipwrights and ship-joiners in Cork, Queenstown, and Passage West as fair; the sail-makers, riggers, block and pump-makers as fair in Queenstown and Passage West, but bad in Cork and Limerick.

**Food and Clothing Trades.**—Flax and tweed operatives are steadily employed. Feather operatives and down quilt manufacturers are busy. The boot and shoemakers and boot-rioters report employment as brisk; the beef and pork butchers as fair; and the bakers and tailors as bad.

**Fishing.**—The deep-sea fishing, especially round the south and west coast, is extremely depressed, owing to the severity of the weather.

**Miscellaneous.**—The coach-makers, wheelwrights, harness-makers, gas-workers, quay labourers, and Corporation workmen report trade as good; the printers and bookbinders as declining; the cabinet-makers and upholsterers as dull; the coopers, mill-sawyers, and wood-working machinists as steady; the tobacco and snuff manufacturers as fair.—*P. O'Shea.*

IV.—REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a)—COAL MINING IN DECEMBER.

**NOTE.**—The tables below only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries at which a certain number of persons were paid at the last pay day in November. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

Owing partly, no doubt, to the approach of cold weather, employment in the Coal Mining Industry appears to have been rather better in December than in the previous month, nearly all the districts showing an improvement in the number of days worked by the collieries. In the Scottish districts the high average worked in November after the termination of the dispute has been maintained in the Lothians, but in Fife and the West of Scotland there has been a slight falling off, though the number of days per week worked, viz., 5½ in Fife and 5 in the West of Scotland, is still above the average for the United Kingdom. Fife and district, in fact, shows a higher average number of days per week worked in December than any other district, and is closely followed by the Lothians. The district in which the fewest days have been worked by the collieries is Notts and Leicester, where the average number amounts to 4¼ days per week only.

The returns received may be summarized as follows:—

At 1,136 collieries, at which 292,231 workpeople were paid on the last pay day in the four weeks ended December 22nd, the average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound during that period was 4·97.\* The corresponding figures for November and October were 4·86\* and 4·97\* days per week respectively.

A classification of the workpeople, as in the following table, according to the number of days worked by the 1,136 pits, brings out the fact that 59·3 per cent. were employed at pits which worked 20 days or more in the

\* Allowance is made in all the calculations for short days.

four weeks (24 days), 37·4 per cent. at pits working 12 and under 20 days, and 3·3 per cent. at pits working less than 12 days or half time.

I.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY THE COLLIERIES.

Number of days* on which Coal was hewn and wound in the four weeks ended December 22nd, 1894.	Number of Work-people employed at the Collieries working the number of days stated in Column 1.	Percentage proportion employed at Collieries working the number of days stated in Column 2.
Under 4 days ... ..	146	...
4 and under 6 days ... ..	115	...
6 " " 8 " " " " " "	1,025	3
8 " " 10 " " " " " "	5,455	19
10 " " 12 " " " " " "	3,254	11
12 " " 14 " " " " " "	10,101	35
14 " " 16 " " " " " "	18,668	64
16 " " 18 " " " " " "	40,256	138
18 " " 20 " " " " " "	39,967	137
20 " " 22 " " " " " "	75,138	257
22 " " 24 " " " " " "	74,637	252
24 days (full time) ... ..	25,529	87
Total ... ..	292,231	1000

A comparison of the average number of days worked in each district in the four weeks ended 22nd December, with corresponding figures for the four weeks ended 24th November, shows that there has been an improvement in 12 districts, in which 244,342 workpeople were employed at the collieries covered by the returns; while in four districts, with 47,889 workpeople, the number of days worked per week was less than in November. In two of the districts in which there has been a falling-off, viz., Fife and the West of Scotland, it should be noted that the time worked in November was above the normal, the miners, on their return to work after the dispute, working nearly full time.

II.—COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED PER WEEK BY COLLIERIES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

District.	No. employed in Dec. at the Collieries included in Table.	Days per Week.	
		December.	November.
(a) Districts in which December exceeds November.			
Lothians ... ..	3,956	5·55	5·51
South Wales and Monmouth ... ..	57,044	5·42	5·14
Durham ... ..	26,926	5·41	5·32
Ireland ... ..	224	5·35	5·30
Cumberland ... ..	5,307	5·20	4·99
Lancashire and Cheshire ... ..	43,841	4·95	4·75
Yorkshire ... ..	36,823	4·79	4·51
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick ... ..	5,999	4·73	4·51
Staffordshire ... ..	23,333	4·65	3·96
Gloucester and Somerset ... ..	6,035	4·59	4·23
Derby ... ..	22,366	4·40	4·24
Notts and Leicester ... ..	12,528	4·25	3·77
(b) Districts in which November exceeds December.			
Fife and Clackmannan ... ..	2,336	5·60	5·64
West of Scotland ... ..	34,863	4·99	5·35
Northumberland ... ..	5,462	4·84	5·25
North Wales ... ..	5,228	4·62	4·90

Arranging the districts in descending order according to the number of days worked by the collieries, they may be divided into two groups: (a) working more than 5 days, and (b) working over 4 but less than 5 days per week, respectively.

III.—CLASSIFICATION OF DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED PER WEEK.

District.	No. employed at the Collieries included in Table.	Average No. of days on which coal was hewn and wound per week.
(a) 5 Days and upwards per week.		
Fife ... ..	2,336	5·6
Lothians ... ..	3,956	5·55
South Wales and Monmouth ... ..	57,044	5·42
Durham ... ..	26,926	5·41
Ireland ... ..	224	5·35
Cumberland ... ..	5,307	5·20

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(b) Over 4 but less than 5 days per week.

West of Scotland ... ..	34,863	4·99
Lancashire and Cheshire ... ..	43,841	4·95
Northumberland ... ..	5,462	4·84
Yorkshire ... ..	36,823	4·79
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick ... ..	5,999	4·73
Staffordshire ... ..	23,333	4·65
North Wales ... ..	5,228	4·62
Gloucester and Somerset ... ..	6,035	4·59
Derby ... ..	22,366	4·40
Notts and Leicester ... ..	12,528	4·25

The average number of days worked in each district in the fortnights ended 8th and 22nd December, respectively, shows very little variation, the only district in which there has been an appreciable difference being Salop, Worcester, and Warwick, where the number has increased from 4·7 days per week in the first fortnight to 5·0\* in the second.

The coal exported during December amounted to 2,637,604 tons, as compared with 2,699,643 tons in the previous month, and 2,312,944 tons in December 1893.

(b) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER.

The improvement in the Pig Iron Industry in December as compared with December 1893 is clearly brought out in the returns\* received, the number of furnaces in blast, so far as covered by the returns, having risen from 218 to 269, or over 23 per cent., while the number of persons employed has increased by 2,099, or over 13 per cent. The coal dispute of last year is mainly accountable for this great difference between the two periods.

As compared with November, the returns show very little change. Two furnaces have been re-lit in Staffordshire, two in Lanarkshire, and one in Derbyshire; one furnace has been damped down in Staffordshire, and one blown out in Cleveland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, and Monmouthshire respectively, making the number of furnaces in blast 269 as compared with 270. These changes have made no material difference in the total number of persons employed.

A summary of the returns received from 81 ironmasters is given in the table below:—

Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of December 1894 with the number in blast at end of December 1893, and at end of November 1894, so far as included in the returns made to the Department:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Dec. 1894.	Dec. 1893.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Dec. 1894.	Dec. 1894.	Nov. 1894.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Dec. 1894.
	ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ... ..	94	84	+10	94	95	-1
Cumberland & Lancs ... ..	25	27	-2	25	26	-1
S. and S.W. Yorks... ..	10	9	+1	10	11	-1
Lincolnshire ... ..	14	12	+2	14	14	...
Midlands ... ..	74	52	+22	74	73	+1
Glamorgan and Mon. ... ..	15	15	...	15	16	-1
Other districts ... ..	8	7	+1	8	8	...
Total England and Wales... ..	240	206	+34	240	243	-3
SCOTLAND ... ..						
Total from which returns have been received	29	12	+17	29	27	+2
Total ... ..	269	218	+51	269	270	-1

The following additional particulars respecting the Pig Iron Industry in Cleveland are given in the monthly and annual statements issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association:—

**Production.**—The quantity of pig iron produced in the Cleveland district last month was 259,764 tons, as compared with 253,852 tons in the previous month and 223,622 tons in December 1893. The total for the year was 2,963,419 tons in 1894 and 2,724,184 tons in 1893.

\* Returns were received from more than three-fourths of the ironmasters of the United Kingdom. The particulars given are strictly comparable, although, of course, the total number of furnaces in blast must have been greater than the numbers given in the table.

**Stocks.**—At the end of December these amounted to 230,663 tons, an increase of 30,692 tons compared with November, and of 67,826 tons compared with December 1893.

**Shipments.**—From Middlesbrough the shipments for December were 61,387 tons; for November, 91,257 tons; and for December 1893, 59,008 tons. For 1894 the total shipments were 935,211 tons, and for 1893 914,083 tons.

(c) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER.

Returns which have been furnished by the owners of 98 iron mines in the United Kingdom, employing 18,301 workpeople on the last pay day in the four weeks ended December 22nd, show that the average number of days per week worked during these four weeks was 5·85, or exactly the same as during November. Of these 98 iron mines, 42 are in Cumberland and Lancashire, and show an average of 5·75 days per week, as compared with 5·90 in November, and 5·93 in October.

Of the 18,301 workpeople employed, 13,028, or 71·19 per cent. were at mines which worked full time, or 24 days in the four weeks; 3,420, or 18·69 per cent., at mines which worked 22 and under 24 days; 1,588, or 8·68 per cent., at mines which worked 20 and under 22 days; and only 265, or 1·44 per cent., at mines which worked under 20 days.

(d) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN DECEMBER. ENGLAND.

The Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of returns from 100 correspondents and one Agricultural Labourers' Union, reports as follows:—

On the whole, employment in December was not so unsatisfactory as was predicted by employers, who do not appear to have either further reduced wages or employed fewer hands since November. From most districts it is reported that the state of employment in December 1894 compared favourably with that in the corresponding period of 1893. This is chiefly attributed to the greater amount of threshing work, to the larger root crop, and to the mild weather which prevailed throughout the month, and enabled outdoor work to be carried on without interruption.

**Northern Counties.**—Reports from Northumberland, Cheshire, and Derbyshire say that the state of employment was satisfactory. In Cumberland, West Yorkshire, Westmoreland, and North Lancashire, the ordinary farm hands have had regular work, but the larger proportion of those who failed to obtain situations at the November hirings have been able to find little or nothing to do. But south of Lancaster, in the Fylde and Garstang Unions, where a considerable area of corn crops and potatoes are grown, all the labourers have been better employed than in 1893. Those who were unfortunate at the hirings have been engaged at threshing, and also at draining and dyking, which became necessary owing to the wet weather.

In the Durham Union of Durham no men are reported to be out of work, and this is said to be the general state of things throughout the county.

The following yearly rates of wages were obtained, by private arrangement, by single men and women, who are engaged by the year and boarded in the farm houses, in the Nantwich Union, Cheshire. The engagements are for 50 or 51 weeks, commencing on January 2nd, it now being the custom to take one or two weeks' holiday between the engagements. Formerly, hirings took place at Nantwich and Sandbach, but these have fallen into disuse, owing to the scarcity of farm servants.

Class.	Cash wages.	Class.	Cash wages.
1st wagoner ... ..	£ 18 to 20	Boys and lads ... ..	£ 4 to 14
2nd wagoner ... ..	15 to 18	Dairy women ... ..	11 to 18
Cowmen ... ..	15 to 18	Girls ... ..	3 to 10

In a few cases 1st wagoners were paid as much as £24. Men are provided with board and lodging, and women with board, lodging and washing.



EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Ordinary labourers who are unmarried get 3s. a day and no cottage, or 2s. 6d. a day if supplied with dinner.

Married wagoners and cowmen are engaged by the week, and get about 2s. a week more than ordinary labourers, and usually have in addition a cottage and garden, 3 acres of grass land at a fixed rent, and potato ground.

At the yearly hirings at Darlington, Durham, the following rates of wages were agreed to:—

Class.	Cash wages.	Class.	Cash wages.
Best men ...	22 to 25	Boys ...	8 to 10
Second-class men ...	19 to 21	Best women ...	18 to 20
Ploughmen ...	16 to 19	Second-class women ...	13 to 15
Ploughboys ...	12 to 14	Girls ...	11 to 12

Board and lodging is provided in addition. Men's wages showed a downward tendency; women were very scarce, and their wages were higher than at any previous period.

**Midland Counties.**—Reports from the following Midland counties state that agricultural labourers have been well employed: Shropshire, Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, and Rutland. In Leicestershire some odd men are reported to have been out of work in certain parishes, and it is said that their numbers are rather in excess of those in 1893. This is also said to have been the case in the St. Neots district of Huntingdonshire, in the parishes of Kimbolton, Little Staughton, Weston, and Graffham, where it is estimated that about 8 to 10 per cent. of the labourers were in irregular work. This is attributed to wet weather, which prevented the men from getting on to the land, and also to farmers curtailing their labour bills.

**Eastern Counties.**—It is reported from North Lincolnshire that able-bodied men, willing to work, have been able to get it, and this is said to have been the case in East Lincolnshire in the parishes of Wells, Ulceby, Haugh, Tothley, Bilsby, and Alford, with the exception of a few odd men who live in the town of Alford. In the Newark Union, in the west of the county, about 30 agricultural labourers in the village of Claypole, a clay district, have been in want of work, but some of them have obtained some employment at the ironstone works.

Work in the Ipswich Union of East Suffolk has been fairly regular. In the Western part of the county it has not been so satisfactory, but nevertheless more so than in 1893. About 20 per cent. of the agricultural labourers in Barrow, a large open village about six miles from Bury St. Edmunds, are in irregular work. Weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers in East Suffolk are 10s. to 11s., and in West Suffolk, 9s. to 10s. A number of men in the Stow Union are receiving 9s. In the Thingoe Union the majority are in receipt of 10s. In one parish in the northern part of the county it is reported that 8s. is being paid.

In East Norfolk employment has been fairly good. Some odd men have been in irregular work. In West Suffolk there is said to have been much more employment than in the winter of 1893. Weekly wages in East Suffolk are 10s. to 11s., and in West Suffolk, 9s. to 11s.

Some odd men are reported to have been out of work in the Cambridge district of Cambridgeshire before Christmas. At Rampton it is reported that more men were in irregular work in December 1894 than in December 1893. Weekly wages in this district are 10s.

In the Western part of the county employment has not been of a satisfactory nature in some parishes, but better than in 1893. Reports state that in the north of the county, in the March district, work has generally been regular; weekly wages in this district are from 11s. to 14s. In North Essex there have been men in irregular work in several parishes. In the Braintree district the labourers have generally preferred to take a lower rate of wage to being thrown out of work. Many are in receipt of 9s. and some 8s., but at Dunmow they are paid 10s. to 12s.

**Home Counties.**—Reports from the Home Counties

state that employment has been satisfactory in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, and the Newport Pagnell district of Buckinghamshire, but that in the neighbourhood of Buckingham a number were in irregular work. Also this was the case in the Wantage and Thame districts in Berkshire. This is attributed to the economizing by farmers in their labour bills, and to the fact that some farms have been unlet since Michaelmas. Nevertheless the general state of employment has been more satisfactory in the winter of 1894 than in that of 1893.

**Western Counties.**—Employment in the Western Counties has been satisfactory on the whole. It is stated that in the St. Colomb Union of Cornwall, and the Crediton Union of Devonshire, no labourers are in irregular employment, and that good men are scarce.

In Somerset, in the parishes of Wells, West Pennard, Butleigh, Croscombe, and Watton, a few men have been irregularly employed. Those who take piecework are said to be earning rather less owing to agricultural depression. In Gloucestershire, in the neighbourhood of Bristol, and also in the Dorchester Union of Dorsetshire, very few men who desire work are said to be in want of it. In West Wiltshire employment has been difficult to obtain in some parishes, especially for odd men.

SCOTLAND.

At the hirings which took place in November and December in districts in Aberdeenshire, Forfar, Kincardine, and Perthshire, given below, which were not included in the reports given in the December number of the GAZETTE, similar conditions prevailed—namely, that men who changed their places usually had to take slightly reduced wages, and that in a number of cases there was a good demand for women, boys, and lads. At the hirings in Fifeshire, Stirlingshire, and Inverness wages showed a downward tendency for those leaving their places. But in Nairn and Elginshire the rates paid were similar usually to those at the corresponding period in 1893.

Rates of wages agreed on in November and December 1894 at certain Hiring Fairs in Aberdeenshire, Elginshire, Fifeshire, Forfarshire, Inverness, Kincardine, Nairn, Perthshire, and Stirlingshire.

Locality.	RATES OF WAGES (in addition to Board and Lodging).				
	Foremen or First Men.	Second Horse-men.	Third Horse-men.	Hafins.	Boys.
HALF-YEARLY RATES.					
<b>FORFARSHIRE—</b>					
Alyth ...	17 to 28	16 to 16½	14½ to 16	11 to 13	6½ to 9
Abroath ...	17 to 18	16 to 17	15 to 16	8 to 12	...
Brechin ...	12 to 19	16 to 17	14½ to 15½	8 to 11½	6 to 7
Glamis ...	17½ to 19	16 to 18	...	10 to 15	...
Letham ...	18 to 19½	14 to 17	10 to 12	...	...
<b>ELGINSHIRE—</b>					
Grantown ...	12½ to 15½	11 to 13	...	...	6½ to 9
<b>ABERDEENSHIRE—</b>					
Huntley ...	15 to 17	14 to 15	12 to 13	...	5 to 9
<b>NAIRN—</b>					
Nairn ...	15 to 16	11 to 12	...	9 to 10	5 to 7½
<b>KINCARDINE—</b>					
Stonehaven ...	17 to 18	15 to 15½	12 to 14	9 to 10	6 to 7
<b>STIRLINGSHIRE—</b>					
Falkirk ...	15 to 17	11 to 14	...	6 to 9	1½ to 5
<b>INVERNESS—</b>					
Inverness ...	13 to 15	10 to 14	...	6 to 9	...
YEARLY RATES.					
<b>FIFESHIRE—</b>					
Cupar ...	31 to 32	28 to 30	26 to 28	...	...
St. Andrews ...	28 to 30	26 to 29	20 to 24	...	...
<b>PERTHSHIRE—</b>					
Blairgowrie ...	32 to 34	28 to 29	...	1 to 1½	...
Perth ...	30 to 32	28 to 30	26 to 28	...	...

IRELAND.

Employment does not appear to have been unsatisfactory in December. In the province of Leinster reports from 6 counties generally state that there has been as

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

much work as usual, and that most able-bodied men willing to work have been able to obtain it. In Munster, in county Cork, rather fewer odd men are being employed in some cases, but there, as in county Tipperary, the number of men in irregular work is normal. In Connaught, in the counties of Galway and Mayo, there is very little regular agricultural employment given at any time, and this state of things also applies to Donegal, in Ulster. A large number of the small holders and their sons in these three counties are migratory labourers.

**Connaught.**—There is very little regular agricultural employment in the Westport and Claremorris Unions. Small farmers and their sons usually undertake farm work on the larger farms or estates when required. A large proportion of them also go to England and Scotland to work as farm labourers. In the Ballinasloe Union, co. Galway, it is said that farmers are employing fewer oddmen than usual.

**Leinster.**—Reports state that in the Gorey Union of Wexford employment is satisfactory, and that labour has not been curtailed this winter in the Athy Union of co. Kildare. Employment in the Mullingar Union of Westmeath is said to be more regular than it was, and no able-bodied men are reported to be in irregular work. In the Dunshaughton Union of co. Meath farmers are said to be employing rather fewer oddmen than in the winter of 1893, but on the whole employment is satisfactory. Also in the Carlow Union of co. Carlow farmers are said not to be employing quite so many oddmen as usual.

**Munster.**—It is reported that labour has not been curtailed in the Mallow Union of co. Cork. In the Listowel Union of co. Kerry very few farmers employ regular men. Those who have not sufficient help from their families keep a hired man at £10 to £12 a year with board and lodging. Employment is said to be slack for oddmen. In the Nenagh Union of Tipperary the small farmers and their sons usually work for the larger ones. Employment is said to be normal. In the Clonmel Union of Tipperary work is stated to be more irregular this winter than in 1893. In the Waterford Union of Waterford it is reported that the labourers are satisfactorily employed. Regular men are usually hired by the year from May 4th; ploughmen get £12 to £14, other labourers £12, and boys £3 to £7. Food is given in addition, and sometimes fuel.

**Ulster.**—In Donegal the same conditions with reference to employment exist as in Mayo and Galway. Most of the small farmers and their sons are ready to work for larger farmers when they can get a job, and a great number of them are migratory labourers. Employment is said to be normal.

(e) SHIPBUILDING.

(i) Total Output in 1894.

A summary of Shipbuilding Returns, issued by Lloyd's Register for the year 1894, gives the number of vessels launched in the United Kingdom during the year as 645, with a gross tonnage of 1,079,479. These figures are made up of 31 warships, of 32,971 tons, and 614 merchant vessels, of 1,046,508 tons. The output of merchant vessels exceeds that of 1893 by more than 210,000 tons. The largest output was from the Clyde, with 331,324 tons, exclusive of warships, the next districts in order of magnitude of production being the Tyne (190,601 tons), the Wear (168,257 tons), the Tees (104,071 tons), Belfast (96,870 tons), and the Hartlepoons (81,839 tons).

(2) Total Work in Hand.

The summary for the quarter ended 31st December 1894, shows that the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction on the 31st December 1893 was 658,286 tons, as compared with 641,981 tons at the corresponding date in 1893, an increase of 2.5 per cent. The tonnage of warships under construction at private

yards at the end of December was greatly in excess of that at the end of December 1893. The particulars are summarised in the following table:—

Description.	Vessels under Construction.					
	At December 31st 1894.		At December 31st 1893.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	
	No.	Tons gross.	No.	Tons gross.	No.	Tons gross.
Merchant Vessels.						
Steam ...	281	632,443	269	578,086	+12	+54,447
Sailing ...	43	25,843	64	63,955	-21	-38,112
Total ...	324	658,286	333	641,981	-9	+16,305
Warships at Private Yards.*						
Steam ...	50	122,445	28	13,055	+22	+109,390
Grand total ...	374	780,731	356	655,036	+18	+125,695

Compared with the figures for 30th September last a slight increase in tonnage of merchant vessels is noticeable, but the number of such vessels under construction shows a decrease of 3. The tonnage of warships under construction at private yards was 380 tons less at 31st December than at the end of the September quarter.

(3) Work in Hand in Principal Districts.

The following statement gives the tonnage of vessels under construction at the principal shipbuilding centres at the end of December 1894 and 1893 respectively:—

District.	Merchant Vessels.			
	At Dec. 31st 1894.	At Dec. 31st 1893.	Increase.	Decrease.
Merchant Vessels.				
Clyde ...	208,132	203,227	4,905	—
Tyne ...	98,656	130,332	—	40,676
Wear ...	97,958	96,722	1,236	—
Middlesboro' and Stockton ...	67,274	44,571	22,703	—
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	46,796	43,619	3,177	—
Barrow, Maryport and Workington ...	11,721	13,648	—	1,927
Belfast ...	97,950	63,570	—	34,440
Warships at Private Yards.†				
Clyde ...	45,900	—	45,900	—
Tyne ...	15,000	8,150	6,850	—
Barrow ...	25,400	—	25,400	—
Mersey ...	15,200	1,700	13,500	—
Thames ...	11,465	2,725	8,740	—
Cowes ...	480	480	—	—

(4) Vessels Ordered.

The returns of vessels "preparing" (i.e., ordered but not commenced) give a total of 146,086 tons, as compared with 156,485 at the end of September last, and 176,621 at the end of December 1893. The total is less than for any quarter since June 1893, and is less than 54 per cent. of the exceptionally high total reached in March last.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN DECEMBER.

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

The number of seamen shipped at the principal ports in the United Kingdom during December was 28,678, a decrease of 343, as compared with December 1893. The largest decreases were at Cardiff, the Tyne Ports, and Hull, while the largest increases were at Liverpool, London and Southampton. At Glasgow and Dublin men for sailing vessels were reported to be scarce, but at all other ports named in the table the supply of seamen equalled or exceeded requirements.

The rates of wages paid during the month remain the same as in November at all ports. There were, however, variations in a few cases from the prevailing rates at Newcastle, London, Bristol and Swansea. Particulars of these changes are given in the Changes in Wages Table, on page 21.

\* The Return also gives 16 warships with a total displacement of 138,540 tons under construction at the Royal Dockyards at 31st December 1894, as compared with 17 warships of 82,420 tons at the same date in 1893.  
† Exclusive of 31 torpedo boat destroyers of 9,000 tons which were under construction at various private yards at the end of December 1894.



EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in December 1894 and 1893 respectively:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in December 1894.			Total in Dec. 1893.	In-crease in 1894.	De-crease in 1894.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Dec. 1894.			
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	61	2,207	2,268	2,574	...	306
Sunderland ...	6	485	491	623	...	132
Middlesbrough ...	12	351	363	305	58	...
Hull ...	55	790	845	1,068	...	223
Grimsby ...	...	101	401	87	14	...
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	...	189	189	173	16	...
Newport, Mon. ...	35	1,023	1,058	954	104	...
*Cardiff ...	644	4,037	4,681	5,100	...	419
Swansea ...	92	490	582	672	...	90
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	198	9,016	9,214	8,925	289	...
London ...	272	4,714	4,986	4,717	269	...
Southampton ...	...	1,473	1,473	1,230	243	...
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth ...	50	439	489	647	...	158
Glasgow ...	135	1,654	1,789	1,810	...	21
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	13	21	34	56	...	22
Belfast ...	38	77	115	71	44	...
<b>Total December 1894</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>27,067</b>	<b>28,878</b>	...	...	<b>343</b>
<b> Ditto, December 1893</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>27,269</b>	...	<b>29,021</b>	...	...

\* Including Barry and Penarth.

(g)—FISHING INDUSTRY IN DECEMBER.

The following table shows that the declared value of the fish landed in December at ten principal ports in England and Wales again exceeded the average for the corresponding month of the four years 1890-93, although six of the ten ports, viz., N. Shields, Ramsgate, London, and the three ports on the south and west coasts, show a decrease.

Table showing the value of fish landed from the fishing grounds at the principal ports in England in December 1894, as compared with the average for December in the years 1890-1893:

Ports.	Average for Dec. 1890-93.			
	Dec. 1894.	Average for Dec. 1890-93.	Increase in Dec. 1894.	Decrease in Dec. 1894.
<b>EAST COAST.</b>				
N. Shields ...	10,681	10,988	—	307
Hull ...	55,011	36,973	18,038	—
Grimsby ...	116,100	98,231	17,869	—
Yarmouth ...	20,283	18,068	2,215	—
Lowestoft ...	44,815	41,683	3,132	—
Ramsgate ...	5,593	6,792	—	1,199
London ...	48,285	54,323	—	6,038
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>300,768</b>	<b>267,058</b>	<b>33,710</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>SOUTH AND WEST COASTS.</b>				
Plymouth ...	8,903	12,012	—	3,109
St. Ives ...	6,038	10,361	—	4,323
Milford ...	8,427	9,253	—	826
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>23,368</b>	<b>31,626</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,258</b>
<b>Grand Total, Dec. 1894...</b>	<b>324,136</b>	<b>298,684</b>	<b>25,452</b>	<b>—</b>
<b> Ditto for Nov. 1894...</b>	<b>416,963</b>	<b>381,231</b>	<b>35,732</b>	<b>—</b>

The total quantity of white fish landed in the United Kingdom in December 1894 was 779,667 cwts., valued at £454,213. Compared with the figures for December 1893, viz., 676,106 cwts., valued at £451,235, increases of 103,561 cwts. in quantity, and £2,978 in value are shown. The quantities and values for England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, are as follows:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Dec. 1894.	Dec. 1893.	Dec. 1894.	Dec. 1893.
	cwts.	cwts.	£	£
England and Wales ...	553,368	465,809	373,127	365,617
Scotland ...	210,345	191,474	73,113	76,903
Ireland ...	15,954	18,823	7,973	8,715
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>779,667</b>	<b>676,106</b>	<b>454,213</b>	<b>451,235</b>

The value of the shell fish landed in England and Wales during the month was £20,370; in Scotland, £4,718, and in Ireland, £567. In December 1893 the corresponding values were £25,329, £4,780, and £282 respectively.

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

So far as women workers are concerned, employment in the Cotton Trade appears to have improved. In Bolton, however, although the mills have been running full time, work has been very slack. In the Woollen Trade short time is more frequently reported; the reports on the Worsted Trade are slightly more favourable.

The following is a general summary of the information received with regard to 247 textile mills employing women workers:—

	No. of Mills.
Full time ...	179
Ditto, but partial employment ...	28
Short time ...	37
Closed (on account of disputes or for repairs) ...	3
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>247</b>

**Cotton Trade.**—Reports have been received relating to 145 mills in Burnley, Barrowford, Darwen, Accrington, Oswaldtwistle, Chorley, Rochdale, Heywood, Middleton, Ramsbottom, Chew Moor, Lostock, West Houghton, Bolton, Horwich, Pendleton, Failsworth, Stockport, Congleton, Huddersfield, Leeds, and Slaithwaite. Of these, 51 were engaged in spinning, 68 in weaving, and 26 in both spinning and weaving. With the exception of the Christmas holidays, the 51 spinning mills have been running full time, one small one only being reported as slack. Of the other 94 mills, 61 have been giving full employment, 17 have been running full time, but giving only partial employment, 13 have been on short time, and three have been closed, one on account of a dispute and one for repairs. At Congleton the fustian cutters have been fully employed.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—Reports have been received relating to 59 mills in the Woollen Trade, 26 in the Worsted, and 4 in both. Of the 59 woollen mills in Leeds, Morley, Bingley, Huddersfield, Slaithwaite, Dewsbury, Batley, Ravensthorpe, Rochdale, and Ramsbottom, 41 have been running full time, with the exception of the Christmas holidays; 7 have been running full time but giving only partial employment (6 of these being in Batley), and 11 have worked short time. Of the 26 worsted mills in Bradford, Keighley, Bingley, Morton, Huddersfield, and Slaithwaite, 18 are reported as having given full employment, 3 as running short time but giving only partial employment, and 5 as working short time. Of the 4 woollen and worsted mills, 3 have been giving full employment, in the fourth the twistors have been working alternate days.

**Silk Trade.**—Reports have been received relating to 13 mills in Congleton, Middleton, Rochdale, and Failsworth. Of these, 6 have been working full time, but half of one of these mills has been closed; the remaining 7 mills have been working short time. In Congleton, spun silk manufacture has been rather slack, but thrown silk has been rather brisker. Silk hat-band manufacture in Middleton has been very unsettled, full time having seldom been worked for long at once.

**Eight Hours' Day.**—A ballot of members of the British Steel Smelters' Amalgamated Association was recently taken on the questions of: (1) requesting the employers to grant an 8-hour day on furnaces of 25 tons capacity and upwards, provided 15 per cent. increase on the present rates of wages for certain classes of workmen were at the same time conceded, three shifts to be worked instead of two; and (2) provided the employers agree to make the altered mode of working compulsory on all members employed on such furnaces. In favour of these proposals the votes were respectively 597 and 577; against them, 260 and 245.

WAGES OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS IN MANCHESTER.

In the LABOUR GAZETTE for June, tables were given showing the average money wages of 678 female domestic servants in London, the particulars being supplied by 302 heads of households. Similar particulars with regard to 306 servants have been supplied by 148 heads of households in Manchester and neighbourhood, and are given here in summary form.

In London, according to the Census of 1891, 14 per cent. of the total female population above 10 years of age were engaged in domestic service; in Manchester and Salford the percentage was only 7½. The age distribution of domestic servants in Manchester and Salford is very similar to that of London, but shows a higher percentage of elderly servants.

Ages of Female Indoor Domestic Servants, according to Census, 1891.

Town.	Number of Female Servants.	Percentage of Female Servants in each Town, aged		
		Under 20.	20-35.	35 and upwards.
Manchester	15,523	34	43	23
Salford	5,532	32	46	22
Manchester and Salford	21,055	33	44	23
London	288,366	32	50	18

As in the case of London the information with regard to servants in Manchester is mainly representative of families keeping two or three servants. The proportions in which these classes are represented in the returns are almost the same as in London.

The following tables show the average money wages of the 306 servants included in the returns from Manchester, grouped first according to occupation, and secondly according to age. In both tables the wages stated are exclusive of allowances and relate solely to servants boarded and lodged by their employers. The corresponding figures for London are also given for the sake of comparison:—

(a) Average Wages and Average Age according to Occupation.

Class of Servant.	No. of Servants.		Average Wages.		Average Age.	
	Man-chester.	London.	Man-chester.	London.	Man-chester.	London.
General ...	59	97	14½	15½	24	26
Cook ...	84	187	20	22	34	33
Housemaid ...	95	212	16½	16½	25	23
Parlourmaid ...	29	76	20	20	28	27
Nurse ...	19	51	17	19	26	28
Lady's Maid ...	6	22	22	25	31	32
Kitchenmaid ...	5	23	17	12	20	19
Nurse-Housemaid ...	5	6	14	15	20	23
Laundrymaid ...	4	—	20	—	26	—
Cook-Housekeeper ...	—	4	—	22½	—	43
<b>All Classes...</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>17½</b>	<b>18½</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>

(b) Average Wages according to Age.

Age.	Number of Servants.		Average Wages.	
	Manchester.	London.	Manchester.	London.
Under 16 years ...	5	7	7½	7½
16 " ...	9	16	10½	8½
17 " ...	8	20	12½	9½
18 " ...	15	27	13½	12½
19 " ...	13	24	14½	13½
20 " ...	15	49	15½	15½
21-25 " ...	72	184	16½	17½
25-30 " ...	73	147	18½	19½
30-35 " ...	40	87	19½	21½
35-40 " ...	19	36	20½	21½
40 years and upwards ...	37	81	20½	24½
<b>All Ages ...</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>17½</b>	<b>18½</b>

It will be observed in the last table that the wages of servants under 21 are higher in Manchester than in London. After that period, although the average wage continues to rise with the age in both cases, the level is higher in London than in Manchester. This is partly due to the greater proportion of servants in London in

families keeping four or more servants. This may be seen in the following table, from which it appears that the average money wages of servants in families employing two or three servants is almost exactly the same in Manchester as in London.

Average Wages and Average Age according to Number of Servants in family.

Households with	No. of Servants.		Average Wages.		Average Age.	
	Man-chester.	London.	Man-chester.	London.	Man-chester.	London.
One Servant ...	48	77	14½	15½	24	27
Two Servants ...	105	207	16½	16½	26	26
Three " ...	78	159	18½	18½	30	27
Four " ...	40	112	18½	20½	29	29
Five or more Servants	35	123	22½	21½	30	28

THE COMBINATION IN THE YORKSHIRE DYEING TRADE.

In the October issue of the Gazette some account was given of the formation of a Combination including both the employers engaged in the Piece Dyeing Trade of some of the more important Yorkshire woollen centres and the operatives belonging to the Amalgamated Society of Dyers and the Gas-workers and General Labourers' Union. This Combination was made for the purpose of mutual trade protection. As will be seen from the account given in the October Gazette, the agreement entered into was of a stringent character, and affords, so far, one of the most definite examples of a mutual protection organisation entered into by associations of employers and employed.

Almost immediately after its formation, the Combination claimed to represent 60 per cent. of the employers and over 90 per cent. of the operatives. If this statement was correct, it appears that while the operatives were almost entirely covered by the Combination, a considerable number of employers remained outside. The desire on the part of those forming the Combination to influence these employers to join it, has, during the past two months, caused several stoppages of work, and excited much public attention in two of the districts concerned. The most important of these disputes took place at the works of a Bradford employer. Ostensibly the cause of the turn-out of the men was a demand for an advance of wages, but it was alleged by the employers that there was no difficulty as to wages, that they had always paid and were willing to pay the standard wages of the union, and that the real intention was to compel the firm to give its adhesion to the policy, terms, and conditions of the trade combination. The dispute involved 300 workers directly and 50 others indirectly. About a fortnight later the workmen employed at another non-combination firm, to the number of 150, also came out in the same way. In the latter case legal proceedings were threatened against the union for conspiracy, and against the men for breach of contract. The men, however, successfully sued the firm for wages due. Prosecutions of men on strike for assaults upon those at work also took place, and several men were convicted. On the 21st December the workmen were also withdrawn from the works of another firm standing out from the Combination.

The Bradford Chamber of Commerce, which was specially convened on December 20th to consider the subject, after a lengthened discussion adopted the following resolutions:—

"(1) That this meeting of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce while recognising the right of employers and employed (jointly or separately) to enter into combinations, regards any form of interference with those outside such combinations as detrimental to trade and unjustifiable.

"(2) That the Chamber is of opinion that the report of coercive measures taken by the Dyers' Association is well founded, and, that while they result in immediate injury to the firms affected, they must, if continued, seriously and permanently divert business from the district. The Chamber therefore recommends that such measures be promptly and finally abandoned."



Early in the dispute, however, the Secretary of the Master Piece Dyers' Association had published a statement, in which he stated that the Association was not seeking to enforce a uniform price list upon every dyer, but that differences of price would exist as before, and that the object of the association was not to enforce unreasonable prices, but to protect its members from being compelled to accept prices insufficient to cover actual cost.

As the dispute continued, there were not wanting indications that other auxiliary sections of the district textile trade favoured the principle of the Combination, and at the beginning of the present month it was announced that the stuff pressers, numbering 600 workers, had agreed to join the Combination, raising the number of operatives thus organised to about 7,000.

On January 1st, at Bradford, a meeting took place of employers in the Combination, and representatives of the operatives, followed by a meeting of operatives only. Later in the day representatives of the operatives met members of the firm first affected, and, so far as that firm was concerned, a settlement was arrived at, the terms of which are reported as follows:—

"Agreement entered into between ——— and the Amalgamated Society of Dyers, January 1st 1895.

"(1) That in the engagement of new men applications shall be made to the above society, 9 Barry-street, Bradford ——— to be at liberty to select from those sent in one or more that may suit their requirements, and the firm agree to advise the above society of the dismissal of any workmen and the reason thereof.

"(2) That in any case where ——— are paying less than the standard rate of wages they agree to advance such wages up to the standard at once, and to maintain such rates during the existence of this agreement.

"(3) That all the workmen employed by ——— previous to November 9th 1894 shall return to their occupations as soon as the requirements of the firm will allow, without prejudice to their connection or action with the above union.

"(4) That in the event of this agreement leading to an amicable settlement of the present dispute, ——— agree to meet in conference representatives of the Piece Dyers' Combination and representatives of the outside dyers, to discuss and arrange for an association of all the masters in the Piece Dyeing Trade, to secure concerted action and protection of the interests of its members.

"Addendum.—The carrying out of this agreement to be substituted for previous demands."

The disputes with other firms whose men came out do not seem to be provided for in this agreement.

#### REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BUREAU OF STATISTICS OF LABOUR.

##### The Unemployed.

THE Report for 1893-4 of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour contains a Special Report on "Unemployment." This begins by presenting "a condensed statement of such leading historical examples as are recorded, and a summary of such plans as have either been put into practical operation or have been suggested . . . for dealing with the question." In regard to foreign data reliance has been placed on official documents, "especial acknowledgment" being given to the "Report upon Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed issued by the Labour Department of the English Board of Trade" (C. 7182 of 1893). An account is given of the organisation of Public Employment Bureaux by the State of Ohio. Created in 1890, these offices, which are under the supervision and control of the Commissioner of Labour Statistics, are stated to have done useful work; they appear to be mainly utilised by persons seeking employment as domestic servants. In Massachusetts "agencies for securing employment are confined to the ordinary intelligence or professional employment office, conducted on a mercantile basis . . . and to employment bureaux conducted as philanthropic agencies." Bureaux of the latter type are said to be "most numerous and efficient" in Boston; and details are given in respect to the principal among the institutions of this nature

\* Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour, March 1894. Boston, 1894.

existing in that city. Employment bureaux conducted as business enterprises have in Massachusetts "for many years been subject to public control," being required to be licensed by the local authorities. In Boston and Cambridge the scale of fees is regulated by conditions attached to the licence; and a recent statute provides that in no case shall a fee be received "unless employment of the kind demanded is furnished," and also that five-sixths of the fee shall be returned if the situation be lost within ten days otherwise than through the fault of the person obtaining the same. Statistics are given showing the operations of the licensed bureaux in recent years. The facts as to want of employment in Massachusetts are illustrated by copious figures. It is stated that under normal conditions the extent of employment in the State, notwithstanding seasonal depressions, "is much more uniform than is generally supposed. Thus, taking all industries in the aggregate during the year 1892, the percentage of unemployment did not rise above 4.45 in any month, and if the single month, January, in which that percentage was reached, be eliminated, it did not exceed 2.98 of the maximum number of employees enrolled, and did not greatly vary month by month." The force of the industrial depression of 1893 is shown by the "percentages of unemployment" for the last six months of that year, which were 8.32, 17.49, 22.33, 15.27, 15.14, and 14.18.

It should be explained that the term "percentage of unemployment" is here used to denote the percentage by which the number of persons returned as employed in establishments covered by the returns falls short of the maximum number returned as employed during any month of the year. The figure is thus an index number, useful for purposes of comparison, but not necessarily equivalent to the actual percentage of persons simultaneously out of work.

During the winter of 1893-4, money was raised in many places with a view to relieve the distress arising from the industrial crisis, by the provision of temporary employment. The operations of a committee administering funds for this purpose in Boston are described in detail, figures being given as to the amount distributed as "work-relief" (money paid for work done), the number of applicants, how many were voters, whether native-born or foreign-born, their ages and occupations, &c. It appears that by far the larger part of the applicants "were possessed of a very limited degree of industrial skill." The question whether it might be possible to transfer the surplus labour of crowded localities to country districts was investigated, the results of the inquiry tending to show "that in a very large number of cases . . . the demand for agricultural labour is in excess of the supply;" but the replies received "in general reflect the great disinclination of native-born persons to remain on the farm."

The second part of the Massachusetts Report contains a short account of the labour movement in that State from day to day during 1893 [with special reference to the agitation in favour of a shorter working day (which seems to have met with much success, 351 cases of reduction of hours being mentioned in the Report), to wages questions, and to trade union organisation], and an account of the laws relating to labour passed in 1894.

#### ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION CASES IN DECEMBER.

##### (1.) London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board.

A dispute between a master stevedore, leading in the London Docks, and the No. 1 Branch of the Thames Steamship Workers' Labour Protection League, was settled amicably during the month, owing to the action of the Conciliation Board. The dispute concerned rates of pay and hours of labour, some eighty men engaged in loading and unloading steamers being affected. Two meetings between the men's organisation and the employers were, owing to the request of the former, arranged by the Conciliation Board; six members of the Board—three employers and three employed—being present by the desire of the parties. Proposals for a settlement

were made by both sides, and an amended offer, made by the master stevedore, was submitted to the men's society, and finally accepted. This settlement was embodied in a signed agreement, which provides that no departure shall be made from its conditions without three months' notice, given through the Board.

The Board is at present dealing with certain questions which have arisen between a firm of ship-owners and the No. 2 Branch of the same society.

##### (2.) Co-operators' and Trade Unionists' Conciliation Board.

The dispute between a firm of hat and cap-makers of Newcastle-on-Tyne and 34 of their female employees, which began on July 31st, was brought to a close on December 24th by the award of the "Northern Section Co-operative and Trade Unionists' Conciliation Board," a body consisting of three representatives of the Newcastle and Gateshead District Trade and Labour Council, and three representatives of the Northern Section of the Co-operative Union.

The Board is established primarily for the purpose of settling any disputes that may arise between co-operative societies and trade unionists in the district, the present case being brought within the purview of the Board by reason of the fact that the firm referred to is largely supported by co-operative societies. The case in question is of some interest, as being the first dealt with by the Joint Board of co-operators and trade unionists. The dispute arose in consequence of a reduction by the firm of the wages of the female machine cap-makers working on a particular class of caps from 1s. to 10d. per dozen. The employees also complained that they had long to wait for work, and that in such intervals when work was scarce they were not permitted to go home, but were compelled to remain on the premises. On December 6th both parties agreed to refer the matter to the decision of the Conciliation Board, which subsequently held four meetings, at two of which both parties were represented and stated their case, and on December 20th an award was given, of which the following is the most important part:—

"I. We unanimously decide that the cap in dispute shall be made with a longer stitch, and the rate of remuneration shall be elevenpence (11d.) per dozen; we also believe that the women can materially assist the said firm in maintaining fair conditions by endorsing a label for their caps.

"II. In case the women are waiting for more than twenty (20) minutes in any one day, they shall be paid time wages at the rate of twelve shillings (12s.) per week.

"III. That one month's notice on either side shall be given before any alteration is made to existing arrangements.

"IV. That all of the women who came out on strike shall be placed in the same position they held prior to the strike.

"V. That they resume work on Monday, 24th December, 1894."

##### (3.) Arbitration in the Boot and Shoe Trade.

The arbitrators under the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of London, Mr. William Hickson for the employers, and Mr. George Thorn for the employees, to whom the question of a minimum wage claimed by operatives in St. Albans was referred, having differed, they have appointed Sir Albert Rollit, M. P., as umpire, and on 4th January the latter held a sitting, and heard the parties and their witnesses with the arbitrators. The umpire reserved his decision.

#### THE SETTLEMENT OF WAGES QUESTION IN THE IRON SHIPBUILDING TRADE.

CONCILIATORY arrangements for the settlement of wages and other disputes have for some years existed between employers and employed in the Iron Shipbuilding Trade of the North-east Coast. Wages have to a considerable extent been regulated by printed piece-work price lists. As a result of recent negotiations these lists have been revised and enlarged, and a definite agreement has been entered into for the settlement of future disputes.

It is provided, that, in the event of sectional or individual disputes, they shall, in the first place, be referred to the society's officials and to the employer or his representatives.

If any dispute takes place as to the price of work the job shall be proceeded with as on piece, and, whatever the price, may be, ultimately arranged for, that price shall be paid as from the commencement of the job, payment in the interval being according to the custom of the firm in such cases. Failing a settlement, such disputes are to be referred to a joint committee of employers and of the men's society. There is also to be a standing committee appointed for each river consisting of three on each side to deal with local disputes, but, in the event of a dispute involving more than one river, it shall be referred to a joint committee, the members of which shall be selected from the local committees involved. These committees are purely Boards of Conciliation, and do not in any way arbitrate, but, failing agreement, the matters in dispute are to be settled between the two associations.

The men's society claim that this agreement secures that if the foreman and any member cannot settle between them the price of a job not stated in the price list, the foreman cannot send the man away and give the job to someone else, and that the member must continue at his work pending a settlement; and also that the agreement is a guarantee that the member will get an adequate price for his work.

#### THE SITUATION IN THE TINPLATE TRADE.

IN continuation of the account given in the December number of the GAZETTE, of the state of affairs in the South Wales, Monmouth, and Gloucestershire Tinplate Trade, it may now be said that after much agitation and uncertainty, the complications existing a month ago have now been largely cleared up.

The original demand of the employers was for a reduction of 25 per cent. In a few cases settlements were arrived at early in the movement, mostly by compromise, but in some instances the full amount of reduction was accepted.

Among the men there was much divided action, but after many meetings they decided to agree to a 10 per cent. reduction. The employers, however, refused to accept this offer unless the men also agreed to increase the daily output from 36 to 40 boxes, and suggested, alternatively, a 12½ per cent. reduction. The men, as a rule, were opposed to the proposed increase of production, but agreed to the reduction of 12½ per cent. as a settlement. This has been generally accepted, and the dispute may now be considered at an end in most districts. At one works where a reduction of 25 per cent. was agreed to some time ago, the employer now accepts the general settlement, and restores half the amount of reduction taken from the men. There have been few actual stoppages of work. The Tinplate Works at Morriston, employing 2,000 men, were stopped for a few days, and also a large firm at Maesteg. At the last-named, and at some other places, an increase of output has been agreed to by the men, and in some cases, at Llanelly and elsewhere, the settlement has been made on a basis of 10 per cent. reduction and an output of 40 boxes. As all work is by the piece the increased output does not imply a further reduction of wages; but employers are desirous of raising the minimum of production in order to obtain a higher daily return upon machinery, plant, and other fixed charges.

**Index to Foreign Office Trade Reports.**—The Foreign Office has issued an index to the reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular representatives abroad on trade and subjects of general interest during the period 1886-1894. The series of reports indexed are divided into two categories, "Annual" and "Miscellaneous." In the former are comprised reports on trade, finance, agriculture, &c., made annually. In the latter are included special reports on subjects of general economic interest. An appendix has been added, showing the price of each of the reports referred to in the index.

\* Index to Reports on Trade and Subjects of General Interest 1886-1894. 1894 (C.—7503). Price 1s. 9d.



CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

(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 the changes in the rates of wages reported during December is much less than in the previous month, but the downward tendency in the market rate of wages that was indicated by the particulars published in last month's table still continues, although not to such a marked extent.

The workpeople mainly affected by the reductions in December are those engaged in the Coal Mining, Iron and Steel, Tinplate, and Glass Bottle-making Industries.

The wages of the surface workers employed on the Cumberland coalfield have been reduced 5 per cent., while in the same county the blast furnacemen have had a reduction of 1 1/2 per cent. under a sliding scale, and at Barrow and Ulverston a reduction of 1 per cent.

In continuation of the particulars, published in last month's table, of the reductions in the wages of tinplate-workers, further details are given this month. Although the department is informed that reductions of 10 per cent. or upwards off the standard list are general throughout the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire districts, it is at present found impossible to obtain complete detailed information of the several changes. General particulars as to the present position of this industry will be found on page 19.

On December 3rd a general reduction in the wages of glass bottle-makers took effect in the North Eastern Counties, Yorkshire, and Lancashire. Particulars relating to the reductions in Yorkshire and Lancashire, affecting over 2,500 workpeople, were published in last month's GAZETTE, while those relating to the other district are given in the following table.

The wages of seamen remained about the same as last month, with some slight fluctuations, except at Swansea, where a reduction in the wages of able seamen on sailing vessels took effect on the 1st December.

The only noteworthy increase reported last month took place at Perth, where a firm of linen manufacturers restored the 5 per cent. reduction made in the wages of their workpeople in 1893.

An advance in the wages of some 550 plumbers at Edinburgh and Leith, which has been agreed upon by both employers and workpeople was reported, but will not come into operation until 1st March.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Number of work-people directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (exclusive of overtime) at date of change (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week).

\* In all cases the accuracy of Newspaper reports is inquired into before the information is used here. † A demand for 1d. per hour advance was made by the carpenters and joiners of Wolverhampton in April 1894, and was granted by certain employers to the number of workmen stated above. The demand as now been withdrawn, and the men who have been receiving the advanced wage reverted to the previous rate on 1st January.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Number of work-people directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (exclusive of overtime) at date of change (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week).

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

The four cases of reductions in hours of labour reported during the month affected 370 persons. The most important was the result of the adoption of a 48 hours' week by the Battersea Vestry for 234 of their employees. In some cases the decrease per week amounts to 1 1/2, 17, and even 21 hours; and in all cases except one the old wages continue to be paid.

Table with columns: 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, Decrease 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, Decrease per week).

\* Particulars of the reductions in the wages of glass bottle-makers in Yorkshire, and at St. Helens (Lancs.), which also came into operation on December 3rd, were published in last month's GAZETTE. † The changes at Newcastle, London (Dock-street), and Bristol in the wages of seamen are fluctuations only; the prevailing wage remains unchanged. ‡ Five tar paviors at Battersea who were previously paid 7d. per hour have now a wage of 26s. for a working week of 48 hours.

FOREIGN OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER 1894.

Germany.—Quarterly Statistics of the German Empire.—The fourth quarterly volume of statistics for 1894, published by the Imperial Statistical Office, gives data as to the employment of women and young persons in factories in 1893, provisional criminal statistics for the years 1888-93, statistics of meat prices in 25 of the principal German towns from 1884 to 1893, particulars as to the educational standard of military recruits 1893-4, emigration during the last quarter of 1894, forestry statistics 1893, areas under cultivation, and production of cereals and other crops, including tobacco, the production of beer, sugar, and salt, and the definite figures for 1893 as regards mining and metal production.

Official Extracts from Reports of German Factory Inspectors, 1893.—This volume, which is published by the Imperial Home Office for presentation to the Reichstag, is an abstract of the reports of the factory inspectors in the various States which make up the German Empire.

Reports of Wurtemberg Chambers of Commerce, 1893.—This publication, issued by the Wurtemberg Department (Centralstelle) for Industry and Commerce, is based on the reports of the eight Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Wurtemberg. A section devoted to labour questions reports on the operations of the Stuttgart Labour Registry, of the industrial Courts, and of lodging-houses, or herbergen, for workers wandering in search of employment. In the appendix an account is given of industrial continuation schools and schools of women's work.

Statistical Year-book for the Kingdom of Bavaria, First Number, 1894.—The system of publishing an annual Statistical Abstract long in

use in other German States has now been followed by the Statistical Bureau of Bavaria. The first annual volume contains statistics of population, agriculture, mining and smelting, trade and industry, insurance, finance, public and private charity, education and religion, public health, prisons, the army, and elections. Diagrams are appended illustrating a number of the subjects dealt with.

Conditions of Work of Shop Assistants, &c., Third Report.—The third report published by the Imperial Statistical Office in connection with the Government inquiry as to the work of shop assistants, &c., has appeared. It tabulates the results obtained in reply to a question addressed to certain unions and federations representing the interests of shopkeepers and their employees in Germany, asking whether the fixing of a uniform closing time (say 8 p.m.) for shops without restriction as to the hours of opening would be preferable to a limitation of the time during which they might be open daily. Replies were received from nine federations of commercial unions and 60 independent local societies of the same kind with a total membership (so far as ascertainable) of about 231,000 persons, about one-fourth of whom were employers. The replies show that a fixed closing time (8 p.m.) is preferred by the bulk of those interested, as nine federations, representing alone about 30,000 employers and 145,000 employees, together with 46 of the separate unions, expressed this view.

A report by the Imperial Department of Health as to the occupation of shop assistants, appended to the above, declares the employment to be injurious, chiefly owing to the long hours worked, and points to the necessity of reducing them, especially for persons under 16 years of age.



INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.\*

The number of fatal accidents to the undermentioned classes of workpeople reported in December was 302, which compares with 579 in December 1893, distributed as follows:—

Table with 5 columns: Class, December 1894, December 1893, and Total. Rows include Railway Servants, Miners, Factory and Workshop Operatives, and Seamen.

On the total of the four classes there was a decrease of 277† as compared with December 1893. This large decrease is almost wholly accounted for by the diminished number of reported fatal accidents to seamen. In addition to these fatalities, 3 railway servants were killed on the Companies' premises, but not by movement of railway vehicles.

Of the 1,420 non-fatal accidents reported, 253 were to railway servants by movement of trains, 349 in mines, and 818 in factories and workshops, as compared with 284, 395, and 752 respectively in December 1893. Accidents of a non-fatal character at sea are not reported. In addition to the 253 railway servants injured, and included in the tables, 388 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 249,974 persons, all grades being included.

Railway Servants.†

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.) 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 December 1894.

A.—Distinguishing the various classes of persons and nature of injuries.

Table with 7 columns: Class of Service, Killed, Causing Amputations, Fractures, Crushes, Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Miscellaneous Injuries, and Total Persons Injured. Rows include Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, etc.

Total for December 1894 ... 39 ... 10 ... 19 ... 45 ... 65 ... 114 ... 283

Total for December 1893 ... 33 ... 17 ... 23 ... 35 ... 63 ... 152 ... 284

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

Table with 7 columns: Region, Killed, Injured, Total. Rows include England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and United Kingdom.

Total for December 1894 ... 28 ... 225 ... 41 ... 26 ... 2 ... 39 ... 253

Total for December 1893 ... 26 ... 255 ... 7 ... 28 ... 1 ... 33 ... 284

Miners.

(Supplied by the Home Office.) Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in or about mines, during the month of December 1894.

Table with 7 columns: Cause of Accident, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and United Kingdom. Rows include Underground (Explosions of Fire-damp, Falls of ground, etc.) and Surface (Miscellaneous).

Total for December 1894 ... 80 ... 283 ... 11 ... 65 ... 1 ... 61 ... 349

Total for December 1893 ... 66 ... 329 ... 6 ... 64 ... 2 ... 72 ... 395

\* For Accidents reported under the Notice of Accidents Act of 1894, see page 25. † In addition to the accidents included in the tables, 3 railway servants were killed and 388 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 42 railway servants killed and 641 injured from all causes. ‡ 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 December 1894.

Table with 7 columns: Class of Service, Killed, Causing Amputations, Fractures, Injuries to Head or Face, Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes, Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries, and Total Persons Injured. Rows include Males and Females.

Total Males ... 46 ... 94 ... 73 ... 56 ... 2 ... 443 ... 668

Total Females ... 2 ... 19 ... 14 ... 15 ... 1 ... 102 ... 150

Total Males and Females for Dec. 1894 ... 48 ... 113 ... 87 ... 71 ... 3 ... 545 ... 818

Total for December 1893 ... 56 ... 129 ... 93 ... 68 ... 6 ... 456 ... 752

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 December 1894 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 7 columns: Class of Vessels, By Wreck and Casualty, By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty, Total. Rows include Sailing, Steam, and Total.

Total for Dec. 1894 ... 67 ... 21 ... 27 ... 39 ... 9 ... 60 ... 154

Total for Dec. 1893 ... 226 ... 179 ... 85 ... 38 ... 261 ... 419

FOREIGN TRADE IN DECEMBER.

Imports.—The total value of the imports last month was £33,070,480, being a decrease of £3,678,240, or 10 per cent. on the amount for December, 1893. The decline is mainly due to a falling-off of £1,518,976 in non-dutiable articles of food, and drink, and of £1,452,376 in raw materials for textile manufactures.

The total value of the imports for the year ended December 31st 1894, is £408,505,718, showing an increase over 1893 of £3,817,540, or nearly 1 per cent. Manufactured articles show an increase of £3,104,235, and living animals of £2,747,092, while articles of food and drink admitted duty free show a decrease of £4,856,197.

British and Irish Exports.—The exports of British and Irish produce again show an increase as compared with the corresponding month of 1893, the total value being returned as £17,500,585, which exceeds the amount for 1893 by £231,511, or 1.3 per cent. Miscellaneous manufactured, or partly manufactured articles, have increased by £357,415, and metals and articles manufactured therefrom, excluding machinery, by £114,845, but, on the other hand, there is a decrease of £234,104 in the value of yarns and textile fabrics exported.

Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—The total value for last month of the exports thus classified was £4,827,861, showing an increase of £592,438, compared with December 1894. The total value for the year, viz., £57,966,484, shows a decrease of £1,076,921 as compared with the total for 1893.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—As compared with December 1893, the total tonnage of the vessels entered from Foreign Countries and British Possessions last month shows a decrease of 119,827 tons, or 5 per cent., while the tonnage of vessels cleared has decreased by 40,645 tons, or 1.5 per cent. The vessels entered Coastwise show a decrease of 38,511 tons (1.5 per cent.), while the vessels cleared show a decrease of 79,017 tons, or 3.3 per cent.

During the year ended December 31st 1894, the tonnage of vessels entered from Foreign Countries and British Possessions shows an increase of 2,345,390 tons (8.1 per cent.) compared with 1893, while the tonnage of vessels cleared during the same period shows an increase of 2,825,281 tons, or 8.6 per cent. Vessels entered Coastwise show an increase of 1,020,583 tons (3.4 per cent.), while the tonnage of the vessels cleared shows an increase of 1,192,863 tons, or 4.1 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton in December amounted to 650,296 bales, as compared with 660,185 bales in 1893, and 623,797 bales in 1892. The exports show a slight increase as compared with December of last year, but are considerably below the quantity for 1892, the figures showing 45,309 bales in December 1894, as against 43,575 in December 1893, and 61,379 in December 1892. The following table gives the figures for the twelve months ended December 31st in each of the last three years:—

Table with 3 columns: Imports, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Exports. Rows include 1894, 1893, 1892.

British Corn.—The average prices of British corn per quarter for the week ended December 29th were again considerably below the prices at the corresponding week in 1893, as will be seen from the following figures:—

Table with 3 columns: Commodity, Average price per Quarter at December 1894, December 1893, Decrease. Rows include Wheat, Barley, Oats.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways in the United Kingdom for the five weeks ended December 29th 1894, amounted to £6,636,960, being a decrease of £74,146 as compared with the corresponding period of 1893. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,709,377, an increase of £60,440, while the receipts from goods and mineral traffic were £3,927,583, showing a decrease of £134,586.

Hay Imports.—The total imports of hay in December amounted to 7,708 tons, being 29,606 tons less than in December 1893, in which year a largely increased importation occurred through the failure of the English crop in the south of England. For the year ended December 31st the total imports were 254,214 tons, as against 263,050 tons in 1893, the largest quantity, viz., 152,423 tons, having been furnished by the United States, while Russia and Canada come next with importations of 28,822 and 28,711 tons respectively.

Bankruptcies.—During the month of December, 329 bankruptcies were gazetted, as against 412 in December 1893, a decrease of 83. Of the 329 bankrupts, 34 were farmers, 23 were publicans, hotel-keepers, &c., 21 builders, and 19 grocers. For the year ended 31st December the total number of bankruptcies amounted to 4,778, as against 4,911 in 1893, showing a decrease of 133, or 2.7 per cent.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The total number of British and foreign passengers who left this country during December for places out of Europe was 9,867, being 1,512 more than in December 1893.

British and Irish.—The number of passengers of British nationality to places out of Europe again shows an increase, the number in December being 6,459, which exceeds the number for December 1893 by 384. There is an increase in the case of passengers to the United States, while a decline is observable in the numbers proceeding elsewhere. The figures for the two periods compared are:—

Table with 3 columns: Destination, December 1894, December 1893. Rows include United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, Total.

Foreign.—In addition to the above, there were 3,408 foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, as compared with 2,280 in December 1893, an increase of 1,128.

Alien Immigration.—The total number of aliens who arrived from the Continent at various ports of the United Kingdom last month was 3,337, an increase of 511 as compared with the number in December 1893, the increase being almost entirely among the transients and sailors. The number of immigrants stated to be en route to America again shows an increase of 398 over the corresponding number for last year, the figures being 1,282 and 884 respectively. The number of aliens not stated to be en route to America was 2,055 (including 561 sailors), while for December 1893 it was 1,942 (including 535 sailors). For the twelve months ended 31st December 1894 the number of aliens passing through this country en route to America was 35,105, as against 78,871 for the corresponding period in 1893, a decrease for the year of a little over 55 per cent.

WORKMEN'S TRAINS.\*

The Board of Trade has issued a copy of the statements furnished by the railway companies having termini in the Metropolis in reply to a circular letter from the Board requesting information as to the facilities now afforded to the working classes by the railway companies. The return on the subject of railways (workmen's trains on the Metropolitan lines), presented in 1890, has been revised up to the present date, and the following comparative statement is given showing the total number and mileage of the trains required to be run by special Act of Parliament and of those actually running in 1883 and 1894 on the railways of the companies having termini in the Metropolis:—

Table with 6 columns: Railway Companies having Termini in the Metropolis, Train Service required by Special Acts of Parliament, Train Service in operation in 1883, Train Service in operation in 1894. Rows include Great Eastern, London, Chatham, and Dover, etc.

The return gives in detail the statutory obligations of each company, the trains run, fares, distances, and number of cheap tickets issued.

\* Railways (Workmen's Trains on the Metropolitan Lines), 1894. C.—754. Price 6d. In continuation of P.P. (C.—6,039 of 1890).



INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN DECEMBER.

THE number of industrial prosecutions under the Acts included in the tables below was 211 during December, as compared with 261 in the previous month and 220 in December 1893. Of these 211 prosecutions, 147 were under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the number of convictions being 142, with an average penalty including costs of £1 19s. Under the Mines Acts there were 48 prosecutions and 46 convictions, 10 of the convictions being against owners or managers of mines, and 36 against workmen. The average penalties and costs imposed on the former amounted to £1 15s. 5d., and on the latter to 17s. 5d. In the 16 prosecutions under the Merchant Shipping Acts, a conviction was obtained in each case. Of these convictions 12 were against owners or masters of vessels, and two each against seamen and boarding house keepers; the penalties and costs imposed on the first averaged £13 12s., and on the last £13 18s. 6d., while the seamen were bound over to come up for judgment if called upon.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.\*

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs. Rows include Neglecting to Limewash, Overcrowding Factory or Workshop, Neglecting to Fence Machinery, etc.

\* Supplied by the Home Office. † One case was withdrawn.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.\*

Table with 6 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants. Rows include By Owners, Managers, &c., Fencing, Ventilation, etc.

\* Supplied by the Home Office.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Penalties, Total Costs. Rows include By Owners or Masters of Ships, Submerging Disc, Carrying excessive deck cargoes, etc.

\* Defendant bound to come up for judgment if called on.

LABOUR CASES IN DECEMBER.

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 summarized in another column.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Greenock Sheriff Court, December 1st.—Carter sued contractor for £500 damages for injuries caused by kick of horse in defender's stables. Sheriff found that kicking was due to defect in condition of horse, viz. an exceptional propensity to kick when close to other horses, and that such defect was known to defender's servant, to whose negligence accident was due. Judgment for pursuer for £30 with expenses.

Bow County Court, December 3rd.—Labourer sued contractor for injuries incurred through negligence of defendant's foreman in letting earth be put on struts so that they broke. Verdict for plaintiff for £50 and costs, on the higher scale.

Otley County Court, December 3rd.—Widow sued a local board to recover damages for loss of husband, killed by a steam roller. Deceased was employed for the safe conduct of the engine, and was required to maintain a distance of 20 yards in front of it. The engine was unable to increase its speed, and judge decided that, although deceased reduced his distance, engine-driver was justified in continuing his uniform speed, and that if within four yards of the engine deceased could not be seen by the driver, accident was due to negligence of deceased. Judgment for defendants.

Inverness Sheriff Court, December 14th.—Labourer's wife sued saw-miller for £250 at common law, or £78 under Employers' Liability Act for loss of son. Deceased worked for defender as labourer; had gone down to the inner wheel of the mill, and defender, unaware of this, had set the wheel going. Defence, that although deceased had several times oiled the machinery by special request of foreman, it was not his duty, and he had not been asked to do so on this occasion. Judgment for defender.

Dover County Court, December 19th.—Widow of diver sued contractor for £500, as damages for loss of husband, killed by being knocked from a staging during pile-driving operations, the machinery being imperfect. Defence, that plant was not defective, and that deceased voluntarily undertook risk. Judge held that a man did not take risk upon himself unless he was aware of the risk. Judgment for plaintiff for £300.

Edinburgh Court of Session, December 20th.—Widow and five children sued fire clay company for £1,000, for loss of husband, a mason, killed at defenders' works by fall of brickwork of a kiln. Pursuers maintained that deceased had to obey defenders' bricklayer. Defenders denied this, or that there was any defect in plant, and attributed accident to negligence of deceased. Jury found by a majority for the defenders.

City of London Court, December 20th.—Painter sued brewery company for £40 for injuries sustained when repairing gas leakage, by foreman's orders. Plaintiff alleged that foreman had said gas was turned off at the meter; plaintiff did the repairs he thought necessary, and struck a match to test any further leakage, and explosion followed. Defence, that accident was due to plaintiff's negligence in looking for a leakage with a light. Verdict for defendants.

Dundee Sheriff Court, December 21st.—Mill-worker sued jute spinner for £300 at common law, or £68 5s. under Employers' Liability Act, for injury to hand, entangled in a "sliver" and drawn in to the machinery owing to alleged defective casing. Defence, that pursuer had only to press "sliver" as it came off into a can, break it off when can was full, and replace by an empty can. Sheriff held that accident was incredible if pursuer had been doing his work. Judgment for defenders.

Dundee Sheriff Court, December 21st.—Dock labourer sued coal merchant for £250 at common law or £234 under Employers' Liability Act for damages received in unloading cargo of coals. Plaintiff, in coming up ladder, missed his footing and fell; contended that iron ladder should have been provided, and that hold and deck were badly lighted. Defence that ladder was of the usual kind, and place well lighted; that ladder was fixed to the ship chartered by defender to carry coals for him, and he was not responsible for it. Sheriff held that defender was not responsible, and that defective plant and lighting had not been proved.

Glasgow Court of Session (Second Division) December 27th.—Miner sued for £500, or alternatively for £234 under the Act for injuries occasioned by inability to stop a hutch of coal under his care, owing to alleged absence of blocks on the rails. Defence, pursuer's own fault. Verdict for defenders.

(2) TRADE UNION ACTS.

Two cases of embezzlement by trade union officials, and one case of illegal detention of funds were reported during the month.

(3) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Bridgnorth County Court, December 20th.—Bricklayer sued trade society for £178. 6d. sick benefit. Plaintiff alleged he had been a member for five years; he had stated his age verbally on admission, and had paid all contributions, fines, and levies; sick benefit had now been refused because he could not show certificate of age. Defence that if plaintiff was over 45 when he entered he was only entitled to trade protection, not sick benefit. Judge held that having

accepted plaintiff as member without certificate, society had no right to demand it now. Verdict for plaintiff for full amount with costs.

Pontypridd Police Court, December 19th.—160 colliers sued colliery manager for £9 each, a month's wages in lieu of notice. Men were engaged on a day-to-day contract, but on going to work had agreed to sign the Welsh Colliery sliding scale agreement, which prescribed a month's notice. Manager dismissed them at a day's notice. Judgment for the men in every case for £4 10s. and costs against employers. Appeal pending.

(4) MINES REGULATION ACT.

Queen's Bench Division, December 17th.—Colliery manager had summoned collier for an offence against the Act, for having omitted to use "sprags" when necessary for safety. Summons had been dismissed, the justices finding that the collier considered what he did was safe, and that all coal did not require propping. Colliery manager appealed. Court held that the Act provided that sprags must be used where required, i.e. where they were necessary, not merely where the workman thought them necessary. Appeal was allowed with costs, the case to go back to the magistrates to consider whether propping was necessary in the particular case.

(5) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACTS.

Glasgow Sheriff Court, December 10th.—Friendly society sued former member for two years' arrears of contributions. Members fourteen weeks in arrears were suspended from benefit, but had the option of paying up arrears and entering upon full benefit. Pursuers averred that so long as a man was on the roll of members, payment had to be made for him by the branch lodge to the central fund. Defender contended that suspension from benefit relieved him from liability for contributions. Sheriff held that defender, not having resigned membership, was liable for the full arrears standing against him, and that the enforcement of the rule as to expulsion of a member in arrears did not discharge the arrears themselves. Judgment for society, with expenses.

Hanley County Court, December 12th.—Engraver sued friendly society for £10, and for re-instatement as a member of the society. Plaintiff became a member in 1836; eyesight failed and he received sick pay. He obtained other work, but represented that he had to give it up owing to bad sight, and sick pay was continued. He had not given up his post, and the society discontinued sick pay, and an arbitration court, held under the rules of the society, decided against him on appeal. The society subsequently expelled him for refusing to refund £22 15s. received as sick pay whilst working contrary to rules. Defendant society contended that court had no jurisdiction, as the arbitrator's award, made within the statutory 40 days, was binding, and plaintiff had not complied with the rules. This, however, being disputed, defendant society claimed that court had no jurisdiction, because plaintiff was no longer a member of the society. Judge allowed this plea, the plaintiff's proper remedy being to apply to the Queen's Bench Division for an injunction. Judgment for defendant society without costs.

(6) MISCELLANEOUS.

Bloomsbury County Court, December 12th.—Cook sued employer for £3 16s. wages in lieu of notice. Plaintiff had refused to obey orders and was discharged without notice. Judgment for plaintiff for £2 and costs allowed, domestic servants being the only exception from the Act which deprived a plaintiff of his or her costs.

Queen's Bench Division, December 11th.—Engineers appealed against decision of Hull magistrate, who had held that a deed of apprenticeship was disadvantageous to an apprentice, and was therefore void. Appellants took an apprentice under indentures which provided that after 18 years of age he should work overtime when required at the rate of time and a half. Respondent when required to work overtime had refused. He would have been paid 7d. for work for which a journeyman engaged for the same period would have required 3s. Court held that the clause of the indenture was disadvantageous to respondent, and upheld decision of magistrate. Leave to appeal granted.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN DECEMBER. (Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.) From the following summary of the changes in the Register of English and Welsh Industrial Organisations in December, it will be seen that 4 Trade Unions, 1 Employers' Association, 4 Co-operative Associations of Consumers, 1 Co-operative Association of Producers, 1 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Society, 22 new Friendly Societies, 41 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 6 new Building Societies have been added to the Register during the past month. One Trade Union and 19 Building Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, whilst 3 Building Societies are in course of dissolution or winding-up.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

I.—Trade Unions.

London Cabdrivers, 49 Rupert St., Haymarket, W.; Birmingham & Dist. Builders and Labourers, Greyhound Inn, Navigation St., Birmingham; Wigan & Dist. Engine-men and Boilermen, Leg of Man Hotel, Woodcock St., Wigan; Amal. Cloggers, 335 Waterloo St., Oldham.

II.—Employers' Association.

Yorkshire Farmers' Protection Soc., 2 Cross Alpha St., Dewsbury Rd., Leeds.

III.—Industrial and Provident Societies.

(A) Associations of Consumers.

Mold Junction Co-op. Soc., Hawarden, Chester; Ashover Co-op. Soc., The Stores, Ashover, Chesterfield; Brentwood Co-op. Soc., Railway Coffee Tavern, Warley Rd., Brentwood; Newcastle-under-Lyme Co-op. Soc., Merril St., Newcastle-under-Lyme.

(B) Associations of Producers.

Trades Unionists' Sheep Shear Co-op. Soc., Brunswick Works, Eldon St., Sheffield.

(C) Miscellaneous.

Isle of Dogs Prog. Club, 72 Stebondale St., Millwall, E.

IV.—Friendly Societies.

New Societies.

Ordinary Friendly, 6; Specially authorised, 3; Juvenile, 3; Dividing, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 6; Medical, 1; Benevolent, 1.

New Branches of Existing Societies.

I.O. Rechabites, S.U., 11; A.O. Foresters, 7; O.G.O.T.A. Sons of Phoenix, 4; U.J.O.T.A. Sons of Phoenix, 3; I.O. Odd Fellows, M.U., 3; L.O.A. Shepherds, A.U., 3; various others, 10.

V.—Building Societies.

Six new Building Societies were registered.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

I.—Trade Unions.

Nat. Amal. Sailors and Firemen's Union of Gt. Britain and Ireland.

II.—Building Societies.

Dissolved by instrument, 9; have sent notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; have notice of termination of dissolution, 10.

NOTICE OF ACCIDENTS ACT.

THE accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act 1894,\* during December last, are summarised in the following tables which are published in continuation of those given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for December and November 1894. It should be noted that the tables probably do not include the full number of accidents that have occurred, as the Act is still very imperfectly known.

Table showing the number of separate accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act during the month of December 1894, and the number of persons killed and injured in such accidents.

A.—Distinguishing nature of employment.

Table with 7 columns: Group, Nature of Works, &c., Construction or Repair, Use or Working. Rows include I. Bridge, Canal, Dock, Gaswork, Harbour, Pier, Port, Quay, Railway, Tramroad, Tramway, Tunnel, Other Works, II. Buildings, III. Traction or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

\* 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 are employed for wages, &c.

B.—Distinguishing Nature of Injury.

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

Table with 4 columns: Nature of Injury, Group I, Group II, Group III. Rows include Fractures, Dislocations, Ruptures and other severe injuries to body, Injuries to eye, Other Injuries to head or face, Other injuries to arms or hands, Other injuries to legs or feet, Miscellaneous injuries.



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.)

Forty-three new disputes occurred in December, as compared with 56 in November and 24 in December 1893. Particulars obtained with regard to 36 of these disputes show that 5,838 persons were involved. Four of the ten disputes in the Building Trades were due to questions of wages and hours of labour, 2 to demarcation of work, and the other 4 to various aspects of unionism. The only dispute in the Clothing Trade arose in respect of engagement of men at less than recognised rates. In Metal Trades 3 of the 6 disputes were due to wages questions, and 2 to defence of colleagues and rules with regard to "boy labour." Two of the 6 disputes in Mining arose in respect of wages questions, and the other 4 were more or less due to working arrangements. Four disputes occurred in connection with Seafaring and Dock Labour, 1 of which was due to wages questions and 3 to disagreement with regard to overtime and working arrangements. One Shipbuilding dispute was due to a wages question, and the other (between joiners and shipwrights) to the demarcation line of work. Three of the 9 disputes in the Textile Trades were due to wages disagreements, and 6 to questions of material and other working arrangements. Of the 5 disputes in Miscellaneous Industries, 3 were due to wages questions, and 2 to arrangements in connection with work.

The 43 disputes were geographically distributed as follows:—Northern Counties 17, Midland Counties 6, Eastern Counties 1, Western Counties and Wales 8, Southern Counties 1, London 5, Scotland 2, Ireland 3.

Eleven old disputes, affecting 1,223 persons, were settled during December, and at the end of the month it was known that 10 new and 22 old disputes, affecting together upwards of 3,500 persons, were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER 1894.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Persons, Commencement, Termination, Result. Rows include Building Trades (Builders' Labourers, Bricklayers, etc.), Clothing Trades (Boot and Shoe Lasters), Metal Trades (Assorters, Tinplate, etc.), Mining (Miners, Coal Mines), Seafaring, Dock, &c., Shipbuilding, and Textile Trades (Weavers, Cloth Dressers, etc.).

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER 1894—(Continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Persons, Commencement, Termination, Result. Rows include Weavers, Cord Cutters, Miscellaneous Trades (Glass Bottle Makers, Curriers), and Chemical Workers.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Persons, Commencement, Termination, Result. Rows include Carpenters and Joiners, Coal Miners, Tailors, Miners, Builders' Labourers, Coal Miners, Compositors, Watermen, Cotton Weavers, and Saddlers.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in November were still unsettled at the end of the month:—Building Trades, London, S.W., and Drogheda; dyers and finishers, Greetland; dyers and finishers, Bradford (since settled, January); salt-workers, near Northwich; bricklayers, Bridgewater; coal miners, Rhondda Valley.

The following, which commenced before November, are also still unsettled:—woolsorters, Salford; cotton operatives, Heywood; cotton weavers, Barrowford and Cliviger; Justian weavers, Bury; wire-drawers, Halifax; miners, Dronfield; silk weavers, Leek; sanitary pressers, Hanley; wherry-men, River Tyne; carpenters, Basingstoke; miners, Tredegar; spring-knife cutlers and grinders, and wool-shear grinders and benders, Sheffield.

In addition to the above, the following dispute, commencing in November, of which information has only recently been received, is still unsettled.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Persons, Date of Commencement. Row: Roller Makers, Bolton.

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office)

DURING December, 22 mines were reported as opened or re-opened, and 19 as abandoned, the numbers in the previous month being 25 and 5 respectively. Of the 22 mines opened or re-opened 17 were collieries, and of the 19 mines abandoned 15 were collieries. Six of the new collieries were in Lancashire, and 2 each in Durham, Monmouth, and Gloucestershire.

COAL:—New Mines. Durham (2)—Ivesley Colliery (driving of a drift to prove the Five Quarter Seam); Hedley Hill Colliery (Three Quarter Seam). Yorkshire—West Riding Collieries (Warren House Seam), near Normanton. Lancashire—West Leigh, Park Pit (Sinking). Monmouth (2)—Heol go Chinyth, Crumlin; Coed-y-Moeth, Bargoed. Gloucestershire (2)—Dunk Hill, Coleford; Cross Knave, Coleford. Lancashire (6)—Auchinbeath, Lesmahagow; Knownoble (Humph Seam), Omoa; Raebog (Virtuewell Seam), Airdrie; Greyrigg (Ladysrange Seam), Airdrie; Greenfield, Shettleston; Waterloo (Main Seam), Overtown. Ayrshire—Cassidonald, St. Andrews. Ayrshire—Polquhairn, Ochiltree. Tipperary.—Lisnamrock, No. 10 (Sinking), Thurles.

IRONSTONE.—Lancashire.—Stanrigg (Slaty Band Seam), Airdrie.

HEMATITE IRON ORE:—Lancashire.—Lindal Cote Mine, Ulverston. FLAGSTONE:—Lancashire.—Long End Pasture, Whitworth, Rochdale. COPPER ORE:—Carnarvon.—Dewys-coed, Nantlle. LEAD AND ZINC ORES:—Flintshire.—Freehold, Holway, Holywell. COAL:—Mines Abandoned. Yorkshire (2)—Hepworth (Hard Bad), near Holmfirth; Thorncliffe Spring (Blocking Bed), near Huddersfield. Lancashire (2)—Higher Shore (Lower Foot Seam), Littleborough; Markland (Yard Seam), Blackrod. Warwickshire.—New (Seven Feet Seam), Bedworth. Derbyshire.—Calow (Silkstone Seam), Chesterfield. Staffordshire.—Shakenhurst (Sulphur Seam), Bowdley. Lancashire (2)—North Greengairs (Virtuewell Seam), Airdrie; Meadowfield (Drumgray Seam), Airdrie. Ayrshire (2)—Cainhill, Huddfield; Dykes (Ell and Main Seams), Cumnock. Carmarthenshire.—Park-y-dai (Pump Quarter Seam), Llandeibie. Glamorganshire (2)—Cefnaglas (Cynon Seam), Quaker's Yard; Brynteg (Coal and Clay), Onllwyn.



PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.) THE returns of pauperism for the 35 selected urban districts show that on one day in the second week of December the number of persons receiving relief was 335,634, or 229 per 10,000 of population. Compared with December 1893, these figures show a decline in the number relieved of 3,877, or 3 per 10,000 of population. The decrease was greatest at Wigan, where it amounted to 73 per 10,000, closely followed by Stockton, with 63 per 10,000. There has also been a marked improvement at West Ham (30 per 10,000), and Cork, Waterford, and Limerick (28 per 10,000). The only increases of importance in the English selected districts were in Hull, Bristol, and Wolverhampton, where they were 19, 17, and 16 per 10,000 respectively. The selected districts of Scotland all show an increase except Aberdeen.

Compared with November, there has been the usual seasonal increase in nearly all the districts, the total number relieved being 9,750 more persons (or 6 per 10,000). The most prominent increases were at Stockton, West Ham, and Bristol, where they amounted to 23, 22, and 20 respectively. The Metropolitan increase was 6 per 10,000. The only district in which there was a decrease is Coatbridge and Airdrie.

The number of vagrants in London on one day in the middle of the month was 1,265 as compared with 1,284 in the previous month, and 1,066 in December 1893.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of December 1894, Paupers on corresponding date in 1893, Rate per 10,000 of Population, Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of Population. Includes sections for ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

\* 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.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

THE number of new applicants for work registered during the month of December, by the nine bureaux making returns, was 1,389, a decrease of 984 on the number for November.

The number of old and new applicants on the registers of the nine bureaux in December was 4,093 (as against 4,863 in the previous month), and of these 580, or 14.2 per cent., were found work by the bureaux, being 82 less than in November. Of these 580 persons, 294 were provided with work by the vestries or other local authorities concerned, and 286 by other employers. Employment was, in addition, furnished to 130 men on one day in December by the Islington Vestry. Of the 2,337 persons remaining on the registers at the end of the month, 2,078 were men, 97 lads and boys, and 162 women and girls.

(i) Work Done in December.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Workpeople on Register, No. of Applicants during December, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux, and sub-columns for Fresh Applicants, Renewals, Employers, During Dec. 1894, During Nov. 1894. Includes London, Provincial, and Total.

\* The figures in this column do not show the number of individual persons. † It has been decided to close the Egham Free Registry and Employment Agency early in 1895.

(a) Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of December.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Engineering, etc.), Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Charwomen, etc.), Grand Total. Includes London, Provincial, and Total.

\* Women and Girls are not at present registered at Salford and Plymouth. Note. The Labour Department would be glad to receive similar monthly returns from other Labour Bureaux.

TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN LONDON: Occupations of Parents of Candidates and Scholars.

IN the October GAZETTE a table was given, showing the occupations of parents of the winners of scholarships under the scheme of the London Technical Education Board, enabling the holders to pass from public elementary to secondary technical schools. The following table not only brings this information up to date, but also states the occupations of the parents of all candidates, whether winners of scholarships or not.

The table is interesting as indicating, to some extent, the degree to which candidates are drawn from among the children of artisans and labourers; and also the relative success of such candidates, compared with those of other classes, in winning scholarships.

Table showing the Occupations of Parents of the Candidates for "Junior" Scholarships, under the London Technical Education Board, in 1893 and 1894, together with the Occupations of Parents of Winners of such scholarships.

Table with columns: Occupations of Fathers, Autumn 1893, Spring 1894, Autumn 1894, Total, and sub-columns for Candidates, Winners. Includes various trades like Building Trades, Engineering, etc.

CO-OPERATION IN DECEMBER.

FOUR new associations of consumers and one association of producers have been registered during the month. The association of producers is the outcome of a strike of Sheffield shear-makers.

A new bakery and three new branches have been opened by existing distributive societies, another of which has opened new central premises, and a Scotch store has commenced dairy farming.

The following societies are in process of winding-up:—The Liverpool Tailoring Co-operative Society, the London Amalgamated Builders' Society, the Workers' Co-operative Productive Society (London), the Blaenau Festiniog Co-operative Society, and the Independent Labour Party Co-operative Society (Manchester).

The Co-operative Builders, Limited (Brixton), is in course of reorganisation, with a new constitution.

An interesting incident of the month was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers' Society, which celebrated its jubilee on the 21st December.

A report issued by the Co-operative Union states that some difficulty has arisen in connection with certain distributive societies in consequence of the practice of members in pawning the metal checks upon which the dividends of the societies are paid. The pawnbrokers

in such cases having claimed the accruing dividend, the legal point has arisen as to the validity of the claim.

The same report states that only one paper will be read at the next Co-operative Congress (viz., on Agricultural Co-operation) the remaining discussions taking place upon resolutions to be previously forwarded to the Union by societies.

The report of a special committee appointed by the Scottish section of the Co-operative Union to consider and report upon the question of bonus to labour has just been issued. The committee state that they have dealt with the subject only so far as it affects distributive societies. The following three methods of sharing profits were considered:—

(1) To pay the same bonus per £ on the worker's wage as the dividend per £ is on members' purchases; (2) To allocate not less than 2½ per cent. of the net profits, to be divided among the workers at a certain rate per £ on wages earned; and (3) to allocate a proportion of the profits sufficient to pay a bonus of not less than 5 per cent. on wages earned.

After discussing these proposals, the committee recommend societies to adopt the following modification of the third method, viz.:—

That each society should allocate a proportion of its profits, sufficient to pay a bonus of not less than 5 per cent. on wages earned, so long as the dividend on purchases exceeds 5 per cent.; when it comes below this, bonus on wages to be the same as dividend on purchases.

Appended to the report is a table based upon recent balance-sheets of 26 Scotch distributive societies, showing the extent to which the wages of workers and dividends to customers would be affected by each of the three methods considered. The following table deals only with the effect of the three systems on the share of the workers.

Table showing the total amount of profit with the average rate per £ on wages which would accrue to the workers in 26 societies under each of the three methods of profit-sharing described.

Table with columns: I. Bonus based on same rate as dividend to Customers, II. Based on 2½ per cent. of profits, III. Based on 5 per cent. on wages. Includes Total amount of profit allocated to labour and Rate per £ on wages.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.\*

A REPORT containing the returns made by building societies during the year 1893-4 has been issued, and shows that at the end of 1893 there were in existence in the United Kingdom 2,885 societies, of which 2,297 made returns.

These returns are for periods of a year ending at various dates between January 1892 and January 1894, the total membership of the societies making returns is given as 397,895; the receipts for the year £17,319,114; the total liabilities on shares at £31,033,096; and to depositors £11,490,581. The total assets shown are: due on mortgage securities £40,546,929; and invested in other securities £3,867,186. 1,840 of the societies show a total of £2,103,228 unappropriated profit, and 388 a total deficit balance of £205,374. Of the total membership of the societies 92.4 per cent. was in England and Wales, 5.5 in Scotland, and 2.1 in Ireland.

Immigration into the United States.—In the LABOUR GAZETTE for September statistics were given of the immigrants arriving at New York during the year, June 1893—June 1894. The following figures, taken from the Report of the Superintendent of Immigration for the same period, apply to the whole of the United States. During the year in question 288,020 immigrants arrived in the United States, compared with 440,783 in the previous year. Of the total 283,631 were landed, while 2,389 were debarred from entrance under the immigration laws, viz., 1,553 as contract labourers, 802 as paupers, and 34 as idiots, insane, diseased, convicts, or prostitutes. Besides these, 417 were returned within a year of their landing as having become a public charge.

\* Return, Building Societies, P.P. No. 222. Price 1s. 8½d.



## LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

**Canada.**—The November report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, states: "Four things tend to lead to the opinion that a fall rather than a rise may occur in the rate of farm wages in Ontario; the low prices prevailing for most farm products, the abundance of labour offering, the endeavour on the part of so many farmers to do the work within their family aided by improved machinery, and the fact that more land than ever before has been seeded down for pasture. Correspondents do not speak highly of the average quality of the labour available, while a number use rather disparaging terms regarding the imported article. Owing to the depression in the cities, domestic servants are hardly as scarce as in former years, as a considerable number are seeking rural occupation." The Manitoba Department of Agriculture states that the demand for farm help in that province in 1894 was well supplied.

**New South Wales.**—There was a considerable decrease during last October in the relief department of the Labour Bureau at Sydney, which shows that a good many men had found work; the average number of families applying for relief during October was 280 per week. The printers' strike is finished, the men having agreed to accept a minimum wage of 52s. a week, instead of the 56s. which they had demanded. The Coal Trade has improved at the southern collieries, but remains dull and unsettled at Newcastle in the North, and another colliery has been closed there. The Pitt Town Labour Settlement, which was in some respects the most promising of the various co-operative settlements, is, owing to disagreements, in danger of being broken up.

**Victoria.**—There is no special change to note with regard to labour in Victoria; nearly every trade continues in a depressed state, and there is no demand for more labour. It is stated that disputes have lately arisen in the Boot Trade.

**South Australia.**—There has been a fair demand for general harvest hands, and for steers at 20s. a week and board. But the local supply has been more than sufficient, and most classes of skilled and unskilled labour are seeking work at reduced wages.

**Queensland.**—Official notice has been received that the system, under which emigrants paying their own passages to Queensland were entitled to a land order of the nominal value of £20, has been repealed; and that in future no land order warrants will be issued by the Agent-General. There is no demand for more labour in the colony, though the prospects of the Building Trades at Brisbane are better than they were.

**Western Australia.**—This Colony and New Zealand are the only Colonies in which at the present time there can be said to be any opening for mechanics, and even to these Colonies it is not advisable for artisans to go out on the chance of work in any particular trade.

**Tasmania.**—Many of those out of work are being found employment by the Government at road making and stone breaking. There is no inducement for anyone without a little money to emigrate to Tasmania at the present time.

**New Zealand.**—The Department of Labour states, under date 24th October last, "The reports from the different parts of the Colony show as a whole that with the return of spring work is much more plentiful, and nearly all the reports agree in stating that there is a very large decrease in the number of men travelling on the road; tradesmen also speak in a more hopeful strain. No doubt for the next six months work will be more plentiful, and, as a consequence, trade will be better. The system of opening up Crown lands, and letting them in areas of from 50 to 100 acres to working men, the Government paying for felling the bush and adding the cost to the price of the land, has been a

marked success." There is a considerable revival in the Gold-mining Industry in the Thames and Coromandel districts of the provinces of Auckland.

**Cape Colony.**—Nominatated passages have just been withdrawn from mechanics, artisans, and other skilled workmen, and only female domestic servants are now eligible; men are warned against emigrating to the Cape, unless they have employment secured beforehand.

**Natal** is, on the whole, well supplied with mechanics, and ordinary trades are in great measure in the hands of coloured workmen; but there has been a fair demand at Durban for a few bricklayers and plasterers.

**British Bechuanaland.**—An official report from Mafeking states that there is no opening for skilled mechanics or miners.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

## FRANCE.\*

**State of Employment in December.**—Textile Trades.—The Ribbon Industry of the Loire, and the Linen and Wool Trades in the Department of Nord continued depressed. In Isère and Ardeche silk-weavers were busy. **Metal Trades.**—Short time was being worked, with reduced staffs, in most smelting works in the Loire District. **Coal.**—In the Loire mining district, colliers were working either five or four days per week at most of the mines. **Glove-makers** in Isère were busy.

**Labour Disputes in December.**—Twenty-four fresh disputes were recorded in December, compared with 28 in the preceding month, and nine old disputes remained in progress at the beginning of December. Ten of the new disputes were in the Textile Trades, three among wood-cutters, two each in the Clothing and Metal-working Trades. In 16 of the fresh disputes, for which full particulars are given, 7,798 workpeople were engaged. The strike of power-loom weavers of Roanne (Department of Loire) for a uniform price list, involved 5,600 operatives. Of 21 disputes settled during December, 11 ended adversely for the workers, eight were compromised, and two ended favourably for the workers.

**Arbitration and Conciliation.**—Six cases of recourse to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration were recorded in December. The *juges de paix* took the initiative in three cases, and the workpeople in the others. One strike was settled in consequence of the proceedings. In the case of the strike of weavers referred to above, 18 out of the 21 employers affected informed the *juge de paix* that they would each treat with their own operatives, and all of the employers rejected arbitration. They have themselves united and agreed on a general price list which they have posted in their workshops.

**Inalienability of Wages.**—A law was promulgated in December last which provides that the wages of workpeople and servants are unattachable for debt beyond one-tenth of their amount; and that not more than one-fifth of the salaries of commercial employees, clerks, and functionaries receiving £80, or less, per annum, can be assigned for debt.

## GERMANY.

The following particulars are based on notes supplied by Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, under date of January 3rd:—

**Scarcity of Employment in Rhenish Westphalia.**—The large number of unemployed workmen who are on the books of the organisations connected with nearly every trade in this district have brought forward the question of overtime worked at many factories while scarcity of work prevails at others. Meetings have been held to discuss means for bringing about a better distribution of work, and it has been proposed that where the staff of men is insufficient work should be carried on night and day, extra hands being engaged for the purpose, and overtime avoided.

**Labour Disputes.**—In addition to 6 old disputes remaining unsettled at the beginning of December, 8 fresh

\*From information supplied from the Office du Travail, supplemented by information published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, *Sozial Politisches Centralblatt*, and other German papers.

strikes were reported during the month. Of these, 3 were among joiners, and the rest among stone-cutters, pianoforte-makers, shoe-makers, leather-dressers, and bakers. Only one establishment was in each case affected, the largest number of participants in any one strike being (so far as particulars are known), 90. The bakers who struck belonged to the Hamburg Social Democratic Bakery which was established eight years ago to provide work for the journeymen on strike. The men complained of being deprived of their free day, and compelled to work overtime, stating that they had to work under conditions which they declined to accept from the "bourgeois" bakers. In 4 out of 8 disputes reported as settled, the workers failed to gain their object; in 1 they succeeded, while 3 ended in compromise. The boycotting of breweries in Brunswick and Munich continued throughout the whole month. In the case of the Berlin boycott, a settlement was arranged at the end of the month, particulars of which are given below.

**Miners' Congress.**—The first Congress of German miners met at Essen on December 26th and 27th, and passed resolutions in favour of 8-hours shifts from bank to bank for colliers, improved provisions for safety in mines, the appointment of mining inspectors elected by the miners and paid by the State, a uniform mining law for all German mines, and improved housing for Silesian miners. It was also resolved to hold a Congress once a year.

**Relief of the Unemployed.**—Steps for providing relief for those out of work, in such occupations as road and sewer making and earth-works, are reported from various towns in the North and South-West of Germany. The town of Hamburg has voted £10,000, Altona £5,000, Darmstadt £1,250, Duisburg and Wiesbaden £1,000 each; while Mannheim, Brunswick and Mainz have also voted sums for the purpose. In Berlin, contractors for municipal work have been instructed to give preference to townsmen in carrying out their contracts, and a warning has been issued to workmen from other parts cautioning them against coming to Berlin in search of occupation. The Leipzig Town Council has rejected a proposal of the Social Democratic Workmen's Union to take an annual census of the unemployed. Frequent dismissals of workpeople are reported from the Chemnitz factory district, and scarcity of work is said to be causing distress among textile and other workers in the Harz district.

The Government of the Grand Duchy of Hesse has instructed the authorities of circuits (*Kreisämter*) to inquire into the state of the labour market, the conditions of production and labour, and the material conditions of workers in factories and trades. The information is to be sought from employers' organisations such as the Industrial Unions (*Gewerbevereine*) and from factory owners—*Blätter für Soziale Praxis und Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt*.

**Termination of the Beer Boycott in Berlin.**—Terms were agreed to on December 24th between the representatives of the Boycott Committee and those of the United Brewery Owners, by which the boycott begun last May, and reported on from time to time in the GAZETTE, has at last been withdrawn. The following are the chief terms of the settlement:—

The United Brewery Owners undertake to establish a Labour Registry controlled by a committee composed of equal numbers of employers and workers, and managed by a person belonging to neither of these classes. It is to begin operations on January 1st, and first of all to find employment for such of the men locked out last May as may be still unemployed. Membership of a trade union or political party must be no bar to employment. Workmen believing themselves excluded from employment for such reasons may appeal to the Committee of Control, which will, in such matters, act as an arbitration committee, to the award of which both sides undertake to submit.

## SWITZERLAND.

The following is based on notes supplied by Herr Greulich, the Swiss Workmen's Secretary, translated by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, and forwarded on December 31st last:—

**Cantonal Law restricting Female Labour.**—The Cantonal Council of Lucerne has accepted a law for the protection of female workers in all industrial establishments not placed under the Federal Factory Act. The law provides for limitation of the working day to 11 hours, with power to the local authorities to make exceptions under certain restrictions, prohibition of all

work on Sundays and holidays, the fixing of 14 years as the minimum age for employment, prohibition of overtime for girls under 18 and for pregnant women, and at least 8 consecutive hours of nightly rest and weekly half-holidays for waitresses. It also provides that overtime pay shall be at least 25 per cent. higher than the ordinary rates, forbids giving out work to be done at home after legal working hours, and the employment of women within six weeks after the birth of a child, and provides for the fortnightly payment of wages. It also contains provisions of a sanitary nature.

**Workers' Demands for Labour Reforms.**—A series of petitions from the working classes have been under discussion in the Federal Council, and it has been resolved that the following questions be inquired into and reported on:—(1) The truck system, in so far as it exists with the intention of making a profit (creation of provisions on the subject similar to those in the Factory Act for all firms employing more than 10 workpeople), (2) Introduction of the 10-hours day in all Federal workshops. (3) Half-holidays on Saturdays for married women in factories. (4) The revival of negotiations for the international regulation of the labour protection question.

The introduction of a general maximum 10-hours day was rejected, but it is stated that a 10-hours day is already in force in all Government workshops.

**The Federal Government and the Unemployed Question.**—The Board of Trade has requested the Cantonal Governments, the Society of Crafts, and the Managing Committee of the Swiss Workmen's League, to report on the following postulate:—

"The Federal Council is invited to examine the question, whether the co-operation of the Confederation in institutions such as public labour bureaux and the protection against *bona fide* want of work is possible and justifiable."

**Unemployed Insurance.**—The law providing for compulsory insurance against want of work in the Canton of St. Gall (*see GAZETTE* June and July last) will not come into operation this year, and may possibly lapse altogether, as doubts of its efficiency have been raised. One of its defects is alleged to be, that employers cannot be forced to contribute to the premium, and that thereby the premium of the workmen has become too high.

## BELGIUM.

**Labour Disputes.**—During December *Le Peuple* contained accounts of five fresh strikes and of one remaining unsettled since November. Two of the fresh strikes were among colliers, and the rest among match-makers, arms factory workers, and skin dyers. None of the disputes were reported as settled at the end of the month. The match-makers' strike was at Grammont, and though at first confined to one factory, has been general since the 21st of December. It was due to a dispute as to the price of filling 1,000 boxes. At a meeting of the Council of Industry and Labour on the 26th December the employers agreed to pay 53d. per 1,000, or 5d. if filled by machinery.

**Agitation among Bakers.**—The master-bakers of Antwerp, having combined in a movement against co-operative bakeries promoted by the middle classes, and having associated their journeymen with them in the movement, the latter have availed themselves of the union to formulate their claims against their employers. They demand a minimum wage, a maximum working day, 47 francs (3s. 7d.) a day when not lodging with their employers, and 23 to 3 francs (2s. to 2s. 5d.) with lodging, which must be "suitable."—*Ibid.*

## HOLLAND.

The following is based on information furnished by Sir H. Rumbold, H.M. Minister at the Hague, under dates of December 21st ult., and January 6th:—

**Relief of the Unemployed.**—An experiment is being conducted in Amsterdam with a view to palliating the winter distress. A disused hospital building has been placed at the disposal of the managers by the Municipality, and workshops have been established for the manufacture of articles required by the poorest classes. Bedsteads and bedding of the cheapest kinds are now being made, with a view to give employment



to the classes of workmen who are usually in want of work during the winter. The necessary capital has been supplied by the chief supporters of the scheme, with the exception of about £1,300 subscribed by the public.

*Municipal Employees' Wages and Hours.*—The City Council of Amsterdam has passed the tariff of wages and hours for workmen in municipal employment (see GAZETTE September 1894, page 287).

*Labour Disputes.*—The strike in the Printing Trade referred to in the November GAZETTE has resulted in the discharge of many printers and compositors and the adoption of type-setting machinery. With regard to the diamond cutters' strike referred to last month, the complicated circumstances of the trade make it difficult to discover whether the terms of settlement involved a real advance in wages or not. Many men have been put out of work and business has been taken to other centres, while in several mills the workmen continue to work at the old rates. A resumption of the strike took place towards the end of December, but it was only temporary, and on the 5th of January all was reported quiet by H.M. Consul at Amsterdam. In the case of the strike of journcymen bakers (also referred to last month), it appears that the men demanded an increase of about 4s. a week, which was granted, though the employers afterwards combined and raised the price of bread. The journeymen now demand the entire abolition of Sunday-work and night-work. Strikes of carpenters and candle-makers (the latter at the Royal Candleworks) also took place, but were both unsuccessful, owing, it is said, to lack of organisation.

#### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

*Conditions of Work of Railway Workers.*—The Handelsmuseum has published the text of a decree of the president of the Austrian State Railway Department, by which about 6,000 men employed on the State Railways, but not hitherto as permanent civil servants, are from July 1st next, to be placed on the permanent establishment, thus acquiring the right to regular increments of pay up to 750 florins per annum, with an allowance of 300 florins per annum for quarters (£62 10s. and £25 respectively), uniforms, promotion under the prescribed conditions, and pension. The men to whom the decree applies are chiefly skilled workers (*professionisten*) in the workshops and furnace houses, leading workers in the goods stores, waybill writers, shunters, carriage cleaners, lampmen, men having special work about stations, and trained workers in the stockyards. Besides the 6,000 workers referred to, who already fulfil the conditions required for admitting them to the benefits of the decree, others will, after July 1st, be placed on the same footing according as vacancies occur and provided they have served the required probationary period. A decrease in pay must in no case be entailed by being placed on the establishment.

#### RUSSIA.

*Labour Disturbance.*—A riot, which ended in the wrecking of a cotton-spinning factory at which 2,000 work-people were employed, broke out on December 17th at Perejaslavl-Salessli (Government of Vladimir), owing to a reduction in wages and the proposed distribution of accumulated fines among the administrative officers as Christmas bonuses, to the exclusion of the workers, who demanded a share. The disturbance is said to have been planned some time ago.—*Deutscher Reichsanzeiger.*

#### SPAIN.

*Cotton Operatives' Strike.*—Sir H. Drummond Wolff, H.M. Ambassador at Madrid, reported on November 29th, with reference to a strike which began in the end of September in a cotton goods factory in Malaga, in which over 3,000 operatives took part. It arose through the directors refusing to recognise a committee appointed by the workmen, which claimed to have the settlement of all disputes which might arise among the factory operatives themselves, or between them and their employers. The works were closed until the strikers should agree to the dismissal of the leaders of the movement. Reporting on December 19th, Mr. A. Finn, H.M. Consul at Malaga, has stated that work

was resumed on the previous day, the strikers having been enabled to hold out longer than was expected owing to their receiving assistance from Barcelona and elsewhere.

#### UNITED STATES.

##### PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information sent by Captain C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, under date of December 28th:—

*Labour in General.*—It is said that business is reviving, and that more mills are running full or half time to carry out orders received. It would appear, however, from the reports, that in most cases the workers accept lower wages than those they formerly earned. Very few disputes have occurred during the past months.

*Legal Decision in a Labour Case.*—In the case of the petition to the United States Circuit Court in Philadelphia (referred to in last month's GAZETTE) to restrain the receivers of a railroad from discharging men because they belonged to the Brotherhood of Trainmen, the judge has decided against the petitioner, ruling that, as he could leave his employment at will, with or without a cause, the same privilege could not be denied to the employers without invading natural liberty. If the quitting in one case, or the discharging in the other, violates a contract between the parties, the one injured by the breach of contract must sue for damages.

##### CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Col. J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, has supplied information under date of December 26th ult., on which the following is based:—

*General Condition of Labour.*—The condition of the labour market has not greatly altered since October. Owing to the number of persons out of work all over the country, any employment is eagerly sought after, and considerable distress prevails amongst the unemployed.

*Labour Disputes.*—No strikes of importance have taken place of late in the Chicago Consular district; but trouble has again arisen among the employees at the Marquette building in Chicago. (See October GAZETTE, page 39.) The dispute differs from ordinary strikes, in not having the character of a struggle between employer and worker, or between union and non-union labour, and in being a contest between workmen of two separate organised unions. The determination to enforce the resolutions of the Building Trade Council not to work where men not belonging to their union were employed has led to disturbances resulting in deaths and serious injuries.

*The Pullman Strike.*—The President of the American Railway Union has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for contempt of court for conspiring to hinder and prevent the transmission of United States mails and inter-state commerce. The Vice-President, Secretary, and five directors of the Union, were each sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

#### NOTICE.

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