

THE

# Labour Gazette

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.]

MARCH 1894.

[No. 3.—VOL. II.

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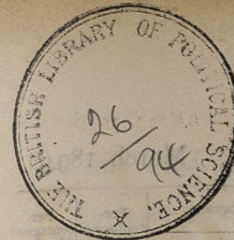
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LABOUR DEPARTMENT,  
BOARD OF TRADE,  
43, PARLIAMENT STREET, S.W.,  
15th March 1894.

The Labour Department is able to include in the present number of the GAZETTE a summary of the statistics relating to the strikes and lock-outs of 1892, including their magnitude, duration, causes, success or failure, distribution among trades and districts, cost and financial results.

The full particulars with regard to the disputes of 1893 are not yet complete, but a preliminary summary (some details of which are subject to future revision) is given on page 76, showing the magnitude, average duration, causes and results of those disputes about which information is available.

An account is given on page 82 of the action of the Conciliation Board formed at the settlement of the Clyde ship-joiners' dispute, and of the award of the Arbitrator on the question of overtime.

In continuation of the information as to municipal relief works given in the Report of the Labour Department on agencies and methods for dealing with the unemployed, an account is given on page 78 of the recent proceedings of certain local authorities in London and the provinces with regard to providing employment for persons out of work in their districts.

A table is published on page 84 showing for the last five months of 1893 and 1892 respectively the total amount of coal exported and sent coastwise from the various ports of the United Kingdom. The effects of the great coal stoppage which lasted from the end of July to November 1893 on the shipments of coal are thus clearly shown.

A summary is given on page 85 of the operations of co-operative manufacturing societies during 1892, based on materials obtained from various sources.

The account begun in the last number of the GAZETTE of the arrangements for the shortening of hours of labour in establishments under the control of the War Office is continued in the present number, which deals with the Ordnance Store Department.

Arrangements having now been made for the exchange of early information with regard to the state of employment and other matters bearing on the conditions of labour between the Labour Department and the French Office du Travail, the reports with regard to France published in the GAZETTE will in future refer to the same period as those with regard to the United Kingdom, instead of to the previous month. Consequently, in the present number, the report on France covers two months (January and February).

## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.\*

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

(a) **General Statistics of Employment.**—The improvement in the state of employment, reported last month, has been well maintained during February, and the prospect of still further improvement continues hopeful. The most noticeable change for the better is in the Iron Shipbuilding Industry, in which the percentage of unemployed has largely decreased, but the Engineering, Building, Furnishing, Printing and Clothing Trades also show more or less improvement, partly, no doubt, due to seasonal causes. The returns from trade societies show in the aggregate a considerable diminution in the proportion of unemployed members, at the end of February, as compared both with the previous month, and with the corresponding period of 1893.

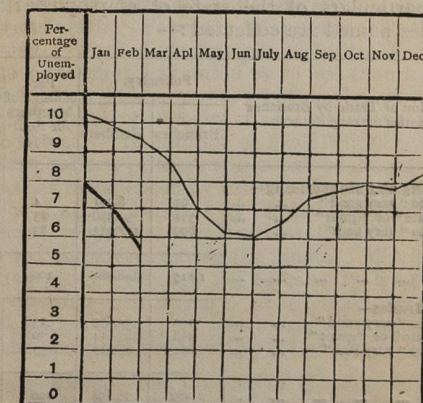
Of the 43 trade societies, with an aggregate membership of 352,846, making returns, 19,667 (or 5.6 per cent.) are reported as in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of February, compared with 7.0 per cent. in the 37 societies making returns for January.

In the 23 societies from which returns were also received in February, 1893, the percentage of unemployed was 7.2 last month, compared with 9.4 at the corresponding date of last year.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1893 and of each month yet completed of 1894. [Owing to the increase of the number of societies making returns, the chart for the year 1894 refers to 37 societies, while that for 1893 does not include more than 26 societies. The comparison of the two curves is slightly affected by this difference.]

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



(b) **Employment in various Industries.**—The improvement in the Shipbuilding Industry has been generally maintained in the chief centres, the percentage of unemployed

\* The Reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of February, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between February 23rd and March 17th.

members of unions connected with this trade having fallen from 13.8 to 5.9, a percentage lower than at any period since July 1891.

The Iron and Steel Trades continue, on the whole, to improve in most parts of the Northern and Midland counties, and the West of Scotland. Some improvement has also taken place in South Wales. In the Engineering and Metal Trades improvement is observable in most districts, the percentage of unemployed in unions connected with these trades having fallen from 9.2 to 8.7.

With the advent of spring an improvement has taken place in most branches of the Building Trades, the painters particularly having been better employed. The percentage of unemployed returned by unions connected with these trades has fallen from 6.7 to 5.0.

The Furnishing and Woodworking Trades also show some improvement in most districts, the percentage of unemployed in unions connected with these trades having fallen from 7.2 to 5.8.

The Printing and Bookbinding Trades have somewhat improved on the whole, though still depressed in most parts of the country, the percentage of unemployed in unions connected with these trades having fallen from 6.1 to 5.8.

Some slight improvement is perceptible in the Ready-made Clothing Trade, but the bespoke branch shows little or no change. The Wholesale Boot and Shoe Trade, especially in the chief centres of the industry, maintains the improvement reported last month. Some improvement is also observable in the bespoke trade.

The Cotton operatives are scarcely so well employed as last month, and the Wool and Worsted Trade is still slack in the Bradford and Huddersfield districts, but the Linen Trade has improved. The Carpet, Hosiery and Silk Trades are as a rule quiet, but the Lace Trade has to some extent improved.

The Miners in Durham and Northumberland are fairly well employed. In several of the Midland and Yorkshire districts, and in Scotland, mining is described as somewhat less active, but in South Wales it has been fairly brisk.

The number of Seamen shipped during the month at the principal ports was nearly 10 per cent. more than in January 1893. The supply of seamen, however, was still in excess of the demand at nearly all ports. The Fishing Industry has been above the average for this time of year at most of the principal ports, Yarmouth and Plymouth being the only considerable ports at which there has been a falling off. Dock and river-side work has been active in several of the chief ports.

(c) Reports of Trade Societies and Branches.—Of the 43 societies making returns, 10 describe the trade as "good," 12 as "moderate," and 21 as "bad." From the monthly reports published by many societies, and from materials specially furnished, the following additional particulars of the state of employment in the industries named are collected:—

Table with 5 columns: Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns, February (Branches, Members), Percentage of Members for Feb. 1894, Percentage of Members for Jan. 1894. Rows include Engineering and Shipbuilding, Building Trades, Printing and Bookbinding Trades.

Table with 5 columns: Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns, February (Branches, Members), Percentage of Members for Feb. 1894, Percentage of Members for Jan. 1894. Rows include Boot and Shoe Trades, Furnishing & Woodworking Trades.

(d) Trade Disputes.—During the month 57 fresh disputes have been reported, compared with 50 in January, and 37 in February 1893. Of these, 16 arose in the Textile Trades, 9 in the Metal Trades, 8 each in the Building and Mining Industries, 3 each in connection with the Clothing Trades, Seafaring and Waterside Labour and Shipbuilding, and the remaining 7 in miscellaneous industries. Particulars obtained with regard to 42 of these disputes, show that the number of persons involved was 5,233. Fourteen of these disputes, affecting 1,372 persons, together with 11 other disputes, affecting about 1,000 persons, which began before February, were known to be still in progress at the end of the month. On the other hand, 8 disputes, involving 1,643 persons, which began before February, are reported to have been brought to an end during the month.

(e) Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour.—A considerable number of changes in wages have been reported during the month, but the numbers of workpeople affected have not been large. About 1,500 men in the shipbuilding yards at Belfast have had a slight reduction in wages, and 250 men a rise. At Liverpool, Swansea and Belfast, seamen's rates of wages were lower than in January.

Several cases have been reported, in which the hours of labour in private establishments have been reduced to 48 per week, and in the War Office establishments nearly 3,000 workpeople, in addition to the 14,000 reported last month, are now working the shorter time, and it is reported that about 1,000 more will do so from 1st April.

(f) Pauperism.—The pauperism returns for the selected districts of the United Kingdom for February show a slight decrease as compared with January, the number relieved on one day, in the middle of each month, being 339,320, or 232 per 10,000 of population, and 342,680, or 234 per 10,000 respectively. The returns, however, for last month show an increase of 13 per 10,000 of population, compared with those for the corresponding date of February 1893, when the number was 322,163, or 219 per 10,000.

The following table, or similar to those published in previous numbers, will be found useful for purposes of comparison.

Comparative Table showing the number of Paupers per 10,000 of Population in selected industrial districts on a given day in December in 1893 and 1892, and January and February 1893 and 1894 respectively.

Table with 7 columns: District, Winter 1893-4 (December, January, February), Winter 1892-3 (December, January, February). Rows include Metropolis, West Ham, Other Districts (England & Wales), Scotland, Ireland, TOTAL (Selected Districts).

(g) Emigration.—The number of British passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during the month was 6,098, as compared with 12,448 in February 1893.

II.—EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

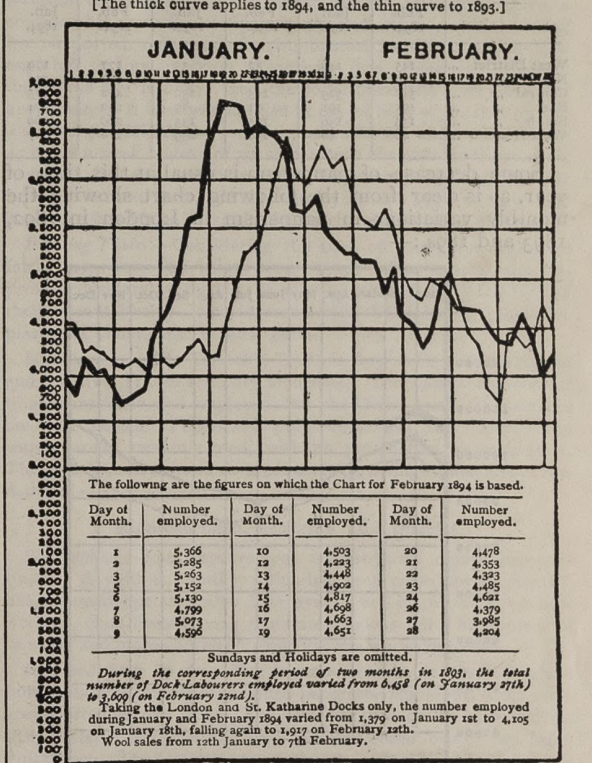
Employment in Various Industries.—The improvement in the Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades reported as having taken place during January has been maintained, 76 branches of 8 unions, with an aggregate membership of 12,904, returning 826 (or 6.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 6.8 per cent. last month, and 9.7 per cent. in December 1893. Four branches with 148 members describe trade as "good," 19 with 3,000 members as "moderate," and 53 with 9,756 members as "bad." Most branches of the Building Trades have improved to some extent during the month; 134 branches of four unions with an aggregate membership of 10,675 return 592 (or 5.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 6.0 per cent. last month, and 6.6 per cent. in December. In seven societies, 13 branches with 797 members describe trade as "good," 63 branches with 4,548 members as "moderate," and 128 branches with 11,089 members as "bad." In some branches of the Furnishing and Woodworking Trades a slight improvement has taken place, 21 branches of 4 societies with an aggregate membership of 3,528 returning 208 (or 5.9 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 8.9 last month and 7.6 in December. In no branch, however, is trade described as "good," 15 branches with 1,731 members returning it as "moderate" and 6 branches with 1,797 members as "bad." Little change has taken place in the condition of the Printing and Bookbinding Trades during the month, most branches having been very indifferently employed, though the prospects of the Lithographic Trade are described as somewhat better. Eleven unions with an aggregate membership of 17,701 return 1,003 (or 5.7 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 5.9 per cent. last month and 6.1 per cent. in December. The bespoke Clothing Trade has shown little change for the better, though the approach of spring is likely to bring an improvement. The wholesale clothing trade has improved considerably towards the close of the month. Among other industries, the Tobacco Trades and Glass Trades are described as "very bad," the number of unemployed in the union making a return in the former case being 11.1 per cent., and in the latter 16.3 per cent. The number of Seamen shipped in London in foreign-going ships was 5,149, compared with 5,269 in February 1893.

Dock and Waterside Employment.—Employment at the Docks has somewhat fallen off during the month, compared with January, the average number of labourers so employed being estimated at 7,089, compared with 7,491 in the previous month. Compared, however, with February, 1893, the number shows an increase of 661. The total estimated number of docklabourers employed by all the Dock Companies in the Port of London, for each week, is as follows:—

Table with 4 columns: Week of February, 1894, 1893, Increase. Rows include 1st week, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Average for February, Ditto for January.

The falling off in the wool arrivals, and the end of the tea season, has caused a decline in the volume of employment at the London Docks and up-town warehouses, while the East and West India group have been very slack, except in the timber departments. At Millwall, however, employment has been exceptionally good, especially among corn-porters, who have also been well employed at the Surrey Docks. At the Victoria and Albert Docks employment fell off during the last half of the month. The wharves along Thames-street have been unusually busy for the time of year, but along the waterside and at Wapping employment has been quiet. The daily fluctuations of employment at the London and India group of docks are shown as usual in the following chart:—

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of January and February 1894. The corresponding curve for January and February 1893 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the Chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.



Trade Disputes.—Six fresh disputes, mostly of a limited character, have been reported during the month. The only one affecting more than one firm was a strike of glass bevellers, owing to objection to "hiring agreements" in which the employees of ten firms are reported to have been engaged. As regards the remainder of the disputes, 34 plumbers in South London struck successfully against the employment of fitters in certain branches of work. A strike among coal wharf labourers in the S.W. district resulted in their replacement by non-unionists; while 80 cabmen struck unsuccessfully against the seasonal increase of the price of cab hire. Strikes of riveters and labourers (steel tower construction) and of van boys for advances of wages are also reported.

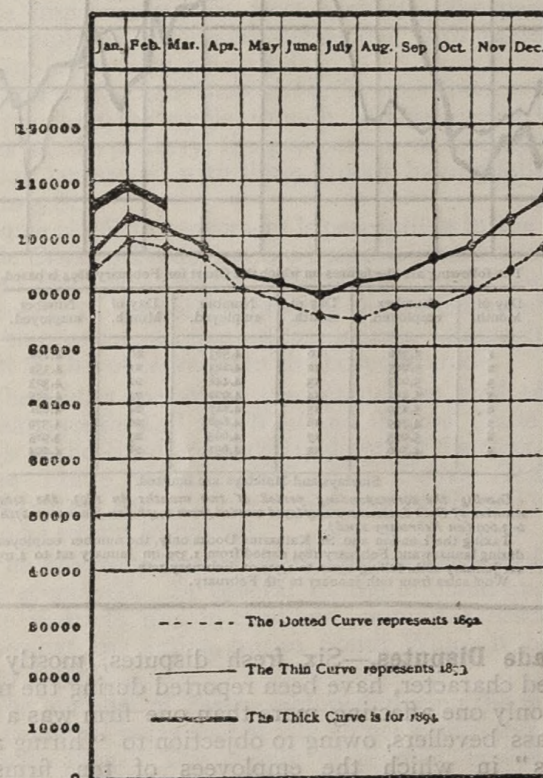
Employment and Distress.—From the information received with regard to the state of various London districts during February, it appears that the distress showed a marked decline throughout the month. In some districts it was stated to be less than for the same period in an ordinary year; but in the majority to be either normal or somewhat above the average for the time of year. In addition to unskilled labourers, dress-makers, tailors, printers and bookbinders are still mentioned as being specially distressed in certain districts. The Labour Bureaux at Chelsea, Battersea and St. Pancras report fresh applications from 824 workpeople and 191 employers during the month. Work was found for 193 persons through the bureaux in February, compared with 256 in January. Particulars about the relief work undertaken by various local authorities in London for the benefit of the unemployed are given on p. 78.

Pauperism.—The proportion of paupers in London per 10,000 of the population in the middle of February had fallen to 253, compared with 260 for January, and 240 for February 1893. In West Ham, the proportion was 278 in February, compared with 287 in the previous month, and 234 in February 1893. The changes in the different districts of London and in West Ham compared

with the previous month are shown in the following table:—

	Rate of Pauperism per 10,000 of population.					
	In-door.		Out-door.		Total.	
	Feb. 1894.	Jan. 1894.	Feb. 1894.	Jan. 1894.	Feb. 1894.	Jan. 1894.
West District ...	145	146	32	33	177	179
North " ...	140	141	100	102	240	243
Central " ...	177	175	145	150	322	325
East " ...	191	191	71	83	262	274
South " ...	135	136	125	133	260	269
West Ham ...	48	48	230	239	278	287

Some decrease of pauperism is usual at this time of year, as is clear from the following chart showing the monthly variations in pauperism in London in 1892, 1893 and 1894:—



III.—PROVINCIAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS. ENGLAND AND WALES.

#### Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—The Durham and Northumberland coalowners are considering the advisability of inaugurating a "Sales Association" with a view to regulating future prices for coal products. *Durham.*—The Durham Coal Trade during the month has scarcely maintained its usual activity, although still good. Most of the pits are working full time, but a few have not done so owing partly to dislocation of shipping turns. The demand for gas and household coal is perceptibly weaker. The percentage of unemployed pitmen shows little change. *Northumberland.*—The demand for Northumberland coal has been quiet but steady. The "unrestricted" pits are, on the whole, working full time. Employment throughout the county still keeps good.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—*On the Tyne.*—Employment in the various shipyards as yet is only of a partial character, many "berths" still being vacant. There are, however, indications of continued improvement. Several firms are actively engaged in preparing for building operations. Engineering firms generally are moderately employed, but three or four are busy, night shifts and much overtime being worked, while others are not so well placed. Employment at the Ordnance Works continues bad. The engineers have 20 per cent. out of work, and the iron shipbuilders and boiler-makers 18 per cent. *On the Wear.*—Shipbuilding is fairly busy, but inquiries for further tonnage and orders booked are not considered to be well maintained. The whole of the yards, however, are more or less active. Marine engine building shows a gradual improvement. Several of the principal firms are employing their full complement of men night and day. Repairing work, both in shops and dry docks, has slightly fallen off. The percentage of unemployed shipbuilders and engineers is practically the same as last month, 16 and 9.2 per cent. respectively. The moulders and pattern-makers on both rivers are busy, only about 5 per cent. of the former, and very few (if any) of the latter being out of

employment. The shipwrights, painters and joiners are moderately employed, but the latter have over 14 per cent. out of work. The local iron, steel, tinplate and angle mills have a considerable amount of work in hand, and are fairly brisk.

**Building Trades.**—Operations in the Building Trades on the Tyne have been largely suspended owing to disputes in the Shields and Newcastle district. On the Wear, however, all branches are well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—In the Chemical Industries employment is fair. Glass and bottle works, rope and paper manufactories, especially the latter, are fairly active. There is a lessened demand for shipping in Sunderland for coasting purposes. Seagoing men, coal-porters and riverside labourers are not so well employed. Shipping at the port of Blyth is brisk, and work plentiful. The number of vessels laid up on the Tyne has slightly decreased, several crews having signed on and gone to sea.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

#### Oldham, Bolton and District.

The past month has been uneventful as regards these districts, and the relations between employers and employed are of a friendly character.

**Textile Trades.**—The Cotton Trade is not quite so good as a month ago. The market has been affected by the fluctuations in the price of silver and the rates of exchange, and also by the rumours relating to the possible intention of the Indian Government with regard to the imposition of a duty on imported cotton goods. In the Rochdale district three mills have been put on short time, but with these exceptions all the mills are employed full time. Whilst the month has been a trifle disappointing, the close finds the market in a more cheerful condition than when the month opened. Employment continues regular. The question of oiling and cleaning the machinery, which is now largely performed in the time allowed for meals, is still a bone of contention, and except in the Bolton district no amicable settlement has been arrived at.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—The improvement in these industries noticed last month continues, and they are slowly regaining activity. The number of men out of work, as shown by the vacant registers of the various trade unions is less than for some months passed. At the present moment the district is free from disputes.

**Miscellaneous Trades.**—These branches continue quiet, although there is no feeling of depression, and with the advent of the spring season employment promises to be plentiful.—*J. T. Fielding.*

#### Burnley, Accrington and District.

**Textile Trades.**—There is very little change to report in the Cotton Trade of this district. Only a small number of workpeople are unemployed. The beamers' dispute in the Burnley district is no nearer a settlement, except that a meeting is to be held between the committees of the Employers' and Operatives' Associations. The dispute as to prices paid for weaving stave work in the Nelson district, which at one time threatened to assume a serious aspect, is for a time settled, the firm having agreed to pay the prices asked for until a new list is mutually agreed to for this class of work. A sub-committee has been appointed from the Employers' and Operatives' Organisations to draw up the new piece price list. The workpeople at a number of other firms making a similar class of goods are asking for similar prices. The question of payment for weaving corded stripes is still in abeyance. Relations are unsettled in the Longridge district owing to a demand for an advance in the prices paid for weaving three and four doup Lenos.

**Building Trades.**—In the Building Trades, including the plumbing branch, work is considered fair. In the Painting and Decorating Trades a slight change for the better has shown itself, but a number of men are still unemployed.

**Iron Trades.**—There is practically no change in this industry, a number of machine men being still unemployed, though it is reported that loom makers are well engaged, and likely to be so for some time.

**Miscellaneous.**—In the Coal Industry the men are fully employed. One firm has adopted the eight-hour per day principle, with no reduction in the wages of the day-wage men. There is no material improvement in the Tailoring Trades. The Printing and Dyeing Trades are not quite so brisk, but this decline is reported to be only temporary.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

#### Manchester and District.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—In the Iron Trades reports show a very slight decrease in the number out of employment. The engineers still describe trade as bad, but report that the unemployed list has decreased by quite 50 men in this district. The metal planers and other branches of the trade report an improvement. Trade amongst the boiler-makers of the district remains bad, and the percentage of unemployed is a little higher than in January. The same may be said of the brassfounders and finishers, who again report trade as moderate, with a slight increase in the number of unemployed.

**Textile Trades.**—In the Cotton Trade employment is fairly steady, and the mills are kept running very well. This applies to Macclesfield and Stockport as well. In the former place no improvement can be seen in the Silk Trade, work being exceedingly scarce in all the silk manufacturing departments, but a little improvement is shown in the Silk Dyeing Industry. Fustian cutters in Macclesfield complain of low prices and the scarcity of orders.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—In the Letterpress Printing trade is not so satisfactory as when last reported, there being a slight increase in the number out of employment, and the trade can only be described as bad. In Manchester the increase in the number of unemployed is somewhat due to an influx of men from other places, some of whom have been thrown out of employment as a result of the introduction of type-setting machines. Bookbinding, lithographic printing and kindred industries are still bad, with little prospect of improvement.

**Building Trades.**—The joiners describe trade as moderate, with a decrease of 40 in the number of unemployed. Trade with the bricklayers is also moderate. Plasterers speak of trade as moderate, but not so good as at the end of the previous month, and affected by the weather. Amongst the painters a considerable improvement in the state of trade has taken place.

**Miscellaneous.**—With the general body of coachmakers trade is described as moderate, with a smaller number of unemployed, whilst the railway shops are busy getting the rolling stock ready for the excursion season; this involves not only extensive repairs and overhauling, but orders for new stock as well. Amongst cabinet-makers trade is moderate, whilst the Tailoring Trade is reported bad, with some prospects of revival. The Hatting Trade is very fair, the men being pretty well employed. Work for outdoor labourers has been scarce, and the number of unemployed has increased.—*G. D. Kelley.*

#### Liverpool and District.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Dock labour is still very brisk in Liverpool, though there is a slight falling off. The cotton imports are nearly as large as in the previous month, and a slight increase is shown in the exports. The Mersey flatmen are moderately brisk, and the Upper Mersey flatmen very busy.

**Shipping.**—A slight improvement has taken place during the month in the employment of seamen and firemen, owing to the resumption of services suspended during the winter.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—A marked change for the better has taken place in these trades, largely due to channel passenger and pleasure steamers undergoing a complete overhauling before commencing the summer traffic, and the work being distributed in consequence over a large area. Ship painters are reported as very quiet. Iron and brassfounding remains moderate.

**Building Trades.**—All branches continue moderately employed except the house painters, with whom, however, there were signs of a slight improvement towards the end of the month. The wet weather has seriously interfered with excavation work, which in any case was only moderate.

**Chemical and Copper and Glassmaking Industries.**—There is very little change in the Chemical Trade. The short period of activity noticeable after the settlement of the coal dispute has given way to a period of dullness, although towards the end of the month there were signs of improvement. At present a considerable number of chemical workers are idle in St. Helens and district. The Glass Industries are still very dull.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal mining in the district still continues brisk, nearly all the men being fully employed. The slate and stone quarries of North Wales are reported as being somewhat brisker, with a continued demand for labour in the sett quarries.

**Miscellaneous.**—The whitesmiths continue brisk. A slight improvement is noticeable in the Tailoring Trade. The bakers and confectioners are moderately employed. The carters both in coal depots and cross city traffic are very busy owing to increased imports. General labourers are dull.—*J. Sexton.*

#### Barrow-in-Furness District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Marine engineering has not improved to the extent expected, although there are good orders in hand. Exaggerated reports of good trade have attracted workmen from other parts of the country, and the number of unemployed of all grades in the engineering branches has consequently been greatly augmented. The pattern-makers are busy, and have no idle members on their books, but the iron-moulders have a large number, owing mainly to the stoppage of the steel works for want of orders. An early improvement is, however, expected.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Very little improvement has been shown in the Pig-iron Trade during the month; five furnaces are still out of

blast at the Barrow works, and all along the Furness district the same state of things exists. Iron ore miners are better employed. The re-starting of the Barrow Steel Works on March 5th will make a great difference in the demand for labour. At Workington the Steel Trade is anything but bright.

**Coal Shipping and Railways.**—At Whitehaven the Coal Trade is still in a good condition, large exports being made seaward to various ports on the coast as well as to several parts inland. For a fortnight the shipping at the port of Barrow was fairly active, a considerable quantity of Spanish ore and other material having been imported, and heavy freights of steel rails, &c., having been exported to foreign ports. Inactivity has, however, prevailed during the last few days, and the docks presented a very deserted appearance. It has been notified at the railway works that on and after the 5th March the working hours for all employees will be 45 hours a week instead of 39, as has been the case for the past six months. Railway traffic is slowly improving, but it is still far from its normal state, and the employees are only working four days a week, with no prospect of an early resumption of full time.

**Building Trades.**—Considering the time of year, these trades are fairly busy, very few being unemployed. The joiners have improved considerably during the month, comparatively few signing their vacant books. Employment with the painters, plumbers plasterers, slaters, &c., is fairly good.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Tailoring Trade is very slack. The Printing and kindred Trades are only moderate. The bakers and confectioners are fairly well employed, but they have some idle members on their books. Paper and pulp works are still busy. The wagon works remain closed, with no prospect of an early start. The Jute Industry shows no great activity, owing to the cost of raw material.—*J. D. Couper.*

#### Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

**Shipbuilding.**—The improvement reported last month has continued. A yard at Whitby, which had been closed for six months, has resumed operations, so that every yard in the district is now working, some firms having their order books full. More men are at work, and more will be employed as the work progresses.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The improvement in the Steel Trade is fully maintained, most of the mills being well employed, while some are reported as very busy. The Finished Iron Trade, however, is a little flatter. Bridge works are somewhat better, one or two being quite busy. The foundries generally are well employed; but one or two in Middlesbrough are quiet, and are considerably short of their full complement of men. The Pig-iron Trade continues steady, the exports during the month being exceptionally large.

**Engineering.**—The improvement in engineering has been fairly maintained, especially in marine engine building firms, all of which are reported as very busy, and in some instances working double shifts, though the number on the vacant books of the societies is slightly larger than last month.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Salt Trade continues busy. The sailors and firemen report trade as still very bad, both at the Hartlepoons and on the Tees, and dock and riverside labour as moderate. The Building, Printing and other Trades are about the same as last month.—*A. Main.*

#### Leeds and District.

**Iron Trades.**—Some slight improvement has been shown in engineering, but it has been very slight, and has had no perceptible effect in absorbing the large proportion of unemployed, which is about 20 per cent. Boiler-making continues very dull, with 13 per cent. unemployed, and only a couple of locomotive firms working full time. The iron-founders have somewhat improved. The steel-workers continue fairly employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—A decided improvement has taken place in the Ready-made Clothing Industry; some firms have been very busy, and overtime is being worked. There has been a fair demand for both male and female labour. On the whole, however, the trade is not yet up to its usual standard, and the total number of employees in work is considerably less—one firm has upwards of 150 less on its books—than is usual at this season. The strike of pressers at one firm continues. Bespoke tailoring has slightly improved, but is still rather quiet. The Boot and Shoe Trade continues rather dull, but on the whole the condition is no worse than is usual at this season. Slipper-makers are slack.

**Building Trades.**—The Building Trade has only been moderate, and the unsettled state of the weather has made employment of a very intermittent character. The bricklayers are rather slack. There has been a slight improvement amongst the joiners and painters, but about 5 per cent. are still unemployed. The strike of stone-masons at the Post Office buildings has been amicably settled, and the men resumed work on March 5th.

**Textile Trades.**—There is not any very decided change in these trades, and the slight improvement that has taken place has had little effect in decreasing the numbers out of work. The willeys and felters report the same number of unemployed, but it is believed that the Woollen Trade is improving.

**Leather Trade.**—The improvement in this industry has been well maintained, and the tanners report that they have none of their members unemployed. Leather shavers have been hardly so brisk, but only about 2 per cent. are unemployed.

**Glass Bottle Industry.**—There has been no falling off in this trade, in which employment since last November has been regular and fairly brisk. Both the general and medical branches report trade as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Cabinet-making has slightly improved. Brush-making continues very quiet. There is no improvement in the Printing Trade, in which the number of unemployed has been very large during the last month or two, partly owing to the introduction of type-composing machines. The wood sawyers are dull. Coach-making is rather better than last month. The Dyeing Trade has somewhat improved, and employment is a little more regular. A report from Wakefield states that the coal miners in that district are not averaging more than three days a week.—*O. Connellan.*

#### Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

**Textile Trades.**—The Woollen Trade is still far from good in Huddersfield. One firm is still working night and day, and a number of men who have been out of work for some considerable time in the district are finding temporary employment, but a fair number of men and women in the Woollen Trade are wholly unemployed, and a still larger number are only partially employed. Weavers, warpers, minders and others are still only working short time. In heavy woollens, trade is in a bad way. The Carpet Trade is very dull on the whole.

In worsted goods, trade is still very quiet in Huddersfield, Halifax and Bradford, with some exceptions. During the month one firm in Huddersfield began to work night and day, and found no difficulty in getting the requisite number of weavers. This trade is also quiet in the Worth Valley, where a large number of weavers are still out of work. It is said that foremen and persons in authority who have rarely had to lose time are now obliged to work shorter time. One firm in the Huddersfield district has failed during the month, and if a stoppage ensues, about 600 workpeople will probably be affected. The Silk Trade is still very quiet in all the centres here. The cotton operatives report that their industry in and around Huddersfield and Brighouse is fairly good.

**Miscellaneous Trades.**—The Iron Trade in the various districts is still in a very depressed condition, and has rarely been worse. The Building Trades are not much better than in January. The printers report trade as moderate. Tailors and dyers are very quiet.—*A. Gee.*

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

**Coal Mining.**—During the month there has been a decrease in the time worked at many of the Yorkshire collieries. Five and six days a week are only worked in exceptional cases. The majority of the pits have been working four days per week, but some only three. The output for time worked is, however, well maintained, and most of the collieries are said to be drawing more coal now for time worked than before the stoppage in July last. Small local disputes are of frequent occurrence, but the relations of employers and employed for the county generally are fairly peaceable.

**Barnsley Linen Trade.**—This branch of industry is improving, and employment fuller. Many establishments which have for some months back been working short time are now preparing to resume full work.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Pig-iron Trade remains firm, and stovegrate makers are fairly well employed, while steel and iron girders are now in better demand as the building season re-opens. The general tone is in the direction of improvement. Trade is not worse than before the coal dispute, and prospects seem brighter.—*J. Wadsworth.*

A report from *Castleford* states that the Glass Bottle Trade is very brisk, very few hands being out of employment. The Pottery Trade is also improving. Almost all the manufacturers now have modern machinery, which has seemed to increase the demand for Yorkshire ware. The Building Trades are very slack. The miners in this district are working only two and three days per week at many pits, while none are working full time. Sinking operations are being carried on at two firms in the neighbourhood, and it is expected that, when completed, work will be found for many hands.

#### Sheffield and District.

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—Large orders for steel armour plates have been obtained, and there is considerably more activity in these

departments than for some time past. The use of Siemens' steel in their manufacture has caused the smelters and others employed in this branch to be busy. The makers of the Patent Purves Flues for marine boilers are exceedingly busy, the recent marked improvement in the Shipbuilding Industry having given an impetus to the trade. In Cervs tubes there is a fair amount of work being executed. The makers of railway tyres and axles, and of conical and volute springs for buffers, are well employed, as are also the railway wagon and carriage spring fitters, and those engaged in the manufacture of railway material generally. The boiler and girder-makers are also fairly active. The iron and steel moulders report little or no change, there being a considerable number out of work. The same applies to the engineers and pattern-makers. The workmen who are suffering most are the puddlers and mould mill men, whose craft is almost entirely superseded by the adoption of steel plates, in place of iron or composite plates. A fair amount of work is being done in the local rolling mills, there being an improved demand for rods, bars, cycle and file steel. Some firms in the Wire Trade are slack, while others are well employed. The hammermen and tilers are fairly off for work, there being some good orders on hand for steel forgings and special bars. An improved trade is being done in best tool steel, and taken, as a whole, the heavy industries are very much better than for a long time past.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—The File Trade, always one of the first to indicate revival, now shows signs of steady improvement. The table knife makers complain of slackness, and in the Spring Knife Trade there appears to be an amount of uncertainty which tends to retard trade, especially among better class goods. Trade is bad in the cheaper class of goods, especially those manufactured for the Indian market. Edge tool makers are about the same as last month. Engineers' and joiners' tool makers are quiet. Makers of razors in the higher qualities are slightly busier, whilst makers of second qualities and common are very slack. The improvement reported in the Scissors Trade has not been maintained, the forgers reporting a considerable number out of work. The Sheep-shear Trade is moderately good on the whole, but an unfortunate dispute has arisen at the largest manufactory in the district, affecting 82 grinders, 21 benders, and about 100 other workmen.

**Miscellaneous.**—On the whole the Building Trades are worse, there being rather more men entirely out of employment. The cabinet-makers, especially in the cheaper class of goods, are better employed than for some time past. The silversmiths report a slight improvement, although many are still either entirely out of situations or only partially employed. The Spoon and Fork Trade is very slack. There are still a considerable number of men employed on the Corporation relief works.—*S. Utley.*

#### Hull and District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Trade in these branches has been fair, many orders having to be completed with great dispatch. Repair work as usual has been very spasmodic and irregular, and has not given the same average of employment as in January. On the whole employment has been fair, but very irregular, and not quite so good as during January. The average of unemployed ranges, for all trades connected with these industries, from 8 to 15 per cent.

**Dock Labour.**—Employment at the Docks has been very irregular, and at the end of the month work became very slack. On account of the mild winter and freedom from severe frost, the lower Baltic and Northern European Ports have continued open, and kept the regular traders to these places running. The usual traders to the American, East Indian, Australian, and the Mediterranean and Black Sea Ports have been giving a fair average of employment to the men required to discharge or load them but the demand for labour is very irregular on account of the bulk of the vessels arriving about the same time. The increasing trade with Australia, especially in wool cargoes, gives employment not only in unloading, but also in the sheds for unpacking and transport.

**Seamen.**—The demand for seamen has been very slack. The suspension of the upper Baltic trade is one of the causes, and the increase in the employment of foreign seamen is alleged by the men to be another.

**Fishing Industry.**—The extremely windy weather has affected the supply of fish, and has reduced the opportunities for employment. Cargoes of fish continue to be brought from the foreign fishing centres, the bulk of which is either transported inland or cured locally.

**Seed Crushing, Oil, Varnish and Colour Industries.**—Employment in the oil mills has not been quite so good. Some mills have been very busy, and have been producing oil and cake to the fullest extent of their capabilities. Some have had short stoppages, but at the end of the month were in full operation. One of the largest

mills in Hull closed altogether at the end of the month, throwing upwards of 100 men out of employment, which is very unusual at this season of the year. The improvement in the Paint and Colour Trade has been fully maintained.

**Building Trades.**—Employment for men in Building Trades has not been very good, but equal to the average at this season of the year, and prospects are good. The employment of bricklayers has been affected by a scarcity of sand. The painters report a slight improvement. On account of the activity in the shipyards, joiners have been nearly fully employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The general state of trade is not very good. Tailoring is very bad. The Printing and allied Trades are very slack, a large number of men being out of work. The various household trades are not active.—*W. G. Millington.*

#### Wolverhampton and District.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—There has been a steady demand in the Iron Trade, and some firms are fairly busy. In the Dudley and Shropshire districts the Iron Trade is reported to be very irregular. There is a good demand for pig-iron; but work is reported moderate amongst the puddlers and mill-rollers. The Steel Trade has improved, and the steel-workers are fairly busy. The engineers and constructive machinists have fewer men out of work. Employment at the railway works in the town is fairly steady. The bridge and girder constructors are busy, boiler and tank makers, gasometer erectors and colliery air-tube makers have maintained their position. There is no material change reported by the heavy ironfounders. The safe makers report a decline in trade, and the tool makers and machinists a slight improvement. The Midland Iron Trade Wages Board has been re-constructed on a broader basis.

**Hardware Trades.**—There is no great improvement amongst the nut and bolt makers, and the Wrought and Cut Nail Trade still continues depressed. There is some improvement in the Lock Trade, and in the Ironplate and Tinplate Trades. The Brass and Copper, and the Chain and Cable Trades are still depressed. Trade is generally quiet in the Wrought Iron Tube Trade with the exception of two firms. There is a fair amount of work amongst the galvanizers, enamellers and japanners, and a slight improvement is reported amongst the light iron-founders and hollow-ware casters during the latter part of the month. The Spring Trap Trade is reported very dull. There is a slight improvement recorded amongst the edge tool and agricultural implement makers. The iron hurdle makers are fairly well employed, but there is a falling off in the Wire Trade. The File Trade is very depressed, and the anvil smiths are only working three days a week. The Cycle Trade is becoming more active, and some firms are working overtime. In the Electrical Trades there has been no alteration, but there is an increasing demand for builders' and coach builders' ironmongery; trade is very limited amongst the steel toy makers.

**Building Trades.**—The Building Trade in this district is still above the average, but in Dudley it is reported as slack. The carpenters, bricklayers and plasterers report trade as fair, with an average of 24 per cent. unemployed. Most of the masons have left the town for jobs at Stafford and Kidderminster. The plumbers are busy, and the painters and decorators are reported as fair for the season. In Shrewsbury the latter have given notice for an advance in wages and a code of working rules. The bricklayers and general labourers are steadily employed, and the mill sawyers and machinists are busy. The brickmakers are busier.

**Coal Mining.**—Many of the miners in the Cannock Chase, Dudley, Gornal Wood and Himley districts are reported as only partially employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The improvement in the Boot and Shoe Trade and in the Clothing Trade has been fully maintained, and there is an improvement in the Printing Trades, about 4 per cent. being unemployed. The coach-builders, wheelwrights and smiths are steadily employed. The saddlers and harness-makers, with the exception of the brown saddlers, are better employed. The bakers and confectioners are not so busy, but the cabinet-makers and upholsterers are fairly so, and the oil, colour, and varnish-makers are steadily employed. The cask cooperers are very slack. Some of the mills in the Carpet Trade at Kidderminster are fairly busy, but the trade generally is depressed.—*W. F. Mee.*

#### Potteries District.

**Pottery Trades.**—There has been no improvement since last report. March 25th is the date for the annual settlement of wages. For any alteration in prices six weeks' notice must be given on either side. Only about twelve firms in the district have given notice of a reduction in certain shapes, but these claims will no doubt be settled in an amicable manner. The Hollow-ware Pressers report trade as improving a little, especially in the home markets, about two per cent. of their members being out of

employment, and four days per week being the average amount of work throughout the district. Sanitary pressers are fully employed. The last week of the month has been the best for over six months. Flat pressers report trade as a little better, but great distress still exists among their members. The printers and transferrers state that trade is about the same, three days per week being worked on an average. The cratemakers report fully 12 per cent. out of work, and short time prevails throughout the district. The ovenmen report trade as bad, a large number working short time. The Women's Society report trade as very bad, with no prospect of any improvement.

**Iron and Coal Trades.**—In the Iron Trade, confidence in a good trade is still maintained. Coal is in fair demand for both manufacturing and domestic purposes, and the colliers are fairly well employed, but the slackness in the Potting Industry necessarily lessens the demand.

**Engineering and Ironfounding.**—The engineers report trade as bad, nearly 10 per cent. being out of work, but there is an improvement on January, as short time does not prevail to the same extent. The ironfounders report a similar condition of affairs. The men employed at the Railway Works, Stoke-on-Trent, who have been on five days per week for the past six months, started full time on March 5th.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Building Trades are dull, fully 10 per cent. being out of work, but the outlook is better. The wood sawyers report trade as bad, the letterpress printers as not so good, with about 8 per cent. out of work; the lithographic artists and printers as very bad; the bakers as moderate, with wages very low; the railway servants as good.—*I. S. Harvey.*

#### Birmingham and District.

**Brassworkers, Coppermiths and Lampmakers.**—The Brass Trade is, generally, dull, but the number out of employment decreased towards the end of the month. Chandelier and best gas-fitting work is quiet, but there is some briskness in high-class art work. Workers in common gas-fittings are generally making full time, and there is some improvement in steam-fittings and plumbers' brass foundry. The coppermiths are still working short time, and the number out of work has increased. Table lamp-makers are exceptionally badly off.

**Bedstead Making.**—Employment has been very short, though better than in January. Bedstead mount makers are becoming more fully employed.

**Engineers, Toolmakers, Machinists, Metal Rollers, &c.**—One or two factories are very busy, and men working overtime, but a large number are still out of work. The machinists and toolmakers report about 9½ per cent. unemployed. Metal rolling has shown a quiet advance. The Cycle Trade is getting busier every week. In tinplate working employment is fairly good in large wares.

**Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.**—Some departments of the Jewellery Trade are brisk, but generally there is much shortness of work. Silversmiths are well employed, but mostly on plain work. Electro-platers are moderately employed.

**Tube and Wire Drawing.**—The general Iron Tube Trade is dull, but the seamless branch is still active. There is a marked improvement in wire work for horticultural purposes.

**Glass Trade.**—There is no improvement whatever in best blown work, but plate-glass work is steadier.

**Miscellaneous Trades.**—Building work is still dull; the carpenters report 10 per cent. unemployed. There is a small improvement in leather and saddlery work. The Boot and Shoe Trade is steadier, and relations between employers and workpeople are more settled since the Leicester Conference. Journeymen tailors report that trade is very bad. The railway wagon-workers and coach-builders are better employed. Work is more plentiful in the Pin and Rivet Trade. File cutters are better, working four days a week. There is a little improvement in steel pens, and button workers (in linen buttons especially), are in some places very busy. Ordinary gun work is very flat, and many machine-workers will be thrown out of employment by the stoppage of the Small-arms Factory at Sparkbrook.

**Iron Trade in South Staffordshire.**—There is still the same sluggish tone in the market. Some works did not start after Christmas till the middle of the month or later, and then only on two-thirds time. Puddlers are now getting more work, and steel workers are still better employed. There has been a re-organisation of the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board; more firms have come in, and the Board now consists of 62 employers, and 62 operatives, with a committee of 6 on each side. At the first meeting on the 26th February the best feeling was manifested, and there was a hopeful tone as to trade.

**Coal Mining.**—The collieries are not so busy, but prices are only slightly lowered.

**Other Trades in South Staffordshire.**—There is no particular change to record: heavy ironwork is still the best, and men are making full time. One firm has bridge contracts sufficient to last twelve months. The district has not secured a large share of the orders for cast pipes now being required for waterworks in various towns, but has a good share of the orders for tubes and fittings. There is fair employment on horseshoes, edge-tools, hurdles, and general agricultural work. Enamelled ironwork is increasing, and men working on tinned wares are better employed. Galvanized sheet-work has declined, some men only making three days a week. There is also a falling off in anvils, vices, fenders and fire-irons. In light work generally there is depression, most factories working short time.—*W. J. Davis.*

#### Nottingham and District.

**Lace Trade.**—There is a material improvement to report in the Lace Trade. The levers' branch is much brisker, and a large number of operatives have obtained employment, while many others are now working full time. The plain net branch is healthy, but the curtain branch is only moderate, and short time is the general rule. The percentage of unemployed is much less than last month. The warp lace branch reports trade as bad, with 18 per cent. unemployed and the majority of firms only making half time. Curtain readers continue very bad, and report 25 per cent. unemployed. The designers and draughtsmen are very quiet. Levers' punchers are moderately busy, and threaders and winders are better employed. Female labour is more in demand, but the Society reports 10 per cent. as unemployed. The bleachers are improving on yarn and lace goods, but are moderate on hosiery; there are a few still unemployed. Dyers report trade as moderate.

**Hosiery Trade.**—This industry continues depressed. The circular hosiery branch reports trade as very bad, with 30 per cent. only partially employed, and very few working full time.

**Iron Trade.**—The lace machine builders, although not brisk, are in full work, and the hosiery machinists are very slack. There are about 9 per cent. unemployed in the Engineering Trade. The cycle makers continue well employed. The boiler-makers continue very slack, with about 6 per cent. unemployed. The iron-dressers report trade as quiet, with 4 per cent. unemployed. The bobbin and carriage-makers are moderately engaged. The iron-founders are very quiet, with a large number still unemployed. The sinker-makers are fairly busy, with only a few men out of work.

**Building Trades.**—The carpenters and joiners are better employed, with about 5 per cent. unemployed. The bricklayers are improving. The plumbers are not so brisk, and have about 10 per cent. unemployed. The painters are busier; but have a high percentage totally unemployed. The brick-makers are moderately busy.

**Mining.**—Miners continue well employed throughout the county. Meetings are being held in favour of making Saturday a holiday.

**Miscellaneous.**—The lithographic printers return trade as on the decline, with about 10 per cent. unemployed. The lithographic artists report trade as quiet, with fewer men employed. The Letterpress Printing Trade continues bad, with a large number unemployed. The bookbinders report trade as not so brisk, but still have no unemployed. Boot and shoe finishing is very slack indeed. The female cigar-makers report the best class of work as moderate, and common class as very slack. The brushmakers report trade as very quiet indeed; the boxmakers as improving; the farriers as very depressed, with quite 8 per cent. unemployed; the cabinet-makers as moderate, but with no unemployed; the gas workers are very quiet. The unskilled labour market is bad.—*W. L. Harstaff.*

#### Derbyshire District.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—All the pits continue to be fully employed. Stocks of house coal are now greater than in January, and are nearly up to the average of the season. Steam coal is increasing in quantity, and railway stocks have been greatly augmented, a very heavy traffic is reported on the railways. Quarrymen in the Wirksworth, Little Eaton, and Bakewell districts show signs of a slight improvement, although very many are still unemployed.

**Iron Trade.**—There is a greater demand for pig-iron, at slightly increased rates, and some more furnaces have been put in blast, especially in the Clay Cross district, where all the furnaces are now at work, and at least 80 per cent. of workmen are fully employed. The Malleable Iron Trade continues good.

**Engineering and Machinery.**—In Derby the engineering and machinery works are somewhat less busy, and the number of unemployed has somewhat increased. The iron-moulders report trade as slightly improved, although the number of unemployed

remains nearly 20 per cent. The locomotive works are fairly well employed, and the brass-moulders and finishers show a slight improvement. In the Stove Grate Trade about 10 per cent. are unemployed; this trade is still very slack in the Belper district. Bridge, girder and boiler yards are moderately employed; over 5 per cent. of the boiler-makers are still idle. The Rivet Trade is fair. In the New Mills, Chesterfield, Ripley, and Ilkeston districts, trade is reported moderate. In the Long Eaton district it is declining; while in Glossop it is very good. The electric lighting engineers are busy laying down mains in streets.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers report trade as improving, all workmen being on full time. The stonemasons are very busy. The carpenters and joiners report trade as bad, but with few men totally unemployed. The cement and plaster workers are quiet. Most timber yards are fairly busy, but the sawyers and wood-working machinists are very dull. The house painters and decorators are still very slack, with a large percentage unemployed. The plasterers are in a similar condition. The plumbers are busy. The Building Trade in Long Eaton and Belper districts continues to improve, and in Bakewell it is very brisk, the outlook being considered good.

**Textile Trades.**—The Lace and Silk Trades in Derby are very dull, nearly all the workpeople being on short time. In Long Eaton the Lace Trade is still very depressed, nearly 15 per cent. being idle, and about 50 per cent. only partially employed. In the Belper district the cotton mills are moderately employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—In the wholesale clothing the workpeople are better employed, and the bespoke branch is improving. The Boot and Shoe Trade is a trifle better, although many are working short time. In the Belper district the framework knitters are very dull, many working only four days a week.

**Printing Trades.**—The lithographic printers still report trade as bad, and the letterpress printers are also very slack, about 20 per cent. being unemployed. The bookbinders are very slack, nearly all workmen being on short time, and about 8 per cent. totally unemployed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The paper-makers, paper-stainers and colour-mixers are very busy. The bakers and confectioners are very depressed. The hide and skin workers and mineral water operatives are very quiet. The chemical workers and basket-makers continue very slack. The cabinet-makers and jewellers and silversmiths report declining trade. The elastic web weavers continue very short of work, nearly all employed being on short time, and nearly 25 per cent. being totally unemployed. The brushmakers and all branches of the china trade are very quiet. The gas workers and brickmakers are fairly well employed. The railway-carriage and wagon-builders are improving, mostly working full time, although a few men are totally unemployed. The coach-builders in private shops are fairly employed. In the Long Eaton district the wagon-builders and repairers continue busy. The organ-builders are rather dull; the box-makers very slack. The dyers and teachers in Belper district report trade as very bad. Many unskilled labourers are out of employment.—*C. White-Deacon.*

#### Leicester and Northampton District.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—In all departments of this industry business is developing rapidly, and some firms are already running overtime. In Northampton and neighbourhood greater activity is observable, and notwithstanding the large displacement of hand labour by the continued introduction of machinery, employment is steadier than it has been for months past. Tanners and curriers experience some difficulty in obtaining skilled labour in many departments of the Leather Dressing Industry.

**Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Trades.**—Business in all branches of the Hosiery Trade is rather quiet, and employment is only moderately regular. Spinners and yarn agents report a less healthy demand.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—A brisk trade in the production of cycles is reported, and several firms are working extra hours. Competent workmen are in good demand, and employment generally is full. Engineering firms are more busily engaged, and there are very few skilled mechanics without work. The makers of boot and shoe machinery continue to be well supplied with orders, the hands engaged in this department of the trade being fully employed. In the iron moulding and casting branches trade is still unsatisfactory. The hosiery sinker and needle makers are moderately employed.

**Building Trades.**—The Building Trade is rather brighter, and the number of bricklayers, carpenters, joiners and labourers out of work is gradually being reduced. The brickmakers, plumbers and glaziers are making full time.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—At some pits in the Leicestershire district the miners are only working three or four days per week. Stone dressers and general quarrymen are not so well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Both the wholesale and retail clothing warehouses and shops report an improvement in business, and competent tailors are now in greater demand. There is an improvement also in the General Printing and Bookbinding Trades. The cabinet-makers, paper boxmakers, cigar-makers, bakers and railway men are generally in full work. The demand for shoe webbing continues dull, the workpeople engaged only obtaining partial employment. In cords, braids and garter webs a larger business is reported. In the agricultural districts employment is steady for the time of year, but in the towns the supply of general labourers is still much in excess of the demand.—*T. Smith.*

#### Eastern Counties.

A report from Norwich states that the condition of the Building Trades remains fair, few men being out of employment. The Norwich bricklayers have given three months' notice for one penny per hour advance in wages and a slight reduction in hours of labour, to come into force on June 1st. The Boot and Shoe Trade shows signs of improvement, and many firms are now working full time. The Printing Trade is busy. The Clothing Trade is very brisk, and also electrical engineering. The men at the railway works have gone on full time for the first time for nearly six months.

#### Bristol, Somerset and Gloucestershire District.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—The Forest of Dean Coal Trade has slackened, some collieries working but three days a week, with large stacks of coal on hand. The Iron Trade is fairly good, but stone quarrying moderate. In the Radstock district trade has declined, and some pits are working short time. One colliery has been closed, and some of the miners have left for other districts. About 200 men now remain unemployed. Stagnation prevails over the Bristol coalfields, and fully 500 men are out of employment. The West Gloucestershire stone quarries continue slack.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—At Bristol and Avonmouth exceptionally large importations of grain have arrived, and dock employment in consequence has been very brisk. Trade continues bad with shipwrights; it has declined also with the sailors and firemen, especially towards the end of the month. Shipping at Gloucester and Sharpness has been quiet and dock employment very scarce. Work with shipwrights has fallen very flat.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The ironfounders have 4 per cent. unemployed, compared with 18 per cent. in January. Employment with engineers and pattern-makers is somewhat intermittent, with an average of 2 per cent. unemployed. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, tool makers and machinists, and electrical engineers report trade as fair; the galvanisers and telephone-wire men as good. The iron plate workers continue on short time.

**Building Trades.**—The number of unemployed among the plasterers, carpenters and joiners, painters and decorators, has slightly diminished, but the stone masons and bricklayers continue depressed. Trade is considered dull with the plumbers, mill sawyers and machinists, but improving with shop and bar fitters.

**Woolen Trade.**—The Woolen Industry in and around Trowbridge continues extremely bad, with no prospect of improvement. All the mills are on short time.

**Clothing Trades.**—Trade has improved with the bespoke tailors and silk hatters. The Ready-made Clothing Trade steadily improves, some establishments making overtime. Employment in the Boot and Shoe Industry in Bristol and Kingswood is now fairly good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report a slight improvement, with 7 per cent. unemployed, but the lithographic branch remains very depressed. The bookbinders report trade as fair; the wholesale stationers and account book makers as moderate.

**Miscellaneous Trades.**—Bakers and confectioners have suffered severely all the winter through lack of employment; at present 16 per cent. are idle. The Cocoa and Chocolate Trade is reported as very fair. The cabinet-makers are improving, with about 8 per cent. out of work. Brushmaking has slightly improved, with 6 per cent. unemployed. Basket making has improved, all men being at work. The Saddle Trade continues bad, but the harness and collar makers are improving. Chemical workers are fully employed.—*J. Curls.*

#### Plymouth and South Western District.

**Engineering, Ironfoundry and Shipbuilding.**—In these trades there has been a marked improvement during the month. The firm which adopted the 8-hours' day for four months (not six months as was previously reported) as an experiment has now made the arrangement permanent.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Depression still exists with shipping in the various ports of the district. Seamen report trade as

very dull. Dock labourers employed on coal, timber and other imports have been fairly well employed.

**Building Trades.**—Except in the case of the plumbers, who are well employed, these trades have been exceptionally depressed. The bricklayers, masons, stonecutters, carpenters and joiners, plasterers and painters have a large percentage out of employment, especially in and near Plymouth. Some have been able, however, to obtain temporary employment in Cornwall and other parts of the district.

**Furnishing Trades and Local Industries.**—The cabinet-makers, polishers, upholsterers, and those generally employed in the Furnishing Trades report trade as still very depressed. Employees in the soap works, candle works and starch works, gas works, jam and sweet works, brick works and other local industries report trade as steady, but not necessitating the employment of fresh hands, as usual at this time of year at some of these works.

**Clothing Trades.**—The Ready-made Tailoring Trade is still very depressed. The bespoke branch has been exceptionally depressed throughout the month. Many tailors who have been steadily employed for years have had but very little work. The Boot Trade is also in a most depressed condition both in factory work and bespoke work. A great many have been working short time, while others have been discharged.

**Mining.**—The tin mines in Cornwall are very depressed. At a mine near Redruth too hands have been stopped, and wages have been reduced 2d. per day.

**Miscellaneous.**—The bakers and confectioners are fairly well employed. The Printing Trade has been very slack, many being out of employment. The saddlers, coachbuilders, and wheelwrights and smiths are fairly well employed. The boatmen and those engaged on the water are very quiet indeed. The Fishing Industry is still very depressed. The unskilled labourers, including excavators, have many out of employment, but towards the end of the month some few obtained work. Agricultural labour throughout the district is reported as generally depressed.—*J. Welland.*

#### Cardiff and District.

**Iron, Steel and Tin Industries.**—There is indication of a slight improvement in the Iron Trade during the past month, the Steel Trade looking healthy, with a great demand for steel bars, and only one steel works is reported to be idle in this district. The Tin Trade, however, is in a very dull and unsettled state, and there is much distress amongst the tin workers. The dispute at Pontymister Works is still unsettled. During the month there have been a few disputes in the Tin Trade respecting what is known as the "36 box rule;" in one or two instances an amicable settlement has been effected with but little stoppage of work. The Copper Trade is much the same as last month—dull.

**Engineering and Ship Repairing.**—This branch of industry has not been quite so brisk, but nevertheless it is regarded as having been fairly good, and the vacant books during the closing days of the month indicated improvement. The average proportion throughout the month of unemployed amongst the engineers was not quite 3 per cent. of the total membership of the district.

**Dock Labour and Seamen.**—Employment in the docks has been in general rather good; the Swansea Docks have not been quite so busy as in the previous month. The number of unemployed seamen has not been quite so large, and the competition for berths has been less intense. There have been a few wages disputes, and a few crews have been shipped at reduced rates. The standard rate, however, of the Bristol Channel is unchanged.

**Building Trades and Chemical Works.**—All branches of the Building Trades have a considerable number out of work. Employment in the chemical works is tolerably steady, and fairly good.

**Weaving Trade.**—At Carmarthen about 90 hand loom weavers have had a reduction in all piece rates over 4d. per yard. The power loom weavers' wages have not been altered.—*T. Davies.*

#### South Wales Mining Districts.

**Coal Mining.**—The Coal Trade generally for the last month has been fairly brisk. In some weeks the total coal shipped amounted to between 60,000 and 70,000 tons above the weekly average of last year. Hundreds of full trucks were waiting on the numerous sidings between the various colliery districts and the places of shipment. A colliery at Pontypridd, closed for 18 months, has been re-started. Some large collieries have been idle for two days. The arbitration proceedings in connection with the new special rules proposed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department for adoption at the collieries in Eastern Glamorganshire, commenced on March 1. There are some 257 new rules proposed in place of the 274 now in force, and the arbitration is in respect of 53 rules of the new code.

**Disputes.**—A dispute at some collieries in respect of alleged illegal reductions in dead work rates has been referred to the

Sliding Scale Committee. Work has been suspended at one colliery, the men objecting to the use of certain new screens, which they allege allow more small coal to fall through than the old screens did.

Tinplate Trade.—This trade remains in the most depressed condition, and a large number of works are still idle. There are also disputes going on at several of the works. Two mills, closed two years ago on account of a dispute, have just been re-started; but four mills have stopped at Cilfrew, and two others are also to be closed.—W. Evans.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining and Mineral Oil Trades.—The Coal Trade in the Lothians is still active, but there is a falling off from the brisk trade of the last two months. The Mineral Oil Trade continues brisk.

Building Trades.—The masons, bricklayers, plumbers, slaters, and glaziers report trade as good, the joiners as fair, the lathsplitters and plasterers as very bad, with a larger number unemployed than is usual at this season of the year. Returns from eight branches show 3.8 per cent. unemployed. The painters report from 20 to 25 per cent. idle. The masons, bricklayers, and joiners have asked for an increase in their present rate of wages.

Printing and Allied Trades.—The typefounders are still working only four days per week, and report trade as worse; compositors are much the same as last month; bookbinders and press and machine men have more unemployed, but the stereotypers and lithographic artists are well employed. Returns from seven branches show 2.3 per cent. out of work.

Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet-makers and upholsterers report trade as about the same; the French-polishers are slightly better. Returns from four branches show 5 per cent. out of work.

Shipbuilding Trades.—The shipyards are still fairly busy with repairs. The ship joiners are fully employed. The shipwrights have 2.4 per cent. idle, and the boiler-makers 7.7 per cent.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, blacksmiths, and hammermen show a slight falling off in the number out of work. The pattern-makers, brass-founders, tinsmiths, and gas meter makers are much the same as in January. The copper-smiths are quiet. Trade with the iron moulders continues very bad. Returns from 13 branches show 9 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors and shoemakers report trade as still bad, but improving; stoneware throwers and settmakers as fair. The sawmill operatives, horseshoers and skimmers are fully employed. The coopers report trade as very bad; the flint glass-makers as about the same. The glass-cutters have none idle, and the glass bottle-makers at Portobello are expecting to begin work next week. The bakers, saddlers, coach-builders, gilders, tanners and curriers report trade as quiet. Returns from eight branches of the coopers, curriers, coach-builders, glass-makers, glass-cutters, saddlers, and sawmill operatives, show 8.9 per cent. out of work. Seamen and firemen report trade as fair; dock and general labourers are quiet.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Mining.—In Lanarkshire the aggregate output of coal has been good, but there has been great disproportion in the way the trade has been distributed to the various collieries. In several cases wages have been partially reduced. In Ayrshire also trade is variable and work irregular. In Stirlingshire the miners at a colliery near Grangemouth came out in resistance to a proposed reduction of 20 per cent. in wages, but resumed work after five days at a reduction of 10 per cent.

Shipbuilding.—The tone of the shipwrights' report is again more cheerful, and they expect shortly that there will not be an idle man in that branch on the Clyde. The joiners also say that trade in the district is very good, and in a short time will be very busy. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report that there has been a great improvement during the month. The Paisley shipwrights and joiners report trade as dull; the shipyard helpers as good. The Dumbarton shipyards are fairly busy.

Metal Trades.—The blast-furnace-report that no more furnaces have been relit. The steel smelters report that trade is busy and prices better. The millmen report trade as brisk, but prices are still low. The blacksmiths report improvement all round, with a great decrease in the number of unemployed. The iron moulders report trade as much improved, 162 of them having got work during the month. The engineers have still about 10 per cent. unemployed, but expect that shortly their numbers will be greatly reduced. The locomotive shops are still quiet. Some of the Kilmarnock ironworks are slack, but those employed in the largest works

are busy. The tinplaters report a considerable improvement towards the end of the month. The file-cutters report trade as very good, and the iron-dressers as fair. The scale beam and weighing machine makers have all their members employed. Electric lighting is very dull. Electrical instrument makers report trade as fair; the telephone and telegraph men as very good; the tool makers as improving; the machinists as fair; the cycle makers as very bad; the electrotypers and stereotypers as not quite so good; the ornamental and range-stove fitters as slightly improved; the horse-shoers as very good; the copper-smiths as unchanged, but with better prospects.

Building Trades.—The masons, joiners, plumbers, slaters, plasterers, glaziers, paviors and sett makers all report trade as good; the bricklayers as dull; the painters as slightly improved but still dull.

Woodworking Trades.—The pattern-makers report trade as good, with only 2 per cent. unemployed; the saw-mill operatives as still busy; the lath-splitters as very good; the cabinet and chair-makers as slightly improved; the coopers and wood-turners as dull, and the wood-carvers as bad, but with fair prospects. In Paisley wood-turners are very busy, saw-millers fairly so. In Beith cabinet and chair-making has much improved.

Textile Trades.—Some of the coloured weaving factories are running short time, and most of them have several looms standing idle. White cotton weaving is a little better, but there is no activity in the trade. The beamers report trade as still bad. The warpers as a little better; the calender men as exceptionally good for this season; the weavers as very good; the dyers as worse than ever. In Paisley carpet weavers are working short time.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers are still slack. The lithographic printers, bookbinders, stationers' ware-housemen and cutters report trade as still dull.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report no improvement, the tailoresses a slight one. The shoemakers, pump and slipper-makers report trade as very quiet, the boot and shoe rivetters as slightly improving.

Shipping Trades.—The sailors and firemen report that their position has much improved. The dock labourers report that work in the harbour has been much better.

Miscellaneous.—The stoneware throwers report that trade is not improving, as three firms are only working two days a week and another three days. The saddlers are fully employed. The brush-makers report trade as most unsatisfactory, the confectioners and preserve-makers as still quiet, although slightly improved; the upholsterers as not improved; the wire weavers as very good in Glasgow; the plate-glass makers as very bad; the tobacco pipe makers as good; the bakers and hackney carriage-drivers as dull. The railway servants have been steadily employed, and the general labourers are fairly well employed.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Jute and Linen Trades.—A slight improvement has taken place in these trades, several firms having increased the working hours. One firm employing over 200 operatives has just been stopped, owing to a strike against a proposed reduction in wages. It is not now expected that there will be any further recourse to short time.

Shipbuilding.—There is still a large percentage of unemployed in the various departments of the Shipbuilding Trade, notably amongst platers, platers' helpers, and shipwrights.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—In all departments of these trades there is room for improvement. Moulders have had a long spell of bad trade, and a very heavy idle roll.

Building Trades.—The masons, joiners and plasterers continue well employed. An improvement has taken place in the Painting Trade since last month, but a considerable number are still unemployed. The plumbers are fully employed. The Slating Trade is at a standstill, owing to a renewal of the dispute. An agreement was arrived at, by which the employers were to be allowed to engage labourers as required, the men to receive 8d. per hour, an increase of 1d., the agreement not to be disturbed for twelve months. The men, however, now demand the dismissal of two non-union men, who had been employed during the dispute, and have left off work until their demand is conceded.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and kindred Trades continue fairly busy. Some improvement is noticeable in the Tailoring Trade, but full employment is far from general. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are well employed. The carpet and tapestry weavers are still very slack.

Coal Mining.—The Fife Coal Trade is not in so satisfactory a condition as reported for several months past. Prices are falling, and stocks are accumulating. A number of collieries are working short time.—R. D. B. Ritchie.

Aberdeen and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—There has been a falling-off in the number employed, on account of iron not being ready to commence new work. Orders are still coming in, and if material were to hand shipbuilding would be fairly busy. The iron shipbuilders have 20.4 per cent. idle; the shipwrights 9 per cent. Repairing work is now active. Ironmoulders report trade as improving; prospects look better, but there are still 17.3 per cent. idle. The blacksmiths and engineers report no change. The tinplate workers are better employed.

Building Trades.—The joiners' dispute is settled, and house-building will be exceptionally busy, as a number of contracts have to be finished prior to the Whit-Sunday Term. There are no joiners idle. The plasterers and painters, who were affected by the dispute are gradually finding employment; a few plasterers' labourers are still out, but the masons, plumbers and others engaged in house-building will be fully employed for the next two months. Prospects are good.

Quarrying.—The demand for granite in the rough state continues good. There are still a considerable number of stone-cutters out of employment, and although some firms have a fair amount of work in hand, others are practically at a standstill. The granite polishers are fairly well employed. The settmakers are still dull.

Fishing.—Line fishing has been better than in January, but trawling has been poor. The total weight of fish landed was 25,237 cwt., and the total amount realised on sale was £23,716. Large haddocks have been got nearer land than for some time past.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers are very slack, 10 per cent. being unemployed. The Tailoring Trade is a little busier; the Boot and Shoe Trade is dull. The rope and twine spinners and hemp dressers report no improvement. The sawmillers have begun an agitation for a nine-hours day. The Jute Trade shows no improvement. Comb-making is better than last month. Work at the docks is scarce, there not being many arrivals from Continental and other ports. General labourers are far in excess of the demand.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building, Woodwork and Iron Trades.—Work in the Building Trades still continues dull. The slackness among the carpenters and joiners is still great, and there are a large number of bricklayers idle. The plasterers keep fairly employed; and the painters in the city report trade as good for the season. The Plumbing Trade is reported as fair. Depression still continues in the Cabinet-making and Upholstery Trades. The mill-sawyers have a dispute on, and thus some of their members are idle, otherwise trade is fair with them and also with the packing-case makers. Trade with the coopers continues fair. Work in the Engineering and Iron Trades is still dull. The Coachbuilders and kindred trades are fairly well employed, but the saddlers are still dull.

Food and Clothing Trades.—Work is good among the bakers and the confectioners, but dull among the purveyors' assistants. Grocers' assistants, hotel assistants, mineral water operatives and butchers are also fairly employed. The poultryers are fairly employed, but a dispute at the commencement of the month threw some of them out of work. The Tailoring and Shoemaking Industries show no improvement.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printing trade is described as very fair; 188 members signed the unemployed roll for the month, some being travellers. The number claiming the weekly allowance was 59. This number has been considerably added to at the end of the month through the custom in one large office of sending batches of men in turns to take a "week's rest." This happens every year unless the firm is extraordinarily busy. The Lithographic Trade is still dull, 16 to 20 men being idle out of about 120. The bookbinders and machine rulers are very fairly employed, only a small number being out of work. The stereotypers and paper cutters are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—The trade among the cork-cutters and basket-makers is still bad. The hairdressers' assistants report trade as fair, but still have idle or only partially employed members. The bottle-makers are busy. With the fishermen employment has improved, but it is precarious among the seamen and firemen. Owing to the slackness in the Building Trades the labourers are very badly employed. Work among the quay and coal porters is very bad. Trade still holds good among the tram-men and the railway-men. Employment among the seamstresses and dressmakers has been better. From the societies making returns, trade is reported in 17 cases as "fair" in 11 cases as "bad," in 9 cases as "good," in 11 as "dull," and in 4 as "middling."—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

General.—Notwithstanding the unsettled state of the Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades, and the various disputes in connection therewith, there has been a great decrease in the number of unemployed. About 1,150 general labourers and platers' helpers are out on strike. The rivetters, who had been "out" since January 1st against a reduction of 5 per cent. off steel rivets, resumed work on the 15th of February, at a reduction of 2 1/2 per cent. off steel rivets, and a further 2 1/2 per cent. off both iron and steel. The platers, holders up, caulkers and boiler-makers have submitted to a reduction of 2 1/2 per cent. off piece rates. The returns received from 84 branches of trade societies, with a membership of 18,499, show 1,051, or 5.7 per cent., to have been unemployed at the end of February, as against 2,060, or 11.2 per cent., at the end of the previous month.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of the 8,849 members in these industries, 427, or 4.8 per cent., are signing the out-of-work books, as against 1,329, or 15 per cent., in January.

Building Trades.—Out of 2,491 workers in this trade, 156, or 6.2 per cent., are unemployed, as against 217, or 8.6 per cent., last month.

Linen Trades.—The returns from the societies connected with this industry show that out of 3,202 members, 297, or 9.2 per cent., are out of work, as against 363, or 11.7 per cent., when last reported.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Twenty-two branches of trade societies forming this group return 171 out of 3,957 members, or 4.3 per cent., to be out of employment, as against 151, or 3.9 per cent., in the previous month.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, block and pump makers, riggers and sailmakers show a great decline, as compared with January, in Queenstown and Passage, but report no change in Cork. The engineers report a decided depression during the month in Waterford, Limerick and Cork, while shipjoiners and shipwrights report trade as steady in those places. Smiths and smiths' helpers, engine-men, firemen and cramen also share in the general depression.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—The house carpenters report trade as improving, but the other branches show no change. The carpenters strike reported as having commenced last May has ended satisfactorily to all concerned. The stonecutters' strike, which lasted a fortnight, has also been amicably arranged. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are steady.

Miscellaneous.—The typographers and bookbinders report trade as unusually dull at present, but consider this state of things as being only temporary. The Clothing Industry in Blarney is reported as steady, but in Douglas trade is not quite so good as reported last month. The bakers and confectioners are fairly busy.—P. O'Shea.

BOARD OF TRADE PUBLICATIONS ON LABOUR QUESTIONS.

SINCE 1886, the Board of Trade have published the following Parliamentary reports and returns relating to labour questions, in addition to various short reports that have appeared from time to time in the Board of Trade Journal. They may all be obtained through any bookseller:—

Table with 3 columns: Title, Official number to be quoted on ordering, Price. Includes entries like Rates of Wages paid in the United Kingdom in 1886, Trade Unions, Strikes and Lock-outs, Emigration and Immigration, etc.

**TRADE DISPUTES OF 1892.**  
 THE following is a brief summary of the main conclusions to be drawn from the statistical information in possession of the Labour Department with regard to Strikes and Lock-Outs in 1892. The full statistical tables, and the Report of the Chief Labour Correspondent thereon, will be presented to Parliament shortly.

Throughout 1892 the decline in the state of employment which began in 1890 continued, the average percentage of unemployed in the Trade Unions making returns to the Department being about 5.8 in 1892, compared with 3.4 in 1891. Almost the only important trades unaffected by the decline were the Building Trades.

With this falling off in the demand for labour, trade disputes diminished in number, the total number reported during the year being 700 (i.e., 692 strikes and 8 lock-outs) compared with 906 (893 strikes and 13 lock-outs) in 1891. The magnitude, however, of the strikes increased, the average number affected per strike in 1892 being 413, compared with 395 in 1891. The aggregate number affected by 572 disputes was 352,947.

Of the disputes in 1892, the Building Trades accounted for 21.4 per cent., the Textile Trades for 19.5 per cent., Mining and Quarrying for 15.5 per cent., Shipbuilding and Engineering and Metal Trades for 18.6 per cent. These four groups of industries, therefore, included 75 per cent. of the whole disputes of the year.

As regards local distribution of the disputes, 74 per cent. of the strikes took place in England, 15.9 per cent. in Scotland, 7.5 per cent. in Wales, and 2.6 per cent. in Ireland. Turning to the objects or causes of the strikes, we find that 57 per cent. of the strikes of the year, embracing 66 per cent. of the persons involved, were due to differences as to wages. In the previous year 54 per cent. of the disputes were due to these causes. Of the persons engaged in these wages strikes, less than 18 per cent. were entirely successful, compared with 45 per cent. in the previous year.

Disputes as to hours of labour were not numerous, but 12,500 workmen were engaged in 9 "demarcation" disputes, arising out of rival claims of different classes of workmen to certain kinds of work.

As regards the success or failure of the total strikes of the year, it appears that 41.7 per cent. of the strikes were wholly successful, compared with 41.3 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion, however, of persons engaged in the successful strikes was only 21 per cent. of the total number, compared with 26 per cent. in 1891. 13 per cent. of the strikes, including nearly 48 per cent. of the total persons engaged, were known to be partially successful, compared with 20 per cent. of the strikes, and 37 per cent. of persons affected in 1891; 35 per cent. of the strikes embracing 30 per cent. of the total persons were entirely unsuccessful, compared with 30 per cent. of strikes and 35 per cent. of persons involved in 1891. The results of the remaining disputes were indefinite or unknown. Some of the most important disputes included under the head of partially successful, only succeeded to a very slight extent, so that it is clear that the balance of results in 1892 was against the strikers.

The most successful strikes were, as a rule, in the Building Trades, which were exempt from the general depression; but the numbers involved were usually small.

The average duration per strike in 1892 amounted to about 31 working days, compared with 24 working days in the previous year. In 1892, however, the strikes of longest duration were also the largest, and the average time lost by each person striking was more than 49 days.

As regards gains or losses in wages, returns from trade unions with respect to 247 disputes, in which an aggregate of 151,357 persons were concerned, show that the amount of weekly wages paid before the disputes was £164,143, and after the disputes £153,513, showing an aggregate reduction of £10,630 per week, or 6½ per cent., contrasted with a rise of 5 per cent., due to the wages strikes of the previous year. This result confirms the statement given above, as to the general want of success which attended wages disputes during 1892.

In support of 94,179 men engaged in 235 strikes, the trade unions making returns expended £163,092 from their funds, besides a small amount subscribed from

other sources. Employers' Associations contributed support to the extent of £55,517 for the employers engaged in 10 disputes, involving 34,648 persons.

The aggregate amount of fixed capital laid idle owing to disputes in 511 establishments making returns, is estimated at nearly £19,000,000; and the cost of laying down, maintaining and re-starting works thus laid idle is returned by 475 firms as amounting to £165,385. The total wages not paid during the period of disputes amounted, according to the estimate of employers, to £485,000 per week, and according to the estimate of trades unions to £496,000 per week, compared with £381,000 per week for 1891. For various reasons, however, it would be fallacious to assume that this amount of wages was actually lost.

**TRADE DISPUTES OF 1893.**  
 PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

THE following figures embody the results of the first preliminary calculations, which have been made with respect to the number, magnitude, duration, causes, and results of the trade disputes of 1893. In making comparison between these figures and those given above for 1892, it must be remembered that the particulars for 1893 are still subject to some revision, in the light of more complete information yet to be received.

The number of disputes as yet reported for 1893 was 638, of which more or less complete particulars are forthcoming in the case of 625. In 100 cases either the disputes were unfinished at the end of the year, or the result is not known to the Department. Of the remaining 525 disputes, 229 were successful, 110 partially successful, and 186 wholly unsuccessful. The year was remarkable for the magnitude of some of the principal disputes, including the disputes in the Coal Trade, which involved 422,000 persons, the dispute in the Shipping Trade at Hull, involving 10,000 persons, and the Lancashire cotton dispute, involving about 140,000 persons, which began in 1892, but lasted through the first three months of 1893.

The number engaged in 551 of the disputes was 602,668, a very large increase on the previous year, and the average duration of the disputes was 18 days.

Three hundred and eighty-four disputes had reference to wages, and only 14 mainly to questions of hours. Wages disputes involved no fewer than 537,640 persons. Preliminary Statement, giving the provisional results of the information as yet received with regard to the Trade Disputes of 1893.

Results, Magnitude, and Average length of Disputes.	Causes or Objects of Disputes.					Total
	Questions of Wages.		For reduction, uniformity or regulation of Hours.	Unionism and working arrangements.	Others.	
	For advance.	Against reduction.				
(1) No. of Disputes:	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Successful ...	21	67	4	51	36	239
Partially successful ...	47	33	4	13	13	110
Unsuccessful ...	53	53	3	49	28	186
Result not known, or unfinished at end of year	24	36	3	20	17	100
<b>Total Disputes ...</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>625</b>
(2) No. of Persons Involved in Disputes:	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Successful ...	23,640	343,468	1,190	14,671	7,875	390,844
Partially successful ...	107,580	5,376	302	18,920	2,086	134,364
Unsuccessful ...	41,480	10,975	77	12,121	4,281	68,954
Result not known, or unfinished at end of year	553	4,568	75	689	2,141	8,026
<b>Total Persons Involved ...</b>	<b>173,253</b>	<b>364,387</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>46,401</b>	<b>16,983</b>	<b>602,668</b>
(3) Average length of Disputes: †	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Successful ...	14	19	3	7	9	13
Partially successful ...	28	15	14	40	15	23
Unsuccessful ...	22	25	9	15	22	21
<b>Average ...</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>

\* Particulars of numbers engaged have as yet only been received in the case of 551 disputes.  
 † Based on particulars reported with regard to 509 disputes begun and ended during the year.

**TRADE DISPUTES IN FRANCE IN 1892.\***

DETAILS of the disputes which occurred in France in 1892 have now been published by the *Office du Travail*. The corresponding particulars for 1891 were referred to in the *LABOUR GAZETTE* of July 1893, p. 71.

In addition to giving particulars as to the cause and result of each strike, the *Office du Travail* has selected eleven of the most important strikes of the year for more detailed treatment in the appendix to the present volume. It also gives an account of the conflicts between French and Belgian colliers, of October 1892, at Bethune, and a record of the proceedings arising out of the first effort to settle a dispute in conformity with the Conciliation Law of December 1892.

There were altogether 261 disputes in 1892, as compared with 267 in 1891, and 313 in 1890. The numbers of persons affected in the three years were about 50,000, 110,000 and 120,000 respectively.

The following figures show the disputes of 1892 classified according to their causes.

Cause of Strike.	Number of Strikes.	Number of Strikers engaged.	Percentage of Strikers engaged in Strikes resulting in		
			Success.	Com-promise.	Failure.
For increased wages ...	103	26,303	22.2	52.6	25.2
Against reduction of wages ...	85	5,354	12.3	48.7	39.0
Other wage questions ...	38	12,624	20.1	30.4	49.5
For shorter hours ...	17	2,359	12.1	68.1	19.8
For change in sick club management, &c.	1	2,800	...	100.0	...
Appointments or dismissals	16	11,706	7.5	39.4	53.1
Disputes as to rules, or recognition of powers of unions	19	1,568	50.5	38.8	10.7

In the aggregate about 920,000 days of work were missed owing to strikes in 1892, two-thirds in consequence of strikes for increased wages, against direct reductions of wages, and on questions of hours of labour. 138 strikes lasted a week or less, 50 lasted from 8 to 15 days, 27 from 16 to 30 days, 30 from 31 to 100 days, 5 for more than 100 days, and in the case of 11 the duration was unknown.

Of the 261 strikes reported in 1892, 84 took place in the Textile Trades; 32 in Building and Pipe-laying; 27 in Mines, Quarries, and Metallurgical Works; 27 in Metal Working (except precious metals); 23 in the Woodworking Trades; 15 in the Transport Trades; 15 in the Cutting and Dressing of Stone, and the treatment of stones and earths by fire; 14 in the working of Hides and Skins, and the remainder in various miscellaneous trades.

**THE "EIGHT HOURS' DAY" IN WAR OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS.—Continued.**

IN continuation of the particulars given in the February *LABOUR GAZETTE* respecting the weekly working hours in the Ordnance Factories at Woolwich, Enfield and Birmingham, and at the Pimlico Army Clothing Factory, the subjoined tables show the old and the new hours of labour in the Ordnance Store Department under the War Office. Similar particulars for the Inspection Department are held over for want of space, but will appear in the next number.

At Woolwich the hours of the Ordnance Store Department workmen have been arranged, as far as possible, in conformity with the new hours in the Ordnance Factory there, but in view of the necessity for outdoor labour requiring daylight, the year has been divided into two periods, with suitable working hours. The hours of the General Stores Inspection Division in the Royal Dockyard, Woolwich, have been made the same as those for the Ordnance Store Department at Woolwich.

At other Ordnance Stores, where no factory had to be taken into consideration, the year has been divided into three periods, giving an average throughout the year of 48 hours per week. The hours of working for the employees of the Inspection Department at the Royal

\* Statistique des Grèves Survenues en France pendant l'année, 1892, Office du Travail, Fascicule vii.

Arsenal, Woolwich, are in conformity with those laid down for the Ordnance Factories there.

On the whole, the numbers affected in the Ordnance Stores and Inspection Departments by the reduction of the weekly hours to 48, on the average throughout the year are about 3,900, which, added to the numbers in the Ordnance Factories, gives a total of nearly 18,000 men and women whose hours of labour have been reduced in consequence of the introduction of the "eight hours" system into the War Office establishments:—

**ORDNANCE STORE DEPARTMENT.**

**I.—All Home Stations except Woolwich.**

(Number affected, about 969 men and 27 women; new hours will come into operation on 2nd April 1894.)

	Monday—Friday.	Saturday.	Total Hours per Week.
<b>Old Hours:</b>			
March to October.			
Morning ...	6—8	6—8	55½
Afternoon ...	8.40—12	8.40—1	
Total hours per day ...	9½	6½	
November and February			
Morning ...	7—1	7—1	51
Afternoon ...	2—5	...	
Total hours per day ...	9	6	
December and January.			
Morning ...	7.30—1	7.30—1	45½
Afternoon ...	2—4.30	...	
Total hours per day ...	8	5½	
<b>New Hours:</b>			
April to September.			
Morning ...	7—12	7—1	51
Afternoon ...	1—5	...	
Total hours per day ...	9	6	
February, March, October and November.			
Morning ...	7.30—12.30	7.30—1	(About) 47
Afternoon ...	1.30—4.45	...	
Total hours per day ...	8½	5½	
December and January.			
Morning ...	7.45—12.30	7.45—1	(About) 43
Afternoon ...	1.30—4.15	...	
Total hours per day ...	7½	5½	

**II.—Woolwich Arsenal and Dockyard.**

(Number affected, about 1,624 men and 45 women; new hours came into operation on 1st March 1894.)

	Monday—Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Total Hours per Week.
<b>Old Hours:</b>				
March to October.				
Morning... {	6—8	6—8	6—8	54
Afternoon ...	9—1	9—1	9—1	
Total hours per day	9½	10	6	
November to February.				
Morning ...	7—1	7—1	7—1	51
Afternoon ...	2—5	2—5	...	
Total hours per day	9	9	6	
<b>New Hours:</b>				
March to October.				
Morning... {	8—1	8—1	8—12.40	48
Afternoon ...	2—5.40	2—5.40	...	
Total hours per day	8½	8½	4½	
November to February.				
Morning... {	7.15—12.30	7.15—12.30	7.15—12.45	48
Afternoon ...	1.30—4.45	1.30—4.45	...	
Total hours per day	8½	8½	5½	



RELIEF WORKS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

DURING the past winter the various local authorities, both in London and the provinces, have had pressure brought to bear upon them to provide work for the unemployed, and it is reported that relief works similar to those carried out in the winter of 1892-3 have again been undertaken by seven metropolitan, seventeen provincial\* and three Scotch local or municipal authorities, while labour bureaux or registries have been opened by fifteen metropolitan, fifteen provincial, and two Scotch local bodies. Statistics relating to the more permanent of these bureaux are now published monthly in another column (p. 79).

Particulars received from nine of these local authorities show that a total of 6,173 individuals were provided with work for a period ranging from one day to several weeks during the winter, the average number employed daily during the time when the work was in full progress being about 1,200. The following particulars relate to some of the more important of these relief works of which information has been received.

A report issued by the Corporation of Leicester states that a registry has been opened during the winter, and that relief work has been provided, consisting of road-making, digging up garden land, excavating trenches for sewers and drains, and other work of a similar character. The report further states that from November 28th 1893 to February 10th 1894, 2,310 persons registered their names, of whom 1,045 were in the Boot and Shoe Trade, 180 in the Hosiery Trade, 340 in miscellaneous trades, and 745 were general labourers; 1,050 stated that they were single men, and 1,260 that they were married. Employment was given to 1,462 persons in all; of these 607 received employment for one turn of three days, 436 worked two turns, 281 worked three turns, 116 worked four turns, and 22 worked more than four turns. They worked eight hours a day, and were paid 4d. an hour. Of the 848 men (388 married and 460 single) who were not employed, 109 refused to work, 109 gave a wrong address, 339 were in work, 221 were not considered deserving or pressing cases, and 70 were rejected on other grounds. Altogether a sum of £2,265 has been expended in labour and materials, of which £1,849 has been charged to capital account by the Corporation.

At Leeds nearly 2,000 men have been entered as unemployed at a registry opened by the Corporation, and of these, after inquiry by the Corporation officials, about 700 have been set to work making a new road round a public park. The men have been selected in the same way as last year.† They are employed three days a week, are paid 6d. per hour, and work eight hours a day.

The Corporation of Halifax has also selected, after inquiry by its officials, some 200 men from a register kept at the Town Hall, and has employed them in the construction of new water works and at drainage work. The men are paid 5d. per hour, and work eight hours a day for three days a week. The work still continues.

At Sheffield the Corporation has provided relief works, consisting of roadmaking and levelling a recreation ground. About 125 men are employed for six days a week, and work seven hours a day at 4d. per hour. It is estimated by the surveyor that probably 25 per cent. of the men employed were also employed on the relief works provided last year.

Among the more extensive of the relief works in the metropolis were those undertaken by the vestries of Mile End, Shoreditch and Bethnal Green, and the Hackney Board of Works.

At Mile End the vestry commenced relief work for the unemployed on 23rd November, and still has about 100 of the men engaged upon sewerage work, which it has undertaken in addition to road-paving and cleansing. The men employed have been taken from the vestry register after inquiry by officers specially appointed for the work. Out of 312 men summoned to work after inquiry only 209 answered the call, and these were set

\* Including West Ham, where the Relief Committee was partly nominated by the Local Authority. † Report upon Methods and Agencies for dealing with the unemployed. (p. 222 et seq.)

to continuous work seven hours daily at 6d. per hour, except on Saturdays, when the men work five hours but are paid for seven. Out of the 209 set to work 113 have either been discharged or have left of their own accord. The register has now been closed, but a certain number of men will be kept at work until the sewerage works are completed.

At Shoreditch the work consisted of stonebreaking, roadmaking and sweeping, and about £1,200 was expended between September 26th and January 26th, when the work was stopped, the wages paid varying according to the class of work from 3s. 3d. to 3s. 11d. per day of nine hours, the men being employed in successive batches for three days each. Particulars as to the actual number of men employed during the four months are not yet available, but a report upon the first four weeks' work issued by the vestry states that 388 men had received three days' work, and that 181 men had been employed a second term of three days, the amount expended during the four weeks being £316.

At Hackney the work provided by the Local Board began on November 9th, and consisted of (1) stonebreaking at piecework rates varying from 2s. to 4s. per yard, according to the class of material broken; (2) converting a disused burial ground into a public recreation ground, the labourers employed upon this being paid 6d. per hour for an 8½-hours day; (3) cleansing houses, the small number of men so employed being paid 4s. per day. The painting of water-vans and carts, road sweeping and miscellaneous work of various kinds has also been given to the unemployed by this authority, and up to the 5th March a sum of £1,132 has been expended in relief work, in addition to £809 paid for extra labour in snow clearing between the 3rd and 12th of January. Some of the work is still in progress, and exact statistics are not yet prepared, but it is estimated that between 1,300 and 1,400 men have been employed during the winter. All these have been taken on through the Labour Registry established by the Board, the officials of which have made an inquiry into each case before employment was given. This registry closed on March 10th.

The Bethnal Green Vestry has kept a register at the vestry depot, and applicants for work, if found on inquiry to be satisfactory, have been provided with one day's work of 8 hours at 6d. per hour in levelling a churchyard, or at road sweeping or road repairing. At first the men were given three days' work a fortnight, but the number of men registered being very large it was decided to give each man in turn one day's work only.

At West Ham a relief committee was appointed, some of the members being nominated by the Corporation and Board of Guardians. The Corporation defrays part of the cost. Work was begun on December 20th, and it is estimated that 2,036 men, or an average of 130 per day, have been employed in laying out a portion of Wanstead Flats for football, cricket and other purposes, and trees have been planted in various streets. The men are employed in batches for four days each, and are paid 6d. per hour for a 6-hours day. They are all selected from a register. Twenty of the best men have been selected as gangers, and are employed regularly.

LABOURERS DWELLINGS IN IRELAND.\*

A RETURN, made up to August 31st 1893, has been presented to Parliament, from which it appears that 10,142 cottages have been built under the provisions of the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts, at a total cost of £1,205,829.

The particulars for each province are as follows:—

Table with 5 columns: Name of Province, Number of Cottages Authorised, Estimated Cost of Cottages Authorised, Number of Cottages Built, Actual Cost of Cottages Built. Rows include Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Connaught, and Totals.

\* Parliamentary Paper 469 (Price 4d.)

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

THE number of new applicants registered during February by the undermentioned 8 Bureaux, was 2,378, which number added to the 2,834 persons on the registers at January 31st gives a total of 5,212 applicants for employment. Work was found for 471 persons, of whom 420 were men or boys, and 51 women or girls. Of the 2,186 men and boys remaining on the register at the end of February, 777 were general labourers, 257 belonged to the Building Trades, 232 were carmen, stablemen, &c., 163 were porters or messengers, and 153 belonged to the Engineering and Metal Trades. Nearly all the females described themselves as charwomen or domestic servants, 154 out of the total number (223) being so returned. The number of employers applying to the eight bureaux for workpeople was 347.

(1) Work Done in February.

Table with 7 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Workpeople on Register, No. of Applicants during February, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux. Rows include Chelsea, St. Pancras, Battersea, Salford, Ipswich, Egham, Plymouth, Liverpool, and Total.

\* The figures in this column do not show the number of individual persons.

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

Table with 10 columns: Occupations, Chelsea, St. Pancras, Battersea, Salford, Ipswich, Egham, Plymouth, Liverpool. Rows include Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls, and Grand Total.

NOTE.—The particulars given in the above tables are similar to those published in the last number of the GAZETTE, and relate to the same Labour Bureaux with the addition of the one recently opened in Liverpool.

\* In the Liverpool return the lads and boys, of whom there were 85, are included with the men.

Agriculture in Ireland, 1893.—The area under crops in 1893 compared with 1892 (see LABOUR GAZETTE for November 1893) shows a net decrease of 1,567 acres, there being a decrease in the case of wheat, barley, bere, potatoes, mangel-wurzel and beet root and flax, and an increase in oats, rye, turnips, clover, sainfoin and grasses under rotation, and of permanent pasture or grass not broken up in rotation. There was a decrease in the quantity of wheat produced as compared with 1892 of 24.8 per cent., in that of barley of 3.7; of hay from clover, sainfoin and grasses under rotation of 3.2. There was an increase in the quantity of oats of 7.4 per cent.; of rye of 8.3; of potatoes of 18.5; of turnips of 19.1; of mangel-wurzel and beet root of 2.9; and of flax of 58.7.

\* Agricultural Statistics of Ireland for 1893. (C.—7,264.) Price 3d.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

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

THE pauperism returns for the 35 selected districts show a diminution as compared with January. In all the London districts, in West Ham, and in several of the provincial English districts, slight decreases have taken place, and where the February returns show an increase over January, it is, with the exception of Bristol, very slight. In Scotland and Ireland, pauperism during the two months has been almost stationary.

As compared with February 1893, the returns show an increase of 13 per 10,000 of population. In the Metropolis the increases range from 3 per 10,000 in the Central District to 17 in the East. In West Ham the increase in pauperism was 44 per 10,000; at Stockton and Tees, 61; at Bristol, 36; at Barnsley, 34; and at Sheffield, 24. The only districts in which there has been a decrease of pauperism are Newcastle, Bolton, Oldham, &c., and Manchester, which have fallen 13, 20, and 4 per 10,000 respectively. In Scotland and Ireland the rate is somewhat higher than in February 1893, but the increase is not great.

Table showing the number of paupers in certain selected districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of February 1894, and on the corresponding date in 1893.

Table with 6 columns: District, Paupers on one day in second week of February 1894, Rate per 10,000 of Population in 1894, Paupers on corresponding date in 1893, Rate per 10,000 of Population in 1893. Rows include 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. Vagrants in the Metropolis numbered 1,037 on one day in February 1894, and 914 on the corresponding date in February 1893.

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

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN.

(Based on information supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

THE number of seamen shipped in February at the principal ports shows an increase of 2,636, or nearly 10 per cent. over that of February 1893.

During January and February 7,503 more seamen have been shipped than in the corresponding months of 1893, an increase of nearly 14 per cent.

Table listing seamen availability at various ports like Hull, Cardiff, Glasgow, Newcastle, etc., categorized as 'Men plentiful' or 'Men scarce'.

The wages of seamen were unchanged at most of the ports, but at Dublin a rise of 5s. per month for firemen and of 10s. for A.B.'s on steamships is reported.

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

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Men, &c., shipped in February 1894 (In Sailing Vessels, In Steam Vessels, Total), Total in Feb. 1893, Increase, Decrease.

CO-OPERATION IN FEBRUARY.

One new distributive society has been registered during the month, new branches have been opened by two existing societies, and a new depot for the sale of goods has been opened at Cardiff by the English Co-operative Wholesale Society.

the Leicester factory of the wholesale society (by which a large number of federated stores are supplied) shows a decrease from June to December of £37,864, or 31 per cent., compared with the corresponding period of 1892, resulting in a loss upon this department of £6,895 in six months.

The balance-sheet for the quarter ended 30th December 1893, of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society (a federation of 278 other societies) shows sales to the amount of £805,223, an increase of nearly two per cent. upon the corresponding period of 1892, and a net profit of £22,949 after allowing for all charges, as compared with £29,314 in 1892.

Reports of 48 co-operative distributive societies, with a membership of 70,160, show a total trade for the last quarter of 1893 of £1,705,535, an increase of £20,463 compared with the corresponding period of 1892.

During the month two productive societies in England have after discussion decided against the policy of permitting employees to be eligible for a seat on the managing committee.

The Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Union has issued a circular to its affiliated societies calling their attention to the provisions of the Shop Hours Act.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN FEBRUARY.

England.—The quantity of fish, exclusive of shell-fish, landed on the English and Welsh coasts last month was 343,833 cwt., or 9.7 per cent. less than in February 1893.

The value of the fish caught affords some indication of the state of prosperity among fishermen, many of them being paid by receiving a share of the catch.

As compared with January, there was a decrease last month at these ten ports of £31,751.

Table showing the value of fish landed from the fishing grounds at the principal ports in February 1894, and the average for February 1890-1893.

Table with columns: Ports, Feb. 1894, Average for Feb. 1890-1893, Feb. 1894, Feb. 1893, Average for Feb. 1890-1893.

Scotland.—The total quantity of white fish landed in Scotland last month was 181,488 cwts., which, when compared with 312,768 cwts. landed in February 1893, shows a decrease of 131,280 cwts.

Ireland.—The quantity of fish (exclusive of shellfish) landed in Ireland last month was 26,907 cwts., an increase of 11,841 cwts. when compared with 15,066 cwts. landed in February 1893.

\* In the case of five societies the figures refer to the last half of 1893.

FOREIGN TRADE IN FEBRUARY.

THE improvement noticed in the January returns has continued in February, and is of much the same character, being largely made up of an increase in the imports of raw materials, especially textiles, and in the exports of cotton goods.

Included in the total increases of £4,224,000 in the imports is an increase of £2,815,000, or nearly 48 per cent., in raw materials for textile manufactures, of £339,328 in other raw materials for various manufacturing purposes, and of £1,023,000, or 10.6 per cent., in the value of food and drink imported duty free.

Of the increase of £2,815,000 in raw materials for textile manufacture no less than £1,822,000 is due to raw cotton, the imports of which, as compared with February 1893, appear to be abnormally large.

Table showing Quantity and Value of Cotton in February for years 1894, 1893, 1892, 1891, 1890, 1889.

Not only do flax, hemp, and jute imports continue to show increases, but sheep and lambs' wool imports, which fell off in January, now show an advance in value of nearly half a million, or 21 per cent.

The increase of £586,140 in British and Irish exports mainly consists of an increase of £418,000, or 44 per cent., in the exports of coal—the quantity sent to every country, except British East India, showing a rise as compared with February 1893.

Army Recruiting.—The Inspector-General of Recruiting reports\* that although there has been a very considerable and widespread disturbance in the trade of this country, partly caused by the coal dispute, recruiting has not been much affected by it.

\* Army and Militia Report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting for 1893. (C.—7291.) Price 3d.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton in February were considerably more than in February 1893, but show the usual seasonal decline from the figures for January.

Table showing February Imports, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, and Exports for years 1894, 1893, 1892, 1891, 1890, 1889.

From this table it will be seen that, although the imports as compared with February 1893, have increased 77 per cent., the quantity forwarded to inland towns has increased by 29 per cent. only.

Traffic Receipts.—The receipts of 23 of the principal railway companies in the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended February 24th amounted to £5,157,073, an increase of £196,027, or 4 per cent., as compared with the corresponding period in 1893.

It is worthy of note that this increase of 4 per cent. in the February receipts follows on an increase of 3 per cent. in January, and of 1 per cent. in December last, so that although the increase in February is not large, the revival following the series of decreases in the latter part of 1893 has been more than maintained.

Emigration.—The number of passengers of British nationality leaving the United Kingdom during February for places out of Europe, was 6,098, a decrease of 6,350, or 51 per cent., compared with the number in February 1893.

Table showing February, 1894, and February, 1893, and Percentage Decrease for various regions like United States, South Africa, Australasia, etc.

In addition to the above British passengers, there were 2,865 foreigners and others whose nationality was not stated, making the total emigration for the month 8,963, a decrease of 9,114.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom during February was 3,884, and of these 1,419, or 37 per cent., were stated to be going to America.

Bankruptcies.—During February 404 bankrupts were gazetted, an increase of 9 when compared with February 1893.

British Corn.—The average prices of British corn per quarter at the end of February show a decrease in the price of wheat and barley, and an increase in the price of oats, when compared with those at the end of January.

Table showing average prices per quarter for Wheat, Barley, and Oats in February and January.

The average price of British wheat during the four weeks ending March 3rd, was 24s. 9d. compared with 25s. 6d. in the corresponding period of 1893.

Table showing average price of British wheat in February at intervals of ten years for 1894, 1884, and 1874.

Hay Imports.—The Imports of hay in February again show a large increase over those of February 1893, the figures for the two periods being respectively 26,745 and 9,322 tons.

\* Increase.

CLEVELAND PIG IRON.

Production.—From the return issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, it appears that the production of pig iron in the Cleveland District during February amounted to 212,163 tons, an increase of 1,922 tons compared with the production in February 1893.

Table showing the production of pig iron and number of furnaces in blast in the Cleveland district in February 1894 and 1893:—

Table with 5 columns: Kind of Pig Iron, Production in February (1894, 1893), Increase + or Decrease in February 1894, No. of Furnaces in Blast in February (1894, 1893). Rows include Cleveland Pig Iron, Other Kinds of Pig, and Total.

\* Including Haematite, Spiegel and Basic Pig Iron.

Stocks.—The stocks of pig iron show a decrease of 23,666 tons, or nearly 13 per cent, when compared with those for February 1893; and a decrease of 10,851 tons, or 6 per cent, since January.

Shipments.—The shipments from Middlesbrough last month were 69,063 tons, an increase of 13 per cent over the previous month, and of 36 per cent. over February 1893.

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month of February it is reported that 22 mines, including 19 collieries, were opened or re-opened, or 10 less than in January, and that 25 mines, including 10 collieries, were discontinued or abandoned, or 7 less than in January.

New Mines.

COAL.—Yorkshire—Oakwell or Queen's Drift (Barnsley Seam). Lancashire—Brearley (Little Seam), Littleborough; Starring (Foot Seam), Littleborough; Markland (Bone Seam), Black Rod. (3) Flintshire—Pontblyddyn Pit, near Mold. Derbyshire—Old Brampton, Chesterfield. Monmouthshire—Aral Griffin; Cefn. (2) Breconshire—Llwyn Pwll. Glamorganshire—Cefn Morfydd (Mountain Seam), near Neath; Braich-y-cymmer (No. 2 Rhondda Seam); Trefor Pit, Lewis's Merthyr (Five-foot Seam). (3) Staffordshire—Coppice (Deep and Shallow Seams), near Walsall; Tipton Moat, No. 21 Pit (Thick Seam), Tipton. (2) Lanarkshire—Bellfield Colliery, No. 3 Pit (Six-foot and Ell Seams), Lesmahagow, Udston Colliery (Humph Seam), Hamilton; Glentore (Drumgray Seam), Greengairs; Drumshangie, No. 10 Pit (Humph, Splint and Musselband Seams), Airdrie. (4) Stirlingshire—Banton, Kilsyth. OIL SHALE.—Linlithgowshire—Albyn (Broxburn Seam), Broxburn. FLAGSTONES.—Lancashire—Barton, Darwen. SLATE.—Merionethshire—Blaen-y-cwm.

Mines Abandoned.

COAL.—Yorkshire—Gildersome (Main Seam), near Leeds. Lancashire—Peel Hall (Black and White Seams), Bolton; Ince Riding Mine, Platt Lane Colliery, Wigan. (2) Derbyshire—Stanfree (Clown Seam), Bolsover, near Chesterfield. Staffordshire—Grace Mary, No. 1 Pit (Thick Seam), Dudley; Tipton Moat, No. 21 Pit (Bottom Seam), Tipton. (2) Lanarkshire—Bellsdyke (Upper Drumgray Seam), Airdrie; Struther (Virtuewell Seam), Larkhall; Drumshangie, Nos. 6 and 8 Pits (Kiltongue and Virtuewell Seams), Airdrie. (3) Leitrim.—Arigna, No. 1 Drift, Carrick-on-Shannon. ZINC ORE.—Cardiganshire.—Esgar-ll, Great West Van. Merionethshire.—Blende Mine, Llanelltyd. LEAD ORE.—Cardiganshire.—Pendinas, Red Rock. Carnarvonshire.—North Cyffty, Llanrwst. Denbighshire.—Maes-y-safn, Llanarmon. Flintshire.—Holywell Silver-Lead, Rhydwen; \*Sir Edward, Holywell. (2) GOLD ORE.—Denbighshire.—Llanganhafal. Merionethshire.—Caerbendy, Llanelltyd; \*Garllwyn, Barmouth; \*Moel Ispri, Dolgelly; \*Prince of Wales, Llanelltyd; \*Sett Fach, Dolgelly. (5) COPPER ORE.—Merionethshire.—Crib-ddu, \*Sygun; Beddgelert (2).

\* Small Workings.

OVERTIME AMONG THE CLYDE SHIP JOINERS.—THE ARBITRATOR'S AWARD.

THE last number of the GAZETTE contained a summary of the Clyde ship-joiners' dispute and of the action of the Board of Trade in promoting its settlement, which was brought about at a joint Conference of employers and workmen, under the presidency of the Lord Provost of Glasgow, on 31st January. The Conference having, in the first place, arranged for the resumption of work, proceeded as a Board of Conciliation to deal with the overtime bye-laws, which had been the original cause of dispute. These bye-laws had in the first place been drawn up by the men only, but it was now understood that, if possible, such regulations should be the subject of mutual arrangement, or failing agreement by the Board, that any points left in dispute should be referred to the arbitration of Sheriff Berry. The Board was able to settle all the questions raised, save that relating to the maximum limit of overtime. The following is the substance of Sheriff Berry's award on this point:—

The first rule agreed to by the Conciliation Board provided—

"That the daily working hours be arranged in the various yards, but that the normal week's work be 54 hours."

The joiners proposed a second bye-law as follows:—

"No time to be wrought over the above-mentioned hours, except in cases where work cannot be done during the usual working hours, and be paid at the rate of time-and-a-half for such time wrought, and in all cases necessitating the working of time beyond the usual working hours, the members engaged working said time to stay off an equivalent number of hours the following day."

This bye-law was intended to discourage, if not to put an end to, overtime work, it being stated that men not uncommonly apply in vain to the society to aid them in getting work while at the same time others have more than full employment. Reference was made to a rule of restriction of overtime contained in the bye-laws of the United Society of Boiler-makers and Iron and Steel Ship-builders. On the part of the employers, objection was taken to the proposed bye-law as unnecessarily and injuriously interfering with their freedom in managing their business. They did not object to paying at the rate of time-and-a-half for overtime, and stated that the additional cost of overtime would be a sufficient check against recourse being had to it except when really necessary. Occasions, however, arose in the course of a ship-builder's business which made it necessary to resort to overtime. A table was submitted showing the usage and extent to which there had been overtime work among the joiners, and the causes of it, in the different yards. It was further stated that the proposed bye-law would tell unfavourably on the Ship-building Industry of the Clyde as compared with other ship-building centres where no similar rules existed.

The Employers proposed at a meeting of the Conciliation Board, under the presidency of the Lord Provost, that a bye-law should be adopted in the following terms:—

"Overtime may be wrought on new vessels to the amount of 38 hours per man per vessel, and must be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-half."

To this, the joiners made a counter proposal that the words "twelve hours" be substituted for "thirty-eight hours." The Arbitrator considered that the line of compromise indicated by the proposal and counter-proposal respectively might be usefully followed as a guide. The returns furnished by the employers showed a great variation among the different yards in the amount of overtime worked, but in most instances, recourse to any large amount of overtime was due to exceptional circumstances. Taking the returns of the different yards as a whole, the average overtime per man on each ship was found to be under 20 hours. The Arbitrator, therefore, after consideration, resolved to adopt this limit for the bye-law. He received, however, an assurance from the representatives of the joiners that there would be a disposition on their part to relax the stringency of the rule where that seemed necessary. The bye-law will run as follows:—

"Overtime may be wrought on new vessels to the amount of 20 hours per man per vessel, and must be paid at the rate of time-and-a-half."

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

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

THE changes in wages reported in February, though numerous, are comparatively unimportant as regards the numbers of persons affected. The change affecting the largest number has probably been at Belfast, where about 1,500 men engaged in shipbuilding have had a slight reduction, and 250 a rise in wages. In the Textile Trades several changes in rates have taken place, but in most cases they have been at individual mills, and are not applicable to a district. A noticeable feature this month is the number of firms which have adopted a shorter working day.

Table with 4 columns: Employment, Locality, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, so far as stated, Particulars of Increase.

INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Table listing various trades and localities with details of wage increases. Trades include Building Trades, Quarrying, Metal Trades, Shipbuilding, Smiths' Strikers, Labourers, Shipbuilding, Ironshifters, General Labourers, Seamen, Textile Trades, Cotton Weavers, Linen Thread Spinners, Clothing Trades, and Miscellaneous.

\* Settled by arbitration. Award announced February 8th, but increased pay to date from January 1st.

† These are the numbers of Seamen affected during February.

‡ The rates given are believed to be slightly above the earnings of last year.

Table with 4 columns: Employment, Locality, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, so far as stated, Particulars of Decrease.

DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Table listing various trades and localities with details of wage decreases. Trades include Mining, Metal Trades, Shipbuilding, Platers, Riveters, Seamen, Able Seamen, Textile Trades, and Hand-loom Weavers.

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

Table listing various trades and localities with details of hour reductions. Trades include Ordnance Store, Inspection Department, Marble Preparers, Coal Miners, All workpeople, Stamped Hollow-ware, Pattern-makers and Blacksmiths, Woollen Cloth Operatives, Cabinet and Looking-glass Makers, Drysalter, Alum Works, Lurrymen, and Shop Assistants.

Note.—The large engineering firm in Plymouth which temporarily adopted the 8-hour day in October last have announced their intention of making the change a permanent one.

EIGHT HOURS' DAY IN COAL MINES.

THE owner of two thin seam collieries near Accrington, at which 650 workpeople are employed, has introduced the eight hours' day for all classes of his workpeople, and intends to extend the system to the Great Harwood collieries if the experiment proves a success. Only one shift is worked, and all ordinary underground workpeople are employed eight hours from bank to bank, a reduction of three-quarters of an hour on the previous time. An interval for a meal-time is allowed. The men go down from 6 to 6.30 a.m., and return to bank in the same order from 2 to 2.30 p.m. The winding of coal is stopped for a quarter of an hour per day.

The hours of surfacemen have been reduced from 9 to 8 hours per day, and of winders from 12 to 8 hours.

The hours of the officials have been proportionately shortened, but are not limited to 8 from bank to bank, the owner considering that the "firemen" who are in charge during the day should go down 40 minutes before the men to see that the working places are safe. They, however, come up in the first cage.

The working hours on Saturday are the same as on other days, the system introduced being not an average, but an actual eight hours' day. It appears that the men chose a full working day on Saturday in preference to the system of having a half-holiday on that day, with a corresponding increase in the hours worked on the other five days.

No reduction has been made in the wages of the day workers, and of course the earnings of the piece-workers will depend upon their output.

EFFECT OF COAL DISPUTES ON COAL SHIPPED.

A TABLE showing the exports of coal from England and Scotland, and the quantity of coal sent coastwise in the last five months of the years 1893 and 1892 respectively, has been prepared for the Labour Department by the Customs, and covers the period in 1893 during which the production of coal was directly affected by three important disputes. In Northumberland and Durham the increase of 578,000 tons, or 16 per cent., in the quantity of coal shipped coastwise appears to have been largely balanced by a decline in exports, the total shipments (export and coastwise) being nearly the same in the last five months of 1893 as in the same period of 1892. The same remark applies to some extent to the shipments from the ports of East Scotland, where the quantity sent coastwise was more than three times as great as in the same period of 1892. The fall in the shipments at the eastern ports of England and Liverpool from 1,927,000 tons to 395,000 tons, a decrease of 79 per cent., shows the effect of the prolonged stoppage of the Yorkshire, Lancashire and Midland pits.

In South Wales the decrease of 589,000 tons, or nearly 9 per cent., probably does not fully represent the dislocation caused by the strikes, as this district became very busy after the termination of the Welsh dispute.

In West Scotland the miners did not go on strike until the end of the English dispute, and their diminished output during the fortnight they remained out was not sufficient to counterbalance the increased supply during the dispute in the English "Federation" districts.

The figures of the table may be summed up as follows :-

Table with 4 columns: Region, Increase. Tons., Decrease. Tons., and Total. Rows include Northumberland and Durham Ports, Eastern Ports, Liverpool, South Wales Ports, Other English Ports, Total England and Wales, East Scotland, West Scotland, Total Scotland, and Total Great Britain.

On the whole it will be seen that the quantity shipped from the ports in Northumberland and Durham increased very slightly, while the Scotch ports showed large increases, which, however, were not sufficient to outweigh the large drop of over 1,000,000 tons in the quantity shipped from Goole, Grimsby and Hull, and of nearly 1,200,000 tons at the Welsh, Liverpool and other English ports.

Table showing the Exports of Coal from England and Scotland in the last five months of the years 1893 and 1892 respectively; and the quantity of Coal sent Coastwise.

(The quantities are stated in thousands of tons.)

Main table showing coal exports by region (England, Eastern Ports, Liverpool, South Wales, Scotland, Great Britain) and time period (1893, 1892). Columns include Port, Exported (1893, 1892), Sent Coastwise (1893, 1892), and Total (1893, 1892).

The Agricultural Labourer.—The Royal Commission on Labour has issued an analytical index and a general index to the Reports of the Assistant Agricultural Commissioners on Irish Districts. The object of the analytical index is to give a synopsis of the information contained in the reports on the main heads of the inquiry set out in the instructions to the Assistant Commissioners. The object of the general index is to show where information on any particular topic is to be found. This completes the series of indexes to the reports on the Agricultural Labourer, and contains in a concise form a large amount of information as to the general condition of the agricultural labourer, cottage accommodation, conditions of engagement, land held by labourers, relations between employers and employed, the supply of labour, trade unions and strikes, wages and earnings.

\* The Agricultural Labourer. Vol. IV.—Ireland, Part V. Indexes, 1894. (C. 6894.—XXII.) Price, 6d.

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN 1892.

THE Report of the Co-operative Congress held in 1893, published by the Co-operative Union, contains a collection of statistics relating to the growth of the co-operative movement during 1892, based upon returns obtained by the Union from the various societies. From this report it appears that there were at the end of 1892 179 co-operative manufacturing establishments in the United Kingdom, and that of these 148 had supplied returns showing a total of share, loan, and reserve capital amounting to £1,603,843; and sales of productions amounting to £3,657,069; upon which a net profit had been made of £149,738. Fifteen of the establishments for which returns were made are manufacturing departments of the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies. These two societies are Federations of "Associations of Consumers," and supply their goods to registered associations only. The manufacturing departments have from time to time been established for the purpose of manufacturing the goods required for distribution to their members by the associations forming the federation. These associations supply the necessary capital, and manage the federations by means of meetings of delegates and committees elected quarterly. There being no individual membership,\* the employees are not members of the federations, and have no voice in the management.

The remaining bodies which have made returns are mainly Associations of Producers, i.e., associations consisting of the employees and their friends, the capital being supplied, and the managers being elected by the shareholders. The workers in these establishments are frequently eligible for membership of the managing body, and in all cases, provided they are shareholders, are entitled to a voice in its election. The goods produced by these associations are sold in the open market.

The Creameries in Ireland are mainly associations of small farmers who have combined for the purpose of producing butter, the management of the society being in the hands of a committee elected by the shareholders.

The following table shows, so far as can be given, for the Co-operative Productive Societies in England, Scotland and Ireland respectively, the number of members and amount of Capital and Sales in the year 1892, distinguishing the principal branches of Trade.

Table with 6 columns: Trades, No. of Societies making Returns, No. of Shareholders in these Societies, Capital (Share & Loan & Reserve), Amount of Sales, Net Profits. Rows include Farming and Dairying, Building Trades, Quarrying, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Printing and Bookbinding, Wood Working Trades, Boot and Shoe Trades, Leather Trades, Corn Milling, Food Preparation, Watch Making & Jewellery, Miscellaneous, Total England & Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and Creameries.

\* Since the period to which the tables relate, the Scottish Wholesale Society has modified its constitution in order to enable its employees to become shareholders.

† Loss.  
‡ Exclusive of Productive Departments of English Wholesale Co-operative Society.  
§ Exclusive of Productive Departments of Scottish Wholesale Co-operative Society.

The following tables are based partly upon the statistics contained in the report of the Co-operative Union, partly upon information obtained from the balance-sheets, and officials of the societies concerned, and partly upon statistics contained in the Co-operative Wholesale Societies Annual for 1894. The tables (except the summary of sales) do not include the productive departments of the Wholesale Societies.

It will be seen that no fewer than 22 out of the 99 societies in England and Wales are included in the Boot and Shoe Trades, Textile Trades coming next in number with a total of 18 societies. As regards volume of production, however, the nine corn mills are easily first, with annual sales amounting to £1,383,346 out of a total of £2,282,937 for the whole 99 societies. In Scotland the three co-operative bakeries lead the way as regards output, while in Ireland the whole of the 23 societies included are concerned with butter-making. The following is a summary of sales :-

Summary of the amount of sales given in the above Tables, together with the corresponding figures for the productive departments of the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the year 1892.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount of Sales. Rows include England and Wales (99 Societies), Scotland (11 Societies), Ireland (23 Societies), Total for 133 Societies, Productive Departments of English Wholesale Society, Scottish, Total for 2 Societies, and GRAND TOTAL.

Forty-eight societies make returns showing the distribution of their profits, from which it appears that out of £104,173, £5,799, or 5½ per cent. of the profits, was divided among the workers as bonus on wages.

Distribution of Net Profit.

Table showing the amount of Net Profit allotted to Capital, Workers and Customers respectively, by the 48 Co-operative Productive Societies in England, Wales and Scotland (excluding the Productive Works of the Wholesale Societies), which have furnished these particulars for the year 1892 to the Co-operative Union :-

Table with 6 columns: Trades, No. of Societies making Returns, Amount of Net Profit allotted to Shareholders on Capital, Workers on Wages, Customers on Purchases, Total. Rows include Farming and Dairying, Building Trades, Quarrying, Metal Trades, Watch and Jewel Makers, Textile Trades, Printing and Bookbinding, Woodworking Trades, Boot and Shoe Trades, Corn Milling, Food Preparation, Miscellaneous, Total England, Percentage, Scotland, Textiles, Printing, Bakeries, Total Scotland, and Percentage.

With the exception of £2,321 allotted by the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale to its productive workers as a dividend of 9d. per £ of wages, the profits of the productive departments of the two Wholesale societies were divided mainly among the federated societies, on the same principle as the profits on their distributive departments.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN FEBRUARY.

THE number of industrial prosecutions during February, as shown in the following tables, was 225, compared with 277 in the previous month. Under the Factory and Workshop Acts there were 174 prosecutions and 160 convictions, with an average penalty of £1 15s. 4d., including costs. Under the Mines Acts, 31 convictions were obtained against workmen, and 3 against owners or managers, the average penalties, with costs, being 17s. 1d. and £1 13s. 4d. respectively. Of the 14 convictions under the Merchant Shipping Acts, 12 were against owners or masters of vessels, and 2 against boarding-house keepers, the fines and costs imposed on the former averaging £11 17s. 5d., and on the latter £5 11s. 6d.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.\*

Table with 5 columns: OFFENCES, No. of Prosecutions, No. of Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs. Rows include Neglecting to Limewash, Neglecting to Fence Machinery, Employing Young Persons under Illegal Conditions, etc.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.\*

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

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Table with 4 columns: Nature of Offence, No. of Prosecutions, No. of Convictions, Total Costs. Rows include By Owners or Masters of Ships, By Seamen, By Boarding-House Keepers, etc.

\* Including Costs. † Including £10 damages.

LABOUR CASES IN FEBRUARY.

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

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

City of London Court, February 1st.—Dock labourer claimed £200 for personal injuries, alleged to be due to negligence of servants of defendants. Defence, that there was no negligence on part of anyone in the service of the defendants having superintendence. Verdict for defendants.

Queen's Bench Division, February 2nd.—Railway servant, a minor, had sued railway company in County Court for damages for personal injury; had contracted out of the Act, but claimed that contract was invalid on account of minority. Verdict for defendant. Plaintiff now appealed. Appeal dismissed on the ground that the contract with the infant was a beneficial one.

Court of Appeal, February 3rd.—Widow of miner, killed by the catastrophe in Rhondda Valley, appealed against a decision of the Divisional Court reversing the decision of the County Court, which awarded her £234 damages (see LABOUR GAZETTE, January, page 22). Court restored the decision of the County Court, with costs in both Courts.

Blackpool County Court, February 7th.—Widow of railway guard sued railway company to recover £210 damages for death of husband, knocked off the footboard of a truck by a lamp, 35 inches from the rail. Defence, contributory negligence. Verdict for plaintiff for full amount.

Cardiff Assizes, February 7th.—Collier sued railway company for £1,000 damages for injuries received by being run over by an engine of the defendant company. Defence, contributory negligence and signature of contract indemnifying company against any injury that might be sustained by him on the railway. Jury awarded £175 damages; judge reserved decision as to validity of contract.

Kilmarnock Sheriff's Court, February 7th.—Rivetier claimed £30 for damages sustained by fall of drum to which he and others were riveting casting, alleging accident to be due to insufficient instructions from foreman. Sheriff considered the error of judgment on part of the foreman amounted to negligence, for which defendants were responsible. Verdict for plaintiff, £20 and costs.

Doncaster County Court, February 15th.—Plaintiff sued to recover £163 16s. under the Act, or, as an alternative, £50 at common law for personal injuries from rebound of carriages, while working at a tunnel. Plaintiff was employed under his father, a sub-contractor. Judge held that defendant was not liable under the Act, but at common law. Verdict for plaintiff for £50.

Hadleigh County Court, February 17th.—Widow of farm labourer sued in December last to recover £89 damages for death of her husband, caused by his using a rotten rope. Deceased was on top of a wagon assisting to secure a load of barley, and whilst pulling the rope it broke, causing him to fall off and break his neck. Defence, that deceased had better opportunities of knowing rope was rotten than defendant. Judgment, which had been deferred, for plaintiff, for amount claimed with costs.

Westminster County Court, February 19th.—Widow of man employed by a builder's contractor, sued latter for £500, for death of husband, owing to collapse of roof when repairing an arch. Judgment for plaintiff for £5—£3 for the widow and £1 for each of the children. Notice given of application for new trial, on account of inadequate damages.

Bradford County Court, February 20th.—Brickmaker had left arm crushed in mixing machine, necessitating amputation. Damages claimed £100. Verdict by consent for £30 and costs.

Barrow County Court, February 22nd.—Widow of man employed by contractor sued the latter for £238 for death of husband, killed in defendant's employ through the fall of an iron bucket weighing nearly a ton. Verdict for £215.

High Court, Queen's Bench Division, February 26th.—Widow of coal porter had sued in County Court to recover damages for death of husband, caused by fall from gangway formed by two barges. Verdict for £75 was given on ground that the absence of a rail on the barges was a defect in the plant. Defendants appealed. Appeal dismissed with costs.

High Court, Queen's Bench Division, February 27th.—Widow of platelayer sued, on behalf of daughter and self, for damages for loss of her husband, killed, whilst oiling points, by one of defendants' trains. Negligence was alleged against driver of train in not whistling to warn deceased. Defence, contributory negligence; deceased having failed to keep proper look out. Verdict for plaintiff, damages £400.

St. Helens County Court, February 28th.—Colliery lampman sued contractor for £100 damages for injuries received when employed in getting clay from pit by undermining. Defence that plaintiff knew employment was dangerous, and voluntarily submitted to risk, and was negligent in standing on the top of the clay. Judge directed

the jury that if plaintiff continued working in fear of dismissal if he complained, he was not a free agent, and was entitled to recover. Jury found there was no negligence on part of defendant; verdict for latter with costs.

(2) EMPLOYERS' AND WORKMEN ACT.

Stratford Police Court, February 3rd.—Gas stoker sued for 32s. wages in lieu of notice; he had been disabled by accident for some weeks, and on application to foreman for light work was told to consider himself discharged. Defence that plaintiff had refused work offered him. Verdict for plaintiff.

Walsall Guildhall, February 7th.—Saddlers' tool manufacturer summoned workman for neglecting work, claiming £10 damages. Agreement had been made between the parties in 1884, and defendant left in 1888, having still several months to serve. Defence that complainant did not find work in accordance with terms of agreement, and that no money was owing at the time. Judgment for plaintiff for £4 and costs.

Paisley Small Debt Court, February 15th.—Painter sued for 23s. as due to him in lieu of notice. Defence, that as pursuer had no lying-time (work not paid for) in the hands of his master at the time of his dismissal, employer by custom of the trade was entitled to dismiss him without notice; also that immediate dismissal was justified by refusal of pursuer to give evidence for employer against fellow-workman owing to fear of consequences. Sheriff repelled the second defence, employer having legal means of compelling attendance by citation. Pursuer had not proved himself entitled to notice, and judgment was for defender.

Preston County Court, February 22nd.—Female weaver had sued employer for wages in lieu of notice, wages earned, and value of work on the rollers unfinished; employer counter-claimed for balance of value of spoiled cloth after allowing for wages deducted. Verdict had been given for defendant on all points except as regards work on rollers, in which decision was reserved. Judge now gave decision that as plaintiff was a woman the case did not come under the Act, and was merely one of contract; being paid by the piece she was not entitled to anything until the piece was finished, and she left through her own default. Verdict for defendant.

(3) MINES REGULATION ACT.

Hamilton Sheriff Court, February 20th.—Mines inspector prosecuted manager of an iron and steel company for deductions from wages in respect of dirt in hutchies of coal going to the surface. Sheriff decided that such deductions were illegal, that the defendant believed they were legal, and had reason for so believing. A nominal penalty of 10s. in each case, or £2, was imposed. Notice of appeal was given.

(4) TRADE UNION ACTS.

Newcastle Police Court, February 2nd.—Trade society charged late secretary with withholding books belonging to the society. Defence, that secretary, although discharged by executive committee, retained the books pending appeal. Order made for recovery of books, with fine of 1s. and costs.

Two cases are reported of prosecutions of Trade Union officials at the instance of the societies for misappropriation of funds.

(5) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACTS.

High Court, Queen's Bench, February 7th.—A representative of a district of a Friendly Society sued the Mayor and Corporation of Barnsley, and others, in order to ascertain the proper parties entitled to repayment of a loan of £1,000 advanced by the Society to the Corporation. It appeared that in 1878 the Order was registered under the Act, changing its name at the same time; but plaintiffs' branch with others refused, and retained the original name. Subsequently, nearly the whole of the lodges joined the registered order; but plaintiffs' lodge still declined, and now claimed the sum in question. Defence submitted that the district as a whole had decided to join the registered Society, and that plaintiffs' branch was bound by that decision, and as it would not conform, it ceased to remain a part of the district, and thereby forfeited its right to any portion of the money. Judgment for defendants with costs, stay of execution being granted for a fortnight pending consideration of appeal.

Hull County Court, February 7th.—A branch lodge of a Friendly Society was sued for £25 5s. 9d., amounts levied for district management expenses, after an application from the lodge to secede had been rejected. An injunction was also applied for to restrain the lodge from applying its funds otherwise than as a branch of the district, and from acting contrary to the district rules. Injunction granted, with costs.

Golcar County Court, February 16th.—The officers and members of a friendly society sued one of the secretaries of the society for £20, which it was alleged he had neglected to pay to the treasurer. In the course of the case the objection was raised that as the society was unregistered, consisted of more than twenty members, and was a society for the purpose of gain, it was an illegal society within the meaning of the 4th section of the Companies' Act, 1862, and therefore could not sue. At the first hearing, in January, the Judge ruled the objection to be good, and adjourned the case to enable the whole of the 24 members to be joined as partners. The names of 177 members had now been added as plaintiffs, it being submitted that these comprised the whole of the present members—42 having been expelled since the adjourned hearing. Objection was again raised on behalf of defendant that no action could be maintained unless all the members sued; and that the 42 persons, including defendant, were still members. For plaintiffs the minutes were produced showing that the expulsions had taken place under Rule 44; but the Judge doubted whether the expulsions were valid, and held that it had not been proved that the 42 members had been properly served,

and that no action could be maintained unless all the members of the society were parties to it. Ultimately, the case was adjourned to enable plaintiffs to consider what course to adopt.

Two cases are reported of offences against Friendly Societies, one of conspiracy to defraud, and the other of obtaining money under false pretences.

SCIENCE, ART AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND CLASSES.\*

The Calendar, History and General Summary of Regulations of the Department of Science and Art for 1894, contains, as usual, a history of the various divisions of the Department. From this it appears that the number of persons examined in Science Schools was 108,858 in 1892, or more than twice as many as in 1882; the number of worked papers was nearly three times as many, and the direct payment on results rose from £49,908 to £123,648. The number of students in organised Science Schools who were examined rose from 456 to 5,488 during the same ten years. The number of persons receiving instruction in Art in some form through the agency of the Department rose from 900,498 (including 842,100 scholars of elementary schools) in 1882 to 2,111,332 (including 1,991,468 scholars of elementary schools) in 1892; and the direct payment on results from £56,352 in 1882 to £183,891 in 1892.

In December 1892, a letter was addressed by the Science and Art Department to the Councils of Counties and County Boroughs in England and Wales and to the County Councils, the Town Councils of Burghs and the Police Commissioners of Police Burghs in Scotland, asking them to furnish information as to the extent to which the funds accruing under the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act 1890, had been, or were intended to be, applied to technical education, and the amount, if any, raised for the same purpose by rate under the Technical Instruction Act 1889; and also to give particulars as to the manner in which the funds had been applied and the subjects taught.

From the answers to this circular it appears that of the 49 English County Councils, 42 were giving the whole amount of the residue of the local taxation (customs and excise) duties to Technical Education, and seven a part of it; of the 61 Councils of English County Boroughs, 51 were devoting the whole and 10 a part to the same purpose. In Wales and Monmouthshire practically the whole amount was being applied to intermediate and technical education. In Scotland 21 out of the 33 County Councils were applying the whole and six a part to technical education, the majority of the Burghs still applying their share to the relief of the rates. In Ireland, Dublin, Belfast, Londonderry, Galway Union, Cork and Gort Union, were the only places where the local authorities had levied a rate, or decided to make grants out of the rates, under the Technical Instruction Act 1889.

The total amount of the residue paid to the Councils in England and Wales for the financial year 1892-93 was £786,000, out of which it was estimated that over £606,000 had been allocated to educational purposes. In Scotland £34,000 out of the residue of £54,000 was to be devoted to technical education.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED DURING FEBRUARY, 1894.

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

- I.—FIVE TRADE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—Pianoforte Action Makers' Labour Protection Union (London, N.), Auxiliary Society of Male Lace Workers (Nottingham), Ellesmere Port Working Mens' Association (Cheshire), Ormskirk United Operative House Painters', Plasterers', Plumbers', and Glaziers' Association (Lancs.), United Operative Pavors of the City and County of Newcastle-on-Tyne and District (Newcastle-on-Tyne).

- II.—ONE TRADE SOCIETY DISSOLVED DURING MONTH. Sheffield Lamp-lighters Trade Society.

- III.—ONE INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETY REGISTERED:—New Boro' of Hackney Industrial Co-operative Society, Ltd.

- IV.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

- (a) Eleven New Societies:—Ordinary Friendly Societies ... 5 Working Mens' Clubs ... 3 Dividing Societies ... 3 (b) Forty-six New Branches of Existing Societies:—A.O. Foresters ... 4 G.U.O.O.F. ... 5 I.O. Oddfellows, M.U. ... 8 I.O. Rechabites, S.U. ... 14 L.O.A. Shepherds A.U. ... 3 O. Sons of Temperance ... 5 Various ... 7

- V.—THREE BUILDING SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—Second Penzance District Perfect Thrift, First Waterhouse Popular, Thornaby-on-Tees Safety. FOURTEEN BUILDING SOCIETIES were dissolved during the month.

\*Calendar, History and General Summary of Regulations of the Department of Science and Art, 1894. (C.—7,214.) Price 2s. 3d. See also Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act 1890. Abstract of Returns to Department of Science and Art 1893. (C.—7,112.) Price 8d.



INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

THE number of fatal accidents to the undermentioned classes of workpeople reported in February was 440, which compares with 559 in January last, distributed as follows:—

Table showing the number of fatal accidents reported in February and January 1894, categorized by Railway Servants, Miners, Factory and Workshop Operatives, and Seamen.

These figures show a decrease in the number killed in each of the four classes amounting in the aggregate to 119. The decrease is most marked in the case of the Railway Servants, in which the number of fatalities reported during February is 50 per cent. less than in January.

Non-fatal accidents reported numbered 752 in factories and workshops, 312 in mines, and 220 to railway servants, as compared with 699, 395, and 274 respectively in January. Accidents occurring at sea of a non-fatal character are not reported.

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 mines can be given more closely, being 702,466 in 1892, exclusive of 19,342 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 1892 give 241,735 persons, all grades being included.

I.—Railway Servants.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.) Tables showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of February 1894.

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured, categorized by Class of Service (Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, etc.) and Nature of Injury (Killed, Amputations, Fractures, etc.).

Monthly average for 1893 ... 38 7 14 32 64 102 219

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured, categorized by location (England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom) and cause of accident (From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, etc.).

\* Including Accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct.

II.—In Mines.

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

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in or about mines, categorized by Cause of Accident (Underground, Surface) and location (England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Total).

Monthly Average for last 8 months of 1893 ... 75 243 7 48 ... 1 82 292

III.—In Factories and Workshops.\*

(Supplied by the Home Office.) Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of February 1894.

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in factories and workshops, categorized by Nature or effect of injury (Killed, Injured) and age group (Adults, Young Persons, Children).

Monthly Average in 1893 ... 370 60 192 57 18 6 578 123 701

\* The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, p. 66.

IV.—Seamen.

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.) Table showing the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of February 1894 as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes.

Table showing the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels reported as having lost their lives at sea, categorized by location (England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom) and cause of death (Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included).

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

Number of Deaths.†

Table showing the number of deaths of seamen, categorized by Class of Vessels (Merchant Shipping Act, not so registered) and location (Sailing, Steam).

Monthly Average for 1893 ... 63 46 33 33 96 79 175

† Exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide and unknown causes.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—The bonuses which were given last year to settlers taking up land in the North-West, and British Columbia, were stopped on the first of this month. Several reports have been received from Canada in February and March. The majority of these show no demand for mechanics, but at St. John, in New Brunswick, there is stated to be a "good demand for shipwrights; and at Brantford, Ontario, "a good demand for mechanics generally." With regard to farm labourers, "a good man can always get work," near Brantford, Ontario, but at Edmonton, Calgary and Battleford, in the North-West Territories, there is very little demand—except for a short time at harvest—for men without sufficient money to take up a homestead.

New South Wales.—The selling rate of coal at the Newcastle collieries has been reduced from 11s. to 8s. a ton, and the hewing rate from 4s. 2d. to 3s. 2d. Some of the miners have, it is stated, struck work, owing to the refusal of the owners to allow them to share the work at the mines with some unemployed miners. The strike at some of the Southern collieries on the question of wages still continues. A report from Cooma (257 miles S.W. of Sydney), dated last January, states: "There are rather more men offering for the insufficient work available; men who are sent out with the view of settling on the land, must have money to buy or lease it."

Victoria.—An official report dated 29th December, last, states "during last month harvesting operations have greatly relieved the labour market." Some of the men, however, returned to Melbourne as soon as their work was completed, apparently tired of a country life, and desirous of being in Melbourne during the Christmas holidays. Some of these have been asking the Government to provide work for them in or near town. Railway work is going on in the Mallee country, and in connection with the coal lines of Gippsland. The Department of Agriculture are promoting the establishment of sericulture; and also the manufacture of scents from flowers, by giving women practical instruction in that industry at the Government scent farm at Dunolly. Good reports are received from the village settlements, but it is feared that the Leongatha labour colony will prove a failure, partly because private subscriptions to meet the Government grant have fallen off, and partly because the colony was situated in an unsuitable locality. Gold-mining continues to be prosecuted successfully in several directions, and a new field has been discovered in the Omeo district.

South Australia.—The demand for farm and station hands slightly improved at the beginning of this year, but there are still plenty of men on the spot waiting for engagements.

Queensland.—A report from Brisbane, dated January last, states that no improvement has taken place in the Building Trades, and that there is no demand for labour of any kind.

Western Australia.—The output from the gold mines in 1893 was nearly twice as much as in 1892. Many miners are doing well, but men without capital should not emigrate to the mines, as they are expensive both to reach and to live in.

Tasmania.—The direct steerage fare to Tasmania by New Zealand steamers has been reduced from £16 16s. to £15 15s.

New Zealand.—The journal of the Department of Labour, dated 17th January last, states: "The reports to hand from the various agents for the last month are very encouraging, work having been plentiful in the country, while the prospects for January are very good. Harvest will be in full swing, and this will give employment to a large number of men. Grass-seed harvest will also take up a large number of hands. We hear also of various contracts to be let for road-making in various parts of the North Island. All police constables

in the various country districts are agents of the Labour Department, and to them men should apply when in search of work." With regard to town work, the Building Trades have been busy or fairly busy at Gisborne, Masterton, Nelson, Christchurch, Dunedin, Napier, and Invercargill, but dull at Auckland and Wellington; the Iron and Engineering Trades have been dull at Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin and Wanganui, but have been fairly busy at Nelson, Christchurch and Invercargill. The direct steerage fare to New Zealand has been reduced from £16 16s. to £15 15s.

Natal.—A report from Pietermaritzburg, dated February, states, "there is no demand for farm labour, but a few white men are kept in some places as overseers of coloured labour; there is no demand for mechanics, and there is an excess of printers, bakers; and general labourers are principally coloured men; there is a good demand for general female servants and for governesses, but not for dressmakers; while laundresses can make 6s. to 10s. a day, working for themselves."

EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE.\*

THE Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended the 31st December 1893, states that during the year 1893, 3,287 personal inquirers called at the office, and 7,629 written applications were received from or on behalf of intending emigrants. Of the personal inquirers during the year about 24 per cent. were classed as general labourers, about 23 per cent. as mechanics, about 16 per cent. as clerks and shopmen, and 8 per cent. as female domestic servants. The "miscellaneous" list was larger than in 1892. As far as could be ascertained, less than 4 per cent. of the enquirers belonged to trade or friendly societies. The majority could pay the whole of their passage-money, and the number of those who could pay nothing at all was less than 10 per cent.

The lowest rates of passage to Canada at the end of the year were higher than in January 1893; to Australia they were lower; and to the Cape and Natal considerably lower. Very little assistance is now given to emigration by any of the Colonies. Assisted passages to Natal have been abolished, and free passages were for a short time at the end of the year temporarily suspended. The bonuses which the Dominion Government have been offering to settlers in Manitoba, the North-West Territories and British Columbia, will now be discontinued. The New Zealand Government, however, are reducing the rates of passage to emigrants recommended by the Agent-General and possessing fixed incomes or a capital of at least £100, with £50 additional for each child over twelve years. New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, offer no assistance whatever, and that given by Western Australia is limited to single women and small capitalists.

The Unemployed in New Zealand.—According to the Journal of the New Zealand Department of Labour, the total number of persons assisted in December was 156, as compared with 298 in November. Eighty-four, of whom 67 were general labourers, were sent to Government Works.

Table showing the number of persons assisted in December and November 1893, categorized by Occupations (General Labourers, Bushmen, Building Trades, etc.) and location (Total, December 1893, Total, November 1893).

Minor Trades and Handicrafts in Paris.—Two sets of reports are being issued by the French Labour Department in connection with its enquiry into wages and working hours in France. The first relates mainly to the greater industries, and last month's GAZETTE (p. 64) contained a notice of the first volume of that series. The second relates to the smaller industries, or crafts, as practised in workshops, retail stores, restaurants, &c., and its scope is limited to Paris and its suburbs. The first volume of the second series has now appeared. It relates to a group of trades connected with the preparation and supply of articles of food in Paris and its suburbs. The particular trades dealt with are those of bakers, confectioners, pastrycooks, cooks in hotels, clubs, restaurants, &c., butchers, tripe dealers, pork sellers, and dairymen. The system adopted has been that of minute enquiry into the conditions prevailing in a limited number of typical establishments belonging to each trade. The results are detailed in tabular form for each establishment examined, and are accompanied by a general account of the trade, showing approximately the number of employers and workmen, the facilities of the latter for attaining the position of the former, the importance of the establishments, and the conditions as regards wages, hours, sickness, accidents, friendly societies, and unions, &c.

\* Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for 1893. (C.—7,269.) Price 1d. † La Petite Industrie. Tome I. L'Alimentation à Paris. Office du Travail.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

## FRANCE.

The following particulars, are based on information supplied by the courtesy of the Office du Travail:—

**State of Employment in February.**—In the Department of the Seine, reports from unions connected with the Building Trades, show great want of work, the plumbers, masons, painters and chimney repairers returning high percentages of unemployed members. The letterpress printers report 15 per cent. of unemployed. The hatters report 24 per cent. unemployed, with a tendency to improve. Coachbuilders report 11 per cent. out of work, iron moulders 7 per cent., tinbox makers as much as 50 per cent. Surgical instrument makers are well employed with only 2½ per cent. out of work.

**Trade Disputes in February.**—The number of fresh strikes which took place in February was 20, and, in addition, 12 strikes begun in the preceding month remained unsettled at the beginning of February. In 14 of the fresh disputes, for which full particulars are given, 1,760 persons were engaged; in none of these did the number exceed 400. The results are given for only 8 strikes, of which half were unsuccessful, and half were compromised. Disputes were most frequent in the Textile Industry, the number being 7. Four of the strikes begun in January are reported as terminated. In the case of one the result is unknown, one succeeded, one failed, and one ended in a compromise.

**Arbitration and Conciliation.**—The Conciliation and Arbitration Law of December 1892 was resorted to on six occasions in February, as compared with seven in January. In three cases the initiative was taken by the operatives, and in two cases by the juges de paix.

The remaining case—a dispute among moulders—had been submitted during the previous month to two arbitrators chosen by the parties, but the award had been repudiated by the workmen. In February, however, negotiations were resumed, and the president of the civil tribunal nominated three arbitrators, whose award put an end to the dispute. On February 24th the juge de paix of Genolhac intervened in a miners' dispute; a Board of Conciliation met on the 26th, and succeeded in settling the differences.

In the case of another dispute (of glass workers at Lunéville) in which the juge de paix intervened, the strikers have acquired possession of the establishment.

In two other cases the proffered intervention was refused by the employers, and the other case is still pending.

**Conseil de prud'hommes.**—On February 7th, the President of the Republic decreed the formation of a Conseil de prud'hommes at la Rochelle, composed of 12 members elected, half by employers and half by workmen belonging to the following groups of trades:—Building and cognate Trades (6 members), Shipbuilding, Metal and kindred Trades (4 members), Printing, Clothing, Food, Chemical and other miscellaneous Trades (2 members).

**Co-operative Production.**—There are 91 co-operative productive societies in France and her Colonies (exclusive of fruit and milk societies). Of these 53 belong to the Consultative Chamber of Workmen's Productive Associations, 61 are in Paris, and 30 in the Departments and Colonies. 36 of the Parisian societies and 3 of the others belong to the Building Trades.

**Bankruptcies.**—The number of failures and judicial liquidations, &c., in France was 116 in February 1894, compared with 124 in February 1893.

**The Regulation of the Employment of Women and Children in France.**—The district inspectors appointed to administer the law of November 1892, regulating the employment of women and children in factories and workshops, have made their first report. The clauses of the law were not rigorously enforced until October 1st 1893, and the reports are made up to November 15th. From a summary of these reports it appears that the prohibition of the employment of children under 13 has roused little opposition, except that

a few glass works have asked permission to retain in their employment children engaged before the passing of the law. The provision limiting the working day to 10 hours for children under 16, to 11 hours a day and 60 hours a week for young persons from 16 to 18, and to 11 hours a day for women has been followed by protests in every district in all trades employing adults, young persons and children together. The manufacturers complain that they are practically obliged either to fix the hours at 10 a day for all employed, or to organise relays of children and young persons, or to dismiss children and young persons altogether. This third course is often impossible, owing to the difficulty of obtaining enough adult labour. The first, in the opinion of the manufacturers, would entail increased cost of production and a reduction of wages, and the second makes the proper regulation of the work-room difficult, removes the children from the control of their parents, and likewise makes it difficult to secure conformity with the law. There has been but little opposition to the provision prohibiting the employment of women and of young persons and children at night work, except from a few newspaper printing offices, wool carding works and small industries. With reference to the exceptions allowed in various industries, the factory inspectors lay great stress on the great difficulty in enforcing the law if they have a great variety of details to superintend.

The following particulars relating to January are based on information published in the February number of the Bulletin of the French Labour Department:—

**State of Employment.**—Department of Seine.—Of eight trade unions belonging to this department which furnished information, four reported a large proportion of their members as unemployed on January 15th. These were the Slaters, Plumbers and Zinc-workers' Union, 50 per cent.; the Hatters' Union, 35 per cent.; the Tin Solderers' Union, 30 per cent.; and the Paris Cooks' Union, 24 per cent. In the case of the first three the large percentage was due to the slack season. The General Union of Engine Drivers, with 4,000 members, had scarcely any unemployed, there being always a demand for efficient men. The compositors reported 15 per cent., the carriage builders 10 per cent., and the iron moulders 6 per cent. as idle.

**Nimes.**—Competition with Germany is said to be driving the Hosiery Industry into the rural districts, where labour is cheaper than in the towns. There are now only about 500 hosiery workers at Nimes, although there were 1,000 five years ago. It has almost ceased in St. Jean-du-Gard, where it once flourished.

The Silk Industry is said to be suffering through competition with Italy and Japan. Silk spinning has nearly disappeared in the canton of Bagnols. There are now only two spinning mills, while 20 years ago they numbered 30. In the department of Ardèche, too, silk spinning is in a state of decline owing to low prices.

The Straw Hat Trade of Bourg-de-Péage, at present a domestic industry, is undergoing a crisis, owing to new machinery and other causes. Workers fear that its conversion into a factory industry would throw the men out of work, and that their places would be filled by women and children. Wages are low.

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty-six fresh strikes were recorded during January, compared with 17 in December, while 11 strikes previously begun were still in progress at the beginning of the month. In 17 of the fresh strikes, for which full particulars were forthcoming, 2,605 persons were involved. In one case, 1,500 weavers at Beauvois (Nord), struck against reduced wages, but agreed to a compromise on the following day. The results are recorded for only 12 strikes, of which four are said to have succeeded, one to have ended in a compromise, and the rest to have failed. Of the 11 strikes continued from previous months, five were reported as having terminated, four in favour of the employers, the result of one being unknown.

**Arbitration and Conciliation.**—The means provided by the law of December 1892, for conciliation and arbitration, were resorted to on seven occasions during January. In four cases the initiative was taken by the operatives, in two by the County Court judges, and in one instance by employers and workers jointly. The latter was the only successful attempt at conciliation.

The working printers of Algiers and Lille recently endeavoured to adopt the system of joint permanent boards of conciliation, such as exist in the Printing Industry of Paris and other large cities. The master printers of Lille, however, declined to adopt the proposal.

\* See introductory notes, p. 66.

**Coal Mining.**—The subjoined table gives some of the chief results of the working of coal mines in France for the ten years ended 1892:—

Years.	Average number of Miners Employed.	Annual output (in British tons).		Value per British ton at pit's mouth.	Wages.	
		Total.	Per Miner.		Total paid per ton of output.	Average per Miner* per annum.
1883	113,000	20,991,000	186	9 11½	4 9½	45 0 0
1884	103,000	19,702,000	181	9 10½	4 9½	46 18 4
1885	102,000	19,197,000	188	9 4½	4 4	41 13 7
1886	102,000	19,500,000	192	8 11½	4 3½	41 19 2
1887	103,000	20,946,000	203	8 6	4 1½	42 13 7
1888	105,000	22,440,000	212	8 3	4 0½	43 7 2
1889	110,000	23,913,000	217	8 4	4 1½	44 16 0
1890	122,000	25,604,000	209	9 6½	4 6	48 4 0
1891	132,000	25,607,000	194	10 7	4 10½	48 2 5
1892	133,000	25,758,000	194	9 11	4 11½	48 16 10

**Higher Council of Labour.**—The question of furthering a system of people's Loan Institutions was discussed by the Higher Council of Labour on the 22nd January. The Council was opposed to Trade Unions assuming the functions of loan societies, and among its recommendations were: a State subvention, the authorising of ordinary savings banks to invest part of their funds with co-operative credit or productive associations, and the authorising of the Bank of France to discount bills presented by co-operative associations of well-known solvency.

## GERMANY.

The following particulars are based on notes received from Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, under date of March 2nd:

**Arbitration.**—The moulders' dispute at Nürnberg, mentioned in last month's GAZETTE, and due to the proposed introduction of piece-work, has been settled through the intervention of the Board of Arbitration—the first case in which it was appealed to since its establishment in 1891. The introduction of piece-work was agreed to, provided the old rate of daily pay was guaranteed, even though a less amount were earned by piece-work in a 10-hours shift. If a greater amount be earned it is to be paid in full. Overtime is to be paid 25 per cent. extra, wages paid in full every pay day, or end of the week.† A committee is to be constituted of equal numbers of employers and employed, to settle in future all complaints or disputes. Agreements are to be registered, and copies furnished to the Board of Arbitration, and to the Employers' and Workmen's Unions.

**Disputes.**—The moulders of Augsburg struck in sympathy with those of Nürnberg, and on February 26th a fresh strike broke out in a mill plant establishment of that town, owing, as alleged, to the employers having acted at variance with the terms of arbitration.

The stone-cutters at a Berlin establishment have struck for the abolition of piece-work, and for a minimum wage of 6s. a day. They are supported by those in work belonging to the trade in Berlin, who are contributing 6 per cent. of their wages for this purpose and for the support of the men on strike in Frankfurt-on-Main (see last month's GAZETTE). Strikes of carpenters and papermakers are also reported from Berlin.

At a meeting held on February 13th, it was stated that 48 cabdrivers who were engaged in the recent cab-strike in Berlin were out of work, and it was resolved to continue to assist them.

At Hof a strike of wheelwrights for 5 per cent. increase of wages was concluded on the employers promising to introduce an 11-hours shift; the needle-makers at a factory are out against a proposed 10 per cent. reduction of wages.

At Burg about 60 out of 150 workpeople in a boot factory have struck for 10 to 40 per cent. increase in wages, and for a thorough cleansing of the workshops. The gilders of Burg are also on strike, on a wages question.

At Itzehoe the coopers at a cement factory are on strike on a question of wages, and at Barmen the

painters at a stove factory have been discharged for refusing to agree to a 25 per cent. reduction in pay.

The strike of tanners in Magdeburg against a reduction of wages, reported in the December GAZETTE, has been settled in favour of the men.

**Child Labour in Factories.**—From April 1st next children under 14\* years of age may no longer be employed in factories or in workshops using steam or other power. This is due to a recent amendment of the Industrial Code, by which children subject to school attendance are prohibited altogether from employment in factories or workshops of the kind described. The operation of the amendment was deferred as regards those already so employed, and the period of transition expires on March 31st. Another amendment, by which the intervals of rest for young persons (14 to 16 years of age) working in factories were altered, comes into operation at the same time.—Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt.

**Miners' Certificates of Competency.**—The following are among regulations which the mining authorities of the State have decided to introduce in the Rhenish-Westphalian coal district:—

Persons under 16, and those who, up to the age of 60, have never worked in the mines, are to be prohibited from doing so in future.

In order to act as chief hewer (stallman), a man must have completed his 21st year, must have worked at least three years in the mines, and at least one year under a certificated hewer.

Gangs of headway drivers, hewers, timberers, &c., engaged at the same job must be in charge of a certificated hewer.—Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt.

**The Unemployed.**—A thousand workers in the Government Salt-works of Anhalt were employed only five days a week during the slack period (December and January) to avoid discharging any of the men, and full time was resumed on February 3.—ibid.

The town authorities of Königsberg, Görlitz, Zwickau, Crimmitschau and Braunschweig have voted sums for relief works. In Görlitz 300 of the unemployed will be engaged on earthworks at about 2½d. an hour. At Zwickau 100 men will be employed on street improvements and sewer making. In Crimmitschau stone-breaking will employ a small number, and in Braunschweig £2,500 is to be spent in sewer construction, on which the unemployed will be engaged.—Blätter für Soziale Praxis.

## BELGIUM.

The following is a summary of information supplied by Mr. Adam, Secretary of H.M. Legation at Brussels, under date of February 28th:—

**Disputes.**—The strike of shoemakers in Verviers, reported in last month's GAZETTE, came to an end on the 19th of February. Some slight concessions had been obtained from the employers on the 14th, at a meeting arranged by the burgomaster, between two delegates of the men and two of the employers, and these were laid before the workmen's union. The strike had lasted eight weeks.

A settlement of the Sprimont quarrymen's strike is likely to follow from recent action of the Belgian Government. On the 16th February the Duc d'Ursel, who had been appointed Special Commissioner by the Government, met the quarry owners to discuss the situation, and a further meeting was arranged, to which the quarrymen's delegates were also invited. On the 26th and 27th February, the local Council of Industry and Labour met, under the presidency of the Royal Commissioner. The representatives of the workmen numbered 16 and those of the quarry owners 14.

The employers recognised the quarrymen's rights to form a union, but it was agreed that all disputes should be referred to the Council of Industry and Labour.

Various amendments to the regulations at present in force in the quarries were discussed. The principal difficulty raised had reference to the old custom of bidding for the stone to be worked, which the workmen could not be induced to give up. The Duc d'Ursel eventually decided, as arbitrator, that work should be resumed on March 1st, and that bids should be allowed for 60 per cent. of the whole amount of stone to be worked. The workmen obtained a reduction of the working day from 14 to 13 hours, including intervals.

\* Boys and all surfacemen included.  
† In many branches of industry in Germany the system exists of payment on account of wages or earnings, and a settling-up day once a month.

\* In Bavaria the maximum age is 13.



It is generally believed that these terms will be accepted by the quarrymen's union.

The strike has been in progress since November 25th, and it is said to have caused a very sensible fall in prices, especially of food products, throughout the district.

**Liège Gunmakers.**—A meeting of the local branch of the Council of Industry and Labour met at Liège on February 5th, to consider means for improving the condition of workmen in the Gunmakers' Trade. Proposals for the organisation and distribution of trade unions among the various classes of workmen, and for the establishment of a board of arbitration between them and their employers, were approved by the Employers' Syndicate. That body also decided to hand over a portion of the profits of the Proving and Marking Board for 1893, for distribution among gunsmiths out of work.

#### HOLLAND.

**Royal Commission on Labour.**—Mr. C. L. des Graz, one of the Secretaries of H.M.'s Legation at the Hague, under date of February 23rd, has transmitted copy of the final report of the Netherlands Royal Commission on Labour, together with a translation of its chief recommendations.

Among the objects for which it advises the introduction of Bills into Parliament are:—

The framing of regulations in the interest of the health and safety of workers in factories, workshops and building works, and their enforcement by inspectors.

The licensing of certain classes of manufactories and workshops by the local authorities, and submission of building plans to them for approval.

The regulation of the working hours of railway workers, with the fixing of a maximum of 14 hours a day (including intervals of rest), or of 80 hours in seven days, with provisions for intervals and holidays.

The institution of Chambers of Labour, with equal representation of employers and workers, for promoting good relations between them, and for advising the authorities on labour questions.

The amendment of the law regulating the status of associations, and as regards the mutual relations of employers and workers, with special reference to fines, control of workers' funds, terms of notice, &c.

The restriction of some forms of "truck," and the abolition of abuses in the payment of wages; the latter to be paid at least weekly, and not in public-houses.

The regulation of school attendance and the provision by the Communes of facilities for evening or other school attendance on the part of young persons who are employed in factories, etc., conditionally upon such attendance.

The insurance of workpeople against accidents to be made obligatory for employers and promoted by the State.

The condemnation and removal by the Communes of insanitary or unsafe buildings, the amendment of the Poor Laws with a view to promoting the co-operation of the various relief agencies, and the regulation of pawnshops.

The Commission recommends the consideration of measures for preventing excessive hours of work and night work, and advises immediate action in this direction as regards bakeries, and the loading and unloading of ships. It recommends the simplification of law proceedings arising out of differences between employers and workers, the drawing up of a scheme of compulsory old age insurance, and the observance of Sunday as far as possible as a day of rest.

#### SWITZERLAND.

H.M. Consul at Zürich has transmitted a report under date of February 28th, based on notes by Herr Greulich, the Swiss Workmen's Secretary. The following is a summary of the report:—

**Female Factory Inspectors.**—The united Workwomen's Unions and Women's Leagues of the canton of Zürich

have addressed a petition to the Government praying that the enforcement of the recent Cantonal Law for the protection of female and child workers (see January GAZETTE) should be entrusted to female factory inspectors. The petition has been refused for the present.

**Agitation in Building Trades.**—A movement in favour of a nine hours day and higher wages is to be inaugurated this spring by the Building Trade Unions throughout Switzerland. The prospects of success in this movement are, however, considered doubtful; firstly, owing to the strong resistance likely to be offered by the master-builders, as the ten hours day has not yet been universally applied, or where applied has been very recently introduced; secondly, owing to the competition caused by the large influx of foreign masons, especially Italians and Tyrolese, who cross the Alps in spring to earn a living in Switzerland; and thirdly, owing to the opposition of the small master-craftsmen, who declare that a nine hours day would ruin the small crafts.

**State of Employment.**—There are a great number of unemployed in the Building Trades, in spite of the fact that much building is in progress. The embroidery workers of East Switzerland have decided to form a fund for insuring against distress caused by want of employment. The fund will be managed by the members themselves, and the public authorities and private persons will be asked to subscribe. The premiums paid by members are to be moderate, and all embroiderers, whether members of the Union or not, will be eligible to join.

**Regulation of Crafts.**—On March 4th the Swiss people were to decide by Referendum the question of giving the Confederation power to establish general regulations for crafts, which have hitherto been subject to Cantonal regulation only.

#### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The following information is based on a Report from Sir E. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Vienna, dated February 20th:—

**Disputes.**—A strike of 400 colliers in Ostrau in Moravia, for reduced hours and increased pay broke out on February 7th, but was settled after three days without outside intervention. At Maffersdorf, near Reichenberg, 1,200 workmen, engaged in a carpet factory, struck, owing to the dismissal of 24 workmen who were organising a wage movement. About 200 still remain at work, and the matter has been referred for decision to the Government Commissioner. On January 13th the workpeople belonging to the American Indiarubber Factory at Breitensee, near Vienna, numbering 413, struck for increased wages, and 25 per cent. extra for overtime. They refused the employers' offer of a minimum weekly wage, and were all dismissed, but were allowed to resume work on January 29th, certain concessions being made to them. Several small strikes occurred in iron foundries, but they were speedily settled; in one case the men obtained a rise of 10d. per week in wages.

**Gasworkers.**—On January 23rd the men of the Vienna section of the Imperial Continental Gas Association—an English Company—handed in a memorandum to the directors proposing a better regulation of wages. For men engaged out of doors, 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day was proposed; for stokers, 3s. to 3s. 4d. a day; and for skilled workmen, 3s. 2d. to 3s. 6d. a day. Only the lamplighters' wages were to be raised, viz., to 2s. 6d. a day. After referring the matter to London the directors agreed to the proposed changes, except that relating to the lamplighters.

**Railway Workers.**—It appears that a joint committee is to be chosen, partly by the directors and partly by the men, of the Southern Railway—one of the few private railways in Austria—to consider the question of wages and promotion. Wages are said to have remained the same for the last 40 years, while the cost of living has greatly increased.

**Workmen's Meetings.**—On February 12th a meeting of printers was held in Vienna, at which a resolution was

passed in favour of a nine-hours working day and a minimum wage of 25s. a week. On February 16th, at a meeting of waiters and potboys in Vienna, resolutions were passed in favour of one fixed day's rest a week. It was stated that 16 or 17 hours was the usual duration of work per day, and that out of 3,600 wine and coffee-house proprietors, hardly 200 allowed one holiday a week to their servants.

**The Unemployed.**—Several meetings of the unemployed have been held in Vienna since the beginning of the year. On several occasions, when they demonstrated near the Palace, the police had to appear.

#### HUNGARIAN FACTORY LAW.

Mr. Milbanke, H.M. Consul-General for Hungary, under date of March 2nd, has forwarded a summary of a law recently passed by the Hungarian Parliament, for the protection of workmen employed in factories and for the supervision of factories by inspection.

The Act prescribes the duties of employers with regard to the disposition, working and fencing of machinery, ventilation and lighting, the using of respirators where poisonous substances are dealt with, the provision of bandages and medicaments required in case of accidents, and provision against fire.

The Minister is empowered to introduce further precautionary measures beyond those already mentioned in the Law.

The Inspectors whose duty it is to enforce the Law are appointed by the Minister of Commerce. They are bound to visit every factory and larger industrial establishment at least once a year, they must ascertain particulars of any accidents that may have occurred, whether the workmen are insured against accident, and certain other information on matters bearing on the conditions of labour.

With certain reservations for obviating the disclosure of business secrets, the inspectors are empowered to visit all parts of an industrial establishment at any time, and have compulsory powers of acquiring information from employers or workmen.

The inspector must point out to the employer any defects, and advise him as to their remedy. If this advice is not followed the matter is referred to the proper authorities.

After every visit a minute must be drawn up by the inspector and forwarded to the Minister of Commerce, giving the result of the enquiries.

The inspectors have also to keep a record of all factories and larger industrial establishments, to collect statistics regarding the condition and wages of workmen, to superintend apprentice schools, and to report on these matters to the Minister of Commerce.

Employers or workmen who fail to comply with the provisions of the Act will be liable to a fine not exceeding 100 fl. (about £8 10s.). The fine may be raised to 300 fl. if bodily injury has been caused by their breach of the Act, provided the offence does not come under the criminal law.

Further fines are imposed on employers obstructing the inspector in the discharge of his duties.

The Act, however, does not affect other existing laws (civil or criminal) regarding the responsibilities of employers of labour in case of accidents.

**Technical Schools in Bohemia.**—In addition to several large schools for general technical instruction, controlled by the Education Department, such as exist in Prague, Reichenberg, and Pilsen, there are in Bohemia 47 technical schools for individual trades, established by the Ministry of Commerce, and supported by an annual expenditure of £23,000. Of the latter, 16 are for weaving; seven for basket making; six for wood working; two each for glass, metal working, and lace making; three for pottery; and three for the musical training of musical instrument makers. The others include schools for braziers, engravers, and bronze workers; for sculpture and stone cutting, and for precious stone working.—*Handels Museum.*

**Increased Wages for Government Salt Workers.**—The Minister of Finance has sanctioned a 10 per cent. increase in the wages of the Government salt workers of Salzkammergut, in accordance with a provision allowing such increase in times of high food prices. The wages of salt workers were fixed in 1872 in four different classes, beginning at 1s., 1s. 3d., 1s. 6d., and 1s. 8d. a day re-

spectively. The various grades were attained by annual increments of 1d. a day until the maximum of 1s. 9d. a day was reached. These rates have now been raised 10 per cent.—*Arbeiter Zeitung.*

#### SPAIN.

**Dock Strike at Santander.**—Details of a strike of mariners, chiefly fishermen, belonging to the port of Santander, are furnished in a series of reports transmitted under dates of February 1st, 3rd, and 10th by Lieut. C. S. Smith, H.M. Consul at Bilbao. It was begun on January 28th by the mariners, owing to the issue of regulations for improving the pilotage service, and directed towards the proper manning of the pilot boats. The quay labourers, with whom the mariners form an Amalgamated Union, joined the strike to show their sympathy. At first some inconvenience resulted, and three British steamers which called at the port for iron ore had to proceed to Bilbao for freight. Later on the strike was rendered of little effect owing to the introduction of outside labour, and on the 10th February was reported as terminated. During the strike the men were receiving 1s. 7d. a day for maintenance from the funds of the Union.

#### UNITED STATES.

##### CHICAGO DISTRICT.

The following information is based on a report by Col. J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, dated February 26th:—

**State of Employment.**—Distress among the unemployed at Chicago is general, and constant calls are made on the charitably disposed to relieve the numerous cases of actual destitution and want. The same condition exists throughout this district, though the distress may not be so marked as in Chicago itself.

The Illinois Steel Company at South Chicago, which closed down in the autumn of last year, has started one of its blast furnaces, giving employment to 100 men, and it is expected that another will soon be started in a few days.

**Changes of Wages and Hours.**—In last month's GAZETTE an account was given of the order obtained in the United States Court, at Milwaukee, prohibiting a strike against the reduced wages scale on the North Pacific Railway. At Denver, Colorado, two judges have refused to grant a similar petition for the reduction of the wages of organised workmen. Probably, however, the order of the judge at Milwaukee, practically insisting that the question at issue should be peacefully settled, has influenced the arrangement. The scale reducing the average rate of wages by 7½ per cent. has been accepted by the men, and the company has conceded modifications of the rules governing hours of work and pay for overtime. Among these modifications it is conceded that overtime caused by delay through a wreck or other cause is to be paid for, and a day's work for an engineer is to be a 100 mile run or 10 hours.

**Disputes.**—A strike among union carpenters employed by the contractors on the Stock Exchange Building at Chicago occurred on February 16th, and some trouble has arisen. It seems to have originated in a question as to an agreement regarding wages, and on a resolution of the contractors to employ an additional 300 men in laying down flooring boards, and to reduce the scale for such work to 1s. 1½d. per hour, while the men demanded a minimum of 1s. 5½d. per hour. The contractors offered arbitration, which has been refused by the men. The contractors engaged some non-union men, some of whom have been assaulted by the strikers. The contractors have appealed to the Mayor for protection. No arrangement seems at present probable, and some 200 or 250 men of nine other trades employed on the building have now struck in sympathy.

**Arbitration.**—The joint Board of Arbitration between the bricklayers and stonemasons and the Chicago Masons' and Builders' Association, with a judge as umpire, has completed an arrangement of working rules for 1894. The wages remain the same as for the last five years, namely, 2s. 1d. an hour. It was stated that the modern mode of building, and the crowded condition of the

labour market, entailed an average loss to the employed of 50 per cent. of working days.

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT.

Capt. R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, reports as follows, under date of February 26th:—

The slight improvement noticed in the various industries last month still continues, and a far more hopeful feeling and increasing confidence pervade the mercantile market. In the meantime prices continue to fall fairly in proportion to the reduction of wages, and with the fall of prices the quantity of merchandise exported has risen in even greater proportion.

Charitable relief and employment on public works at one dollar per day is still being offered to thousands of destitute persons in various towns.

**Iron and Steel.**—Many of the mills are resuming in the Iron and Steel Industries, and although dissatisfaction with the reduced wages is occasionally manifested, and in some instances has resulted in strikes, no great difficulty appears to exist in securing men willing to work at the terms offered.

**Mines.**—Great destitution still prevails in the coal mine districts, although some collieries have resumed operations. The Mansfield rioters were promptly arrested for the burning and pillaging committed last month, and were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from a few months to two years.

**Glass.**—The condition of the various Glass Industries remains generally satisfactory, and the labour is well organised, while a good feeling appears to unite the employers and the employed. Suggestions of definite co-operation are numerous, especially in the Window-glass Industry, but are not regarded with especial favour by the workers.

**Pottery.**—The Pottery Industry is experiencing a severe struggle against the proposed wholesale reduction of wages to an English level, plus the import duty; and strikes are very prevalent.

**Stone Quarries.**—The Cut Stone Contractors and Quarrymen's Association, of Alleghany, co. Pa. has disbanded, after three year's existence. The stone-cutters of that district have determined not to accept a reduction of wages if one is offered; the present scale expires in June. The anticipated revival of business for the spring has not yet commenced.

The Secretary of the United States Treasury issued, on January 30th, a circular giving instructions for the more stringent enforcement of the Alien Contract Labour Laws.

MOTIVE POWER IN SMALL WORKSHOPS IN FRANCE.

SIR J. A. CROWE, H.M. Commercial Attaché in Paris, reporting under date of 26th February on the distribution of motive power for the purpose of small industries in certain parts of France, states that hitherto Lyons has had at its disposal steam motive power equal to 13,000 horse-power, and 1,000 horse-power has been obtained in addition by gas motors. Very little of this has, however, been at the disposal of weavers, who need motors of small power, and being unable to obtain them in town have been forced to emigrate into the country. Lyons is now preparing to establish works on a large scale to produce, by means of a canal, a waterfall capable of yielding a force of 12,000 horse-power to be distributed in the form of electric energy to the dwellings of subscribers. An Act of Parliament for this purpose was obtained in July 1892, and the promoters of the new canal hope to be able to distribute even to one loom the power at present got by hand. At St. Etienne three electrical companies exist from which motive power can be purchased, but their operations have been chiefly confined to lighting. One of the companies, however, has 28 subscribers to whom it distributes motive power amounting to 36 horse-power in small motors. The other two companies have 14 subscribers, to whom motive power is communicated in a similar way. It is apparent that St. Etienne is only beginning to develop what may become a large business in the distribution of motive-power.

MINNESOTA LABOUR BUREAU.\*

The law creating the Minnesota Bureau of Labour Statistics makes it one of the duties of that Bureau "to visit and examine factories and workshops, and other places, where people are employed at any kind of labour; to examine into the methods of protection from danger to employes and unsanitary conditions in and around the establishments, and make a record thereof." The Third Biennial Report of the Bureau for 1891 and 1892 gives an account of the system of inspection adopted and the success attending it, and examines at length the dangers incurred in various occupations, and the safeguards which should be adopted, the laws relating to Employers' Liability, and the extent to which employers and workmen insure themselves against accident. The Penal Code of Minnesota renders an employer liable to indictment for manslaughter in case death to a workman results from his want of care or foresight. The provision is a dead letter, since in ordinary cases of death by machinery the penalty is greater than the act merits. Such Employers' Liability laws as are in force are not self-operating; Employers' Liability Insurance Companies are organized with great capital, and their effect is to make it more difficult for injured workmen to recover damages, and in cases where there has been contributory negligence no relief is afforded by law. The Report contrasts the German accident insurance system with that of America and England, and exhibits tables to show that the expenses of working are less under the German system than in the American insurance companies. The second part of the Report gives the history of inventions in flour-making machinery and the prices of wheat, flour, &c. The third part on Trade Unions, shows the working of the more important American Trade Unions, such as those of the Cigar Makers, the German-American Printers, the Machinery Moulders of North America, and the Operative Plasterers of the United States and Canada. The fourth part deals with Mortgage Foreclosures and Land Values in Minnesota.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL FOR MARCH 1894.

Board of Trade Notices. State of the Skilled Labour Market, &c. Imports of Hay into the United Kingdom. Russian Commercial Relations with Central Asia. Development of Norwegian Industries. The Foreign Trade of Germany in 1893. The Industrial Condition of Germany. Cattle Breeding in the German South West African Protectorate. Coffee Leaf Disease in Central Africa. Production of Tin and Terne Plates in the United States. The use of Crude Petroleum in the United States. The Resources of Uruguay. Castor Oil Production in British India. Proposed New Commercial Treaty between Russia and Germany. Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations. Extracts from Diplomatic and Consular Reports. General Trade Notes. Recent Trade Blue Books. Proceedings of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. Quarantine and Post Office Notices. Statistical Tables and List of Diplomatic, Consular, and Colonial Office Reports.

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**Changes in Address of Factory Inspectors.**—The following alterations have occurred in the address of Factory Inspectors published on page 204 of the December issue of the GAZETTE:—  
J. Hilditch, Esq. (new address), 17 Cunliffe-st, Rhosddu Wrexham.  
R. Tinker, Esq. (new address), Bentley-house, Mosesgate, Bolton.

\*Third Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the State of Minnesota, 1891-1892. Minneapolis, 1893.  
†Bulletin Russe de Statistique Financière et de Legislation St. Petersburg. Imprimerie du Ministère des Finances. (V. Kirchbaum) 1894.

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