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## CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

	PAGE
<b>Summary of the State of Employment in January</b> ... ..	33
<b>Special Articles and Reports—</b>	
CHANGES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1896 ...	35
AN "UNEMPLOYED" CENSUS IN GERMANY... ..	37
CO-OPERATIVE CONTRACTS ... ..	36
ACCIDENT AND OLD AGE INSURANCE IN GERMANY, 1895... ..	36
RECENT CONCILIATION CASES ... ..	40
LABOUR DISPUTES IN AUSTRIA IN 1895 ... ..	39
THE FISH-CURING INDUSTRY ... ..	38
THE GROWTH OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE ... ..	39
TRADE SOCIETIES IN HOLLAND ... ..	41
<b>Employment in Special Industries and Districts—</b>	
REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.	
COAL MINING ... ..	44
IRON MINING ... ..	44
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE ... ..	45
STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS ... ..	45
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR ... ..	46
SEAMEN ... ..	47
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR ... ..	47
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES ... ..	46
DISTRICT REPORTS.	
LONDON ... ..	47
ENGLAND: Northern Counties ... ..	48
Lancashire ... ..	49
Yorkshire ... ..	50
Midland Counties ... ..	51
Eastern Counties ... ..	53
South Western Counties ... ..	53
WALES ... ..	54
SCOTLAND ... ..	54
IRELAND ... ..	55
<b>Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—</b>	
COLONIES .. .. 41	43
FRANCE ... .. 42	43
GERMANY ... .. 42	43
SWITZERLAND ... .. 43	43
BELGIUM ... ..	43
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ... ..	43
DENMARK ... ..	43
ITALY ... ..	43
<b>Miscellaneous Reports for January—</b>	
LABOUR CASES ... ..	40
RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION ... ..	58
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS ... ..	64
FOREIGN TRADE ... ..	63
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..	64
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION ... ..	64
<b>Statistical Tables for January—</b>	
TRADE DISPUTES ... ..	60
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES ... ..	56
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR... ..	58
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ... ..	59
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS ... ..	63
LABOUR BUREAUX... ..	62
PAUPERISM ... ..	62
PRICES OF COAL AND IRON ... ..	39
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS ... ..	63

## Notes—

BRUSSELS EXHIBITION—SOCIAL ECONOMY SECTION ...	63
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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY.\*

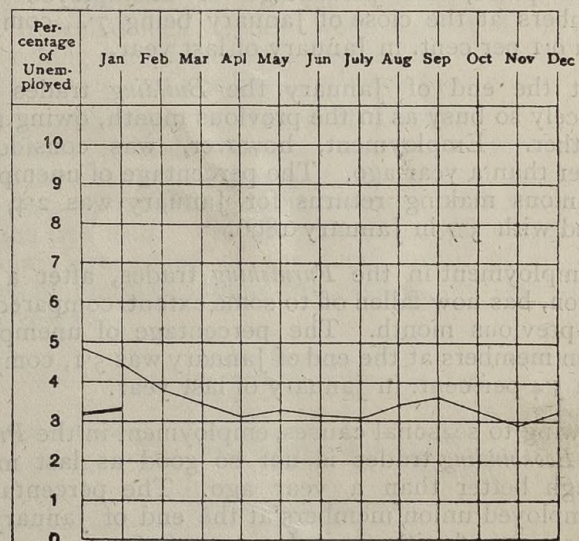
### I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

TAKEN as a whole the state of employment changed very little during January, there being, if anything, a slight falling off. The best comparison, however, is with January 1896, since the Christmas holidays interfered with the labour market at the close of December. Compared with a year ago most important industries, including the coal, iron and steel, engineering and ship-building and building trades, are better employed, the most notable exception being the textile trades. Almost all the changes of wages recorded during the month were in an upward direction.

In the 115 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 452,742, 14,842 (or 3·3 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of January, compared with 3·2 per cent. in December, and with 4·5 per cent., in the 96 unions, with a membership of 401,410, from which returns were received for January 1896.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1896 and 1897.



The proportions of unemployed in the 115 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent. ... ..	62	282,883
3 and under 5 per cent. ... ..	28	68,503
5 and under 7 per cent. ... ..	13	49,139
7 and under 10 per cent. ... ..	5	45,378
10 per cent. and upwards ... ..	7	6,839

**Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.**  
On the whole, employment was better than a year ago, and, as compared with December, remains practically

\* The reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of January, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between January 31st and February 15th.

the same. The average number of days worked per week at pits employing 406,977 persons was 5.15, compared with 5.16 in December, and 4.94 in January 1896. Unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted at the end of January to 1.4 per cent. of the membership, as against 1.2 per cent. at the end of December, and 1.7 per cent. at the end of January 1896. (For further details see page 44.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment still continues very good, and is slightly better than in December. At 126 mines and openworks the 16,238 workpeople employed worked an average of 5.72 days per week, as compared with 5.65 days in December, and 5.70 in January 1896. The number employed was higher by about 4.6 per cent. than a year ago. (For further details see page 44.)

In the **Pig Iron Industry** employment was still considerably better than a year ago. At the end of January the ironmasters making returns had 349 furnaces in blast, compared with 335 in January 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 22,341, compared with 21,464 a year ago. Compared with the end of December employment has also improved, the number of furnaces in blast having increased by 3, and the number of workpeople employed by 78. (For further details see page 45.)

Employment at **Steelworks** at the end of January was much better than a year ago. At 129 works making returns, 36,678 workpeople were employed as compared with 33,788 at the end of January 1896, an increase of about 8½ per cent. (For further details see page 45.)

At **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** employment was about the same as a year ago, the number employed at 92 works being 18,214 at the end of January, and 18,133 in January 1896. (For further details see page 45.)

In the **Tinplate** trade employment has further improved, the number of mills reported to be at work being 332 as compared with 324 at the end of December. (For further details see page 45.)

Employment in the **Engineering** and kindred trades continues to improve, and is now brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 1.9, compared with 4.3 per cent in January 1896.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades a further improvement has taken place, the percentage of unemployed union members at the close of January being 7.4, compared with 9.1 per cent. in January of last year.

At the end of January the **Building** trades were scarcely so busy as in the previous month, owing to the weather. Employment, however, was considerably better than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns for January was 2.4, compared with 3.7 in January 1896.

Employment in the **Furnishing** trades, after a busy season, has now fallen off to some extent, compared with the previous month. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 5.1, compared with 5.4 per cent. in January of last year.

Owing to seasonal causes, employment in the **Printing** and **Bookbinding** trades is not so good as last month, though better than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 4.5, compared with 5.4 in January 1896.

Employment in the **Paper** trade remains steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 3.2, or the same percentage as in January 1896.

Employment in the **Glass** trade remains slack. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was 12.1, compared with 10.1 per cent. in January of last year.

In the **Leather** trades employment remains steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of January was only 2.7, compared with 5.4 per cent. in January 1896.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade has improved, but is still slack; in the bespoke trade it continues dull.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade shows some improvement; in the bespoke branch it remains dull.

In the **spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade employment is moderate; in the **weaving** branch it remains slack.

Employment in the **Woollen** trade remains slack. In the **Worsted** trade it is very dull; in the **Hosiery** trade moderate.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 457 mills, employing about 73,000 women and girls, shows that 76 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 75 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for December, and 87 per cent. for January 1896. (For further details see page 46.)

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—In London, employment was considerably better than a year ago, but not quite so good as in December. The average number of labourers employed daily in the docks and principal wharves was 16,008, as compared with 16,705 in December, and 14,710 in January 1896. (For further details see page 47.)

**Agricultural Employment** was somewhat interrupted in January, particularly towards the end of the month, by inclement weather. Generally the irregularity of employment was confined to odd men or casual men, and considering the state of the weather the number affected was not abnormal. (For further details see page 46.)

**Trade Disputes.**—Forty-eight fresh disputes occurred in January, involving 16,615 workpeople, as compared with 36, involving 6,316 workpeople, in December, and 50, involving about 7,500 workpeople, in January 1896. Fourteen disputes took place in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 11 in the textile trades, 6 in the building trades, 5 in the coal mining industry, 5 in the clothing trades, 2 in dock labour, and 5 in other industries. Of the 58 new and old disputes (involving 17,911 persons) reported as settled, 24, involving 4,166 persons, were successful from the point of view of the workpeople; 20, involving 2,210, were unsuccessful; 13, involving 11,191 persons, resulted in a compromise, and in the remaining dispute, involving 344 persons, the result was indefinite. The aggregate working days lost in January through labour disputes new and old was about 310,000, compared with 199,000 in December. (For further details see pages 60 and 61.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—During January changes in rates of wages affecting about 25,000 workpeople were reported, 23,800 receiving increases and 1,200 sustaining decreases. The estimated effect of all the changes is an average increase of 1s. 4½d. per week in the wages of the total number affected. The increases include 6,300 workpeople in the engineering and shipbuilding industries, 6,000 ironstone miners, 5,500 workpeople engaged in tinplate manufacture, nearly 2,000 building-trade operatives, and 1,800 limestone quarrymen. The only important decrease was one affecting 1,100 steelworkers.

Changes affecting 1,700 workpeople took place under sliding scales, wages boards, &c., and changes affecting about 750 workpeople were preceded by strikes. The remainder, involving over 22,500 workpeople, were settled by negotiation or otherwise. (For further details see pages 56-58.)

**Pauperism.**—In 35 selected urban districts 337,167 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of January. These figures correspond to a rate of 215 per 10,000 of the population of those districts, or 6 less per 10,000 than in January 1896. (For further details see page 62.)

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom during January for places out of Europe was 6,669, as compared with 6,940 in January 1896. (For further details see page 64.)

## CHANGES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

### PRELIMINARY FIGURES FOR 1896.

The following summary of changes in rates of wages and hours of labour reported during 1896 is preliminary only, but, owing to the completeness of the monthly reports, it is unlikely that any subsequent alterations or additions will materially affect the general result.

#### Changes in Rates of Wages.

The total number of separate individuals affected by changes in rates of wages during 1896 so far as reported was about 601,200. Of this number 375,000 received a net increase, 168,700 sustained a net decrease, and the wages of 57,500, although affected by upward and downward changes during the year, stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning. The estimated effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of the total number of workpeople affected was an average increase of 10d. per head.

For convenience of comparison particulars of the changes recorded in each of the four years 1893-6, inclusive, are given in the following table:—

	Year.			
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.*
<b>Number of Changes:—</b>				
Increases ... ..	508	668	624	1,255
Decreases ... ..	198	171	180	115
Total ... ..	706	779	804	1,370
<b>Aggregate number of workpeople affected:—</b> (Counting individuals as many times as their wages change)				
By Increases ... ..	655,014	321,011	93,981	541,000
By Decreases ... ..	767,494	917,727	917,722	370,000
Total ... ..	1,422,508	1,238,738	1,011,703	911,000
<b>Number of separate individuals affected:—</b>				
By Increases ... ..	142,364	175,615	79,867	375,000
By Decreases ... ..	256,473	488,357	351,895	168,700
By upward and downward changes resulting in wages standing at the same level at the end of the year as at the beginning	151,140	6,414	4,956	57,500
Total ... ..	549,977	670,386	436,718	601,200
<b>Average weekly rise (+) or fall (-) in rates of wages of the number of separate individuals affected</b>	s. d. +0 8½	s. d. -1 4½	s. d. -1 3½	s. d. +0 10

It will be seen from the table that in 1896 the tendency of wages to fall, which had prevailed during the two preceding years, and but for the temporary effect of the great coal dispute in 1893 would have also been apparent in that year, ceased and gave place to a rise. The tide had turned in the autumn of 1895, and throughout 1896 there was a marked upward movement, especially in the Engineering and Shipbuilding trades, which more than counterbalanced the slight downward tendency of miners' wages in some of the coal fields. In previous years it will be remembered that the changes in wages among coal miners overbalanced all the other changes recorded, but this was not the case in 1896, when the decreases in this industry were almost entirely confined to the first three months of the year. The important rise of wages in the Engineering and Shipbuilding trades, which is the most noticeable feature of the year, took place in two instalments—in the spring and autumn respectively, the bodies of men affected being to a large extent the same.

For reasons stated in the Report on Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom in 1894, p. IX, agricultural labourers, railway servants, and seamen are not included in the above figures. It may be stated, however, that the wages of railway servants remained, on the whole, stationary throughout the year. As regards seamen an advance of 5s. per month took place at some ports, including Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Bristol, during the last three months of 1896. The wages of agricultural labourers during 1896 appeared to show a slight upward tendency.

\* Preliminary Figures.

The following statement shows the distribution of the changes in 1896 and the three previous years among the principal groups of industries:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Workpeople (separate individuals) affected by changes in rates of wages.				Average amount of increase (+) or decrease (-) per head per week.			
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.*	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.*
Building ... ..	44,538	32,993	24,431	89,000	s. d. +1 5½	s. d. +1 5	s. d. +1 8½	s. d. +2 1
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	309,926	539,202	327,319	208,500	+0 11½	-1 8½	-1 10½	-0 6
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	121,256	58,621	49,758	256,000	-0 10½	-0 7½	+0 0½	+1 6
Textile ... ..	55,087	14,733	15,588	9,600	-0 4½	+0 5½	+0 2½	+0 1
Clothing ... ..	3,599	4,907	1,825	2,200	+1 7	+1 4½	+2 0½	+1 1
Miscellaneous ... ..	5,404	10,701	10,862	24,200	-0 1	-0 3½	-0 0½	+1 10
Employees of Public Authorities ... ..	10,167	9,229	6,935	11,700	+1 6½	+1 5½	+1 7½	+1 0
Totals and Averages	549,977	670,386	436,718	601,200	+0 5½	-1 4½	-1 3½	+0 10

From a summary of the changes in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, by districts, it appears that about 60,000 men received advances in the Northern Counties of England and Cleveland, 14,000 in Yorkshire (exclusive of Cleveland), 36,000 in Lancashire and Cheshire, 40,000 in Scotland (chiefly on the Clyde), and 9,000 at Belfast.

In addition to these changes in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, about 39,000 iron or steel workers received advances, and there was a general increase in the wages of brassworkers.

Next in magnitude are the changes in the building trades group. Altogether about 89,000 workmen were affected, and the average amount of the weekly advance was 2s. 1d. This number includes about 50,000 operatives in London.

The coal miners whose wages were reduced were chiefly in South Wales and Monmouthshire (two reductions of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale) and in Northumberland. In Scotland there was a general fall in coal miners' wages at the beginning of 1896, but most of the miners recovered the decrease before the end of the year.

The changes in the textile, clothing, and miscellaneous trades, and in the wages of workpeople employed by public authorities all resulted in a net increase. About 13,000 of the workpeople included under miscellaneous trades were employed in the woodworking and furnishing trades, in which an increase averaging 2s. per head per week took place.

#### Changes in Hours of Labour.

The following table shows the number of workpeople affected by changes of hours of labour during 1896 in each group of trades, and the average amount of the reduction per head. For the convenience of comparison particulars are added of the total result of all the changes in hours of labour for each of the three preceding years:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Workpeople in the under-mentioned trades whose hours of labour at end of the year as compared with end of the previous year showed		Total No. of workpeople whose hours of labour were changed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) per head in average hours of labour for a full week.
	An Increase	A Decrease.		
Building ... ..	75,530	12,100	87,630	- '06
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	50	500	550	-49
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	450	6,550	6,550	-14
Textile ... ..	—	1,100	1,100	-30
Clothing ... ..	820	1,900	2,720	-63
Miscellaneous ... ..	250	10,800	11,050	-40
Public Authorities ... ..	—	1,900	1,900	-6
Totals and Average for 1896*	77,100	34,400	111,500	- '7
Ditto 1895 ... ..	1,287	21,448	22,735	-194
Ditto 1894 ... ..	128	77,030	77,158	-404
Ditto 1893 ... ..	1,530	33,119	34,649	-200

Though the net result of all the changes in 1896 was a decrease of nearly three quarters of an hour in the weekly working hours of the total number of workpeople affected, the number whose hours were increased

largely exceeded that of those whose hours were reduced. This is accounted for by the slight increase in the hours of labour recognised in the London building trades. This alteration, though very small, affected a large number of operatives, and nearly outweighs the decreases recorded in the building trades, so that the net reduction in this group of trades was very much less than in either of the three preceding years. Some cases of reduction of hours of duty of railway servants were reported but are not included in the table.

So far as reported the eight hours day was conceded to about 1,400 workpeople during 1896, of which number 900 were in the employ of local authorities. Particulars were received of three cases of reversion from eight hours to longer hours of labour, affecting 250 workpeople.

**CO-OPERATIVE CONTRACTS.\***

A REPORT on co-operative contracts given out by public authorities to associations of workmen, prepared for the Labour Department by Mr. Schloss, has now been issued. This report has been compiled in pursuance of a recommendation made by the late Royal Commission on Labour in their fifth and final report (C. 7,421 of 1894, p. 103), which was in the following terms:—

Lastly, we think that the Labour Department might do some good by obtaining and publishing from time to time accurate information as to the action of public authorities in this, and in other countries, in inviting in suitable cases separate contracts for the material needed, and for the work to be done on it, or for parts of that work, and especially in inviting associated bodies of workmen to tender for the latter.

The report states that cases, in which action of the special nature indicated by the Labour Commission has been taken, are, so far as can be ascertained, of rare occurrence. The principal instances, in which arrangements of this character have been made, appear to be certain building jobs in New Zealand carried out, with materials supplied by the Government of that Colony, by small groups of workmen, and a contract which has for many years been in force between the French Government and a co-operative association of compositors for the printing and distribution of its official organ (*Journal Officiel*), the paper and other materials being supplied and the plant and premises required being provided by the Ministry of the Interior. With respect to the practical benefits to be derived from the adoption of a system of this nature, it is stated that, while there are some cases in which an arrangement more or less on these lines might be productive of advantage to both the contracting authority and the workmen employed, yet "the available evidence seems to point to the conclusion that cases in which such a plan might reasonably be expected to meet with the full approval of both parties are, under existing circumstances, not likely to be by any means numerous."

Apart from the special labour contracts just described, particulars in relation to contracts of various kinds carried out by co-operative groups or associations of workmen for public authorities in the United Kingdom and in other countries have, in the course of this inquiry, been obtained, and are summarised in the report. So far as England is concerned, the most important contracts mentioned are those entered into by the War Office with certain co-operative societies, which in 1885-95 supplied for the use of the army over 800,000 pairs of boots and shoes, valued at more than £400,000. In New Zealand action has for some time past been taken in the direction of organising the labour employed on public works, especially the construction of roads and railways, upon what is termed "the co-operative system," the men working in small gangs at piece-work rates; the average number employed at one time in this manner has been about 2,000. In the colony of Victoria a similar "butty-gang" system has, in connection with the relief of the unemployed, been adopted in the construction of railways. A system of co-operative labour carried out by groups known as "artels" has long been in force in

\* Co-operative Contracts (C. 8,233 of Session 1896). Price 1s. 5d.

Russia; and a description of this system has been obtained, for the purposes of this report, through Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg. In France efforts have been made to encourage, by special legislation, the undertaking of public contracts by workmen's associations, and a considerable amount of work has been executed by such bodies, both for various departments of the State and for other public authorities, especially for the City of Paris, from which co-operative societies have, in 1879-95, obtained 299 distinct contracts for work of many different kinds to a total value of £365,769. In Italy also the Legislature has endeavoured by enactments in favour of the co-operative associations to facilitate the execution of public works by these organisations, and provision is specifically made for separating the contract for the supply of material from the contract for the labour required, though no instance, in which this provision has been carried into effect, has been discovered. The Italian co-operative societies have however executed for different public authorities a large amount of work, especially in the construction of earthworks and in certain branches of the building trade; thus, a return supplied by the Italian Government shows that, in 1889-94, 713 contracts for public works, to the total value of £453,987, were given out to 157 associations of workmen.

In addition to particulars as to the public works carried out by co-operative societies, the report contains details with respect to the history, constitution and present position of the various British and other associations of workmen, by which public contracts have been obtained, including information, especially as to the French and Italian societies for production, much of which has not hitherto been accessible.

**ACCIDENT AND OLD AGE INSURANCE IN GERMANY, 1895.**

A SUMMARY of the preliminary figures relating to Accident, Old Age, and Invalidity Insurance in Germany in 1895 was given in the LABOUR GAZETTE of March 1896.\* The following figures for 1895 are based on the final results for that year, as published in the *Ämtliche Nachrichten des Reichs-Versicherungsamts* of January 1st, 1897, and afford a comparison with the corresponding figures for previous years.

**1. Accident Insurance.**

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Persons insured ... ..	18,015,286	18,014,280	18,118,850	18,191,747	18,389,468
Accidents notified ... ..	225,337	236,265	264,130	282,982	310,139
"    resulting in:—					
death ... ..	6,422	5,911	6,336	6,361	6,448
total and permanent disablement ... ..	2,595	2,664	2,507	1,784	1,706
partial and permanent disablement ... ..	28,097	30,992	36,670	39,487	41,052
temporary disablement ... ..	14,089	16,087	17,216	21,987	26,321
Total entailing compensation ... ..	51,209	55,654	62,729	69,619	75,527

As regards the total number of persons insured, it is to be noted (1) that a certain number of persons, probably from a million to a million and a half, who are employed both in industry and agriculture, are counted twice; (2) that the number of insured persons engaged in agricultural occupations includes from four to five millions of persons engaged in agriculture on their own account, as farmers, proprietors, &c.

The total number of accidents notified is said probably to fall short of the actual number of accidents. For, though all the insurance groups (*Berufsgenossenschaften*) impose penalties for non-notification of accidents entailing compensation, no such general rule obtains with respect to other accidents.

Payments to persons who have sustained accidents come out of the sick fund during the first thirteen weeks. The following figures of expenditure show only the payments made under the Accident Insurance Law, i.e., from the fourteenth week onward.

\* See also GAZETTE of February 1896, 50, and February 1894, p. 49.

The total sum expended in 1895 in compensation for fresh and old accidents under the Accident Insurance Law was £2,506,289, as compared with £2,214,087 in 1894.

The aggregate receipts of the 112 insurance groups in 1895 amounted to £3,173,069, and the expenses (including £393,697 paid into the reserve fund) to £3,140,116. At the end of the year, the insurance groups had balances in hand amounting to £734,545, and a reserve fund of £6,249,730.

(2) **Old Age and Invalidity Insurance.**—The following statement shows the total expenditure on Old Age and Invalidity Pensions and the number and average value of pensions granted by the 31 district insurance offices in each of the years 1892 to 1895:—

(1)	Total No. of Pensions at end of Year. (District Offices.) (2)	No. of fresh Pensioners during the Year. (District Offices.) (3)	Expenditure on Pensions (All Offices.)†			Average Annual Value of a Pension. (District Offices.) (7)
			From Contributions. (4)	From State Subsidies. (5)	Total. (6)	
<b>Old Age:—</b>			£	£	£	£ s. d.
1892	150,403	42,218	633,077	420,503	1,053,580	6 7 8
1893	165,976	31,176	685,335	424,632	1,138,167	6 10 0
1894	183,168	33,442	739,613	484,109	1,223,722	6 6 2
1895	195,723	29,417	804,659	524,179	1,328,818	6 12 10
<b>Invalidity:—</b>						
1892	11,995	16,529	39,622	28,050	67,672	5 14 8
1893	37,815	33,228	153,692	110,450	264,142	5 18 0
1894	71,755	44,397	300,424	208,645	508,669	6 1 3
1895	110,377	52,062	459,798	316,484	776,282	6 3 11
<b>Total:—</b>						
1892	162,398	58,747	672,699	448,553	1,121,252	—
1893	203,791	64,404	839,227	563,082	1,402,309	—
1894	254,923	77,839	1,039,637	692,744	1,732,381	—
1895	306,100	81,479	1,264,437	840,663	2,105,100	—

Figures relating to repayments, in certain cases, of contributions, which have been paid for at least five years, appear for the first time in the present report. Sums amounting in the aggregate to £7,915 were returned to women on their marriage (£1 is. 9d. per marriage), and sums amounting to £2,680 to representatives of persons who died before receiving a pension (£1 9s. 2d. per death).

**AN "UNEMPLOYED" CENSUS IN GERMANY.**

THE German Government has availed itself of the opportunity afforded by two censuses held in 1895—the Industrial Census of June 14th and the Population Census of December 2nd—to attempt an inquiry as regards the number of persons in the Empire usually dependent on working for their living, who were not at work on each of those dates.

The results of this inquiry have now been published by the Imperial Statistical Office in a special report issued as a supplement to the fourth number of the Quarterly Statistical Journal of the German Empire for 1896.\*

The method adopted was to embody the following three questions in the Census inquiry forms:—

1. Are you at present in work (in a situation)?
2. If not, how many days have you been without work?
3. Is the fact of your being out of work due to temporary disablement resulting from sickness?

The questions were to be answered by all persons, male or female, depending for their livelihood on working at some trade or business either as an employee or as a small master working in his own home to the order of manufacturers.

Persons permanently and totally incapacitated from work, married women (unless supporting themselves by a trade), pensioned soldiers and civil servants or their widows, and persons in receipt of pensions under the Insurance Laws, were not required to answer the above questions.

As expected, numerous errors were discovered in the

† Columns 4, 5 and 6 include particulars for the 9 special insurance institutions as well as the 31 district offices. Columns 2, 3 and 7 refer to the district offices only, but these offices covered 11,000,000 out of the 11,510,000 persons insured in 1894.

\* Vierteljahrshefte zur Statistik des deutschen Reichs, Jahrgang, 1896. Ergänzung zum Vierten Hefte. Die Beschäftigungslosen Arbeitnehmer im deutschen Reich am 14. Juni und 2. Dezember, 1895. Verlag von Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht Berlin, 1896. Price 1 mark (about 1s.).

process of sifting the data when collected. For instance, some persons who returned themselves as not in work were found not to be dependent on employment for a living, or to have abandoned their employment in the prospect of becoming independent of it (e.g. girls about to get married), or in order to enter on a new occupation—in which they were, in some cases, actually employed at the time of the Census. Others reckoned their term of military service as unemployed time, while many described themselves as out of work, who, at the time of the Census, were either unwilling or not obliged to work (e.g. those on holiday, &c.)

Errors of this sort have been rectified in so far as they were made evident by answers supplied to other questions. Where no answer was given to the question as to non-employment and the answers to the other questions afforded no indication to the contrary, it was assumed that the person was in work. When cause of non-employment was not stated, it was assumed that the want of work was due to causes other than sickness.

In considering the figures given below it is important to bear these assumptions in mind. The report states that the results of the inquiry should be considered as showing the maximum extent of non-employment.

The probability that before the revision of the lists had been completed many in a given locality who had returned themselves as unemployed would no longer be on the spot, prevented the separate checking of every answer. A number of towns having their own Statistical Bureaux have, however, used the materials furnished by the general inquiry as a basis for further special investigation within their respective areas.

Excluding the persons engaged in public services, church, and liberal professions, we find that the number of persons engaged as workpeople in agriculture, industry, commerce, transport and domestic and other service is 15,497,632, of whom 118,605 (or 0.77 per cent.) were returned as not in work on 14th June, 1895, through sickness, while 174,073 (or 1.12 per cent.) were not in work through other causes.

On 2nd December 215,154 (or 1.38 per cent.) were not in work owing to sickness, while 547,514 (or 3.5 per cent.) were idle through other causes.

The distribution of these persons among the principal occupation classes is shown in the following statement based on figures supplied in the report:—

Main Occupation Classes (exclusive of the Public Services, Church, and Liberal Professions).	No. of Workers (Arbeitnehmer) in each Occupation Class on June 14th, 1895.	Number not in Work on under-mentioned dates.			
		June 14th, 1895.		Dec. 2nd, 1895.	
		No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.†
		THROUGH CAUSES OTHER THAN SICKNESS.			
Agriculture, &c. ... ..	5,724,026	19,204	0.34	162,472	2.81
Industry ... ..	6,506,845	97,782	1.50	274,625	4.18
Commerce and Transport ... ..	1,494,954	26,180	1.75	41,994	2.78
Domestic Service and Casual Employment ... ..	1,771,807	30,907	1.74	68,423	3.83
Total ... ..	15,497,632	174,073	1.12	547,514	3.50
		THROUGH SICKNESS.			
Agriculture, &c. ... ..	5,724,026	19,334	0.34	46,325	0.80
Industry ... ..	6,506,845	69,227	1.06	116,846	1.78
Commerce and Transport ... ..	1,494,954	11,130	0.74	16,488	1.09
Domestic Service and Casual Employment ... ..	1,771,807	18,914	1.07	35,495	1.99
Total ... ..	15,497,632	118,605	0.77	215,154	1.38

From this it appears that the lowest proportion of persons not in work (exclusive of those sick) is found among those engaged in agriculture, where it varied from 0.34 per cent. in June to 2.81 per cent. in December. The figures as regards the two important groups of industry, commerce and transport, are analysed in greater detail in the following summary table, which is based on the detailed tables published in the Report

† In the calculation of these percentages allowance has been made for the growth of population between June and December.

(the trades being grouped for convenience as nearly as possible on the plan usually followed by the Department).

Groups of Industries.	June 14, 1895.		Dec. 2, 1895.		
	No. of Work-people, &c. (Arbeitsmänner) on June 14, 1895.	Number not in work.	Per cent. not in work.	Number not in work.	Per cent. not in work.*
From causes other than Sickness.					
Building Trades ... ..	1,151,851	19,408	1.69	145,121	12.60
Mining and Smelting ... ..	564,922	2,622	0.46	3,422	0.60
Metal Trades ... ..	719,775	12,719	1.77	16,098	2.23
Engineering, &c. ... ..	304,463	4,627	1.52	6,273	2.06
Textile Trades ... ..	878,494	6,537	0.74	7,723	0.88
Clothing, including Laundries ... ..	775,671	16,466	2.12	27,982	3.61
Transport Trades ... ..	533,150	4,163	0.78	11,603	2.17
Quarrying, Glass, Pottery, Bricks, Tiles, Cement and Clay, &c., Working	468,489	3,058	0.65	20,615	4.40
Printing and Cognate Trades ... ..	106,536	2,817	2.67	2,864	2.69
Paper Trade ... ..	121,526	1,775	1.46	1,773	1.46
Woodworking and Furnishing ... ..	456,229	8,068	1.77	11,033	2.42
Leather Working ... ..	123,914	2,855	2.30	5,322	4.29
Foods, Drinks and Tobacco ... ..	656,970	14,304	2.18	18,046	2.74
Hotels and Restaurants ... ..	316,951	5,948	1.88	11,838	3.73
Mercantile Occupations ... ..	626,637	15,866	2.53	18,326	2.92
Other Occupations in Industry, Commerce and Transport	196,221	2,699	1.37	7,680	3.91
<b>Total Industrial and Commercial Occupations</b>	<b>8,001,799</b>	<b>123,962</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>316,619</b>	<b>3.95</b>
From Sickness.					
Building Trades ... ..	1,151,851	13,600	1.18	34,676	3.01
Mining and Smelting ... ..	564,922	5,690	1.01	8,065	1.43
Metal Trades ... ..	719,775	8,115	1.12	10,917	1.52
Engineering, &c. ... ..	304,463	3,201	1.05	4,212	1.38
Textile Trades ... ..	878,494	7,887	0.90	9,110	1.04
Clothing, including Laundries ... ..	775,671	7,851	1.01	14,096	1.81
Transport Trades ... ..	533,150	2,754	0.52	4,627	0.87
Quarrying, Glass, Pottery, Bricks, Tile, Cement and Clay, &c., Working	468,489	3,814	0.82	6,349	1.36
Printing and Cognate Trades ... ..	106,536	1,607	1.51	1,803	1.69
Paper Trade ... ..	121,526	1,383	1.14	1,702	1.40
Woodworking and Furnishing ... ..	456,229	5,295	1.16	7,224	1.58
Leatherworking ... ..	123,914	1,437	1.16	2,164	1.75
Foods, Drinks and Tobacco ... ..	656,970	7,461	1.13	9,697	1.48
Hotels and Restaurants ... ..	316,951	2,113	0.66	3,765	1.19
Mercantile Occupations ... ..	626,637	6,182	0.99	8,008	1.28
Other Occupations in Industry, Commerce and Transport	196,221	2,257	1.15	7,009	3.57
<b>Total Industrial and Commercial Occupations</b>	<b>8,001,799</b>	<b>80,357</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>133,334</b>	<b>1.67</b>

The above table shows that (excluding sickness) nearly half the number of the persons not in work on December 2nd belonged to the Building Trades, the percentage for these trades varying from 1.7 in summer to 12.6 in winter, the corresponding range for all the industries included in the table being from 1.55 to 3.95. The lowest proportions not in work are shown both in summer and winter by the Mining and Textile Industries, ranging from 0.46 per cent. in summer to 0.60 per cent. in winter for the former, and from 0.74 to 0.88 per cent. for the latter. (It is to be remembered that in these industries short time is more frequent in slack periods than the discharge of workmen.)

Since the basis of calculation of the percentages for December is the number following each industry in June, caution is required in comparing the proportions not in work at the two dates owing to probable seasonal changes in the numbers employed in various trades.

In the following statement the persons returned as not in work owing to causes other than sickness are grouped according to the period stated to have elapsed since they were last in work at the time of each census:—

Number of days not in work preceding Census Day.	Number of persons returned as not in work (exclusive of sick).	
	June 14th, 1895.	Dec. 2nd, 1895.
1 day ... ..	2,104	15,791
From 2 to 7 days ... ..	17,471	70,589
" 8 " 14 " ... ..	39,659	155,206
" 15 " 28 " ... ..	19,782	98,180
" 29 " 90 " ... ..	39,398	132,810
91 days or more ... ..	25,256	39,051
Number unknown ... ..	35,334	42,013
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>179,004†</b>	<b>553,640†</b>

\* In the calculation of these percentages allowance has been made for the growth of population between June and December.

† Including persons belonging to public services, church, and liberal professions.

THE FISH-CURING INDUSTRY IN 1895-6.

THE fish-curing industry gives employment to a large number of persons. In Scotland\* alone there were in 1895 1,054 fish curers, 21,723 gutters and packers, and 3,104 coopers, besides carters, labourers, &c. More than a million and a half barrels of herrings were cured in Scotland in the year referred to, in addition to other fish.

The following information with regard to employment and wages in this industry relates to the year 1895-6, and is mainly based on reports from the local correspondents of the Department.

The industry is wholly seasonal, its activity being entirely determined by the periods and the success of the take of fish. Thus, the herring season is in Aberdeen, Fraserburgh and Peterhead from July to September, in Hull from October to the end of April, in Grimsby from about the beginning of July to the end of September, in Great Yarmouth from about the middle of August to the middle of December, in Lowestoft from October till Christmas. The cod season lasts in Aberdeen during April, May and June, and in Fraserburgh and Peterhead continues through July and August, while it begins in Stonehaven about July and goes on through September, and in Findhorn extends from January to the middle of April. The pilchard season in Cornwall at Looe, Polperro and Mevagissey lasts from August to the end of January, The haddock season, however, at most of the centres dealt with lasts all the year round.

At the times of special activity a considerable number of women are required at the fish-curing centres, many of whom come from a distance. In order to secure the services of these workpeople it is in many places customary to pay them a retaining fee ("arles"); e.g., at Aberdeen, Fraserburgh and Peterhead, women from a distance get 15s.—20s., in addition to travelling expenses and lodgings money, the local women receiving 30s.—60s. At Stonehaven and Findhorn, where only local women are employed, they get 25s. and 15s. arles respectively. In Leith, where also only local women are employed, and in the English centres arles are not paid; but in the English centres, in which women coming from a distance are employed, travelling expenses (and at Lowestoft money for time occupied in travelling, usually by sea, and 2s. 6d. per day for refreshments on the journey) are allowed.

With respect to the wages earned by the women employed in this industry, at Aberdeen women on weekly rates receive 12s.—16s. a week, at Hull and Grimsby 16s.—18s., at Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft (where time wages are the rule during the season) 15s.—16s., 9s.—10s. for girls at Yarmouth. Women employed at weekly rates are paid the wages specified, with no deduction for idle time, but are required to start work at any time, fixed hours being stated to be impracticable, as the trade is dependent on weather and size of catch. In Aberdeen and neighbouring centres three women work together (two gutting, and the third packing the herrings), at 8d. per barrel, with an output, as an ordinary full day's work, of 30 to 40 barrels, giving earnings of 6s. 8d.—8s. 10d. Women pieceworkers in Scotland get usually 2½d.—3d. per hour when employed, between times, at other work; the rate at Grimsby is 4½d. In the Cornish pilchard industry women (all local) are employed by time at 3d. an hour (2d. for girls).

Except at Stonehaven (where women do the work), the haddock and herring smokers are men; their wages are 25s. to 30s. in Aberdeen and Fraserburgh, 25s. in Peterhead, 22s.—28s. at Hull, with a working day of 10 hours and payment for overtime, 25s.—30s. at Grimsby, with no fixed hours or overtime pay, about 28s.—30s. (average) at Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth.

\* See report of the Fishery Board for 1895.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN AUSTRIA IN 1895\*.

THE following particulars are based upon data contained in the Report of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce on the labour disputes of 1895, which has just been published. These statistics relate to Austria as distinct from Hungary, and are, as usual, exclusive of the Mining Industry, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture. A distinction is made for the first time in the present report between "Strikes" and "Lock-Outs."

The following is a summary of the strikes which have taken place in Austria proper in each of the five years for which statistics have been published:—

Years.	Strikes.		Establishments Affected.		Days of Work Lost.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1891	104	14,025	1,917	247,086		
1892	101	14,123	1,549	150,992		
1893	172	28,120	1,207	513,511		
1894	159	44,075	2,468	566,463†		
1895	205	28,026	869	297,845†		

Besides the 28,026 persons directly participating in strikes in 1895, 2,005 others (compared with 4,299 in 1894) sustained loss of work in consequence.

In comparing the figures for the later with those for the earlier years in the above table, a certain allowance has to be made for improved machinery employed in the collection of the information.

The following table showing the extent to which various trades were affected by strikes is based on the figures given in the reports for 1894 and 1895.

Trades.	1895.				1894.			
	Strikes.		Strikers.		Strikes.		Strikers.	
	No.	Per cent. of all Strikes.	No.	Per cent. of all Strikers.	No.	Per cent. of all Strikes.	No.	Per cent. of all Strikers.
Building ... ..	24	11.7	5,361	19.1	11	6.9	14,975	34.0
Metal Working ... ..	37	18.0	3,694	13.2	23	14.5	2,752	6.2
Engineering, &c. ... ..	6	2.9	253	0.9	7	4.4	194	0.4
Textile ... ..	29	14.1	4,085	14.5	34	21.4	6,317	14.3
Clothing ... ..	14	6.8	976	3.5	9	5.7	668	1.5
Woodworking, India-rubber, &c. Stonework, Pottery and Glass	38	18.5	2,356	8.3	23	14.5	9,793	22.2
Other Trades ... ..	29	14.5	9,943	35.5	22	13.8	6,415	14.6
	28	13.5	1,378	5.0	30	18.8	2,961	6.8
	205	100	28,026	100	159	100	44,075	100

The largest number of days lost through strikes in 1895 (92,882, or 31.2 per cent. of all days so lost) was in the stone, pottery and glassworking group of trades, which were followed in decreasing order by metalworking, with 54,664 days (18.4 per cent.), wood and indiarubber-working, with 54,319 (18.2 per cent.); the textile trades, with 33,836 (11.4 per cent.); the building trades, with 28,538 (9.6 per cent.); and the clothing trades, with 17,327 (5.8 per cent.). In 1894, 73 per cent. of all days lost were in the two groups—building and wood and indiarubber working.

The results of strikes in 1895, as compared with 1894, may be seen from the following:—

Results.	1895.			1894.		
	Strikes.	Strikers.		Strikes.	Strikers.	
		No.	Per cent.		No.	Per cent.
Successful ... ..	55	3,489	12.4	39	5,167	11.7
Partially Successful ... ..	51	17,310	61.8	43	9,184	20.8
Unsuccessful ... ..	99	7,227	25.8	77	29,724	67.5
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>28,026</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>44,075</b>	<b>100</b>

It thus appears that the workmen were considerably more successful in obtaining their demands in 1895 than in 1894.

Lock-outs occurred in 17 establishments in 1895, affecting 2,317 workpeople. Most of the lock-outs were due to unauthorised absence from work on May 1st.

\* Die Arbeitseinstellungen und Aussperrungen im Gewerbebetriebe in Oesterreich während des Jahres 1895. Beilage zur *Statistischen Monatschrift*, Neue Folge, I. Jahrgang, 1896. Vienna, 1896. Alfred Hölder, Rothenturmstrasse, 15. † Excluding Sundays and holidays, which were included in previous years.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE selling prices of coal and iron in certain districts, as ascertained at the last audits, are shown in the following table, in which are also included for purposes of comparison the results of the previous audits. The ascertainment are largely used to regulate wages, and, in consequence of the increase in the selling price of pig iron, the rates of wages of blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, Cumberland and North Lancashire have been increased. In Northumberland the ascertained price of coal has hitherto been taken into consideration by the Conciliation Board when determining wages for the ensuing three months. This Board, however, ceased to exist on 31st December. Under an agreement between employers and workpeople a second special audit of the selling price of finished iron in the West of Scotland was taken, but the increase in the selling price was not sufficient to give a further rise of wages.

Product and District.	Number of work-people.	Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit.	Dates from which last audit affects wages.	Average ascertained selling price per ton.		
				According to last audit.	According to previous audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.
<b>Coal.</b>				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland:—(Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	1896, Sep., Oct., Nov.	1897	5 0 7	5 1 3	-0 0 6
South Wales and Monmouth:—(Average for certain classes of coal, f.o.b.)	100,000	Nov., Dec.	Feb. 1	9 0 to 9 1 1	9 0 to 9 1 1	—
<b>Pig Iron.</b>						
Cumberland and N. Lancashire	2,202	Oct., Nov., Dec.	Jan. 1	49 10 24	46 11	+ 2 11 24
Cleveland	5,000	Oct., Nov., Dec.	Jan. 2	38 0 28	37 2 49	+ 0 9 79
<b>Manufactured Iron.</b>						
North of England:—(Rails, plates, bars and angles)	6,000	Nov., Dec.	Feb.	99 0 98	97 7 95	+ 1 5 03
Midlands:—(Bars, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips)	20,000	Nov., Dec.	Feb.	117 1 76	116 7 6	+ 0 6 70
West of Scotland:—(Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops, and rods)	5,000	Sept., Oct., Dec.	1896, Dec.	101 6 07	99 4 84	+ 2 1 23

THE GROWTH OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE.\*

A MEMORANDUM, signed by Sir Courtenay Boyle, on the comparative statistics of population, industry, and commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading foreign countries has been issued by the Board of Trade. The following are the conclusions arrived at:—

"Without attempting an elaborate criticism of all the deductions which might be made from the figures given herein—a criticism which would necessarily lead me deeply into somewhat abstruse questions of political economy—I may properly make the following general observations in summarising the conclusions of this memorandum:—

"(1) The increase of population in Germany and the United States has recently been greater than the increase in the United Kingdom, and those countries, enjoying as they have a period of peace which has lasted for nearly a quarter of a century, have rapidly developed manufacturing and industrial power.

"(2) As with ourselves, so with those countries, the set of population has been to the towns; necessarily, therefore, there has been a more vigorous search than formerly for an outlet for the power above referred to.

"(3) We are still greatly ahead of either country in our power of manufacture for export, so much so that up to the present the gains of either in this respect have had no very serious effect upon our trade; but, beginning from a lower level, each country is for the moment travelling upwards more rapidly than we are who occupy a much higher eminence.

"(4) If peace is maintained both Germany and the United States, and (to some extent) France also, are certain to increase their rate of upward movement.

"(5) Their competition with us in neutral markets, and even in

\* British and Foreign Trade—Memorandum (C. 8,322 of 1896). Price 6d.

our home markets, will probably, unless we ourselves are active, become increasingly serious. Every year will add to their acquired capital and skill, and they will have larger and larger additions to their population to draw upon.

"(6) It is necessary, therefore, more than ever, that attention should be given in the United Kingdom to the business of manufacturing for export. It is a mistake to suppose that the increase of wealth in foreign countries is, on the whole, unfavourable to us. The richer neighbouring nations are, the better for us and for the rest of the world in the long run. But the change of conditions must be recognised, and we can scarcely expect to maintain our past undoubted pre-eminence, at any rate without strenuous effort and careful and energetic improvement in method.

"(7) The question how best can this be done is one which interests consumers as well as producers, labour as well as capital. The growth in the effectiveness of foreign labour and in the results of that labour must tend towards an international assimilation of the circumstances under which that labour is given, and any step which facilitates the transfer of manufacturing power from this to a competing country must expedite that tendency of which it is not easy to see the advantage to our working classes.

"(8) The solution of the question of how best to develop and increase our competing power is one to which the State can only give limited assistance. The commercial position of the United Kingdom has been attained and must be kept up in the future by the untiring zeal and energy of the industrial community. The work of seeking out customers, providing commodities that customers will buy, exploiting new markets and elaborating new methods rests with the individual. The State can only afford encouragement and help.

"(9) What the Government can do is to facilitate the supply of accurate and carefully-collected information, and in the discharge of this duty I venture to think we are somewhat behindhand."

## RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.

### Engineers and the Linotype Machine.

Differences having arisen between the Linotype Company, Limited, and the engineers in their factory at Manchester engaged in the construction of the machines, the men gave notice that they intended to leave their employment on Saturday, February 6th. The matters in dispute related chiefly to the proportion of boys to men employed at the works, the class of labour to be employed in grinding, and other matters arising out of the terms of an agreement entered into in January 1895. On Thursday, February 4th, the company addressed an application to the Board of Trade to take action under the Conciliation Act for the prevention of a stoppage of work. A representative of the Department accordingly visited Manchester on February 5th, and had an interview with the representatives of the men. On Monday, February 8th (the men's notices having been extended) a conference took place at the Board of Trade between representatives of the Board and of the directors of the company, and as a result of suggestions made thereat three of the directors visited Manchester on Tuesday for the purpose of opening direct negotiations with the men, a Board of Trade officer being in attendance in Manchester in case his presence should be desired by the parties. The directors met the men's committee on Tuesday evening, the 9th inst., when an amicable settlement of the points in dispute was arrived at.

### Dispute at Pinxton Collieries.

On January 14th the miners employed at the Pinxton Collieries, Derbyshire, struck work to the number of about 1,200, the subject of dispute being the terms upon which one of the pits should be reopened, and the extent to which the men formerly employed in that pit, should be reinstated in their old stalls. Other questions, such as the wages of apprentices, the supply of coal to the miners, &c., were also raised.

On January 19th, an application was received from the Company by the Board of Trade asking them to take steps, under the Conciliation Act of 1896, with a view to a settlement. Acting on this application, the Board opened negotiations with the representatives of the miners, and both parties accepted an invitation to attend a conference, with a chairman nominated by the Board of Trade. Before, however, the conference met, the dispute was arranged directly between the parties on January 26th, and work was resumed next day.

## London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board.

This Board has been successful in bringing about a satisfactory settlement of a dispute between a firm of mantle-makers and the United Ladies' Tailors' and Mantle-makers' Trade Union. The parties were invited to attend a conference at the London Chamber of Commerce, under the auspices of the Board, and, on January 20th, after a discussion lasting nearly three hours, a voluntary agreement, governing the relations between the parties until December 31st, 1897, was drawn up, signed by the disputants, and witnessed by three members of the Board who acted as mediators. The number of men affected by the agreement varies from 30 to 100, according to the season and the amount of work in hand at the time.

## LABOUR CASES IN JANUARY.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases of the month, specially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers.

### (1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.\*

**Defective plant. Negligence.**—The widow of a shipwright, on her own behalf and on that of her children, claimed £300 damages from a steam navigation company for the loss of her husband, who was killed while in their employment. Deceased was engaged on a steamer of defendants, which was being loaded in the river, and, while in the act of returning from a barge lying alongside the steamer, the rope, which was pulling the barge towards the steamer, broke, causing a block attached to a crane to strike him on the head and throw him into the water. Plaintiff's case, under the Employers' Liability Act, was that the rope was unfit for the purpose for which it was used, and that the mate who was superintending the work on board the steamship was guilty of negligence in not examining the rope before it was used. Alternatively, under Lord Campbell's Act, plaintiff stated that the gangwayman who really used the rope was guilty of negligence. The case for defendants was that they did not know that the rope was insufficient; that there was no means of knowing it, and that the deceased was really a foreman, and therefore unable to sue under the Act. Verdict for plaintiff. Damages, £300.—*City of London Court, January 6th.*

[On appeal from this decision, January 30th, the Court, as far as the claim under the Employers' Liability Act was concerned, held that there was no evidence of negligence on the part of the mate, and allowed the appeal. As to the claim under Lord Campbell's Act, the defendants, without admitting liability, agreed to pay plaintiff £50 and her costs in the Court below. There were no costs of the appeal.]

### (2) FACTORY ACTS.

**Cleaning Moving Machinery.**—A firm was summoned under Section 9 of the Factory and Workshops' Act, 1895, for allowing a person to be in a space between the fixed and the traversing portions of a self-acting mule, whilst the machine was stopped on the inward run, in consequence of which he was caught between the carriage and roller beam, and injured. The defendants had issued a summons against the minder of the mule, who, they alleged, was responsible for the accident which happened. The boy who was injured stated in evidence that he was told to go into the machine by the spinner and clean it. It was stated that at the time of the passing of the Act a printed notice, drawing attention to its provisions, was taken round the mill by an overlooker and read to the minders, and that there was a notice in every room. The case against the defendants was dismissed, and the minder was fined 5s. and costs. He had been dismissed by the firm when the accident was reported to them.—*Rochdale County Police Court, January 6th.*

### (3) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACTS.

**Powers of a Friendly Society.**—This was an appeal from the decision of the Judge in the Court below, who decided that he had no jurisdiction to grant an injunction under the Friendly Societies Act, 1895. Plaintiff was a member of a Friendly Society, and had been for 56 or 57 years. He brought an action against the trustees of the society to obtain a declaration that he was a member of the society, and an injunction restraining them from excluding him from the meetings and the membership, and from refusing to accept his subscriptions. Defendants had fined plaintiff a guinea on the ground that he had made certain statements with reference to the conduct of the society (which, however, the plaintiff denied), and had not appeared before the society, as requested, to explain the alleged slander. As the plaintiff did not pay the fine, or make an apology, the society refused to receive his subscriptions. The Court allowed the appeal, with costs, and granted the injunction. In giving judgment the Court stated that the Friendly Societies Act of 1895 in no way related to disputes between the society and its members. Section 22 of the Act of 1875 was in no sense changed, and therefore the defendants had no right to deal with and determine an alleged slander.—*Court of Appeal, January 11th.*

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

## (4) MISCELLANEOUS.

**Procuring persons to break contracts, and inducing persons not to enter into contracts.**—The plaintiffs, a firm of glass merchants, silvers, and bevellers, claimed an injunction and damages against the secretary and certain members of a trade union. The plaintiffs alleged that the defendants had unlawfully and maliciously procured certain persons who had entered into and maliciously procured the plaintiffs to break such contracts, and that the defendants maliciously conspired to induce certain persons not to enter into contracts with the plaintiffs. An interim injunction had been granted in February 1896. At the close of the plaintiffs' case counsel for the defendants stated that the defendants would not further contest the case as, having regard to the evidence which had been given, the jury must find as a matter of law that there had been malice. The interim injunction was made perpetual. The jury assessed the damages at £674 13s.—*Queen's Bench Division, January 11th, 12th, 13th.*

**Procuring Dismissal of Workman.**—A stonemason brought an action against another stonemason to recover £25 damages for having unlawfully and maliciously procured his dismissal from his employment. Plaintiff had been engaged at the same employment as defendant. The defendant, and the majority of masons employed there, were members of a trade union, and they held a meeting and there, were members of their employment unless the non-union men decided to leave their society or were dismissed. The plaintiff was either joined their society or was dismissed. The plaintiff was asked to join the union by defendant, but he refused to do so. The manager, rather than lose the services of the union men, discharged the non-union men, after offering them work elsewhere. The judge held that the plaintiff was entitled to recover damages, which he assessed at £10 with costs.—*Colne County Court, January 22nd.*

## TRADE SOCIETIES IN HOLLAND.\*

A CERTAIN amount of information relating to trade societies in Holland was supplied by the inquiry into workmen's societies, carried out in 1893 by the Netherlands Central Statistical Commission (*see LABOUR GAZETTE* of October 1894, p. 319). A further inquiry was conducted by the same Department in 1895 with reference to societies of workmen composed of one and the same trade. In the Report of this inquiry, which has just appeared, mention is made of 668 such societies, including 28 federations of the same, compared with 226 mentioned in the Report of the former inquiry. The increase is said to be in some measure due to a more liberal interpretation of the expression, "trade society," which is now applied to all associations of workers of one trade (*vakgenooten*) and not to those only which aim at promoting the trade interests of members. Excluding the 28 Federations, the 640 trade societies mentioned in the Report may be classified according to trades, as follows:—

Trade.	No. of Unions.
Building (including the laying, mending and cleaning of roads)	154
Metal-working .. .. .	62
Engineering and Shipbuilding .. .. .	5
Textile (Cotton Operatives) .. .. .	19
Clothing .. .. .	31
Transport (Sea and Land) .. .. .	71
Agriculture and Fishing .. .. .	13
Chemicals, Glass Pottery, &c. .. .. .	4
Diamond Workers .. .. .	14
Printing and Papermaking .. .. .	60
Woodworking (including working in cork, straw, &c.) .. .. .	50
Food, Drink, and Tobacco .. .. .	125
Other Trades .. .. .	32
Total .. .. .	640

The information obtained from these branch and non-federated societies, as to membership and subscription, was too meagre to afford material for a summary on these points.

Of 25 federations, for which information was available, 15 had an aggregate membership of 16,494 in 165 branch societies. The largest of the federations is that of the Netherlands Diamond Workers, established in January 1895, and numbering 7,500 members in 10 branch unions. Next in importance are: the General Netherlands Federation of Carpenters, with 2,500 members in 25 unions; the Printers' Federation, with 1,600 members in 30 unions, and the Anti-Social-Democratic Federation of Rail and Tramway Workers ("*Recht en Plicht*"), with 1,260 members in 18 unions.

\* Bijdragen tot de Statistiek van Nederland IV. Onderzoek naar de Geschiedenis en Werkzaamheid der Vakverenigingen, Uitgegeven door de Centrale Commissie voor de Statistiek's Gravenhage, Van Weelden en Mingelen. 1896.

## LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

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

**Canada.**—At this season of the year there is no demand for more hands in Canada. At Rossland—the new mining centre in British Columbia—operations have been, as in other places, hindered by the snow, and large numbers of men are idle. It is expected, however, that the approaching construction of the railway from Robson to Trail will provide employment for all. It is inadvisable for female domestic servants to go to Rossland at present, unless they have friends there.

**New South Wales.**—It has been officially estimated that the area of wheat reaped for grain this year is 761,661 acres, or 165,000 acres more than last year. This large increase has improved the labour market, for many extra hands have been employed in harvesting, and trade has been stimulated generally.

**Victoria.**—The drought has greatly affected the harvest, and it is estimated that the average yield of wheat will be under five bushels an acre; better prices, however, will be received. The production of gold in 1896 was 805,807 ozs., which is the largest yield of any year since 1883. The wages of marine engineers, which have been in dispute, are now fixed at the following rates per month:—Fourth engineers, £12; third, £14 to £15; second, £16 to £18; and first, £20 to £25. The Public Service Board recently advertised for 25 young women to fill vacancies in the Telephone Exchange, and about 700 applications were received; the pay begins at 18s. a week, and rises to 25s. In accordance with the recommendations of the Mildura Commission the Government has made an advance of money to the Colony on certain conditions. A report from Castlemaine states that there is a fair demand for gold miners, but that other trades are dull. The numbers of Civil Service employees have been gradually cut down from 25,981 in 1891 to 20,489 in 1896, and all vacancies are easily filled; the number of railway employees (included in the above figures) was only 10,053 in 1896, as against 15,549 in 1891.

**South Australia.**—A report from Port Augusta in the North states that there is no demand for more mechanics or labourers, and that much distress prevails in the town owing to the scarcity of employment. Owing to the continuance of dry weather in the Colony, farms, orchards, and fruit trees have suffered considerably, and the demand for labour is small.

**Western Australia.**—The railway from Geraldton to the Murchison goldfields has just been completed as far as Mount Magnet (221 miles), and the further extension to Cue is to be finished in two or three months' time; building operations have been delayed in Mount Magnet owing to the scarcity of carpenters and plumbers. The timber mills round Busselton in the South-west of the Colony have lately been very busy.

**Queensland.**—The Colony has made fairly satisfactory progress during the last year, and the able-bodied population is generally well employed. There is fair demand at Rockhampton for practical farm labourers, ploughmen, married couples, and domestic servants; and a general demand for carpenters, plumbers, navvies, stonebreakers and labourers, but not for other mechanics.

**New Zealand.**—A report from Christchurch states that there is a good demand for carpenters, and that the building trade is more brisk than it has been for some time. The demand for milliners and dressmakers is small. In spite of the development that took place at the gold mines in Auckland, the yield of gold in the Colony for 1896 was nearly 30,000 ozs. less than in 1895. In Auckland work is plentiful, and wages are good. The building and saw-mill trades are busy, and trade generally is prosperous; the farmers, however, are suffering from the drought, and the butter and cheese factories are not fully supplied.

\* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

† Free circulars and penny handbooks on the different Colonies may be obtained from the office, post free.

**Cape Colony.**—The Horticultural Board have appointed a committee to inquire into the openings that are being offered by the Cape Colonisation Company to settlers on their lands in the Tulbagh Valley. Intending emigrants are advised to wait for issue of the Report of this Committee before taking up any of the Company's land. Compositors at Cape Town are claiming to have their wages raised from 50s. a week to 57s. 6d.

**Natal.**—The trade of Natal showed good development during last year, and the Customs and Port Revenue at Durban were nearly double what they were in 1895. Workmen have been well employed, and the building trade at Durban has been brisk.

**South African Republic (Transvaal).**—By a law which came into force on the 1st of January 1897 foreigners other than natives entering the Republic are required to be furnished with a passport, visé by a consul or consular officer of the Republic, showing that the foreigner has sufficient means of subsistence or can obtain such by his work. It appears, however, that such passport is not essential. No passports for the South African Republic are being issued by the British Government.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

### FRANCE.\*

**Employment in January.**—On January 15th 400 trade unions, with 110,244 members, reported 10.9 per cent. unemployed. In the previous month the proportion unemployed reported by the unions was 8.3 per cent. Employment is better with *letterpress printers*, but has declined with *leather workers, hand weavers, cabinet-makers, and building operatives*. Shorter time is being worked in the case of certain trades which are now in their slack season, viz., *bootmaking, clothing trades, and building trades*.

**Coal-mining in December, 1896.**—The average number of days on which coal was hewn and wound in December was 5.57, as compared with 5.96 in November. In December full time (6 days and over) was worked by 6 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 93 per cent. of the miners, while in November the percentages were 92 and 7 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

**Labour Disputes in January.**—Fifteen labour disputes of the ordinary type were notified to the French Labour Department as having begun in January, as compared with 20 in the preceding month and 39 in January, 1896. In addition, one dispute, begun before January, remained unsettled at the beginning of that month. The number participating in 13 of the new disputes was 999. The trades affected were as follows:—Textile trades, 4 disputes; metal trades, 2; transport, 2; other trades, 7. None of these disputes affected more than one firm. Five were for an advance in wages, one against a reduction, one against a fine, two for the dismissal of managers or imported operatives, two against a new working rule, one for the maintenance of the daily wage system, and one for the establishment of a uniform piece list for the whole of a trade. Eight of the new disputes terminated before the end of the month, in addition to another that commenced in December. The workpeople were successful in two disputes, partially successful in three, and unsuccessful in four. In addition to the 15 ordinary disputes, the master bakers in two towns closed their works as a protest against a municipal tax, and in another town the owner of a tannery closed his works rather than agree to an increase in the rate payable to the municipality for the establishment of a tramway. In the last case an arrangement was arrived at with the municipality before the end of the month.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in January.**—Attempts to apply the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were made in three cases. In the first, a strike of weavers against an all round fine, the employer met the workpeople before the *juge de paix*, but declined to withdraw the fine. Subsequently, work was resumed, the proceeds of the fine being allocated to a pension fund. The

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

second case was a strike of wood-turners, in which an attempt at conciliation had already been made. At the instance of the workpeople, a new conciliation committee was formed, and each side nominated three arbitrators. The decision of the arbitrators appointed by the employers was accepted by those appointed by the other side without alteration. The third case was a strike of cotton weavers for the dismissal of a new manager. The *juge de paix* went in person to the factory and induced the workpeople to resume work, the manager promising to be less severe in future.

### GERMANY.

**Proposed regulation of Crafts.**—In the GAZETTE for September 1896 (p. 277), an outline was given of a Bill prepared by the German Government for re-organising the handicraft guilds. Sir F. C. Lascelles, H.M. Ambassador at Berlin, in a report to the Foreign Office dated January 18th, states that the Bill has met with opposition in the Federal Council, a sub-committee of which has been instructed to report on the whole subject and lay down the general lines on which a new Bill should be drawn up, which would be more likely to meet with a favourable reception in the Reichstag. The sub-committee has not yet reported, but the Imperial Minister of the Interior has assured the House of his intention, if possible, to present the Bill in some form or other before the close of the Session.

The feature of the Bill which has caused most opposition is the compulsory organisation of chambers of handicrafts and the proposed system of training and examining apprentices under direct Government supervision.

**The Dispute in the Hamburg Docks.**—According to the reports contained in the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger*, on January 16th a conference of employers' and workers' delegates met at the Chamber of Commerce, but disagreed as to the men's demand that the newly-employed workers should be dismissed. Owing to insufficiency of funds, a reduction of 3s. in the weekly rate of strike pay took effect on January 26th. On January 29th it was reported that most of the seamen had resumed work and obtained increased wages: Stokers £3 10s. (instead of £3), and trimmers £3 (instead of £2 10s.) per month, the rates for which they struck being £4 5s. and £3 15s. respectively. On the same day the Central Strike Committee met and decided to recommend the resumption of work. This proposal was submitted to ballot at eleven meetings of the men on the 30th, but was rejected, 72 per cent. voting for the continuation of the strike. A sum of £4,500 is said to have been distributed in strike pay on February 2nd, married and single alike receiving 8s. On February 6th it was resolved by a large majority to resume work unconditionally on the 8th, the strike having lasted since November 21st 1896.

**Other Labour Disputes in January.**—Eighteen new disputes, and 4 (besides that in the Hamburg Docks) outstanding since previous months, were reported on in the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* in January. Of the newly-reported disputes, five were in the metal-working trades, four each in the textile and woodworking trades, and five in unclassified trades. Some 3,900 workers were said to be involved in nine of the newly-reported disputes, one of which affects about 3,000 operatives in the boot and shoe trade in Weiszeufels (Prussian Saxony). This dispute began on January 4th, when 48 lasters at one factory struck, owing to the refusal of their demand for an increased price list. The Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association, representing 30 factories, thereupon announced that a general lock-out would take place unless work were resumed by January 11th. As the strike continued, this threat was fulfilled, the employers having refused a proposal made by the operatives to resume work on the existing conditions, with a promise of an improved price list to take effect on October 15th.

**The Bavarian Government and Labour Registries.**—The *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* of January 20th, gives the text of a memorandum addressed to the District Executive Authorities by the Bavarian Ministry of State, on the subject of labour registries. The memorandum embodies a scheme under which the Kingdom is divided into 5 districts, each having a central municipal labour registry. Bavaria has at present six municipal registries, and a seventh will shortly be opened at Würzburg. Those now in operation are at Munich, Kaiserslautern, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Erlangen and Fürth. It is intended that the first four of these, together with the Würzburg institution, should serve as central clearing-houses for the various districts. The municipal authorities in the towns selected as district centres are to be asked to report within the next few weeks

as to their willingness to co-operate in the proposed scheme. It appears that at present the ratio between supply of labour and demand varies very much in the different towns. For instance, in Nuremberg and Fürth the number of situations offered generally exceeds the number applied for, while in Munich the latter by far exceeds the former.

**Württemberg Municipal Registries in December, and in the twelve months ended December,\* 1896.**—During December the 11 municipal labour registries of Württemberg found work for 1,000 persons (716 males and 284 females). The situations applied for by the workpeople numbered 4,655, and those offered by the employers 1,623.

During the whole of 1896 the municipal labour registries found work for 20,306 persons (15,056 males and 5,250 females), the situations applied for by workpeople numbered 50,150, and those offered by employers 34,855.

### SWITZERLAND.

**Report of Federal Council on proposed Factory Legislation.**—(a) **Payment of Wages.**—Under date of January 16th, 1897, the Swiss Federal Council reported to the Federal Assembly on a number of questions which had been referred to it, including the question of extending the provisions of the Federal Factory Act, governing the payment of, and deductions from, wages to certain categories of workers (estimated to number about 100,000) now excluded from their operation.

The Federal Council, supported by the result of an inquiry carried out at its request by the Federal factory inspectors, approves of the proposed extension, and has drafted a Bill, the provisions of which correspond, on the whole, to those now applicable to persons already coming under the Federal Factory Act.

(b) **Reduction of hours of Female Factory Operatives on Saturdays.**—The Federal Council has also reported on the question "whether, and if so, to what extent, a reduction could be made in the working hours of females in factories on Saturdays." The opinion of the Council on this question—also based on the results of an inquiry conducted by the factory inspectors—is, that legislation in the sense suggested would be attended with exceptional difficulties, and is therefore not advisable at present.

### BELGIUM.†

**Employment in January.**—The *Coalmining, Engineering and Smelting* trades continue very busy. A decrease of employment is reported in the *Glass* trade, and the slackness of the *Building* trades has considerably increased owing to unfavourable weather. The slack season continues for the *Clothing* trades. Reductions in working hours or in the number of operatives employed are taking place in many *Cotton-weaving* mills in Ghent. There is a diminution of employment also in *Wool-scouring* establishments in Verviers, night work—which prevailed throughout the whole of last year—having almost entirely ceased.

**Labour Disputes in January.**—Fifteen disputes, of which twelve were new, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department in January. Some 1,550 workers in all were involved, but in no case did a dispute affect more than one establishment. Five of the disputes occurred in coalmining, four in the textile trades, and three among makers of trimmings, bindings, &c. In eight disputes the differences had reference to questions of wages; in four, to the dismissal or re-instatement of workpeople, and in three to changes in the conditions of work affecting matters other than wages. The workpeople were successful in three and unsuccessful in eleven out of fourteen disputes of which the results were reported. The termination of one dispute was brought about by the Council of Industry and Labour.

**Coal and Iron Production in 1896.**—The following statement shows the total production of coal, pig iron and manufactured iron and steel in Belgium in 1896, and the excess of production in that year over 1895:—

	In 1896.	Excess of 1896 over 1895.
	Tons (Of 2,204 lbs.)	Tons (Of 2,204 lbs.)
Coal...	21,213,050	755,546
Iron, Pig ... ..	932,780	103,546
" Plates, &c. ... ..	519,857	73,958
Steel, Cast ... ..	598,755	144,136
" Forged ... ..	498,765	130,818

\* Mittheilungen des Königl. Statistischen Landesamts. No. 1, 1897 (Beilage des Staats-Anzeiger für Württemberg).

† Bericht des Bundesrates an die Bundesversammlung, betreffend das Postulat Nr. 517 (Lohnzahlung, Arbeitszeit an Samstagen, internationaler Arbeiterschutz). (Vom 16. Januar 1897).

‡ Supplied through the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department by Dr. F. Kercruysse.

### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

**Miners' Strike in Hungary.**—The miners employed by the Austro-Hungarian State Railway Company in Anina went on strike on January 20th to oppose a modification which the Company proposed to introduce in the rules of their provident society. Over 5,000 workers are said to be involved in the strike, in the course of which disturbances have occurred.

**Other Disputes in January.**—In the chief papers published by Austrian employers' and workers' organisations,\* reports appeared in January of 13 new disputes (besides the above) and of three remaining unsettled since previous months. Among the latter is a strike of 420 porcelain workers of Dallwitz, near Carlsbad, begun on September 15th, all attempts to settle which have so far proved unsuccessful. Of the newly-reported disputes, six were in the metal trades, two each in the textile and woodworking trades, and three in unclassified trades. Of the six newly-reported disputes in the metal trades three were in cycle works; 380 operatives being involved in a strike which occurred at a cycle works in Linz, where the men demanded a regulation of their wages and the dismissal of a foreman. Some 1,300 workpeople were said to be involved in 10 of the January disputes (old and new), for which information on this point was forthcoming.

### DENMARK.

**Strike of Dock Labourers at Aarhus.**—In a report to the Foreign Office, dated January 13th, Sir C. S. Scott, H.M. Minister at Copenhagen, states that a strike of dock labourers had begun at Aarhus on the 2nd of January. The dispute was caused by the refusal of the Aarhus Grain Company to give an undertaking that no more goods should be imported from Hamburg during the continuance of the strike in that city. Later the men offered to accept a guarantee to the same effect, to be in force for 14 days only, but this guarantee the employers refused to give. The strike included not only the men in the company's sheds, but also those on all the grain vessels and coal steamers in the harbour. Direct negotiations having proved fruitless, the men evinced a disposition to treat for terms through the agency of their trade union, with which, however, the employers refused to deal. On January 11th, the strike was still in progress; the Grain Company had engaged a sufficient number of other workmen (about 130) for existing requirements, and the coal steamers were being discharged, although very slowly, by their own crews.

### ITALY.

**Strike of Typefounders.**—Reporting to the Foreign Office, under date of February 5th, Mr. Armstrong, H.M. Consul at Milan, stated that a general strike of the typefounders of Italy had just terminated, after lasting about ten weeks. The total number of operative typefounders in Italy is not more than 430, of whom at least half are in Milan. Previous to the strike the workmen were, as a rule, paid by piecework, and the working day was ten hours, but there was no uniform tariff. There was also no limit to overtime, either on working days or holidays, without extra pay. It has now been arranged that the working day shall be nine hours, and that the men shall be paid at hourly rates. It is further arranged that overtime shall never exceed two hours, either on working days or holidays, and that extra remuneration shall be given for it. The exact amount of this extra remuneration is not yet quite settled, the employers offering 10 per cent. on their ordinary rates and the men asking 25 per cent. Both sides are said to be fairly satisfied with the results obtained. One of these results is the formation of an association of the employers, having for its object not only the establishment of a uniform rate of wages, but also a uniform list of sale prices. A workman of the highest class who, under the old system, earned about 3s. 2d. a day in ten hours by piecework, will still make about the same in nine hours. Work was never entirely stopped in the shops, for a certain number of new hands were taken on. About 40 of the strikers are still out of work.

\* Including *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), *Das Handels-Museum Die Gewerkschaft, Die Arbeiter Zeitung* and others.



EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Returns received from the owners of 52 tinplate works show that they had 12,210 persons employed at the end of the month, or 378 more than at the end of December, and 588 less than at the end of January 1896.

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during January amounted to 24,496 tons, as compared with 18,218 tons during December, and 23,401 tons during January 1896. Of these quantities the United States took 8,810 tons in January, 7,079 tons in December, and 11,861 tons in January 1896.

(e).—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN JANUARY.

THE agricultural correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 190 returns from various parts of the country, reports as follows:—The month of January was not a favourable one for outdoor employment, as a good deal of rain fell, and during the latter part there was hard frost and also a considerable fall of snow. In consequence there was some irregularity of work, chiefly amongst oddmen or casual men, particularly while the severe weather lasted. Considering the inclemency of the weather the state of employment was not unsatisfactory, and from no district is any exceptional distress reported.

**Northern Counties.**—Reports from *Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Durham, and Yorkshire* state that employment was generally regular during the first half of January, but in the latter half there was some irregularity of work among oddmen, owing to the snow and frost.

**Midland Counties.**—In *Cheshire* it is stated that work was generally regular, and that the prevalence of frost caused very little irregularity of employment. In *Nottinghamshire* an unfavourable report comes from the Southwell Union, but in the Unions of Bingham, Newark and Worksop work was generally satisfactory, though a few were in irregular work in the last week of the month. In *Shropshire* in the Market Drayton Union a number of oddmen were in irregular work owing to the frost, but in the Oswestry Union employment was more regular. Favourable reports come from *Derbyshire* from the Belper Union, and from the Derbyshire portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union; from *Staffordshire* from the Lichfield and Tamworth Unions. In *Warwickshire* work was generally regular, except in the case of a few oddmen at the end of the month, in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick. Favourable reports come from *Leicestershire* from the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Billesdon, Blaby, Market Bosworth, and Lutterworth; from *Rutland*, from the Oakham Union; and from *Worcestershire*, from the Evesham Union. In *Oxfordshire*, favourable reports come from the Unions of Banbury, and Witney, but in the Thame Union a number of men are said to have been in irregular work. In *Huntingdonshire*, the snow and frost at the end of the month was the cause of a good deal of irregular work in the Unions of Huntingdon and St. Neot's (Beds and Hunts). In the St. Ives Union, the irregularity of work was less marked. Reports from *Northamptonshire* state that work was generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Hardingstone, Kettering, Peterborough, and Potterspury. In *Bedfordshire*, a considerable number of men were in irregular work in the Leighton Buzzard Union, owing to bad weather. In the Bedford Union, there was also some irregularity, owing to the same cause.

**Eastern Counties.**—Reports from *Essex* state that owing to frost and snow there was some irregularity of work at the latter part of the month in the Unions of Braintree, Billericay, Colchester, Dunmow, and Tendring. Favourable reports come from the Maldon and Orsett Unions. In *Suffolk* also the frost and snow caused some irregularity of work in the Unions of Cosford, Bosmere and Claydon, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mutford and Lothingland, Mildenhall, Plomesgate and Thingoe. Favourable reports come from the Unions of Blything, Risbridge, Samford, Stow, and Sudbury. In *Norfolk*, reports of a favourable character, with few exceptions on account of the weather, come from the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Erpingham, East and West Flegg, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Henstead, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, and Walsingham. Less favourable reports come from the Unions of Gaultcross, Lodden and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, and Wayland. In *Cambridgeshire* there was some irregularity of work in the Union

of Chesterton, but favourable reports come from the Unions of Linton, North Witchford, and Wisbech. Reports from *Lincolnshire* state that work is generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Grimsby, Grantham, Louth, Lincoln, and Sleaford.

**Home Counties.**—In *Berkshire* reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of Abingdon, and Wallingford, but in the Wantage Union there was some irregularity of work, particularly in the neighbourhood of the town of Wantage. In *Buckinghamshire* work was generally regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. In the Buckingham Union it is stated that during the bad weather a number of agricultural labourers got work at other employments in the neighbourhood. In *Hertfordshire* favourable reports come from the Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, and Hitchin Unions, but in the Hemel Hempstead Union some irregularity of work existed. In *Surrey* work is said to have been generally regular in the Farnham, (Surrey and Hants) and Godstone Unions. In *Kent* reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of Faversham, Hollingbourne and Milton, but in the Unions of Bridge, and Hoo there was some irregularity, chiefly owing to the weather.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—In *Sussex* work is reported to have been generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Battle, Chalely, Horsham, and Rye; in *Hampshire* in the Unions of Kingsclere and Stockbridge; in *Dorsetshire* in the Unions of Blandford and Dorchester. In certain parishes in the Cerne, and Wimborne and Cranborne Unions work was irregular at the latter part of the month, owing to the severity of the weather. In *Wiltshire* favourable reports come from the Unions of Devizes, Pewsey, Warminster, and Wilton, and from *Gloucestershire* from the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Gloucester, and Winchcombe. In *Herefordshire* irregularity of work is reported from certain parishes in the Bromyard and Ledbury Unions. Reports from *Somersetshire* say that, with few exceptions, chiefly in the case of oddmen, the state of employment was satisfactory in the Unions of Langport, Taunton, Wincanton, Wells, and Wellington; from *Devonshire* in the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton, Tavistock, and Torrington.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN JANUARY.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women in the cotton trade showed little change during January. In the woollen and worsted trade there was again a marked decline. Information has been received with regard to the employment of women and girls in 457 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills, which is summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	January 1897.			Corresponding Percentages in—	
	Number of Mills.	Approximate No. of Women and Girls employed.	Per-centage.	Dec. 1896.	Jan. 1896.
Full time ... ..	355	55,470	76	75	87
Didto, but partial employment ... ..	48	8,990	12	16	7
Short time ... ..	53	8,950	12	7	3
Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes ... ..	1	50	...	2	3
Total ... ..	457	73,460	100	100	100

**Cotton Trade.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 57,140. Of these, 78 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 77 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in December, and with 84 per cent. in January 1896); 13 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 9 per cent. in mills running short time.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 14,990. Of these, 64 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 70 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in December, and 97 per cent. in January 1896); 10 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 26 per cent. in mills running short time.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN JANUARY.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks was considerably better during January than at the corresponding period of last year, but was not quite so good as during December. At the wharves it was neither so good as in December, nor as a year ago.

The average daily number of labourers employed at all the docks, and at 113 of the principal wharves, during the five weeks ended January 30th was 16,008, as compared with an average of 16,705 in the four preceding weeks, and 14,710 a year ago. The estimated daily number at work varied from 14,009 on December 28th to 16,963 on January 15th.

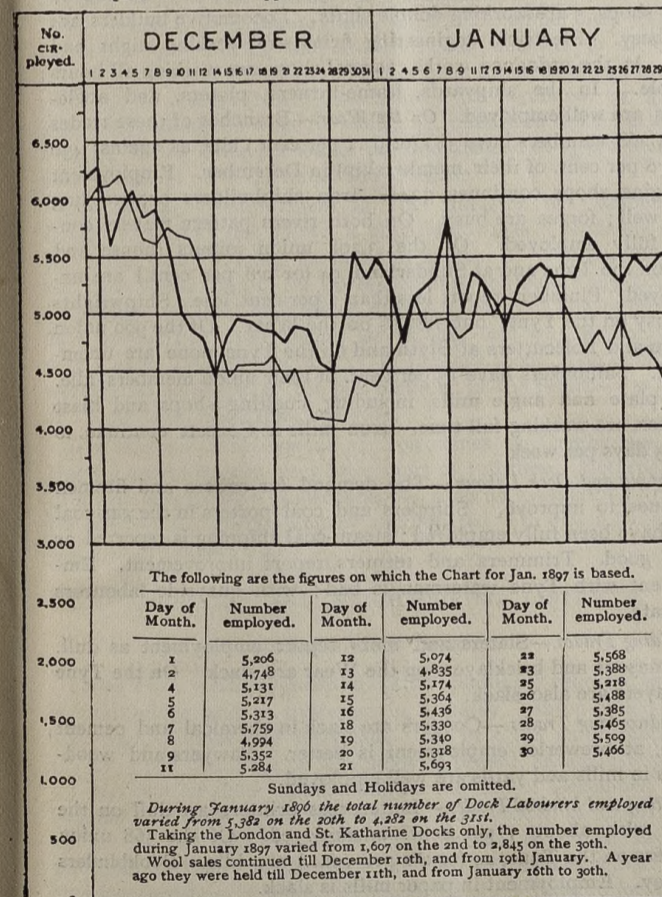
**Detailed Figures.**—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 113 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of January	7,469	2,134	9,603	5,447	15,050
2nd " " "	7,957	2,423	10,380	5,838	16,218
3rd " " "	7,743	2,054	9,797	5,849	15,646
4th " " "	7,742	2,505	10,247	5,777	16,024
5th " " "	7,615	2,906	10,521	5,684	16,205
Average for 5 weeks ending Jan. 30, 1897	7,705	2,584	10,289	5,719	16,008
Average for January 1896	7,107	1,796	8,903	5,807	14,710
Average for December 1896	8,143	2,405	10,548	6,157	16,705

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during December 1896 and January 1897 is shown on the chart below. The numbers in January ranged from 4,748 on the 2nd to 5,759 on the 7th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers\* employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of December 1896 and January 1897. The corresponding curve for December 1895 and January 1896 is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1896-7, and the thin curve to 1895-6.]



\* Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included.

Work in mid-stream has been fair and steady. Stevedores and lightermen have been busy, deal porters have been slack, coal porters and winchmen busy, corn porters fairly, although irregularly employed.

The fruit porters in Thames Street have had fair employment, though less regular than in December. In the first two and the last two weeks of the month an average number of 426 was employed. In the week ending January 16th, however, the average was only 195. For the month the average was 380, compared with an average of 411 for December.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN JANUARY.

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

THE number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 35,399, being 1,505 more than in January 1896. The supply of seamen and firemen during January was reported as equal to or greater than the demand at nearly all the ports. At Middlesbrough and Dublin there was a scarcity of seamen for sailing vessels.

Particulars of the changes which have taken place during the month in the rates of wages at Newport, Cardiff, Glasgow, Swansea, and Methil will be found on page 58.

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 January 1897 and 1896 respectively, and the increase or decrease in January 1897, as compared with January 1896:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in January 1897.			Total in Jan. 1896.	In-crease in Jan. 1897.	De-crease in Jan. 1897.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Jan. 1897.			
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ... ..	—	3,626	3,626	3,252	374	—
Sunderland ... ..	—	751	751	720	31	—
Middlesbrough ... ..	22	617	639	674	—	35
Hull ... ..	—	1,205	1,205	1,426	—	221
Grimsby ... ..	—	77	77	153	—	76
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ... ..	9	213	222	288	—	66
Newport, Mon. ... ..	25	1,454	1,479	1,370	109	—
Cardiff ... ..	367	6,406	6,773	6,158	615	—
Swansea ... ..	175	808	983	837	146	—
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ... ..	283	8,815	9,098	9,086	12	—
London ... ..	194	5,769	5,963	5,685	278	—
Southampton ... ..	11	1,232	1,243	1,304	—	61
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	—	841	841	677	164	—
Glasgow ... ..	44	2,079	2,123	1,968	155	—
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ... ..	—	134	134	32	102	—
Belfast ... ..	—	242	242	264	—	22
Total Jan. 1897 ... ..	1,130	34,269	35,399	...	1,505	—
Didto, Jan. 1896 ... ..	1,456	32,438	...	33,894	...	...

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in various Industries.**—The state of employment in nearly all the more important industries remains steady, with an upward tendency. Returns from 402 branches of 107 unions, with an aggregate membership of 71,285, show that 2,332 (or 3·3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, the same percentage as in December. The percentage for the 86 unions making returns in January 1896 was 3·6.

The *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding* trades, particularly the latter, have still further improved. Reports from 115 branches of 24 unions, with a membership of 22,484, show that 474 (or 2·1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 2·6 in December and in January 1896.

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



## EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—LONDON AND NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Employment in the *Building* trades continues good, painters and decorators excepted. Reports from 180 branches of 7 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 10,960, show that 201 (or 1·8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 2·2 per cent. in both December and January of last year. The mill-sawyers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as fair; the bricklayers, stone-masons and plumbers as moderate; the stonecarvers as quiet; and the painters and decorators as dull.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has improved. Reports from 36 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 5,372, show that 298 (or 5·5 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 8·3 in December and 6·2 per cent. at the end of January 1896.

The *Coopers* are still actively employed. Two societies, with a membership of 960, return none unemployed, compared with less than 1·0 per cent. in December and 2·6 at the end of January last year.

The *Coachbuilding* trades are better employed, and in some branches good men are reported to be in demand. Returns from 12 branches of 9 unions, with a membership of 1,270, show that 38 (or 3·0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 4·1 in December and 3·3 per cent. in January 1896.

The *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades are not so busy, though well up to the average for the season. Reports from 21 unions, with a membership of 21,319, show that 913 (or 4·3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 2·8 in December and 4·8 per cent. in January of last year.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade and in the East-end bespoke trade has continued bad, short time being worked, but signs of revival were evident towards the close of the month; the West-end bespoke trade has also remained dull. The mantle trade has continued slack, short time being the rule, but improved slightly at the end of the month. The hat trade has slightly improved, but compares unfavourably with previous years at this season; the cap trade is quiet; the helmet trade good. The fur skin dressers are fairly busy; the furriers have a large percentage unemployed, but are better off for work than at the corresponding period of last year. The silk weavers report employment as steady.

*Boot and Shoe Trades.*—Employment in the machine branch continues to improve; the high-class bespoke branch has remained slack, with a slight improvement towards the end of the month; the slipper-makers, after a long run of good employment, are now slack.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has still further improved. Returns from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,416, show that 30 (or 2·1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 2·4 in December and 2·6 in January 1896.

*Glass and Pottery Trades.*—Employment in these trades is somewhat better. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,454, show that 99 (or 6·8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of January, compared with 7·5 in December and 5·3 per cent. in January of last year.

*Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.*—Employment in these trades is better. Returns from 6 societies, with a membership of 973, show that 51 (or 5·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6·2 in December and 3·5 per cent. in January 1896.

The *Gold* and *Silver* trades continue well employed. Reports from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,095, show that 17 (or 1·6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·2 per cent. in December, and 1·4 per cent. in January of last year.

The *Tobacco* trades remain steadily employed. Reports from 3 societies, with a membership of 2,135, show that 79 (or 3·7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·4 per cent. in December, and 4·8 per cent. in January 1896.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—At the docks and wharves employment was considerably better than a year ago, but not quite so good as in December. During the five weeks ended January 30th, an average daily number of 16,008 was employed at all the docks and the principal wharves, compared with 16,705 in December, and 14,710 a year ago. Stevedores and lightermen and coal porters and winchmen have been busy, deal porters slack, corn porters and fruit porters fairly but irregularly employed, and workers in mid-stream fairly and steadily employed. (For further details, see p. 47.)

*Disputes and Trade Movements.*—Two small disputes have been reported as arising during the month in the mantle-making and French polishing trades respectively, together involving 48 persons. The former has been settled by the mediation of the London Conciliation Board. The dispute in the basket-making trade reported last month has been settled (see p. 61). Between 400 and 500 engineers employed on ship repairing in the London

district secured a reduction in their hours from 54 to 48 per week from January 8th.

*Labour Bureaux.*—The seven London Bureaux which furnished returns for January both in 1897 and in 1896, registered 1,990 fresh applications for work during the month, being 1,268 less than in the previous January. Excluding 3,543 temporary engagements for snow clearing, &c., work was found during the month through these bureaux for 665 persons (486 being engaged by private employers and 179 by local authorities) as compared with 1,888 persons (1,292 by private employers and 596 by local authorities) during January 1896.

*Pauperism.*—The number of persons relieved on the last day of the second week of January was 105,294. This is an increase of 683 on the number relieved on the corresponding day of December. As compared with January 1896, there was a decrease in all the Metropolitan districts, except the Western, which showed a slight increase. The total decrease amounted to 2,612.

The number of vagrants in London on one day in the second week in January was 1,210, as compared with 1,190 in January 1896.

In West Ham the number of paupers on one day in the second week was 8,635 in January, 8,601 in December, and 9,154 in January 1896.

## ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

## Tyne and Wear District.

*Coal Mining.*—*Northumberland.*—The steam coal collieries have averaged 4·88 days per week and house coal collieries 5·26 days. Of the 19,094 union miners 137 (or 0·71 per cent.) are idle, as against 125 (or 0·62 per cent.) in December. *Durham.*—Except for holidays, house, steam and mixed coal pits have worked full time. Gas and coking coal pits have lost a few days, the average number of days worked per week being 5·02 and 5·31 respectively. The number of unemployed union miners owing to bad trade is 759 (or 1·28 per cent.), as against 1·4 per cent. in December.

*Metal Mining.*—The ironstone mines continue to work full time. Lead miners are not so fully employed.

*Quarrying.*—Limestone quarries are fairly busy, but work has been interrupted by the weather. Whinstone quarries are busy.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—*On the Tyne.*—Of the 10,967 union members of these trades 415 (or 3·78 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 585 (or 5·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Marine engine builders continue busy. Of the 12 boiler shops, 5 are working double shifts. Locomotive builders are also busy. Electrical engineering firms are working night and day. At the ordnance works, several shops are working all hours possible. In the shipyards, frame-turners, platers, and angle-smiths are well employed. *On the Wear.*—Branches of these trades with 4,268 members have 389 (or 9·11 per cent.) idle, as against 430 (or 10·8 per cent. of their membership) in December. Employment in engine shops continues good. Iron shipbuilders are working fairly well; forges are busy. On both rivers pattern-makers continue fully employed. Of the 3,298 union joiners (house and ship) on the Tyne and at Sunderland, 94 (or 2·8 per cent.) are unemployed. Plumbers report less than 2 per cent. idle. Shipwrights are busy on the Tyne, but less so on the Wear. Of the 900 union drillers and holecutters at Blyth and on the Tyne none are unemployed. Sailmakers have 15 per cent. of their union members idle. Steel plate and angle mills, including smelting shops and blast furnaces, are working full time. Iron mills at Consett continue to work 5 days per week.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The demand for sailors and firemen continues to improve. Shippers and coal porters in the gas-coal trade have been fully employed; steam-coal shipping is reported as not so good. Trimmers and teemers report improvement. Employment with Tyne watermen is bad; with quayside labourers moderate.

*Building Trades.*—Slaters and tilers report employment as dull. Stonemasons and bricklayers on the Wear are slack. On the Tyne bricklayers are also slack.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Coopers are slack in chemical and cement works; at breweries employment is better. Sawyers and woodcutters in mills and yards are well employed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers are dull on the Wear, with about 5 per cent. unemployed. Of the 568 union members on the Tyne, 24 (or 4·2 per cent.) are idle. Bookbinders are busy. Employment in paper mills is slack.

*Glass and Chemical Trades.*—Glass bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour are fully employed. Pressed glass-makers report employment as fair. The chemical industry continues.

## EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

slack. White lead factories are busy. Copper works are fairly employed.

*Fishing.*—Trawl and line fishing has been interrupted by the weather. A few line boats have landed good catches.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

## Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

*Iron Mining.*—Employment with the Cleveland miners continues good. A 4 per cent. advance in wages has been conceded.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—The finished ironworkers continue well employed. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Conciliation Board wages remain unchanged for February and March. Steelworkers generally are busy. Employment in the foundries, blast furnaces, and bridge works is reported as fair.

*Engineering.*—Employment is reported as good with the engineers at the Hartlepoons, Stockton, Darlington, Eston, and Middlesbrough; fair with the pattern-makers, and good with the moulders throughout the district. Branches with 3,201 members report 20 (or 0·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 24 (or 0·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Shipbuilding.*—Work is reported as plentiful, but hindered somewhat by alterations and enlargements, and by the weather. Shipjoiners and smiths and strikers report employment as good.

*Building Trades.*—All branches, except the painters, report employment as fairly good, but interrupted by the weather. Branches of joiners, sawyers, and machinists, with 1,188 members, report 22 (or 1·9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 16 (or 1·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate at Middlesbrough, quiet at the Hartlepoons. Dock labourers are slack at the Hartlepoons and busy at Middlesbrough. Riverside labour is fair.

*Miscellaneous.*—Tailors report employment as slack; printers as moderate; saltworkers as steady.—*A. Main.*

## Cumberland and Barrow District.

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

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—The number of furnaces in blast in Cumberland and North Lancashire at the end of January was 44, a compared with 43 at the end of December, and 42 at the end of January 1896. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 3,325 in January last, 3,270 in December, and 3,131 in January 1896. During the month it was decided to alter the sliding scale under which the wages of blast furnacemen in Cumberland and at Askam (North Lancashire) are regulated, by giving  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. change in wage for each 2·4d. change in the ascertained average selling price per ton of pig iron, instead of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for each variation of 1s. as under the old scale.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in this industry in Cumberland, though still good, has shown a slightly downward tendency since November last. During the last four months of 1896 employment had been better than in the corresponding months of 1895, but this advantage was not maintained during January. The number of days worked per week during last month was 5·25, as compared with 5·49 in December and 5·37 in January 1896. The number of workpeople employed at the pits included in the returns was 5,417, or 1·8 per cent. more than last year.

*Iron Mining.*—Employment at iron mines in Cumberland and North Lancashire was very little short of full time. Returns from 42 mines, employing 5,754 workpeople, show an average of 5·81 days per week worked during January, as compared with 5·64 in December and 5·82 in January 1896.

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

## Oldham and District.

*Cotton Trade.*—Employment in cotton spinning is reported as good in Stalybridge, and as moderate in Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Stockport, Oldham and Rochdale. Out of 9,158 union members, 279 (or 3 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit, as against 300 (or 3·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The Oldham cardroom operatives, with a membership of 10,961, have 254 (or 2·3 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 223 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The Mossley cardroom workers, with 900 members have 70 (or nearly 8 per cent.) on unemployed benefit through a stoppage. The powerloom overlookers, with a membership of 203, have 8 on unemployed benefit. The weavers report employment as slack in velvets,

indifferent in calicoes, and moderate in sectional warping, reeling, and winding. Ring spinners are fully employed, and twiners moderately so.

*Woolen Trade.*—Employment is reported as very slack in Stockport, and bad in Rochdale and Millrow districts.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The various branches of engineers, with a membership of 2,354, report employment as moderate, with 50 (or 2·1 per cent.) on unemployed benefit. Machine moulders, pattern-makers, brassfounders, tinplate workers, and iron-founders report employment as fair; gas meter makers, boiler-makers, spindle and flyer makers, and iron-grinders as moderate.

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

*Coal Mining.*—The miners in Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, Shaw, and Royton districts report that they are working full time. *T. Ashton.*

## Bolton and District.

*Cotton Trade.*—*Spinning.*—Employment in Bolton is not quite so brisk as in December; in Bury spinners are reported as fairly busy; in Chorley as well employed. Cardroom operatives are moderately well employed in Bolton; busy in Bury; fairly well employed in Chorley. *Weaving.*—In Bolton employment continues irregular; in Bury there is much waiting for warps; in Chorley weaving is unusually slack, many looms being stopped at several firms, and two mills running short time.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—Employment is reported as exceptionally good in most departments. Branches with 1,805 members report only 9 on unemployed benefit. Overtime is being worked at several large firms in the district. The iron machine-makers continue busy, except in some departments affected by the dispute with the spindle and flyer-makers. Steel workers are moderately well employed. In Wigan, Chorley and Bury employment is good.

*Coal Mining.*—In Bolton, Little Lever, Little Hulton, Walkden, Darcy Lever and Radcliffe most collieries are reported as busy, and working six days per week. In Wigan a further improvement is reported.

*Building Trades.*—In Bolton the carpenters and joiners and plumbers are fairly busy; but painters, stonemasons, paviors, masons, slaters, plasterers, and outdoor labourers are reported as slack. Employment in Wigan and Chorley is slack; in Bury it is moderate.

*Miscellaneous.*—Coachmakers, trandriers, brushmakers, and leather workers are fairly well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

## Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

*Cotton Trade.*—*Weaving.*—Employment has shown a considerable decline. In almost every district short time is being worked. In Burnley 5,800 looms are totally stopped through various causes, and about 20,000 are only working daylight. In Colne about 3,000 looms are working daylight only, and 750 are totally stopped. In Darwen over 1,000 looms are working short time, while about 700 have stopped for want of warps. At Blackburn, Preston and Nelson short time is common. Employment continues good in the hardwaste trade, and bad in the coloured goods trade. There is a slight improvement in the warp-dressing trade. Loomers and drawers in the Burnley district are slack, one-half of the members being on short time. Employment is also slack in the Blackburn district, work being irregular. *Spinning.*—Employment is fair in Preston and Burnley; moderate in Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington districts. Cardroom workers continue to be fairly well employed. Branches of twisters, warp dressers, and spinners, with 3,612 members, have 140 (or 3·9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 151 (or 4·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Building Trades.*—Outdoor work having been suspended, painters and plumbers are not fully employed. Carpenters and joiners are moderately busy; three branches with 432 members have 10 unemployed.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—Employment in the various branches is reported as fairly good, all departments being engaged on full time.

*Coal Mining.*—Miners in the Burnley district are reported as fairly brisk, only two pits working short time. In Townley, most of the men are working 4 days per week. In Accrington, the men are working full time at one pit, and 5 days per week at another.

*Miscellaneous.*—Calico-printers and dyers, and letterpress printers continue well employed. Reed makers report employment as bad. Tailors continue slack.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

## EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

## Manchester and District.

*General.*—Branches with 21,607 members return 611 (or 2·8 per cent.) as unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of December.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers in Manchester, Stockport, Warrington, Northwich, and Macclesfield report employment as moderate; steam engine makers as unchanged, with no unemployed in the district; ironfounders as good in Manchester, moderate at Macclesfield and Warrington; boiler-makers as bad in Manchester, moderate at Northwich and Warrington; machine workers, brassfounders, finishers, braziers, and sheet metal workers in Manchester as good; and smiths and strikers as moderate. Wire drawers and wire weavers at Warrington are fully employed, and tinplate workers moderately so. Branches with 9,898 members return 237 (or 2·4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 170 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in cotton spinning is reported as good. Cotton workers in general in both Manchester and Macclesfield are running full time. Employment in the silk trade continues bad, very few weavers minding more than one loom, and many being wholly unemployed. Silk dressers report employment as moderate, and silk dyers as bad. Plush-raising is good, and fustian cutters are fairly well employed. Dressers, dyers, and finishers report employment as moderate, and bleachers and dressers as bad.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the bespoke department of the tailoring trade is described as bad; in the wholesale department as fair. Employment is quiet with ready-made mantle makers; moderate with cap makers; dull with waterproof garment makers. Umbrella makers in the home trade are slack, but shipping orders are fairly plentiful. In the boot and shoe trade and the felt hat trade employment is moderate.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in the building trades throughout the district is reported as moderate. The weather has stopped work for a short time amongst all branches. Painters are slack.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printing in Manchester, Stockport, and Warrington continues moderate; bookbinders report employment as moderate; lithographic printers as bad; pattern card makers as good.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—Branches with 1,555 members return 86 (or 5·5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 63 (or 4·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Employment in the coachbuilding shops in Manchester remains good, but at Warrington the men are still on three-quarter time.

G. D. Kelley.

## Liverpool and District.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as improved; engineers and pattern-makers as fair; brassfounders, ironfounders, whitesmiths, iron and steel dressers as good; shipwrights and joiners as moderate; ship painters as dull. Branches with 4,004 members return 427 (or 10·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 324 (or 8·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Cabinet-makers and French polishers report employment as moderate, upholsterers as dull, coachmakers and wheelwrights as moderate, coopers as quiet, woodworking machinists as unchanged. Societies with 1,144 members return 71 (or 6·2 per cent.) as unemployed.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Sailors and firemen report employment as dull; dock labourers as good; Mersey flatmen as fair; quay and railway carters as not so good; coal and saltheavers as moderate.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers report a decline; stereotypers, bookbinders and rulers are well employed. Branches with 1,250 members have 83 (or 6·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 58 (or 4·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Clothing Trades.*—The bespoke tailors report employment as slack; in the ready-made branch it is dull; in the boot and shoe trade fair.

*Building Trades.*—Bricklayers, masons and plasterers report employment as fair; joiners and plumbers as moderate; painters as dull; tilers as good. Societies of carpenters and plumbers, with 2,700 members, return 54 (or 2 per cent.) as unemployed.

*Coalmining and Quarrying.*—Coalminers report an average of about 20 days worked during four weeks at St. Helens; they continue fully employed in the Skelmersdale district. Quarrymen remain well employed.

*Glass and Chemical Trades.*—Glass bottle makers report employment as good. Employment with chemical workers is moderate.

C. Rouse.

A report from *Winsford* states that employment has fallen off in the salt trade there and at Middlewich. Employment in the chemical trade at Middlewich remains normal. Moulders at Winsford are still working short time. Employment among fustian cutters is slack, and short time is worked at both Winsford and Middlewich. At both places employment in the building trades is reported as good, save for stoppages owing to weather.

## YORKSHIRE.

## Hull and District.

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—All the shipbuilding yards, engineering works and boilershops are busy. The engineers, steam-engine makers, smiths and strikers, brassfounders and finishers, machine workers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, drillers and hole cutters, and shipwrights, report employment as good; the general shipyard and engineering labourers as moderate; the sailmakers as slack at Hull, bad at Grimsby. Employment on repair work is good. The engineers at Doncaster report employment as improving. Societies with 3,931 members return 41 (or 1·0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 134 (or 3·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Building Trades.*—Employment generally has been good at Hull, and moderate at Grimsby, but a number have been thrown temporarily out of work by the weather.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The sailors and firemen report employment as moderate, with more unemployed; the dock labourers at Hull, and the dock and general labourers at Grimsby, as bad.

*Fishing Industry.*—There has been a scarcity of fish landed at the Hull and Grimsby markets, and the fish-landers and pontoona-labourers have had less employment. The trawl fishermen report employment as moderate; the steam-trawling engineers and firemen and the twine-spinners and dressers as good; the fish-curers at Grimsby as moderate.

*Seed Crushing, Paint and Colour Works.*—Employment in the seed crushing mills is reported as good; in the paint and colour works as fair. The coopers report employment as still good.

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

*Miscellaneous.*—The coachbuilders report employment as bad at Hull, moderate at Doncaster; the brushmakers as fair at Hull.

W. G. Millington.

## Leeds and District.

*General.*—Branches of societies with 7,403 members have 225 (or 3·1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 193 (or 2·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—All branches of the engineering trade in Leeds continue well employed, and at Wakefield employment has considerably improved. Ironfounders at Leeds, Staningley, and Pudsey are busy; pattern-makers are in good demand; steelworkers are busy. Employment with boiler-makers is fair; with machine workers and spindle and flyer makers good; with stove-grate workers moderate. Branches with 3,422 members return 50 (or 1·5 per cent.) as unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of December.

*Clothing Trades.*—In the boot and shoe trade employment is quiet. Most ready-made clothing establishments are now working full time; bespoke tailors are slack; slipper-makers are fairly employed.

*Textile Trades.*—In Leeds blanket raisers are dull, and woollen spinners and linen workers are on short time. Flax workers at Hunslet are busy. Willeyers and fettlers continue slack. At Yeaton and Guiseley employment in the mills is bad, about half-time being general; at Staningley slack; at Wakefield fair. Dyers are fairly employed.

*Building Trades.*—Joiners, bricklayers, and masons report employment as good in Leeds, except for the weather. Plumbers and painters are slack. At Wakefield and Harrogate employment is fair.

*Mining.*—At the collieries in the Leeds and Wakefield districts full time is being worked at most pits. Ironstone miners are busy.

*Leather Trades.*—Employment at the tanneries is moderate. Curriers report employment as dull; leather shavers as quiet.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers report employment as generally slack, with an increase in the number

## EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—YORKS. AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

unemployed; the lithographers as moderate. Paper mill workers are fairly employed.

*Glass Trades.*—Employment in the glass bottle trade in Leeds is good; at Wakefield fair.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Employment with brush-makers continues good; with coachmakers moderate; with cabinet-makers fair.—O. Connellan.

## Bradford and Huddersfield District.

*Worsted Trade.*—Employment in Bradford is reported as bad, especially in the piece trade; in the surrounding districts, such as Halifax, Keighley and the Worth Valley, as little better than in Bradford. In Huddersfield there seems to be a slight decline, with more men waiting for warps and for longer periods.

*Woolen Trade.*—Employment in and around Huddersfield has only slightly improved, but in the Colne valley a decided improvement is reported, and at Marsden one or two firms are working overtime. Reports from the Holme valley are not quite so good. Employment in the heavy woolen trade of Batley and Dewsbury is reported as worse than it has been for years.

*Other Textile Trades.*—Employment in the silk trade continues slack at Manningham, and is reported as quiet at Halifax. Employment in the cotton trade is reported as good in Huddersfield, moderate elsewhere.

*Metal Trades.*—Employment generally is reported as good or fair. Branches of the engineers and ironfounders at Halifax, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Bradford and Keighley, with 3,132 members, have 80 (or 2·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 86 (or 3·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is interrupted by the weather, but otherwise is fair.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is reported as good with the printers and bookbinders at Huddersfield; as dull in the wholesale tailoring trade at Batley.—A. Gee.

## Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners), with 14,613 members, have 108 (or 0·7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of December.

*Iron and Steel Industries.*—The blast furnacemen, millmen, puddlers, and shinglers continue well employed; platemakers remain quiet. Engineers, iron and steel founders, boiler-makers, wire drawers, Bessemer steel converters and workers, Siemens steel smelters, stove grate workers, iron and steel dressers, merchant iron rollers, steam engine makers, malleable iron casters, crucible steel melters, patent shot and shell makers, forgemen, fitters, and rollers are well employed. Branches with 5,054 members have 34 (or 0·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 61 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. At Rotherham, Eccles, Masbrough, and Parkgate, all branches of the steel trade are busy, and employment in the iron trade is very fair. Bath makers are busy, and the stove grate workers report employment as good. At Thorncliffe, blast furnacemen, pipe makers, moulders, and engineers are well employed.

*Cutlery and Tools.*—Engineers, joiners and general toolmakers are well employed. Pen and pocket cutlers on best work are slack, but are busy on common work. All branches of the file and saw makers are busy. The wool shear grinders and benders have improved. The bayonet workers are slack. Branches with 6,249 members have 17 (or 0·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 10 (or 0·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Other Metal Trades.*—The silver and electro-plate workers, metal stampers, spoon, fork, and brass workers, and hollow-ware workers report employment as very fair; the brassworkers at Rotherham are exceptionally busy.

*Coal Mining.*—Out of 54 collieries 26 are working six days per week, 22, five days; 2, five and a half days; and 4, four days per week; in many cases double shifts are being worked.

*Building Trades.*—Although interrupted by the weather, masons, carpenters and joiners and bricklayers and plumbers are fairly well employed; the other sections are quiet. Branches in Sheffield, with 1,019 members, have 34 (or 3·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 12 (or 1·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. In Barnsley all branches are slack.

*Linen Trade.*—Employment is slack in all branches.

*Clothing Trades.*—Bespoke tailors throughout the district are slack; at Barnsley employment in the ready-made branch is fair. Boot and shoe makers are slack.

*Glass Trades.*—Glass bottle-makers at Rotherham, Mexborough and Barnsley are busy. Flint glass workers are fairly busy.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers are better employed; lithographers are fairly busy, and bookbinders are very busy.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—Cabinet-makers and railway carriage and wagon builders are busy; coachbuilders moderately so. The potters at Holmes and Rotherham report employment as slack.—S. Uttley.

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## Derbyshire District.

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 6,289 members, have 168 (or 2·7 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 79 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Employment in the locomotive works and other engineering branches and in the bridge, girder and boiler yards is reported as good; with ironfounders as improving in Derby, dull in Butterley, Chesterfield and Codnor. Brassmoulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent report employment as good; iron wagon builders in Long Eaton as brisk. Lace machine builders are slack. Cycle-makers, stove grate workers in Derby, Langley Mill and Belper, and ironworkers generally in Ilkeston, Sandiacre, Langley Mill and Draycott continue well employed. Branches with 2,397 members have 41 (or 1·7 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 15 (or 0·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment generally remains fair. Returns from collieries employing over 29,000 men give an average of about 5 days per week.

*Quarrying.*—Employment continues fair in limestone quarries, and in sawmill work when weather permits.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment with cotton spinners and weavers is reported as fair in Belper and Glossop; as dull in Hadfield. Hosiery-workers and dyers in Belper are slack. Lacemakers in Long Eaton and Ilkeston are well employed. Surgical bandage-makers and elastic web weavers report employment as dull. Silk and merino manufacturers in Lea and Holloway are well employed. Calico printers and engravers report improvement.

*Building Trades.*—Branches with 1,590 members have 58 (or 3·6 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 39 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. Employment generally is good, except with painters.

*Clothing Trades.*—Boot and shoe operatives and tailors report employment as dull, many working short time. Dress and mantle-makers are fairly well employed.

*Coachbuilding Trades.*—Employment with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby continues to improve, full time being worked in some departments. Wagon builders in Long Eaton are busy; carriage builders in private shops are moderately employed.

*Woodworking Trades.*—In Burton-on-Trent the coopers report employment as good, with no unemployed. In most timber yards employment continues regular.

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

## Nottingham and District.

*Lace Trade.*—Employment in the plain net branch continues good, in the curtain branch moderate, and in the lever branch there is a slight decline. Employment is bad in the warp lace branch, and moderate with the auxiliary laceworkers. Silk dressers are working five days per week. Bleachers are fairly well employed. Dyers are slack at Nottingham and Basford. Finishers at Bulwell and Basford are not very busy.

*Hosiery.*—Employment with power framework knitters is reported as bad, one half working short time; on circular hosiery as moderate. The hand-frame branch is well employed. Shetland wool shawl workers at Hucknall Torkard are slack. Elastic bandage makers report a decline. Employment on cotton hose is fair at Arnold and Mansfield. Hand-frame workers are slack at Carlton and Sutton-in-Ashfield.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers report employment as good at Beeston and Nottingham in the cycle trade, many working overtime; as moderate in other branches at Nottingham, Newark, and Mansfield. Machine builders are not so brisk. Ironfounders are well employed at Nottingham, but quiet at Mansfield and

## EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND AND E. COUNTIES.

Retford. Employment in other branches of these trades is good on the whole. Branches with 2,629 members report 33 (or 1·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 77 (or 3·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Building Trades.**—Outside labour has been interrupted by the weather, but the state of employment is fair. Branches with 3,263 members return 159 (or 4·9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 114 (or 3·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Coal Mining.**—A few miners have worked rather more than 5 days a week, but the average for most has been from 4 to 5 days. Some, however, have worked 3 days a week only.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as bad; lithographic artists as fair; bookbinders as good; lithographic printers as moderate.

**Miscellaneous.**—Boot and shoe workers and tailors are slack. Coachmakers and cabinet-makers are well employed. Blast furnacemen continue busy.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

**Leicester and Northampton District.**

**Boot and Shoe Industry.**—In many branches of the boot and shoe industry at Leicester, Northampton and Kettering an improvement is reported, fewer people being unemployed or on short time. In the tanning trades employment is slacker.

**Hosiery, Yarn and Woolspinning Trades.**—At Leicester employment is only moderate. At Hinckley and Loughborough a slight improvement is noted in circular rib, seamless, and shirt and pant goods. Work is fairly regular in the yarn and woolspinning departments, slacker with trimmers, and improving with dyers and scourers.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment is not so regular in either the wholesale or the bespoke departments of the tailoring trades. In several towns short time is being worked. Corset-makers continue busy. Milliners, dressmakers and mantle-makers are only moderately well employed. Work is improving with silk hatters.

**Elastic Web Trade.**—The workpeople employed in the manufacture of cord, braid and belt webbings are in regular work. In the weaving branch employment is generally slack.

**Engineering and Cycle Trades.**—The principal branches of the engineering trade, except at Rugby, continue to report employment as good. Electrical fitters, steam crane builders, boiler-makers, pattern-makers and founders are busy; turners, fitters, and shoemachinery makers are only moderately engaged. Work is improving with needle-makers and hosiery machinists. Skilled workmen in the cycle trade are in demand.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Of fifteen pits in Leicestershire three have worked 5 days or more per week, nine 4 days and under 5, and three 3 days and under 4 days. Stone quarrymen are regularly employed. Ironstone miners are fully engaged.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Letterpress printers at Leicester, Rugby, Northampton, and Loughborough report employment as not good. It is quieter with lithographic printers, but brisk with bookbinders.

**Building Trades.**—Except for stoppages caused by the weather, employment continues satisfactory. It is good with bricklayers and builders' labourers at Leicester and Northampton, moderate at Kettering, Loughborough and Rugby; fair with stonemasons; slacker with plasterers, carpenters and joiners; improving with plumbers; dull with painters.

**Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.**—Work is slack in all branches of the cabinet and upholstering trades. Coachmakers are moderately well employed, and railway wagon-makers are busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is good with cigar-makers, sawyers and woodcutting machinists; improving with boxmakers, brick, tile, terra-cotta and drain pipe-makers.—*T. Smith.*

**Potteries District.**

**Pottery Trade.**—Hollow-ware pressers report employment as bad, averaging only 2½ days per week, and being especially slack on work for the American market. Sanitary ware pressers are well employed; flat pressers have a larger percentage unemployed, and those in work average less than two days per week. Women gilders and decorators are not so busy, but men artists on best goods are fairly employed. Throwers and turners are busy in the electrical and furniture departments, but slack in other branches. Encaustic tilemakers are well employed. Stilt and spurmakers are not so brisk. Modellers, mouldmakers and designers report employment as declining. Ovenmen, kilnmen and saggarmakers report employment as exceptionally bad, workers averaging less than two days per week.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The improvement in all branches is well maintained. There are no iron or steelworkers out of employment. Anchor chainmakers at Ford Green are still busy.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers at Crewe, Stafford, and the Potteries, with 2,276 members, have 9 unemployed. The night turns on machines at Stoke are still running. At Burslem one firm is on short time, the others are moderately busy. At Longport brassmoulders on heavy castings, and finishers are busy; copperworkers at Oakmoor and Froghall are busy in all branches. At Rugeley agricultural engineers are well employed. Employment has improved at Uttoxeter. At Crewe the steelmoulders are busy, but malleable moulders are slack.

**Coal Mining.**—Improvement is again reported at all collieries in the district, with fewer unemployed. At Cheadle the men are fully employed; and at Rugeley and Talk-o'-th'-hill employment is good.

**Textile Trades.**—At Leek trimming-weavers report employment as good; the hard silkworkers as improved; and dyers as busy. At Congleton weavers report employment as slack; pickers are fairly employed, but throwsters are slack; fustian-cutters are busy. At Cheadle and Tean the silk and tape operatives are well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors in the Potteries report employment as good; at Crewe as not so brisk; and at Stafford as slack. Shoemakers at Stafford report employment as bad; at Stone as slightly better than in December. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter remain busy.

**Building Trades.**—Bricklayers and carpenters and joiners in the Potteries report the state of employment as good, but interrupted by the severe weather. Plumbers generally are moderately employed, but painters are slack.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report employment as bad; at Stafford as better; lithographic artists and printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers, as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington would have been busy but for the weather. At Rugeley tanners are well employed, and colour makers are moderately busy.—*I. S. Harvey.*

**Wolverhampton and District.**

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues good in the steel and iron bar trades, and has improved in the sheet trade. Mills and forges are reported as well employed. In South Shropshire the forges at Wombidge, Haybridge, Snedshill and Prior's Lee are running full time. About 50 furnace men are still unemployed at Prior's Lee. Wire rollers maintain their improvement.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment continues good in all branches of engineering. Boiler, bridge, tank and gasholder-makers in South Staffordshire and Shropshire report employment as good; moulders are busy. Employment at Coalbrookdale and Wednesbury is good; at Madeley and Tamworth moderate.

**Hardware Trades.**—All branches of the chain trade report employment as good. Makers of anchors, vices, anvils, tubes, nuts, and bolts, wrought-iron odd work, builders' ironmongery, iron fences, hurdles, bedsteads, malleable nails and protectors, stampers and piercers, tinplate workers, brass workers, nailmakers, tack and tip makers, and makers of hollow-ware, and tin and galvanised odd-ware, are reported as well employed. Makers of hand-cut files are working overtime. In the manufacture of steel toys, wrought and cut nails, iron-plates, edge tools, plantation hoes, Brazil hoes, spring traps, locks and keys, and japanned wares, employment is reported as moderate. Employment among common padlock makers and galvanisers and in the fender trade is slack. Cycle-makers are busy.

**Coal Mining.**—On Cannock Chase employment is rather dull, most of the collieries giving only partial employment. In South Shropshire all the pits are working full time.

**Building Trades.**—Carpenters, bricklayers and plumbers report employment as good for the time of year; plasterers as moderate; painters as dull.

**Glass Trade.**—In the flint glass trade men are fully employed. In the glass bottle trade the furnaces at Brierley Hill, after a fortnight's stoppage, are now working full time.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the carpet trade is not quite so good at Kidderminster, but remains fair at Bridgnorth. Spinners are fairly busy.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in both the bespoke and ready-made clothing trades is reported as dull; in the boot and shoe trade as good.—*C. Anthony.*

## EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—EASTERN AND S.W. COUNTIES.

**Birmingham and District.**

**Engineering.**—All branches are still busy, especially cycle and general tool makers, many working overtime.

**Brass and Copper Working.**—Employment on bedstead and fender mounts, cased tubes, metal working and rolling, and copper-working is moderate; in all other branches it is good.

**Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.**—Employment in the jewellery trade is good. Silversmiths' work is rather slack. Electro-plate work is fairly good, but some firms are on short time. Britannia metal work is quiet.

**Other Metal Trades.**—Bedstead workers report employment as slack. Ironfounders are busy, some working overtime. Iron-plate work is quiet, most firms working short time. Tinplate workers are busy. Wiredrawing is good. Filesmiths report employment as brisk, with 50 per cent. working overtime.

**Building Trades.**—Carpenters report work generally as good. Stonemasons and plasterers are fairly busy; plumbers' work is moderate.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment is still fairly good in all branches.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers report employment as good; coopers and packing case makers as fair. Employment is still active in railway carriage and wagon building.

**Miscellaneous.**—Boot and shoe workers and bespoke tailors report employment as bad; printers as fairly busy. Gunworkers are mostly in full employment. Employment in the silk trade at Coventry remains quiet.—*W. J. Davis.*

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

**General.**—Branches of societies with 2,937 members have 388 (or 13 per cent.) unemployed, as against 217 (or 7·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment at the clothing factories is good; bespoke tailors are fairly well employed. Riveters and finishers at Norwich are slack; clickers and rough stuff cutters are fairly busy. Employment is fair in the handsewn branch.

**Building Trades.**—Employment at Norwich is dull. At Lowestoft and other places employment is fair for the time of year, but in all parts weather has caused a stoppage of operations. Branches with 1,441 members have 254 (or 17·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 76 (or 5·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Engineers are well employed; at Norwich, electrical engineers have been on overtime during the month. Shipwrights at Yarmouth and Lowestoft, and sailmakers report employment as bad, several leaving these ports to find work elsewhere.

**Textile Trades.**—The silk factories at Norwich and Yarmouth are running full time, but at Yarmouth some of the workpeople have been paid off.

**Fishing.**—Trawling has been fair at both Yarmouth and Lowestoft. **Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment in these trades is fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Maltsters are busy. Horticultural workers are busy in some departments.—*G. Cleverley.*

**Suffolk, Essex, and District.**

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment is reported as good with engineers at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, and Chelmsford; moderate at Ipswich, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; bad at Wickham Market. The boiler-makers report employment as moderate; the moulders as dull; the shipwrights as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—At both Ipswich and Colchester the boot and shoe trade continues slack. Employment is dull in the wholesale clothing trade at Ipswich and Colchester, fair with corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury.

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

**Building Trades.**—Reports with regard to these trades are generally satisfactory, but during the last fortnight of the month work has been interrupted by the severe weather.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers at Ipswich report employment as declining, at Colchester as dull, at Bury St. Edmunds as fair, at Beccles as good. The lithographers and bookbinders report employment as good at Ipswich.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is reported as good with brickmakers in the Chelmsford and Braintree districts, fair with horticultural workers at Chelmsford and Ipswich. Shipping at Ipswich has been fairly good.—*R. W. Mathew.*

**ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.****Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.**

**General.**—Societies and branches, with 6,878 members, return 156 (or 2·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 110 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Building Trades.**—Some slackness prevails at Bristol, Gloucester, and Weston-super-Mare; but good reports come from all other towns in the district. Branches with 2,320 members report 49 (or 2·1 per cent.) as unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of December.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment continues good in the Forest of Dean. In the Radstock district full time is being worked, except in a few cases. The collieries in and around Bristol are reported as working about full time.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Societies with 3,000 members report 38 (or 1·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 20 (or 0·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The engineers, railway coachbuilders, brassfounders and finishers, ironfounders, cycle-makers, galvanisers and hollow-ware workers report employment as good. Boiler-makers and shipwrights in Bristol are slack.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate; sailmakers as slack. Dock labourers report steady work, mostly on grain cargoes.

**Clothing Trades.**—The wholesale garment makers and silk hatters report employment as improving; the bespoke tailors as quiet.

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—The Bristol boot and shoe operatives report a slight improvement. The Kingswood operatives report employment as slack, with most factories on short time.

**Textile Trades.**—At Stroud employment is reported as dull in the worsted and trousering branches; as good in woollen serges, covert coatings, and heavy woollens. At Trowbridge all branches are slack, the mills running short time.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 671 members report 35 (or 5·2 per cent.) as out of work, as against 11 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The letterpress printers report employment as fair in Bristol; good at Hereford and Gloucester; and slack at Bath.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—The cabinet-makers report employment as moderate; the upholsterers and French polishers as slack; the brushmakers as good; the coopers as slack.

**Glass Trades.**—The glass bottle makers and glass bevellers report employment as slack; the glass cutters as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—The brick and tile makers report employment as good; the general labourers as fair.—*J. Curle.*

**Plymouth and South-Western District.**

**Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.**—Great distress prevails among the metal miners of Cornwall. The quarrymen and clay-workers continue generally well employed.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment continues good. Branches of engineers, ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers and boiler-makers, with a membership of 1,496, have only 2 idle. The smiths and wheelwrights generally are fairly well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment with bespoke tailors remains slack; in the ready-made tailoring department it has slightly improved in some firms. The boot and shoe operatives continue moderately employed; in the bespoke branch employment has improved.

**Building Trades.**—Employment again shows a decline. Branches of masons, bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and joiners, plumbers and painters, with a membership of 2,448, have 85 (or 3·5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 71 (or 2·9 per cent.) at the end of December.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Except with coalporters work at the docks and quayside has been quiet. Seamen report no change.

**Printing Trades.**—Employment with the letterpress printers has declined, many being idle; it is also quiet with the lithographic printers.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—The millawyers and cabinet-makers are fairly well employed. The upholsterers and polishers report employment as quiet; the brushmakers as slack.

**Miscellaneous.**—The gasworkers continue busy. The fishing industry remains in a depressed condition. The bricklayers are fairly well employed. General labourers remain slack.—*J. Welland.*

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

## WALES.

## North Wales District.

**Mining.**—Employment in coal mines has been very good, many of the collieries having worked full time. At Ruabon one colliery was stopped for a fortnight owing to a breakdown of the machinery. The lead mines of Flintshire are in full operation, but the output is slightly restricted; several mines are being opened out.

**Quarrying.**—Employment in slate quarrying generally is good, except in the quarries closed owing to the dispute. Employment in the freestone and limestone quarries has been interrupted by the weather.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment is good at the steel works at Brymbo. The engineers report employment as brisk in the Ruabon district; moderate at Oswestry and Hawarden. Employment is reported as good at the railway wagon works at Johnstown, with the coachmakers at Oswestry, and with the tinplate workers and spelter workers at Mold.

**Building Trades.**—Employment throughout the district has been slack on account of the weather.

**Brick and Terra-cotta Industries.**—Employment is good in the brick and terra-cotta works at Rhos, Ruabon, Wrexham and Penybont. Employment in the brick industry at Mold is not so brisk on account of the weather. The enamel and encaustic tile works at Rhos are working full time.

**Chemical Trades.**—Employment at the chemical works in Flint is moderate, day-wage men working 5 days per week. At Ruabon the men are working full time.

**Textile and Clothing Trades.**—Employment is fair in all departments of the tweed and flannel industries of Montgomeryshire. The bespoke tailors at Oswestry and Rhyl report employment as slack.

G. Rowley.

## South Wales District.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns indicate a slight improvement, and more regularity of working; but several districts are not making full time. Ebbw Vale collieries have averaged about 4 days a week; Tredegar 5 days, Garw valley and western district, 4½ days. Returns from 49 collieries in the Rhondda and Ferndale districts show that they have worked without any stoppages during the month. The sliding scale audit for the two months ending December 31st 1896, leaves wages unaltered.

**Building Trades.**—Returns from all branches report employment as bad generally. Branches of the carpenters and joiners, with 1,263 members, have 54 (or 4·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 3·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Ship Repairing and Engineering.**—Ship repairing yards were busy at the beginning of the month, but there was a marked falling off at the end, especially with boiler-makers and shipwrights, who have a large percentage unemployed. Returns from branches of the engineers, with 2,468 members, show 49 (or 2 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of December.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Returns from Blaenavon, Briton Ferry, Cyfarthfa, Ebbw Vale, Dowlais, Landore, Llanelly, Tredegar and Rogerstone report mills and furnaces as going regularly, and several works as increasing plant. The steel works at Cardiff are still going irregularly, with only half the furnaces in blast, and mills averaging about 4 days a week.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Seamen have not been in great demand. Coal shipments have been brisk, but are declining. Employment in the general cargo trade has been moderate, and in the iron ore trade rather slack. Pitwood carriers and corn porters have been fairly busy. Dock hoblers report fair employment.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the patent fuel industry has been dull. Chemical and copper workers report employment as quiet; wagon builders and lifters, millsawyers and lath renders as fairly busy; compositors as moderate.—T. Davies.

**The Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire.**—In the Swansea and Morriston districts there is still a serious lack of employment, but elsewhere few are now unemployed. At 88 works respecting which returns have been made, 332 mills were at work at the end of January, as compared with 324 at the end of December. Fifty-four works, with 284 mills, were giving full employment, and 22 works, with 136 mills, were idle. The remaining 12 works were giving partial employment, 48 of the mills being at work and 19 idle.

## SCOTLAND.

## Edinburgh and District.

**General.**—Branches with 15,268 members return 269 (or 1·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 327 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in the Lothians continues good, although, owing to the New Year holidays, the average number of days worked per week shows a slight decline.

**Mineral Oil Trades.**—Employment continues good among all classes of workers. Owing to the New Year holidays only 9 of the 33 shale miners in Mid and West Lothian from which returns have been received worked full time during the first week of the month, but for the fortnight ended 23rd January full time was worked by all of them. The number of workpeople employed was 4,516, as against 4,632 in January 1896.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Branches of these trades, with 2,240 members, have 37 (or 1·7 per cent.) idle, as against 32 (or 1·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

Branches of the engineering and metal trades in Falkirk, with 1,915 members, again report none idle.

**Shipbuilding.**—The boiler-makers report employment as bad; the shipwrights as quiet. Branches with 569 members show 76 (or 13·4 per cent.) idle, as against 120 (or 20·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Textile Trades.**—The linen industry continues to show improvement. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good. In Hawick, Selkirk, and Galashiels most of the woollen mills are running short time, and many of the weavers are partially or wholly idle. Employment in the hosiery industry in Hawick and Selkirk is generally good, but slack in the hand-made department in Hawick.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 5,365 members return 75 (or 1·4 per cent.) as idle, as against 120 (or 2·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Branches with 1,039 members have 22 (or 2·1 per cent.) idle, as against 7 (or 0·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

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

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches of these trades with 2,269 members have 41 (or 1·8 per cent.) idle, as against 34 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Miscellaneous.**—The settmakers, glassmakers and glasscutters report employment as good; the bakers, tailors, saddlers, carriers and shoemakers as quiet.—J. Mallinson.

## Glasgow and West of Scotland.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment has been good in all the towns on the Clyde, although hardly so good as in December. Branches with 9,327 members return 430 (or 4·6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 296 (or 3·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—From all branches throughout the district reports are favourable. Branches with 24,024 members return 428 (or 1·8 per cent.) as idle, as against 391 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Mining.**—Throughout Stirlingshire work has been more regular, the men working on an average 11 days per fortnight, although a number are observing the 5 days' policy. In Lanarkshire work is exceptionally good. In Ayrshire coal miners, as a rule, are getting full time. Ironstone workers are getting full time, except at Dalry, where they are working 4 days per week. In Renfrewshire coal and ironstone miners are fully employed. In Dumbartonshire employment is good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment has been interrupted by the weather, but otherwise is good. Branches (not including painters) with 10,580 members return 84 (or 0·8 per cent.) as idle, as against 31 (or 0·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment continues good. Branches with 3,931 members return 142 (or 3·6 per cent.) as idle, as against 46 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Textile Trades.**—In Glasgow employment is reported as not good with cotton weavers; as bad with woollen weavers and silk weavers; as improved with carpet weavers. In Paisley carpet weavers are busy, and thread operatives fairly busy. Employment is not so good in Newmilns, dull in Darvel, good in Greenock, Port Glasgow, and Kilbirnie.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment is reported as dull in the bespoke and ready-made tailoring trade; as dull with boot and shoe makers improved with pump and slipper makers and carriers.

## EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY—DISTRICT REPORTS.—SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

**Dock Labour and Transport Trades.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as dull; dock labourers, railway and tramway men, carters and hackney carriage drivers are well employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as dull; lithographic printers as not so good; the bookbinders as quiet; the electrotypers and stereotypers as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Spindle and flyer makers and scale-beam makers report employment in Glasgow as exceptionally good; potters as good; settmakers as fair; saddlers, tobacco pipemakers, bottle-makers, gilders, bakers, and brushmakers as dull. Some flint glass makers have been on short time through the holidays.—A. J. Hunter.

## Dundee and District.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the jute industry continues good in all branches. In the linen trade it is not quite so satisfactory.

**Coal Mining.**—The working time at the pits since the New Year holidays has continued fairly steady. Returns from pits employing about 12,200 workpeople, show a weekly average of 4·85 days worked during the four weeks ended January 23rd.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment in the engineering trades has remained fairly good. In iron shipbuilding work has been slack, but shipwrights have been well employed on repair work. Eight branches of these trades, with 2,046 members, report 109 (or 5·3 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 111 (or 5·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Building and Woodworking Trades.**—Operations in the building trade were almost at a standstill during the last fortnight on account of the weather. Employment with cabinet-makers and furniture workers is rather quiet, with short time in some departments. Branches with 1,408 members show 85 (or 6·0 per cent.) unemployed as against 33 per cent. at the end of December.

**Dock and General Labour.**—Dock Labourers have been busy. General labourers in the city have been slack owing to the weather.

**Fishing Industry.**—Fishing has suffered considerable interruption, but, when possible, the boats have gone out with fair success. The boats engaged in the herring fishing have been successful.

**Miscellaneous.**—The bespoke tailors report employment as fair for the season; boot and shoe makers as quiet. The printing and kindred trades are fairly busy. Floorcloth and linoleum makers are steadily employed.—P. Reid.

## Aberdeen and District.

**General.**—Branches with 4,785 members return 106 (or 2·2 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 116 (or 2·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Quarrying.**—Blockers, drillers, cranemen, labourers and settmakers report employment as exceptionally good; stonecutters and granite polishers as bad. A number have been idle on account of the weather.

**Building Trades.**—Owing to the weather masons are nearly all idle. Other branches, with 1,268 members, return 67 (or 5·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 62 (or 4·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders report employment as good; the shipwrights as fair; the blacksmiths, iron-moulders, engineers, brass-finishers, pattern-makers and horse-shoers as good; the tinplate-workers as fair. Branches with 1,070 members return 14 (or 1·3 per cent.) idle, as against 37 at the end of December.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment good.

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—The boot and shoemakers (hand-sewn) report employment as good; boot and shoe riveters and finishers as bad; tailors as quiet; flax, jute and cotton operatives as fair; carpet-weavers as bad.

**Transport Trades.**—Railway servants report employment as good; sailors and firemen and dock labourers as fair.

**Fishing.**—In January, at the port of Aberdeen, the trawl and line boats landed 35,807 cwt., realising £23,244, as against 42,330 cwt., realising £30,137, in December.—W. Johnston.

## IRELAND.

## Dublin and District.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported by painters as bad; by plasterers as brisk; by stonemasons, whiteners, stonecutters, sawyers, lathrenders, and carpenters, as fair; by glaziers, slaters, and paviors, as dull. Branches with 3,732 members, return 622 (or 16·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 478 (or 12·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Branches with 744 members, return 71 (or 9·5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 59 (or 7·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Metal Trades.**—Employment is reported as moderate among engineers; good among brass finishers and boiler-makers; fair among plumbers and smiths.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment is reported as good, except with the bookbinders. Branches with 1,255 members return 65 (or 5·2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 50 (or 3·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment among the tailors and bootmakers is reported as dull.

**Dock and Transport Labour.**—Dock and riverside labourers report employment as dull; seamen and tramway men as fair.—J. P. Nannetti.

## Belfast and District.

**General.**—Societies, with a membership of 20,160, report 879 (or 4·4 per cent.) as out of employment, as against 626 (or 3·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Branches with 9,051 members return 391 (or 4·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 161 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as slack; the blacksmiths as moderate; the strikers, drillers and hole cutters as fair; the carpenters and joiners, furnishing trades, shipwrights, engineers, ironturners, ironfounders, pattern-makers, machine-workers, enginemen, cranemen and firemen and the general labourers as good.

**Linen Trades.**—Societies with 4,531 members return 148 (or 3·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 93 (or 2·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The flax roughers report employment as bad; powerloom tenters and powerloom yarn dressers as dull; women workers as quiet; beetling enginemen, flax dressers, linen-lappers, powerloom yarn bundlers as fair; spindle and flyer makers and hackle and gill makers as good.

**Building Trades.**—Societies with 2,755 members report 155 (or 5·6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 170 (or 5·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The painters report employment as dull, the hodsmen, millsawyers and machinists and the plasterers as fair, and the bricklayers and plumbers as good.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Societies with 604 members return 50 (or 8·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 40 (or 6·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The French polishers report employment as bad; the coachbuilders as dull; the packing-case makers as slack; the cabinet-makers as moderate; the upholsterers as quiet; and the coopers as good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Out of 858 members of societies, 60 (or 7·0 per cent.) are returned as unemployed, as against 46 (or 5·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The letterpress printers report employment as dull; the lithographic artists and printers and the bookbinders and machine-rulers as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—The boot and shoe operatives and the tailors with 723 members report employment as bad, with 20 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, and a number only partially employed, as against 79 per cent. of their unemployed at the end of December.

**Miscellaneous.**—Societies with 1,638 members report 55 (or 3·4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 49 (or 3·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of December. The sailmakers report employment as bad; the butchers, hotel and club assistants as quiet; the bakers, carters, railway servants, and paviors as fair; and the locomotive engine-drivers and the gasfitters and sheet metal-workers as good.—R. Sheldon.

## Cork and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—All branches of the engineering trade in Cork and Waterford report employment as fair. Brass and iron moulders throughout the district send in a good report. Shipwrights, riggers and sailmakers are fairly employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported as good throughout the district with stonecutters, masons, bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and ship joiners, all their members being employed. Plumbers and gasfitters report employment as good; painters as dull.

**Textile and Clothing Trades.**—Flax, tweed, down and feather operatives in Cork, Blarney, Millfield and Douglas report employment as steady; tailors as bad. Boot and shoe riveters in Cork and Waterford report a decline.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, mill-sawyers and coachmakers report employment as good; coopers as bad in Limerick, Cork, and Ballincollig.

**Miscellaneous.**—All branches of letterpress printers are slack. Cork cutters report a decline. Employment is reported as good with carters, engine-drivers, gasworkers, corporation labourers, quay and coal porters.—P. O'Shea.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JANUARY.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during January affected a total number of about 25,000 workpeople, and the estimated net effect of all the changes on the wages of these persons was an average increase of 1s. 4½d. per week. About 23,800 received increases amounting on the average to 1s. 6d. per week, and 1,200 sustained decreases averaging 6½d. per week.

Increases.—The 6,000 ironstone miners in the Cleveland district, and 1,800 limestone quarrymen in Co. Durham, have obtained increases of 4 per cent. In the engineering and shipbuilding trades over 6,300 workpeople have secured advances. The remaining increases include over 5,500 tinplate workers, 2,000 building trade operatives, and 600 cased-tube and stair-rod makers.

Decreases.—About 1,100 steelworkers have sustained a reduction of 1½ per cent.

Method by which Changes of Wages were made.—Of the 25,000 workpeople whose wages were changed, 1,700 received increases or sustained decreases under sliding scale agreements, wages boards, &c., and over 22,500 had their wages advanced after negotiation, mutual arrangement or by voluntary concession by employers without any strike. In the case of the remaining 750 workpeople, the changes were preceded by strikes.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, IRON AND STEEL TRADES, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.

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

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, TINPLATE TRADE, OTHER METAL TRADES, GLASS BOTTLE TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES, EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

\* See also "Changes in Hours of Labour."

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

Port.	Voyage.	Occupation.	SEAMEN.		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Dec. 1896.	Jan. 1897.	In- crease.	De- crease.
			No. shipped at new Rate during Jan.	Decrease.					
Increases—222 workpeople.									
Steamships:—									
Newport, Mon.	East India and China	Able Seamen	6		Increase of 5s. per month	75 0	80 0	5 0	
Cardiff	N. America, East Coast	Able Seamen	34		Increase of 5s. per month	75 0	80 0	5 0	
Glasgow	Mediterranean	Firemen	27		Increase of 5s. per month	80 0	85 0	5 0	
	W. Indies and E. Coast of S. America	Firemen	10		Increase of 5s. per month	70 0	75 0	5 0	
	Running Agreements in Foreign Trades	Firemen	5		Increase of 5s. per month	70 0	75 0	5 0	
		Able Seamen	9		Increase of 5s. per month	70 0	75 0	5 0	
		Firemen	26		Increase of 5s. per month	70 0	75 0	5 0	
Decreases—Nil.									
Sailing Vessels:—									
Newport, Mon.	Australia & New Zealand	Able Seamen	10		Increase of 5s. per month	55 0	60 0	5 0	
Swansea	N. & S. America, W. Coast	Able Seamen	59		Increase of 5s. per month	55 0	60 0	5 0	
Steamships:—									
Methil	Running Agreements in Foreign Trades	Able Seaman	19		Increase of 2s. per week	28 0	30 0	2 0	
		Firemen	17		Increase of 2s. per week	28 0	30 0	2 0	

**Railway Servants.**—The Department has received information of changes in January affecting the rates of wages and hours of labour of railway servants employed by some of the principal railway companies. The changes of wages were mostly increases, and those of hours decreases. The statistical information received is, however, not sufficiently complete to be included in the present tables of changes in wages and hours.

**Blastfurnacemen.**—The basis of the sliding scale in force in Cumberland and North Lancashire, under which the wages of blastfurnacemen in that district are regulated, has been changed from 1 1/2 per cent. advance for every rise of 1s. in the average selling price of pig iron to an advance of 1/4 per cent. for every rise of 2s. 4d. in the selling price. The change will give an advance of 4 1/2 per cent. from 1st January last in place of the 3 1/2 per cent. under the old scale, reported on page 24 of last month's GAZETTE.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JANUARY.

The changes in hours of labour reported during January affected about 1,700 workpeople. Of this number about 1,350 had their working hours shortened by an average of 3 1/2 hours per week, and 333 had them lengthened by 4 hours per week. Between 400 and 500 engineers in the Port of London have had their hours reduced from 54 to 48 per week when on ship repairing work, 592 printers and bookbinders in Nottingham and Leicester from 54 to 52, and 250 workpeople in engineering shops in Plymouth from 54 to 53. At Darlaston 333 nut and bolt makers, who had a reduction of 4 hours per week at the beginning of the month, reverted to their old hours after a fortnight's trial.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		Extent of change per week.
				Before change.	After change.	
DECREASES.						
<b>Engineering Trades.</b>						
Engineers (Ship Repairing)	London	8th Jan.	400 to 500	54	48	6
Cycle Makers	Leicester	4th Jan.	12	54	52	2
Workpeople in Engineering Shops	Plymouth	18th Jan.	250	54	53	1
<b>Printing &amp; Book-binding Trades.</b>						
Letterpress Printers			200			
Lithographic Printers			161			
Bookbinders	Nottingham	27th Feb.	60	54	52	2
Cutters			27			
Printers			24			
Assistants						
Bookbinders	Leicester	1st Jan.	120 females	54	52	2
<b>Miscellaneous Trades.</b>						
Farriers—Firemen	Derby	16th Jan.	10	56 1/2	56	1/2
Doormen			10	56 1/2	56	1/2
Farriers	Edinburgh and Leith	18th Jan.	22	54	51	3
Engine Drivers (Gasworks)	Plymouth	22nd Jan.	3	84	56	18
INCREASES.						
*Nut and Bolt Makers	Darlaston	14th Jan.	225 Males 108 Females	50	54	4

\* These workpeople had their hours reduced from 54 to 50 on 1st Jan., as reported in the January GAZETTE, but afterwards asked that the old hours might be reverted to.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

**United Kingdom.**—During the past month reports for the fourth quarter of 1896 have been received from 749 co-operative distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,123,188 as compared with 781 societies, with 933,075 members for the fourth quarter of 1895. The 749 societies show total sales for the quarter amounting to £8,036,590 as compared with £7,350,442 in the corresponding period of 1895. Six hundred and seven of the societies show an increase in sales, and 142 a decrease, the net increase being £686,148, or 9.3 per cent.

**England and Wales.**—During January one new distributive and two new productive societies were registered in England and Wales. Two distributive societies at Greatworth and Stobswood have ceased to exist, and a dairy society at Harleston, a boot and shoe society at Ringstead, and a corn mill at Hull are reported to have been dissolved or to be in process of winding up.

A new association at Bradford for promoting the extension of co-operative production has been registered.

Reports for the fourth quarter of 1896 have been received from 627 distributive societies in England and Wales with a total membership of 957,341, as compared with 601 societies with 799,068 members for the corresponding period of 1895. The 627 societies show total sales for the quarter amounting to £6,610,198, as compared with £6,068,231 in the corresponding period of 1895. Five hundred and seven of the societies show an increase, and 120 a decrease in sales, the net increase being £541,967, or 8.9 per cent.

**Scotland.**—No new co-operative societies were registered or dissolved in Scotland during January.

Reports for the fourth quarter of 1896 have been received from 117 distributive societies in Scotland with a total membership of 165,313, as compared with 175 societies with 133,421 members for the corresponding period of 1895. The 117 societies show total sales for the quarter amounting to £1,422,462, as compared with £1,278,482 for the corresponding period of 1895. Ninety-seven of the societies show an increase in sales, and twenty a decrease, the net increase being £143,980 or 11.3 per cent.

On January 9th the half-yearly meeting of the Scottish Convention of Co-operative Societies was held at Paisley, 260 delegates, representing 85 societies, being present. It was reported that land had been acquired for a co-operative laundry to be established and worked by a federation of existing co-operative societies.

**Ireland.**—Six new co-operative agricultural and dairy societies, and a new Co-operative Agricultural Agency Society for marketing the produce and supplying the requirements of the agricultural societies have been registered during the month.

Reports for the fourth quarter of 1896 have been received from five distributive societies with a total membership of 534, the total sales for the quarter amounting to £3,930, compared with £3,729 in the corresponding period of 1895, an increase of £201 or 5.4 per cent.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY.

It is now possible in the table of accidents to Factory and Workshop Operatives to draw a distinction between Factories and Workshops, which is useful, inasmuch as the number employed in factories is roughly known, whereas no trustworthy figures exist for the number employed in workshops.

The numbers of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed or injured by accidents reported in January 1897 and 1896 respectively were as follows:—

Occupations.	Summary.			
	Killed.		Injured.	
	Jan. 1897.	Jan. 1896.	Jan. 1897.	Jan. 1896.
Railway Servants:—				
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	53	40	398	323
Other accidents	4	2	1,005	755
Miners	76	121	404	673
Quarrymen	6	8	67	70
Seamen	154	266	396	329
Factory and Workshop Operatives:—				
(1) Accidents reported to Certifying Surgeons—				
In Factories	72	62	1,183	938
In Workshops	1	—	—	—
(2) Other Accidents (non-fatal and only reported to Inspectors)—				
In Factories	—	—	1,912	1,027
In Workshops	—	—	16	—
Others (so far as reported)	9	4	72	72
Totals	375	593	5,453	4,197

The particulars are given in greater detail in the following Tables:—

I. Railway Servants.

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of January 1897.

(The number of Servants employed by the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom was 465,112 on 31st December 1895.)

Class of Service.	Killed.	Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.						Total Injured.
		Causing Amputations.	Dislocations, Fractures, and Internal Injuries.	Contusions and Bruises.	Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.	Total.	
Brakemen and Goods Guards	5	2	4	20	22	25	73	
Engine Drivers	1	—	3	5	7	17	32	
Firemen	4	1	4	11	11	20	47	
Guards (Passenger)	—	—	1	6	2	3	12	
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	12	1	3	1	—	8	13	
Porters	5	3	8	27	4	18	60	
Shunters	7	1	3	20	14	20	58	
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	19	3	13	33	15	39	103	
Total for Jan. 1897	53	11	39	123	75	150	398	
Total for Jan. 1896	40	5	—	213	—	105	323	

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 4 servants killed and 1,005 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during January, as compared with 2 killed and 765 injured in January 1896.

II. Miners and Quarrymen.\*

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of January 1897.

(The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 733,657, and in and about quarries as 104,625 in 1895.)

Cause of Accident.	MINES.		QUARRIES.	
	Number of Persons		Number of Persons	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Underground:—				
Explosions of Fire-damp	5	9	—	—
Falls of ground	43	156	Explosives or Blasting	1
In shafts	6	12	Falls of ground	2
Miscellaneous	14	176	During Ascent or Descent	1
Total	68	353	Miscellaneous	2
Surface:—				
Miscellaneous	8	51		38
Total for Jan. 1897	76	404	Total for Jan. 1897	6
Total for Jan. 1896	121	673	Total for Jan. 1896	8

\* Supplied by the Home Office.

III. Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents).

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.) Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of January 1897 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

(The returns of non-fatal injuries are probably far from complete, the tabulation being first made in February 1896.)

Cause and Class of Accident.	Number reported as Killed or Injured.				Total for 3 months Nov. 1896 to Jan. 1897.	Corresponding total for 3 months to 1896.
	In January 1897.					
	On Trading Vessels.	On Fishing Vessels.	Total in Jan. 1897.	Total for 3 months Nov. 1896 to Jan. 1897.		
I.—By Wreck or Casualty—						
	Killed	36	35	8	79	162
Fractures and Dislocations						
	Other or unspecified Injuries	—	4	2	6	12
II.—By other Accidents—						
	Killed	15	46	8	75	238
Fractures and Dislocations						
	Other or unspecified Injuries	6	61	1	71	136
III.—All Accidents—						
	Total Killed	51	81	16	154	400
Total Injured	32	346	13	396	731	673

NOTE.—Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatic ports serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.\*

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of January 1897, distinguishing Factories and Workshops.†

(The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 (2) of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.)

Class of Accident.	Number of Males.			Number of Females.			Total Males and Females.
	Adults.	Young Persons.	Boys.	Adults.	Young Persons.	Girls.	
In Factories—							
Killed	61	9	1	71	—	—	72
Causing Amputation	95	43	3	141	12	12	166
Fractures	49	17	—	66	7	3	76
Injuries to head or face	54	11	—	65	17	3	85
Loss of Sight of one or both eyes	3	—	—	3	1	—	4
Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries	516	208	5	729	68	51	852
Total in Factories	778	288	9	1,075	105	70	1,255
In Workshops—							
Killed	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total in Workshops	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Grand Total in Factories and Workshops—							
In Jan. 1897	779	288	9	1,076	105	70	1,256
Ditto 1896	585	249	17	851	67	79	1,000

\* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,928 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors, viz., 1,912 in Factories and 16 in Workshops.

V. Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.) Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of January 1897.

Nature of Works, &c.	Construction or Repair.			Use or Working.		
	Number of Persons.			Number of Persons.		
	Killed.	Injured.	Total.	Killed.	Injured.	Total.
Bridge	—	—	6	—	—	—
Canal	—	—	—	—	—	—
Railway*	—	—	—	2	—	—
Tramroad	3	4	27	31	—	—
Tramway	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tunnel	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Works†	1	1	3	4	—	—
Traction engine‡	3	5	17	22	—	—
Total for Jan. 1897	7	10	53	63	2	9
Total for Jan. 1896	4	11	44	55	—	16

\* Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894. † Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. ‡ Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

## TRADE DISPUTES IN JANUARY.

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

**Number and Magnitude.**—Forty-eight fresh disputes occurred in January 1897, compared with 36 in December, and 50 in January 1896. In these disputes 16,615 workpeople were involved, compared with 6,316 in December and about 7,500 in January 1896.

**Trades Affected.**—In the building trades 6 disputes occurred, involving 309 workpeople; mining, 5 disputes, involving 2,954 workpeople; metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 14 disputes, involving 2,270 workpeople; textile trades, 11, involving 10,099 workpeople; clothing, 5, involving 535 workpeople; dock labour, 2, involving 245 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 5, involving 203 workpeople.

**Causes.**—Of the 48 disputes, 25 arose chiefly on wages questions, 10 on questions of working arrangements, 6 on questions of reinstatement or discharge of colleagues, 3 on questions of unionism, 2 on questions of demarcation of work, and 2 on questions of the employment of boy and female labour.

**Results.**—Forty-one new disputes, involving 16,069 workpeople, and 17 old disputes, involving 1,842 workpeople, were reported as settled during the month of January. In 24 of these disputes, involving 4,166 persons, the workpeople were successful; in 20, involving 2,210 persons, unsuccessful; in 13, involving 11,191 persons, partially successful; in the remaining dispute, involving 344 persons, the result cannot at present be definitely stated.

**Number of Working Days Lost.**—The number of working days lost in January owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 310,000, as compared with 199,000 in December.

## I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY 1897.

Trade.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople Affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
<b>Building.</b>						
Bricklayers	Blyth	Jan. 13	Against reduction in wages from 9d. to 9d. per hour, and alteration in working rules.	50	—	All except 8 have found work elsewhere.
Joiners	Great Neston, Cheshire	8	To compel two of the hands to join the men's union.	10	—	Hands replaced, the union men finding work elsewhere.
Ditto	Leeds	30	Dispute as to arrangement of working hours.	40 dir.	—	Still unsettled.
Slaters	Aberdeen	4	Refusal of employers to discuss code of bye-laws proposed by men.	100	—	Still unsettled.
Plumbers	Swansea	4	For advance in wages and enforcement of new working rules regulating number of apprentices, &c.	100	3	Advance of 2s. 3d. per week conceded to 35 men.
Ditto	Leigh	13	For advance in wages from 8d. to 9d. per hour.	9	4	Advance to 8½d. per hour conceded by employers.
<b>Mining.</b>						
Coal Miners	Tamworth	1	In consequence of change from day work to "stint" work.	25	19	Day work resumed.
Ditto	Pinxton	15	Dispute as to re-employment of union men in their old places on reopening a closed pit, and other grievances.	1,200	11	Union men to return to old places, the other men engaged being employed in other places; other questions mutually arranged (see p. 40).
Ditto	Washington, Durham	18	Discharge of 12 men. Dispute as to prices in certain departments.	1,039	3	Work resumed, questions in dispute being settled at a Conference.
Hewers and Drawers	Dalketh	19	Against practice of keeping men waiting beyond the hour at which they should be at the pit head.	600	3	Manager undertook to see that men got to pithead at the hour agreed on.
Coal Miners	Kirkintilloch	21	Dissatisfaction with wages earned.	About 90	3	Satisfactory rearrangement of prices effected.
<b>Metal, Engineering &amp; Shipbuilding.</b>						
<b>Iron and Steel Manufacture.</b>						
Ironworkers	Wishaw	18	For reinstatement of discharged colleagues.	120 dir. 85 indir.	—	Still unsettled.
Labourers (steel works)	Leeds	30	In consequence of discharge of a colleague without notice.	16	4	Management agreed to allow the man in question to work out the customary week's notice.
<b>Engineering and Shipbuilding.</b>						
Engineers, &c.	Hyde	1	For advance in wages of 2s. per week.	750	14	The advance conceded.
Blacksmiths	Blyth	5	For advance in wages of 3s. per week on time rates and 15 per cent on piece rates.	5 dir. 4 indir.	11	Temporary advance on old work of half the amounts claimed, final settlement to be same as that of district generally.
Ditto	Stockton and Thornaby	6	For advance in wages of 3s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent on piece rates.	44 dir.	—	Still unsettled.
Engineers, &c.	Leeds	7	Against proposal to keep an extra day's wages in hand, and on account of other grievances.	725 dir. & indir.	3	Extra day's wages to be kept in hand as from first payday in February; other differences amicably settled.
Blacksmiths	Blyth	14	For advances in wages.	4	12	Advance conceded of 1s. 6d. per week on time rates, and 2½ per cent on piece rates.
Pattern-makers	Aberdeen	23	In consequence of employment as patternmaker of a man not recognised as such by the trade union.	3	—	Men found work elsewhere.
Frame-filers (Cycle Manufacture)	Coventry	23	For advance in wages.	20	—	Hands replaced same day.
Blacksmiths	Hartlepool	26	For advance in wages of 3s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent on piece rates.	54	—	Still unsettled.
Engineers	Glasgow	28	In consequence of employment of caulkers on work alleged to have been previously performed by engineers.	344	2	Work resumed pending conference.
<b>Other Metal Trades.</b>						
Tinplate Workers	Llanely	2	For adoption of the amended 1874 list from 1st January, instead of from 25th January.	350 dir. and indir.	10	Amended 1874 list to take effect from 20th February.
Nut, Bolt and Spike Makers	Darlaston	4	Against alteration from 5 to 6 p.m. in time of leaving work, on reduction in working hours from 54 to 50.	325	2	54 hours week to be reverted to as from 15th January.
Tinsmiths	Leith	15	Against employment of plumbers on tinsmiths' work.	20 dir. and indir.	10	Employer agreed that in future he would not employ plumbers on tinsmiths' work.
<b>Textile.</b>						
Winders (Cotton Manufacture)	Huddersfield	28	Against proposed reduction in wages.	25 women and girls.	3	Amicable compromise arrived at.
Operatives (Shetland Wool Shawl and Fall Trade)	Hucknall Torkard	18	For acceptance of a new basis of prices adopted by other employers in the district.	30 dir. 13 indir.	12	New basis accepted, some prices being increased and others reduced.
Twisters and Healders	Huddersfield	8	Dispute as to employment of boy labour.	56 dir. 800 indir.	13	Work resumed on the understanding that grievance should be considered.
Woollen Weavers	Ravensthorpe	16	Dissatisfaction at prices paid on a new class of work.	74	5	Satisfactory scale adopted, some wages being increased and others reduced.
Ditto	Galashiels	23	Against reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	52 dir. 100 indir.	14	Work resumed at a reduction of 5 per cent.
Linen Weavers, &c.	Blairgowrie	14	In consequence of suspension of colleague.	163 dir. and indir.	3	Work resumed without reinstatement of colleague.
Linen Weavers	Bessbrook, co. Armagh	15	Objection to fines.	244 dir.	4	Work resumed without alteration in fines.
Winders	Bessbrook, co. Armagh	19	For compensation for time lost by previous strike.	100 dir. 303 indir.	8	Work resumed without compensation.

## I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY 1897—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople Affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
<b>Textile—(continued).</b>						
Flax and Linen Operatives	Belfast Dist.	19	Against certain rules and fines included in a list posted up by employers.	About 8,000	6	Work resumed pending reconsideration of rules.
Silk Weavers	Ipswich	18	Against change in method of payment from piece-work to day wages, alleged to entail a reduction in wages.	8	—	Hands replaced by Germans.
Silk Dyers	Macclesfield	18	In consequence of dismissal of colleagues.	40	1	Work resumed without reinstatement of dismissed men.
<b>Clothing.</b>						
Lesters (Boot and Shoe Manufacture)	Wollaston	13	Men were locked out in consequence of one of their number having posted a notice on the factory door threatening to strike if employers continued to refuse to allow work to be shopped except in completed dozens.	150	2	Work resumed on old conditions.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Manchester	22	Against charges made for grindery by the employers.	60	8	Men to be allowed to purchase grindery outside.
Ditto	Cork	30	In consequence of change in system of payment alleged to involve reduction in wages.	100	—	Still unsettled.
Clothiers' Operatives	Nantwich	1	Alleged insufficiency of amounts allowed for the purchase of silk, cotton and thread formerly provided by the firm.	170 dir. 25 indir.	13	A further allowance made temporarily as a trial.
Mantle Makers	London, E.C.	2	Alleged attempt to supplant male labour by cheaper female labour.	30 dir.	16	An agreement arrived at by mediation of London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board.
<b>Dock Labour.</b>						
Dock Labourers (Lumpers)	Penzance	18	Dispute as to wages to be paid for discharging a cargo of coal.	45	—	Work in question performed by permanent hands.
Ditto	Ardrossan	28	In consequence of six men having worked a night shift contrary to the wish of the union.	200	4	Work resumed under agreement not to leave work without six days' notice.
<b>Miscellaneous Trades.</b>						
Compositors	Swansea	30	For advance in wages to men employed on linotype machines.	30	11	Hands replaced.
French Polishers	London, E.C.	18	Against reduction in wages of 3d. per hour.	3	—	Still unsettled.
Horseshoers	Edinburgh	18	For advance in wages.	3	9	Standard rate of wages fixed, equivalent to an advance of from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per week.
Pneumatic Tyre-workers	Coventry	8	Men struck for advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and reinstatement of three dismissed colleagues.	150	18	Work resumed at old rate of wages, the three men in question being reinstated and employers promising to consider the question of an advance.
Night Soil and House Refuse Collectors	Hull	4	For advance in wages from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per morning.	17	3	Work resumed at old rate.

## II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE JANUARY, AND WERE SETTLED DURING THAT MONTH.

<b>Building.</b>						
Plumbers	Nottingham	14 Dec.	Refusal to work with two non-unionists.	6	34	One of the men in question joined the trade union, and the other was discharged.
<b>Mining.</b>						
Coal Miners	Pemberton, Wigan	5 Oct.	Against proposed new system of getting coal.	130 dir. 16 indir.	75	The new system accepted.
<b>Metal Engineering and Shipbuilding.</b>						
Iron and Steel Dressers	Nottingham	23 Nov.	For advance in wages from 24s. to a minimum of 26s. per week.	25	—	Men obtained employment elsewhere.
Fitters and Turners	Cleckheaton	28 Nov.	For advance in wages and reduction in hours of labour.	130 dir. 100 indir.	30	Advance obtained of 2s. per week.
Engineers	Kilmarnock	23 Nov.	For advance in wages of 1s. for men earning more than 30s. per week, and 2s. for those earning less, with extra allowance for country work.	170	58	Men's demands conceded. (Settled by mediation of chief magistrate.)
Filers (Cycle Trade)	Wolverhampton	22 Dec.	Men refused to accept piecework and were discharged.	11	15	Seven of the men accepted piecework and the remainder found work elsewhere.
<b>Textile.</b>						
Spinners and Cardroom Hands	Bolton	3 Dec.	Against the strippers and grinders being required to perform additional work.	149 dir. 14 indir.	49	Slight advance conceded to strippers and grinders on account of the extra work.
Lacemakers (Curtain Branch)	Nottingham	28 Aug.	Against a change from piece to day rates.	39	121	Works sold to another firm, who agreed to discharge all non-unionists, and to reinstate old hands at old rates of wages.
Laceworkers	Nottingham	22 Oct.	Against the employment of non-unionists.	168	74	
<b>Clothing.</b>						
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Norwich	2 Nov.	Against both time and piece-work systems of pay in one department.	27	57	Dispute submitted to Arbitration Board, which decided in favour of men.
Felt Hat Makers	Denton	23 Nov.	Inability to agree upon piece price list for new machines.	55	—	Hands replaced.
<b>Miscellaneous Trades.</b>						
Basket-makers	London, S.E.	19 Dec.	Against discharge of two men, alleged to be for complaining that insufficient prices were paid.	16	17	The discharged men reinstated.
Employees in Tannery	Leeds	13 Oct.	Objection to new system of "booking" the work.	150	—	Most of the strikers have been replaced and have obtained work elsewhere, or left the town.

## III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE JANUARY, BUT OF WHICH INFORMATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN OBTAINED:—

Plasterers	Ipswich	28 Dec.	In consequence of employment of bricklayers on plastering.	6	—	Still unsettled, but bricklayers continue to do plastering.
Coal Miners	Wakefield	13 Nov.	Inability to agree upon prices to be paid on a change from payment by measure to payment by weight.	38	—	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Skelmersdale	30 Dec.	Dissatisfaction at price offered in reopened workings.	50	6	Increased price obtained.
Iron Grinders and Polishers	Glasgow	8 Dec.	For advance in the men's wages from 34s. to 35s. per week.	6 men, 4 apprentices	32	The advance conceded.
Platers' helpers	Stockton and Thornaby	22 Dec.	For payment by platers of ¼ day's wages for time lost in early morning, owing to platers' late attendance.	58 dir. 500 indir.	19	Platers paid helpers the amount in dispute. (Settled by conference of employers' association and trade unions concerned.)
Operatives (Oil-cake manufacture)	Hull	28 Dec.	Employer refused to recognise agreement arrived at by representatives of employers and workpeople as to working conditions consequent on the introduction of a new class of machinery.	16 dir. 2 indir.	19	Employer consented to recognise agreement.

## IV.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE JANUARY, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following disputes, the commencement of which has previously been reported, were still unsettled at the end of January:—Disputes commencing in February 1896: fustian weavers, Norden; May: engineers, Keighley; June: coal miners, Stanton Hill, Notts; cotton spinners, Slaithwaite; July: engineers, Shipley; August: cotton weavers, Padiham; September: quarrymen, Bethesda; warp dressers, Colne; military cork head-dress makers, London, S.E.; October: coal miners, Aberdare; plate and machine moulders, Burnley; brassfounders, London, E.C.; brassworkers, Rotherham; employees (coffin trade furniture), Birmingham; cotton operatives, Oldham; November: coal miners, Bristol; coal miners, Merthyr Tydvil; steel smelters and millmen, Brymbo; fitters and turners, Colne; spindle and flyer makers, Lancashire district (since settled, Feb.); braziers and sheet metal workers, Rochdale; cased tube workers, Birmingham; flaxdressers, Belfast; shoemakers, Edinburgh; cabinet-makers, &c., Shipley and district; bakers, Cork; bakers, Plymouth; December: plasterers and plasterers' labourers, Douglas; coal miners, Hirwain; fitters, &c., Earlestown.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

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

THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of January was 337,167.

Compared with December last, there has been no marked change in any district, slight increases in the number relieved having taken place in 28 out of the 35 districts, and small decreases in the others.

Compared with January 1896 the number relieved is less by 5,209 and the rate per 10,000 by 6. The decrease was principally in outdoor pauperism.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of January 1897 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year (Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population). Rows include England & Wales Metropoli, Other Districts, Scotland, and Ireland.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN JANUARY.

DURING January 3,083 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux making returns. Private employers engaged 747 persons, and local authorities 214.

Comparing the figures of the 11 bureaux which also furnished returns for January 1896, the number of fresh applicants for work decreased by about 36 per cent.

(I.) Work Done in January.

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

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

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carpenters, Clerks, Porters, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men. Rows include London, Provincial, and Glasgow.

Women and Girls.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Charwomen, Dress-makers and Sewstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls. Rows include London, Provincial, and Glasgow.

\* In addition, temporary engagements for snow clearing, &c. were made through the bureaux in January 1897 by the St. Pancras Vestry to the number of 520; by the Islington Vestry, 2,345; and by the Hackney Vestry, 669.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN JANUARY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.\*

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

II.—Under the Mines and Quarries Acts.\*

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs. Rows include Under the Mines Acts and Under the Quarries Act.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Penalties, Costs. Rows include By Owners or Masters of Ships.

IV.—Under the Friendly Societies, Industrial and Provident Societies and Trade Union Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Cases settled out of Court, Convictions, Fines and Costs. Rows include Failing to send Annual Returns, Failing to have name of Society affixed.

\*Supplied by the Home Office.

† In these cases the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice in Scotland being to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with.

‡ Withdrawn on payment of costs.

§ Penalty in one case to include Court fees.

¶ Fines outstanding.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead and Phosphorus poisoning reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during January, classified by industries:—

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, Adults, Young Persons, Children, Total, Grand Total. Rows include Lead Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning.

BRUSSELS EXHIBITION—SOCIAL ECONOMY SECTION.

THE programme of the Social Economy Section of the International Exhibition to be held this year at Brussels divides the exhibits asked for into six groups, which are further subdivided into 19 classes.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR JANUARY.

Imports.—The imports during January were of the total declared value of £39,975,668, an increase of £1,501,812, or 3.9 per cent. upon the amount for January 1896.

The declared values of the imports for January 1897 and 1896, grouped in large classes, are given in the following table:—

Table with columns: Class of Goods, January 1897, January 1896, Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink, and Tobacco, Metals, Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances.

The decrease in the group of foods, &c., is chiefly due to declines of £592,828 in the imports of sugar of all kinds, £254,616 in lard, and £139,121 in tea.

British and Irish Exports.—The exports during January were of a declared value of £19,762,378, a decrease of £1,384,113, or 6.5 per cent. upon the amount for January 1896.

\*Males. †Females.



The following table gives the declared value of the exports, grouped in large classes, for January 1897 and 1896:—

Class of Goods.	Jan. 1897.	Jan. 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Articles of Food and Drink ...	833,308	896,128	—	62,820
Raw Materials ...	1,412,424	1,531,702	—	119,278
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	9,071,838	10,085,943	—	1,014,105
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) ...	2,535,069	2,558,834	—	23,765
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,477,778	1,336,415	141,363	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,431,961	4,737,409	—	305,508
Totals ...	19,762,378	21,146,491	—	1,384,113

Food stuffs have fallen off in most classes. Coal, coke and patent fuel show a decrease in amount exported of 25,984 tons, and in value of £54,345. Cotton piece goods show an increase in quantity of about 10 million yards, and jute yarn of 1,282,100 yards, with a combined increased value of £52,268. All other classes of textile products, with two small exceptions, show a decrease, amounting in the case of jute and linen piece goods and woollen and worsted tissues to about 19 million yards in quantity, and in value to £642,235, the value exported to the United States alone having fallen off by £506,283. In the metals group copper continues to show a decrease, and iron an increase. Steam engines have increased by £110,745.

**Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.**—These amounted during January to £4,177,825, as against £4,806,384 in January of last year.

#### MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

**Cotton Statistics.**—The imports of raw cotton during January were 51 per cent. more than in January 1896, this result being entirely due to American cotton, the quantities of that class imported in the two periods amounting to 514,779 bales and 293,801 bales respectively. As compared with January 1895 the total imports show a decrease of 21.4 per cent. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was less than in the corresponding month of 1896 or 1895. The following are the figures for the different periods:—

	Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	Exports.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
January 1897 ...	577,976	292,714	31,028
" 1896 ...	381,640	305,424	42,578
" 1895 ...	735,704	311,703	45,231

**Traffic Receipts.**—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended 30th January amounted to £6,726,457, being £142,287 (or 2.2 per cent.) more than for the corresponding period of 1896. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,756,934, an increase of £94,911, while the receipts from goods and mineral traffic amounted to £3,969,523, an increase of £47,376.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during January numbered 324, being 60 less than in January 1896, 59 less than in January 1895, and 113 less than in January 1894.

**Fishery Statistics.**—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during January amounted to £512,223, a decrease of £36,015 as compared with January 1896. In England and Wales the decrease amounted to £31,115, in Scotland to £5,836, while in Ireland there was an increase of £936.

#### EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

**Total Emigration.**—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during January was 9,755, as compared with 10,158 in January 1896.

**British and Irish.**—Of the 9,755 passengers, 6,669 were of British or Irish origin, being a decrease of 271, as compared with January 1896. The number of passengers to South Africa and Australasia shows an increase, but there has been a decrease in the number leaving for the United States, British North America, and other places.

The following are the figures for January 1897 and 1896:—

Destination.	January 1897.	January 1896.
United States ...	2,501	3,105
British North America ...	313	376
Australasia ...	872	540
South Africa ...	1,847	1,575
Other places ...	1,136	1,344
Totals ...	6,669	6,940

**Foreign.**—The remainder of the 9,755 passengers, viz., 3,086 were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 132 less than for January 1896.

**Alien Immigration.**—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during January was 3,431. Of these 848 were stated to be *en route* to America, compared with 1,231 so stated in January 1896. The number of those not stated to be on their way to America was 2,583 (including 716 sailors), the corresponding figure for January 1896 being 2,494 (including 645 sailors).

#### INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

##### REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JANUARY.

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

THE summary given below of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations during January shows that 7 Trade Unions, 2 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 8 Co-operative Associations for Production, and 4 Miscellaneous Associations, 6 new Friendly Societies, and 18 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the month. Four Trade Unions, 8 Industrial and Provident Societies, and 26 Building Societies are returned as having sent notice of commencement of dissolution or as having ceased to exist.

##### NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Iron Caulker's Assoc., Dutton's Coffee Palace, Charlotte St., Landport; London Sew-round Trade and Sick Benefit Soc., 67 Lyl Rd., Roman Rd., Old Ford, E.; Military and Uniform Tailors and Tailor-esses Union, 44 Spital St., Mile End New Town, E.; General Labourer's English Union for Leeds and District, New Inn, Town St., Armley, Leeds. *Scotland.*—Associated Iron, Steel and Brass Dressers of Scotland, 79 Bell St., Glasgow; Edinburgh and District Tramway Carmen's Union, Gardiner's Hall, 14 Purdy Place, Edinburgh. *Ireland.*—Mineral Water Operatives' Trade Union, 2 Bachelor's Walk, Dublin.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Iver and District Co-op Soc., Ltd., High-street, Iver, Bucks. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Irish Co-Op. Agric. Agency Soc., Ltd., 6 Westmoreland-street, Dublin.

(B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Coalminers' Co-operative Brotherhood, Ltd., Cartwright Colliery, Swadlincote; Manchester Co-operative Cycle Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., 2A Poland-street, Oldham-road, Manchester. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Drumcrave Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Drumcrave, co. Cavan; Rathmoglan Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Rathmoglan, co. Meath; Lisburn Co-Op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Lisburn, co. Antrim; Ballinfall Co-op. Dairy and Agric. Soc., Ltd., Ballinfall, co. Sligo; Ballintrellick Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballintrellick, co. Sligo; Cullohill Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cullohill, Queen's co.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Airedale District Productive Extension Asso., Ltd., 3 Downham-street, Bradford; Rushden and District Trade Union Club and Institute, Ltd., Club House, Higham Rd., Rushden; Cudworth Village Club and Institute Soc., Ltd., Market St., Cudworth, Barnsley; Droitwich Land Soc., Ltd., 1 St. Andrew St., Droitwich. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Dividing, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 4. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *New Branches.*—*England and Wales.*—I. O. Rechabites, 7; N. U. O. Free Gardeners, 2; Various, 7. *Scotland.*—O. Sons of Temperance, 1. *Ireland.*—I. Nat. Foresters, 1.

##### OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Bristol and District Dairy-men's Association, Bridewell Street, Bristol; Railway Employees and General Mutual Legal Aid Soc., 266 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.; Walsall and Bloxwich Bit Forgers and Filers Prov. Soc., Walsall; London Building Trades Federation, 30 Fleet Street, E.C. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—By *Instrument.*—Ansty Working Men's Club Land Soc., Ltd., Ansty, Leicester; Greatworth Co-op. Ind. Soc., Ltd., Greatworth; Desborough Freehold Land and Building Soc., Ltd., Desborough; Harleston Dairy Association, Ltd., Harleston. *Resolution to wind up received.*—Ringstead Britannia Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Ringstead, Thrapston. *Liquidators final returns received.*—Hull Anti-Mill and General Ind. Soc., Ltd., Holderness Rd., Hull; Atlas Works Share Investment Soc., Ltd., 50 Newington Causeway, S.E.; Stobswood Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stobswood. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Building Societies.**—By instrument, 3; notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; notice of termination of dissolution, 19.