

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. IV.—No. 1.

JANUARY 1896.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

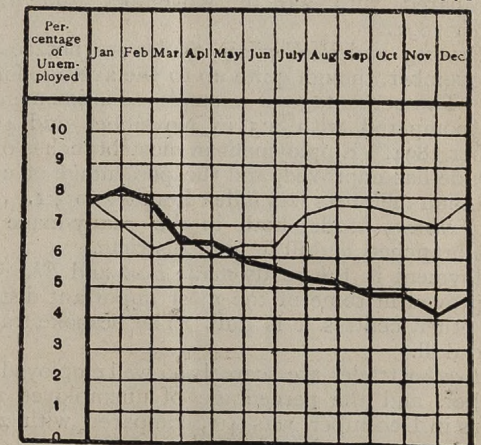
The improvement in the state of employment has been maintained during December, the slight increase reported in the percentage of unemployed members of trade unions at the end of the month being entirely accounted for by the Christmas holidays, which always make the December returns less trustworthy than those for other months as an indication of the state of the labour market. In spite of the indirect effects of the continued stoppage in the engineering trade, the percentage of unemployed is considerably lower than for the corresponding month of 1894.

In the 88 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 398,258, making returns, 19,121 (or 4·8 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4·2 per cent. in November, and with 7·7 per cent. in the 67 unions, with a membership of 367,796, from which returns were received for December 1894.

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

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

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



The proportions of unemployed in the 88 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent.	42	125,159
3 and under 5 per cent.	22	180,865
5 and under 7 per cent.	8	37,306
7 and under 10 per cent.	6	3,597
10 per cent. and upwards	10	51,331

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Coal miners continue to be well employed. It is shown from returns relating to 882 pits, employing 256,398 workpeople, that these pits worked an average of 4·88 days per week during December, compared with 5·08 days in November and 4·97 days in December 1894. The average for last month, however, is reduced by the Christmas holidays.* The percentage of unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham was 1·7, as against 2·0 per cent. at the end of November.

*The Christmas holidays were not included in the period on which the figures for December 1894 were based.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Returns furnished by 109 ironmasters, who own about 90 per cent. of the furnaces in blast, show that at the close of the month they had 324 furnaces in blast, as compared with 309 at the end of December 1894. Of this increase of 15 furnaces in blast, England and Wales account for 13 and Scotland for 2. The only district in which a decrease is reported is Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire, where there is a decrease of 1. The number of workpeople employed at the 324 furnaces was 20,880, an increase over the corresponding figure for last year of 592 in England and Wales and 311 in Scotland. As compared with November, the 109 ironmasters making returns had two more furnaces in blast, three having been relit and one blown out in England and Wales, and one relit and one blown out in Scotland. The number of workpeople employed has increased by 208, of whom 189 are in England and Wales and 19 in Scotland.

The returns received are summarised in the following table:—

Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of December 1895 with the number in blast at end of December 1894, and at end of November 1895, so far as included in the returns made to the Department:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Dec. 1895.	Dec. 1894.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec. 1895.	Dec. 1895.	Nov. 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Dec. 1895.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	94	94	...	94	93	+1
Cumberland & Lancs. ...	42	33	+9	42	42	...
S. and S.W. Yorks. ...	12	11	+1	12	11	+1
Lincolnshire	14	14	...	14	14	...
Midlands	82	80	+2	82	82	...
Glamorgan and Mon. ...	16	17	-1	16	16	...
Other districts	10	8	+2	10	10	...
Total England and Wales...	270	267	+3	270	268	+2
SCOTLAND	54	52	+2	54	54	...
Total furnaces included in returns ...	324	309	+15	324	322	+2

The following particulars respecting the pig iron industry in Cleveland are taken from the monthly circular issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association.

Production.—The amount of pig iron produced in December was 261,469 tons, against 245,110 tons in the previous month and 259,764 tons in December 1894.

Stocks.—These amounted on December 31st to 305,669 tons, an increase of 34,388 tons as compared with November and of 75,006 tons as compared with December 1894.

Shipments.—From Middlesbrough 55,229 tons were shipped coastwise or foreign during the month, being 24,741 tons less than in the previous month, and 6,158 tons less than in December 1894.

The quantity of pig iron shipped from all ports in the United Kingdom to foreign countries and British possessions was 38,349 tons in December 1895, against 54,810 tons in December 1894, and 47,566 tons in December 1893.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS IN DECEMBER.

RETURNS received from 173 employers show that they had 62,316 workpeople in their employment at the end of December, or 2,302 more than at the end of December 1894. The increase in England and Wales amounted to 2.7 per cent., and in Scotland to 11.5 per cent.

The only considerable decrease is in the number of steelworkers employed in Lancashire and Cumberland; but this is nearly counterbalanced by an increase in the number employed in South Wales and Monmouth.

Returns from 37 tinplate manufacturers state that they had 180 mills in operation in the last week of December, or 16 less than in November 1895, but 11 more than in December 1894.

Table showing the number of persons employed* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of December 1895 and 1894, respectively, by 173 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.					
	England and Wales.		Scotland.		United Kingdom.	
	Dec. 1895.	Dec. 1894.	Dec. 1895.	Dec. 1894.	Dec. 1895.	Dec. 1894.
Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling, and Forging	21,481	21,857	4,659	3,944	26,140	25,801
Iron Puddling and Rolling	11,254	10,646	3,266	3,075	14,520	13,721
Tinplate Manufacture ...	11,179	10,877	—	—	11,179	10,877
Other workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above*	9,507	9,253	970	962	10,477	10,215
Totals	53,421	52,033	8,895	7,981	62,316	60,014

(e) SHIPBUILDING.

(1) Tonnage under Construction.†

THE summary of shipbuilding returns issued by Lloyd's Register shows that on 31st December the gross tonnage of vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom was 711,562 tons. This figure is 5,013 tons less than the tonnage under construction on 30th September last, but 53,276 tons more than at the end of 1894. The tonnage of warships under construction at the end of December, at Government and private yards, was 306,580 tons displacement, as compared with 261,585 tons at the end of the previous quarter, and 260,985 tons on 31st December 1894.

Putting together the above figures we get the following table:—

Date of Return.	Merchant Vessels.		All War Ships.	
	Tons gross.	Tons displacement.	Tons gross.	Tons displacement.
At 31st December 1895	711,562	306,580	260,985	261,585
At 31st December 1894	658,286	260,985	261,585	—
At 30th September 1895	716,575	—	—	—

Of the 377 vessels, other than warships, under construction, 317 were steamers with a gross tonnage of 678,318 tons, and 60 sailing vessels of 33,244 tons. As compared with the tonnage of vessels under construction a year ago these figures are increases of 45,875 tons and 7,401 tons respectively.

The table below gives the gross tonnage of vessels (exclusive of warships) under construction at the principal shipbuilding centres at the end of December 1895 and 1894 respectively. Almost the whole of the increase, it will be seen, is on the Tyne and Wear.

District.	At 31st Dec. 1895.		At 31st Dec. 1894.		Increase in 1895.	Decrease in 1895.
	Tons gross.	Tons gross.	Tons gross.	Tons gross.		
Clyde	217,178	207,992	9,186	—	—	—
Tyne	128,897	98,656	30,241	—	—	—
Wear	134,719	97,958	36,761	—	—	—
Middlesbrough and Stockton ...	47,337	67,274	—	19,937	—	—
Hartlepool and Whitby	40,856	46,796	—	5,940	—	—
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	11,330	11,721	—	391	—	—
Belfast	95,737	97,950	—	2,213	—	—

(2) Total Output in 1895.

The total number of vessels launched during the year was 638, of which 579 were merchant vessels of 950,967 tons gross, and 59 warships of 148,111 tons displacement. As compared with 1894, these figures show a falling off of 35 merchant vessels launched and of 95,541 tons gross, but an increase of 28 in warships and of 115,140 in tons displacement. The tonnage of warships launched in 1895 was more than four times that of 1894 and three times that of 1893.

* The table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.
† By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are in various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the amount of work remaining to be done.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

THE Agricultural correspondent to the department on the basis of 145 returns from various parts of the country, including two from Agricultural Labourers' Unions, reports as follows:—Generally speaking employment during the month of December was less regular than in the month of November last, and also less regular than in December 1894. There were heavier crops in 1894, and consequently more threshing in the winter, and more work in connection with the root crop. The weather in December 1895 was, however, more favourable to employment than in 1894. The irregularity of work is further attributed to the inability of farmers to pay for labour, owing to agricultural depression, and also to the decrease in the area of cereals.

In the *Northern Counties* some irregularity of employment is reported in parts of Cumberland and Lancashire. In the *Midlands* irregularity of work is reported in certain unions in the counties of Nottingham, Warwick, Rutland, Shropshire, Oxford, Hunts, and Worcester. In the *Eastern Counties* in Suffolk considerable irregularity of employment is reported throughout the county, and also in several unions in Essex. In Norfolk, except in the Forehoe Union, and also in Cambridgeshire and Lincoln, the state of employment appears to be about the same, and in some cases slightly better than in December 1894. In the *Home Counties* irregularity of work is reported in the Wantage Union of Berks, the Hoo, Bridge, Sevenoaks and Cranbrook Unions of Kent, in the Hartley Wintney Union of Hants, in the Rye and Battle Unions of Sussex, the Hemel Hempstead Union of Herts, and the Leighton Buzzard Union of Beds. In the *Western Counties* unfavourable reports come from parts of Dorset, Wilts, and Somerset. Reductions in wages are reported in districts in the counties of Lancashire, Berkshire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Essex, Suffolk, Gloucestershire, Lincoln, Wiltshire, and Kent. In a number of districts in Suffolk weekly wages have been reduced to 9s., and in some cases to 8s. Reductions to 9s. have also been made in districts of Wiltshire, Berkshire, and Kent.

Northern Counties.—In *Cumberland* a few day men are reported in irregular work in December in the unions of Carlisle, Wigton and Penrith; favourable reports come from other parts of the county, and also from *Westmoreland*. In *Lancashire* a number of young labourers are reported out of work in the Ulverston district, and some irregularity of work is reported in certain parishes in the Garstang Union. In the Chester-le-Street Union of *Durham* about 10 per cent. are said to be in irregular work. A favourable report comes from the Durham Union. In *Yorkshire* favourable reports come from districts in the Unions of Ripon, Easingwold, Knaresborough, Malton, and Great Ouseburn, and from *Cheshire* from the Nantwich Union.

Midland Counties.—In *Nottinghamshire* some irregularity of work is reported in the Southwell Union, but favourable reports come from the Basset and Bingham Unions. Reports from the Alcester Union of *Warwickshire* state that a number of men are in irregular work, but in the Stratford Union employment is more regular. In *Derbyshire* a favourable report comes from the Belper Union. Reports from *Leicestershire* from the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Melton, Billesdon, and Blaby are satisfactory; in the first-named union many labourers are said to have gone into the towns. Reports from five parishes in the Oakham Union of *Rutland* state that work is regular, and from two that it is irregular. Taking the union as a whole, it is said that the supply of labour is greater than the demand for it, notwithstanding recent migration. The population of the parish of Edmondthorpe has decreased by 16 per cent. in the last 18 months. In *Shropshire* favourable reports come from the Tenbury and Whitchurch Unions, but some irregularity of work is reported in the Market Drayton Union. In *Oxfordshire* in the Thame Union employment is said to be generally regular except in two large open parishes. Favourable reports come from the Unions of Wallingford, Banbury and Witney, and an unfavourable one from the Union of Abingdon. Reports from

Northamptonshire state that work is regular in the Unions of Pottesbury and Rugby; in the latter Union this is said to be due to employment given by the extension of the railway. There is said to be some irregularity of work in the Unions of Kettering and St. Neots in *Northampton*, and also in the Shipston-on-Stour Union of *Worcestershire*. In the Pershore Union work is fairly regular.

Eastern Counties.—In *Essex* considerable irregularity of work is reported from the Unions of Burnham-on-Crouch and Ossett. In the latter Union this is said to be due to decrease in area of cereals, and the consequent lack of threshing work. Some irregularity is also reported from the Braintree Union. On the whole the reports from the Unions of Dunmow, Colchester, Tendring, and Billericay are not unfavourable. Reports from *Norfolk* state that employment is fairly regular in the Unions of Docking, North Elmham, Hoxne, Loddon and Clavering, Swaffham and Depwade. In the last-named Union there are said to be a number of empty cottages. Irregularity of work is reported in the Forehoe Union. In *Suffolk* there was irregularity of work in the Unions of Thingoe, Bosmere and Claydon, Plomesgate, Cosford, and Mildenhall. Favourable reports come from the Samford and Risbridge Unions. In *Lincolnshire* favourable reports come from the Unions of Lincoln, Grimsby, Brigg, Spilsby, Louth, Grantham, and Stamford. In the Sleaford Union work was generally regular except in a few parishes. In *Cambridgeshire* work is reported regular in the Unions of Whittlesey, Peterborough, and Wisbech. There was some irregularity of work in the Unions of North Witchford, Royston and Caxton, but not of a serious character.

Home Counties.—In *Berkshire* in the Wantage Union some irregularity of work is reported, but a favourable report comes of the Farringdon Union. Very little irregularity of employment is reported in the Unions of Winslow and Hellingly Pagnell of *Bucks*. Reports from *Kent* from the Unions of Hollingbourne, Milton, and Faversham, are not unfavourable, though there is irregularity of work in certain parishes; but there was irregularity in the Unions of Hoo, Bridge, Sevenoaks, and Cranbrook. Some irregularity of work is reported in the Godstone Union of *Surrey*. In the Rye Union of *Sussex* there were a good many men in irregular work and also some in the Battle and Cuckfield Unions. Irregularity of employment is also reported in the Hemel Hempstead Union of *Hertfordshire* and the Leighton Buzzard Union of *Bedfordshire*.

Western Counties.—In *Hampshire* a number of men are said to be in irregular work in certain parishes in the Hartley Wintney Union and a few in the Farnham Union on the Aldershot side. But in this Union, on the *Surrey* side, work is said to be fairly regular. In *Dorsetshire* favourable reports come from the Unions of Wimborne and Dorchester, though in the latter union there is some irregularity of employment in certain villages. Favourable reports also come from the Unions of Devizes, Pewsey, Highworth and Swindon, and Westbury in *Wiltshire*. Employment was less favourable in the Unions of Wilton, Warminster, and Amesbury. Reports from certain districts in the Unions of Cirencester and Winchcombe in *Gloucestershire*, and in the Unions of Bromyard and Leominster in *Herefordshire*, state that work is regular. In *Somersetshire* favourable reports come from the Unions of Frome, Wells, Wellington and Wincanton, but there is said to be irregularity of work in certain parishes in the Langport Union, owing to agricultural depression. Favourable reports come from the Unions of Tavistock, Crediton, Great Torrington, Barnstaple, St. Thomas, in *Devonshire*, and from the Redruth Union in *Cornwall*.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN DECEMBER.

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

THE number of seamen shipped during December from the principal ports of the United Kingdom as the crews of foreign-going vessels was 29,908, or 1,230 more than in the corresponding month of last year. The greatest rises were those of 450 at Liverpool and 399 at Cardiff.

The number of seamen shipped during 1895 was 9,717 less than in 1894, a decrease of 2.5 per cent.

The demand for seamen is stated to have exceeded the supply at Newcastle and Swansea, and both seamen and firemen to have been scarce at Barry (included under Cardiff below). Seamen for sailing vessels were also scarce at Leith and Dublin. At the other ports mentioned below the supply equalled or exceeded the demand.

The rates of wages of seamen and firemen remained generally, during December, as in the previous month.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Particulars of some few variations from the ruling wages are given in the table of Changes in Wages on page 31.

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in December 1895 and 1894 respectively, together with the number shipped in the twelve months ended 31st December in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in December 1895.			Total in Dec. 1894.	Total number shipped in 12 months ended December.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Dec. 1895.		1895.	1894.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	90	2,452	2,542	2,268	35,766	39,218
Sunderland ...	13	394	407	491	7,472	8,477
Middlesbrough ...	10	444	454	383	6,483	6,250
Hull ...	72	842	914	845	12,777	13,330
Grimsby ...	...	31	31	1,600	2,091	...
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	1	150	151	789	2,347	2,955
Newport, Mon. ...	...	985	985	7,058	12,987	13,951
Cardiff ...	409	4,671	5,080	4,681	60,661	63,728
Swansea ...	53	540	593	582	7,438	7,130
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	426	9,238	9,664	9,214	115,838	116,083
London ...	379	4,922	5,292	4,986	67,851	67,851
Southampton ...	26	1,604	1,630	1,473	17,659	17,276
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth.						
Glasgow ...	64	1,602	1,666	1,789	24,756	24,678
IRELAND.						
Dublin.						
Dublin ...	10	30	40	34	430	755
Belfast ...	15	42	57	75	1,079	1,919
Total Dec. 1895 ...	1,563	28,345	29,908	...	381,832	...
Ditto, Dec. 1894 ...	1,611	27,067	...	28,678	...	391,549

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

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

As usual in December, employment for dock and water-side labour showed great fluctuation. It was good at the beginning and fell off rapidly towards the end of the month, the wool sales, which commenced on 25th November, lasting to 11th December.

The average daily number of labourers employed in all the docks and at 105 of the principal wharves is estimated at 15,042 for the four weeks ending December 28th, being 123 less than the average for the five preceding weeks. The first week shows the maximum daily average and the last week the minimum. The highest number at work on any one day is estimated at 16,809 on December 3rd, and the lowest at 12,958 on the 27th.

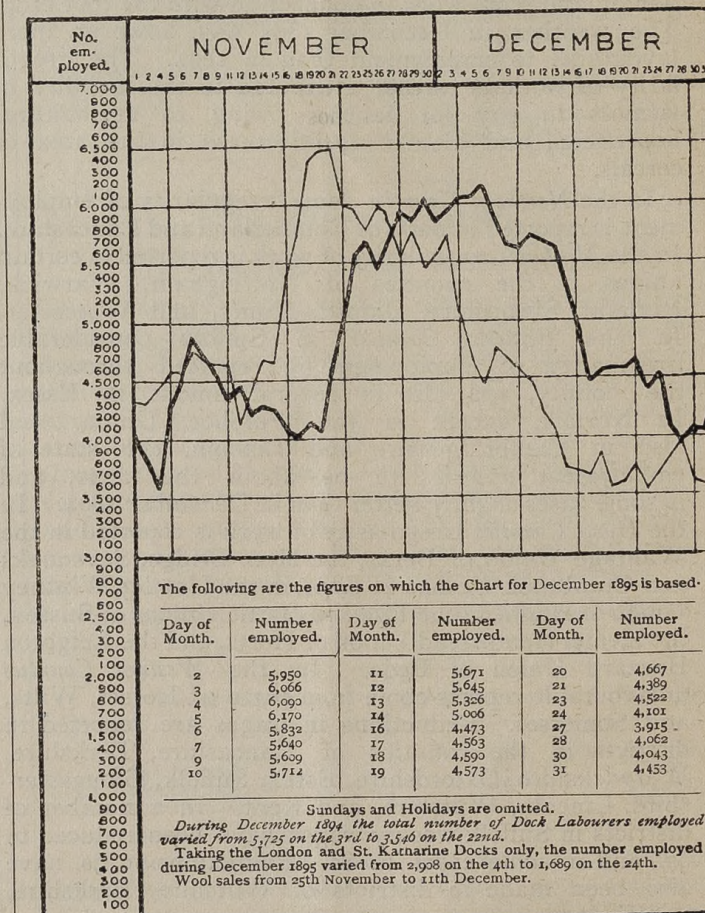
The decrease in the average number employed was among those employed at the wharves and by shipowners directly. The average number employed by the dock companies (7,694) was slightly above that (7,545) for the previous five weeks, though the number rapidly declined during the month from an average of 8,801 in the first week to 6,822 in the last.

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 105 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 December ...	8,801	1,588	10,389	5,985	16,374
2nd " " ...	7,548	1,516	9,064	5,809	14,873
3rd " " ...	7,315	1,713	9,028	5,849	14,877
4th " " ...	6,822	1,254	8,076	5,469	13,545
Average for 4 weeks ending Dec. 28th ...	7,694	1,542	9,236	5,806	15,042
Average for 5 weeks ending Nov. 30th ...	7,545	1,589	9,134	6,031	15,165

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during November and December is shown on the chart below. The numbers in December varied from 6,170 on December 5th to 3,915 on the 27th.

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



Particulars of the number of labourers employed in December 1894 by shipowners direct and at the wharves are not given in the returns received, but for the Dock Companies the figures for December 1895 and 1894 are respectively as follows:—

Period.	Labourers employed by Dock Companies directly or through Contractors.			
	1895.	1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
1st week of December ...	8,801	7,673	1,128	—
2nd " " ...	7,548	6,667	881	—
3rd " " ...	7,315	6,072	1,243	—
4th " " ...	6,822	6,805	—	43
Average for 4 weeks ...	7,694	6,815	879	—

It will thus be seen that though employment was not so good in December as in the previous month, it was better than in December 1894.

Coal porters, backers and winchmen, and corn porters, lumpers and stevedores have been fairly well employed. Workers in mid-stream have been well employed. Deal porters have been busier than in the corresponding month of 1894, but the timber trade was slack in the West and South-West India Dock.

The fruit porters in Thames-street were busy in the first two weeks of the month. In these two weeks the daily average number employed was 443, as compared with 442 in November. Towards the end of the month employment naturally fell off, the average daily number for the whole month amounting to 387. The fruit trade was busy in the London Docks.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON.

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

JUDGING from the returns received from women correspondents, the state of employment in December for women in the textile trades has been better than in November. The improvement is, however, confined to the spinning branch of the cotton trade, the woollen trade showing if anything a slight decline.

Information has been received with regard to the employment of women and girls in 447 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills. In the case of 304 mills the numbers employed are known approximately. If the same average number be assumed to be employed in the remaining 143 as in those for the same trade for which numbers are known, the information may be summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate Estimate of Women and Girls employed.		
		Number.	Percentage.	Percentage for Nov.
Full time ...	417	65,738	91	87
Ditto, but partial employment ...	12	2,843	4	4
Short time ...	9	2,057	4	5
Closed for repairs ...	2	—	—	—
" on account of disputes ...	5	1,125	1	4
" " bad trade ...	2	—	—	—
Total ...	447	72,363	100	100

Cotton Trade.—According to this estimate the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 54,705. Of these 89 per cent. were employed in mills working full time; 5 per cent. were in mills running full time but giving partial employment; 4 per cent. in mills running short time, while mills employing 2 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month. (Last month the corresponding percentage working full time was 83. This month's returns, however, include several cotton mills not previously reported on. Had only the same mills been included as last month the percentage of full employment for December would be 86.)

Woollen and Worsted Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is estimated at 16,458. Of these 97 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (as compared with 99 per cent. in November); 1 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment; and 2 per cent. in mills running short time.

Silk Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the silk mills reported on, is estimated at 1,200, all of whom were employed in mills working full time (showing no change as compared with November).

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—Allowance being made for the effect of the holidays on the labour market, the improvement in the state of employment in London previously reported has been maintained. Returns from 361 branches of 80 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 65,656, show 2,428 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of December, compared with 2.8 per cent. last month and 6.1 per cent. for December 1894.

The **Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding** trades, especially the latter, have still further improved. Reports from 97 branches of 18 unions show that 777 (or 4 per cent.) out of a membership of 19,467, were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 4.7 per cent. in November and 7.6 in December 1894.

The **Building** trades as a rule are still well employed. Returns from 178 branches of 7 unions paying unemployed benefit and having a membership of 12,590 show that only 261 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of December, compared with 1.2 per cent. in November and 5.6 per cent. in December 1894. The carpenters and joiners, plasterers, mill-sawyers and stonemasons

describe employment as fair; the bricklayers and plumbers as moderate; the masons and painters as dull.

The **Furnishing and Wood-working** trades are not so well employed as in November. Reports from 33 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 5,221, show that 251 (or 4.8 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 1.9 per cent. last month and 6.7 per cent. in December 1894.

The **Coachbuilding** trades continue fairly well employed. Reports from 9 branches of 7 unions, with a membership of 1,140, show that 43 (or 3.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.7 per cent. in November.

The **Printing and Bookbinding** trades have not been so busy as in November, but fairly well employed for the season of the year. Returns from 16 unions, with a membership of 19,771, show that 692 (or 3.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.4 per cent. last month and 4.8 per cent. in December 1894.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade has been fairly good for time of year; the West End tailoring trade has continued dull; the East End bespoke trade only moderate; the hat trade fairly good for the season. Employment with fur skin dressers is reported good, but with furriers has continued to decline.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The machine branch still continues very slack, many operatives being reported as only partially employed; the high-class bespoke branch is also slack; slipper-makers are well employed.

The **Leather** trades, especially the curriers, are scarcely so busy. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 1,124, show that 40 (or 3.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.5 per cent. in November.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—On the whole these trades have fallen off. Returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 1,528, show that 115 (or 7.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.4 per cent. last month.

Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.—In this group of trades the brush-makers and basket-makers have not been so well employed. Returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 910, show that 51 (or 5.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.1 per cent. in November.

The **Silver** trades still continue fully employed.

The **Tobacco** trades are not so busy. Returns from 2 unions with a membership of 1,990 show that 108 (or 5.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.1 per cent. in November.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks was on the whole rather better in December than in November, but at the wharves it was not quite so good. At both the docks and wharves, however, there was a marked falling off at the end of the month as compared with the beginning. The average daily number of dock labourers employed in the docks and at 105 of the principal wharves is estimated at 15,042 for December and 15,165 for November. The averages for the first and last weeks of December are respectively 16,374 and 13,545. Fruit porters have been busy and work in mid-stream has continued good. Coal porters, backers, winchmen, corn porters, lumpers and stevedores have been fairly well employed and deal porters have been busier than a year ago. Further details are given on page 6.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Only one dispute, affecting 51 French polishers, has been reported as taking place during December.

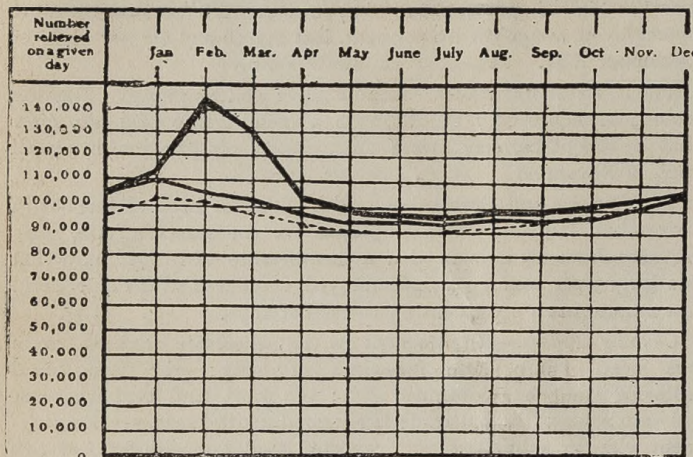
Labour Bureaux.—During December the 6 labour bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,972 fresh applications from workpeople and 278 from employers. The number of workpeople engaged in the month was 1,736, viz., 1,293 by private employers and 443 by local authorities. Of the total number engaged 1,369 were stated to be engaged in a temporary capacity.

Pauperism.—On the last day of the second week in December 106,716 persons were relieved in London, the proportion being 253 per 10,000 of the population in 1891. These figures are an increase of 2,119 paupers and of 5 per 10,000 of population, as compared with the figures for the corresponding day in November last. The seasonal increase was 6 per 10,000 in the same period in 1894. The greatest increases are in the Central district, from 443 to 452, and in the Southern district from 262 to 269. As compared with a year ago the number relieved has increased by 2,298 and the rate per 10,000 of population by 5. Of this increase 78 per cent. is in the Southern district. In West Ham the rate of pauperism was 251 per 10,000 of population in the second week of December, 246 in November, and 254 in December 1894.

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

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

[The thick curve represents 1895; the thin curve 1894; and the dotted curve 1893.]



The number of vagrants relieved in London on the last day in the second week of December was 1,268, as compared with 1,265 in the corresponding week of 1894.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Durham.—Gas coal pits are fairly well employed. Returns relating to 22 of the collieries with various seams of coal show that they worked from 8½ days per fortnight to full time. One colliery is laid idle owing to a dispute affecting about 650 men and boys, and at another 75 men and boys have been discharged for refusing to work a night shift. The unemployed union miners number 1,297 (or 2·2 per cent.), as against 2·5 in November. **Northumberland.**—Steam coal collieries continue badly employed. Pits producing house coal have averaged close on 11 days per fortnight. There are 56 union members (or 0·27 per cent.) in receipt of stoppage pay, as in November.

Metal Mining.—A few additional men have been engaged at the ironstone mines. The lead mines maintain improvement.

Quarrying.—Employment in the quarries at Gateshead district has been much interrupted owing to bad weather. The grindstone trade, however, continues good. In the Weardale district the limestone quarries (with two exceptions) have worked fairly well.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—On the Tyne.—Employment in several of the yards has been bad, partly owing to a helpers' dispute. Two or three yards, however, are busy. Boiler shops are only moderately employed. The Elswick gun factory continues busy. Marine engine building is quiet; in the lower reaches of the river bad. Electrical engineering is not so busy, one firm discharging turners. Of the 8,911 members of the iron shipbuilding and engineering trades included in 43 returns, 1,047 (or 11·7 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 10·5 per cent. in November. **On the Wear.**—Iron shipbuilding continues moderate. In the engine shops work is fairly good. The holiday season, however, has increased the number of unemployed iron shipbuilders and engineers to 610, or 15·2 per cent., out of a membership of 3,999, as shown in 19 returns, as against 11·2 per cent. in November. The local steel smelters, charge wheelers, and gas producers have been fully employed; the millmen and shearmen in the Newburn district are on three-quarter time. Short time prevails in the iron and steel angle mills in the Consett district; the smelters and steel plate mills are working full time. On the Tyne and Wear the moulders have about 13 per cent. idle, the pattern-makers 11·9, and the joiners (house and ship) 4·4 per cent.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The trimmers and teemers show a decline. The quayside labourers report trade as dull, none being fully employed; the Tyne wherry men as slack, few having full work, and 25 per cent. being unemployed. The demand for seagoing men has been fairly good.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—All housebuilding trades, especially on the Wear, have been well employed. The mill-sawyers and woodcutters report employment as good, with 2·6 per cent. idle. Coopers are working full time in chemical and lead, but three-quarter time in cement factories.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers on the Tyne report 40, or 7·2 per cent., as unemployed, as against 8·5 per cent.

in November. On the Wear few are idle. The bookbinders continue well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The Durham cokemen are fairly busy, with none out of work. The chemical and white-lead factories are working full time. Employment in cement works is irregular. The pressed glassmakers are well employed, but have 7 per cent. idle at the end of the month. The bottle-makers report improvement at Seaham Harbour, Blyth, Blaydon, and Hendon. The North Shields sailmakers are busier. Trawl fishing has been fair.

J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues fairly good at the Cleveland mines.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment continues good at the steel works, some being reported as very busy. The finished iron works show no change. Employment at the blast furnaces is good; in the bridge works and foundries it varies, being good in some cases, quiet in others.

Engineering.—At the Hartlepoons the engineers have 6·6 per cent. unemployed, as against 7 per cent. at the end of November; at Middlesbrough 4·9 per cent., as against 5·4; at Stockton 2·3 per cent., as against 3·2. The moulders report little change; the smiths and strikers are busy, with none idle.

Shipbuilding.—At Middlesbrough employment is good at all the yards; improvement is again reported at Thornaby, and also at Stockton, where a closed yard is to be re-opened. At Hartlepool there is no change. Employment is fair with the shipwrights; good with the shipjoiners, smiths, and strikers.

Building Trades.—Work is good in all branches.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as improving at Middlesbrough, but quiet at the Hartlepoons. Riverside labour is fair; dock labour is quiet at Hartlepool; fair at Middlesbrough.

Miscellaneous.—The saltworkers report employment as good; the printers as moderate; the tailors as slack.—A. Main.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment for cotton operatives in the Oldham district shows a slight improvement; the spinners have 4·2 per cent. of their members on the out-of-work funds, while the card-room workers have 7·1 per cent. of the union members unemployed. If Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley, Stockport and Rochdale be also included, there are 526 spinners on the out-of-work funds, or 5·6 per cent. of the members in the unions making returns, besides a probably larger number who have exhausted their benefit. Twining is brisk; the ring frame spinners are fully employed; the reelers and winders moderately so. There is no alteration in the weaving branch; velvet weavers are moderately employed, while calico weavers report employment as slack. The power loom overlookers in Oldham have 1·4 per cent. out of work. Woollen operatives continue fully employed in Stockport, Rochdale, and Milnrow districts.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate, with 4·8 per cent. idle. The boiler-makers are fully employed; the ironfounders and the steam engine makers moderately so; the machine workers report employment as improved, with overtime in some cases; the brass finishers, tinplate workers, and gas meter makers as brisk; the spindle and flyer makers, and ring frame and throstle makers as good.

Building Trades.—The joiners, plasterers, plumbers, and bricklayers report employment as moderate; the painters as slack, with 14 per cent. unemployed. Out of 795 union members in these trades, 40 (or 5 per cent.) are returned as out of work.

Coal Mining.—A slight improvement is reported in the Oldham district; in Ashton and Dukinfield the miners continue fully employed.—T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

Textile Trades.—In Bolton there is a slight increase in the number out of work in the spinning branch, mainly through fires and breakdowns; employment in the other branches of the cotton trade is normal. In Chorley all the mills and all weaving sheds, with one exception, are now running full time, but weavers are waiting for warps. The improvement in employment in both branches at Bury has been maintained.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—At Bolton the improvement in the engineering branch continues, with considerable activity in the iron machine-making departments; steel-smelting has declined. At Wigan engineering is busy; steel smelters and steel rollers are on full

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

time; employment in the finished iron trade is declining. In Chorley engineering is normal. In Bury machine makers and brass moulders and finishers are well employed. The cycle trade is good at Wigan for the time of year.

Building Trades.—These trades are moderately good in Bolton, Wigan, and Bury, but bad in Chorley.

Coal Mining.—In Wigan and neighbourhood there is no change reported.—R. Tootill.

Burnley, Accrington, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in both spinning and weaving continues slack. In the weaving department more looms have been stopped, and many have been changed so as to weave other makes of cloth. In the Blackburn district upwards of 7,000 looms are reported to be stopped, and in the Darwen district 1,200 looms out of 25,000. Several mills are only working 40 hours per week. The shoddy or hardwaste trade continues brisk, overtime being still worked in some cases. Employment in the coloured goods trade is moderate; in the sateen trade it is slightly improving. There is a change for the worse in the looming and drawing department, and in Burnley 7 per cent. of the members are unemployed; in other localities this branch is being seriously affected by the continued stoppage of looms. The spinning industry shows no change; in Blackburn 8·6 per cent. of union members are unemployed, including 7 per cent., who have exhausted their out-of-work benefit; at Burnley the number receiving out-of-work benefit for the month averages 48 (or 11·3 per cent.) per week; at Accrington 2·6 per cent. of the union members are unemployed. At Darwen 50 minders and 25 piecers are in receipt of out-of-work benefit, though in the latter district two mills have been restarted after a stoppage of two months.

Building Trades.—Masons and bricklayers are fairly well employed in the Nelson and Darwen districts, and moderately in other localities; joiners, painters and decorators are slack; plumbers are fully engaged.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The engineers, moulders, smiths and fitters report employment as good; some large machine works are working overtime.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with letterpress printers, paper-makers and paper-stainers, and chemical workers; steady with coalminers; moderate with calico printers and dyers; slack with tailors, cabinet-makers and polishers.—W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineering shows but little change in Manchester, Northwich, or Stockport. The steam engine makers report 1½ per cent. as unemployed in Manchester; the engineers 4½ per cent. in Manchester and 1·6 per cent. in Northwich. The boiler makers report employment as slack, with 25 per cent. unemployed in one branch; the ironmoulders as moderate, with 4 per cent. unemployed; the braziers and sheet metal workers as good, with 1¼ per cent. unemployed. In Macclesfield the iron trades are moderately well employed. In Warrington the wire drawers, wire weavers, and ironworkers are fairly well employed; the filesmiths moderately so.

Textile Trades.—Employment of cotton spinners in Manchester again shows a slight improvement, the percentage unemployed being reduced from 8 to 7½. In Macclesfield employment has improved, some of the mills having resumed full time. Thread doubling in Stockport continues busy. Silk operatives remain well employed in all branches. Fustian cutters are busy. Employment with bleachers, dyers and finishers is moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Tailoring in the bespoke department throughout the district is bad. Work in the wholesale department continues quiet. Ready-made mantle and waterproof garment making is slack. Cap-making and umbrella-making is moderate. Shirt-makers in Manchester and Macclesfield are fairly well employed. The felt hat trade is moderate. Silk hat makers are fairly busy. The boot and shoe factory workers in Manchester report employment as moderate, with fewer unemployed.

Building Trades.—The masons, bricklayers, and plasterers report no change in Manchester. The joiners have 2½ per cent. unemployed, an increase on November. The plumbers report employment as moderate and the painters as worse. In Stockport employment in the building trades is moderate and declining; in Macclesfield it is bad.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers in the railway

shops continue busy, and fairly so in private firms in Manchester, Warrington, and Stockport. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers report employment as moderate, the latter with 4½ per cent. idle.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report no change. The lithographic printers, with 5·1 per cent. unemployed, and the bookbinders, with 5 per cent. (as against 6 per cent. in November), report employment as moderate.—G. D. Kelley.

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in the iron trade is brisk, but in the steel trade it is not so good, as all orders for shipbuilding material are at a standstill owing to the Belfast and Clyde dispute. Employment in the manufacture of rails is good.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in marine engineering is fairly satisfactory, although a large number have been discharged for a time because the work was not ready for them. Employment is good with pattern-makers; fair with moulders, with some unemployed; slack with boiler-makers, for want of material to go on with. In shipbuilding there is also a temporary slackness, with a large number unemployed.

Mining.—Employment among the iron miners has been fair; among the coal miners good.

Building Trades.—These trades in all branches are well employed, except when interrupted by the weather.

Shipping and Railways.—Shipping at the coast harbours continues fair, but at Barrow Docks is depressed. Railway traffic has improved, the men on short time having resumed full work.

Miscellaneous.—The printing and kindred trades are well employed. Paper and pulp workers are busy; jute workers are fairly busy.—J. D. Cowper.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers are fairly well employed upon repair work, with fewer unemployed. The shipwrights report no improvement in Liverpool or Birkenhead, men having been discharged from new work, and repair work being moderate. The men in Runcorn are to resume full time. The shipjoiners are fairly well employed upon repair work. The engineers and pattern-makers report no improvement. The brass-founders report trade as good, with few unemployed; the iron and steel-dressers as moderate; the ship painters as fair.

Furnishing and Coachbuilding Trades.—The cabinet-makers continue well employed. The upholsterers and French polishers and the coach-makers, with few unemployed, report employment as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as quiet with the tailors in the bespoke branch, and as moderate in the ready-made branch. The boot and shoe makers report employment in the bespoke trade as bad, and on repair work as casual.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good in most branches; it is moderate with plumbers, quiet with painters, fair with mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers, the lithographic printers, and bookbinders and rulers report employment as fair.—C. Rowse.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Dock labour among ship and quay men shows no change; coal heavers are slacker.

Other Transport Trades.—Railway goods yard men remain steadily employed, and inland water carriers maintain the improvement reported. Cross city traffic has improved.

Chemical Industry.—Employment in the chemical industry shows no change in St. Helens, and has improved in the Widnes and Runcorn district.

Coal Mining.—Improvement is reported in the mining districts.—J. Sexton.

A report from Winsford states that the salt industry continues depressed as regards loose salt, but is moderate in the block salt branch at Winsford and Middlewich. Employment in the chemical works has been normal; in the building trades moderate. Moulders have been moderately employed, and fustian cutters at Winsford and Middlewich have been busy.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Some engineering firms are moderately employed, while others are slack; one large firm, however, is running a night shift. Shipbuilding is slack, except on repair work. The iron shipbuilders report employment as moderate; the shipwrights as improved on repair

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

work, but worse on new work, with over 12 per cent. unemployed; the engineers, smiths, and strikers as unsatisfactory, with about 7 per cent. idle; the ironfounders as fair, with 1½ per cent. unemployed; the machine workers as improving, with 3 per cent. unemployed; the sailmakers as good, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the engine-shop and general shipyard labourers as bad, with 25 per cent. unemployed.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, stonemasons, plumbers, mill-sawyers and wood machinists, and carpenters and joiners, out of 1,578 members have 5·8 per cent. unemployed. The painters report employment as bad; the builders' labourers as moderate.

Shipping and Dock Labour and Railways.—The seamen report employment as moderate, with more unemployed. Employment at the docks is reported as moderate, with more unemployed, but the deal carriers are better employed than usual at this season. Railway workers are fairly well employed, with ½ per cent. out of work.

Seed Crushing, Paint and Colour Trades.—Most of the seed crushing mills are running full time, with day and night shifts. Employment in the paint and colour works has only been moderate.

Fishing Industry.—Owing to the high winds fishing has been interrupted, and employment has been slack in the market and at the fish-curing houses, but engineers on the steam fishing vessels report employment as good, with about 1 per cent. unemployed.

Leather Trades.—The tanners report employment as moderate, with none unemployed in Hull. The curriers at Doncaster are on short time.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as moderate, with 4·2 per cent. idle; the gasworkers as brisk; the coopers show no improvement.

W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

Metal Trades.—The engineering trade in Leeds continues to steadily improve, and the number signing the vacant book again shows a reduction. In the locomotive, silk and textile machinery departments work is fairly brisk. At Wakefield there is no improvement. Ironfounding in Leeds has declined, but is still fair; at Stanningley it is busy, with overtime in the wrought iron wagon department. The pattern-makers, brassworkers and steelworkers report employment as fair; the boiler makers as moderate; the machine tool makers as improving, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the white-smiths as busier, with 3 per cent. unemployed; the cranimakers at Rodley as not so brisk.

Clothing Trades.—In the ready-made clothing trade work has been only moderate, with a larger number unemployed, owing to the destruction of a factory by fire; bespoke tailoring is dull. The boot and shoe trade has been slack, and many works closed for a fortnight.

Textile Trades.—In Leeds employment at most mills continues good. The willeys and fettlers have no unemployed. The woollen mule spinners are on full time, with overtime in some cases. At Yeadon work has been fairly regular. At Stanningley and Farsley work has been brisk. At Morley and Wakefield full time continues at the mills.

Leather Trades.—At most tanneries short time is being worked. The curriers report a decline, with more unemployed. The leather shavers are moderately busy.

Building Trades.—The joiners in Leeds report employment as good, with 2½ per cent. unemployed; the bricklayers as moderate; the plasterers as dull; the plumbers as good; the painters as slack; the builders' labourers as fair. At Wakefield and Morley these trades are good.

Glass Bottle Trade.—This industry shows little change at Leeds, Wakefield, and Castleford, with a number still unemployed. The medical bottle branch in Leeds has been busier, the number unemployed being reduced to 4½ per cent.

Mining.—In the immediate neighbourhood of Leeds the pits have again been working an average of about 5 days per week; at Wakefield and Castleford from 4 to 5 days per week.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad; the lithographers as moderate; the paper mill workers as fair; the dyers and cabinet-makers as good; the coachmakers as moderate; the brushmakers as improving.—O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worst Trade.—Employment in the worsted industry in Bradford is still busy, but with a slight tendency to decline, especially among wool-sorters and wool-combers. In other parts of the district there is little change, and overtime is being worked at Huddersfield.

Woollen Trade.—In and around Huddersfield nearly every mill is working full time, and where men weavers are employed, many are on overtime and in some cases on night work. The heavy woollen trade in Dewsbury and district is reported as good, although not quite so brisk as in November.

Cotton and Silk Trades.—Employment is reported as active in Brighouse; but in other places the cotton trade is not so good as in that town.

Metal Trades.—The engineers in Huddersfield, Bradford, Keighley, and Halifax, out of 2,145 members, report 4 per cent. as unemployed. The ironfounders in Huddersfield and Keighley have 2 per cent. idle.

Building Trades.—These trades are reported as fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Mining has improved. Employment in the minor trades is fair.—A. Gee.

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—The collieries have worked about the same number of days per week as in November except during the holidays, when some pits stopped two days, others four, and a few the whole week. A dispute which began in August and affected about 750 men and boys has now been settled. The Yorkshire Miners' Association has ceased to pay out-of-work benefit, as it is considered that the men are now better able to get employment. The society paid about £5,000 during the year 1895 for this purpose.

Glass Bottle Trade.—The glass bottle makers at Stairfoot report 40 per cent. on unemployed benefit. At Barnsley full time is being worked, but a few are unemployed. The flint glass makers at Barnsley report 17 per cent. on unemployed benefit.

Iron Works.—The ironfounders report employment as moderate at Barnsley, with 7 per cent. unemployed.—J. Wadsworth.

Sheffield and District.

General.—The holidays have been less protracted than usual, and at many firms work was partially resumed before the close of the year.

Iron and Steel Industries.—The blast furnacemen are well employed, and there is a continued increase in the output of pig iron. Merchant iron rollers report employment as good, with none idle. Armour plate makers and makers of shot and shell are busy. Siemens steel smelters are well employed, and the Bessemer steel trade has again improved. There is good demand for tool and other steels of best quality; workmen in these sections are better employed than for some time past. The iron and steel foundries report employment as moderate with 10·5 per cent. unemployed, as against 8·5 per cent. in November, the increase being chiefly owing to the holidays. The engineers continue to improve, and at some firms a considerable amount of overtime is being made. Boiler and girder makers and nut and bolt makers are fairly well employed. Makers of cycle tyres and parts are well off for work. Employment on iron pipes, colliery castings, miners' tools and small castings for mining machinery is fair, and on railway material generally it has improved. In Rotherham, Masbrough and Parkgate iron and steel workers are well employed.

Cutlery and Tools.—The table blade trade has improved, the grinding wheels having run more overtime than for several years past, and no competent men being out of work. The workmen in the spring knife line have also been fairly well employed. The razor trade has slightly improved, the grinders reporting 5 per cent. unemployed, and about 30 per cent. on short time. Scissor-makers are busier. In edge tools employment is fair, only 3 per cent. of the grinders being out of work (as against 4 per cent. in November). The engineers' tool makers report employment as good, with none idle; the patent sheep shear grinders and benders as improved. The file trade is busy.

Other Metal Trades.—In the silver trade the stampers have been rather slacker, with 2 per cent. unemployed; the smiths are well employed, with only 1·5 per cent. out of work, and the finishers are all fully employed; the Britannia metal smiths and electroplaters and the brassworkers have been fairly well employed. In the Rotherham district gas and water meter makers, brassworkers and bath and stove grate makers are busy.

Building Trades.—The stonemasons report employment as declining; the bricklayers as fair; the carpenters and joiners as declining, with 6·6 per cent. unemployed; the plasterers as moderate; the painters and decorators as fair for the season; the plumbers as slacker.

Miscellaneous.—The coachmakers, with 10 per cent. unemployed, are slack, and have had 10 days' holiday. Railway carriage and

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

wagon builders report employment as bad, the majority being on short time. The letterpress printers have 10 per cent. unemployed. In the Rotherham district potters and glassblowers are well employed, and railway wagon builders are fairly so.—S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Out of 2,151 union members in these trades, 59 (or 2·8 per cent.) are unemployed, a slight increase on November. Engineers at the locomotive works are fairly well employed. Bridge, girder and boiler yards continue busy. The boiler-makers in Derby, Ilkeston, and Burton-on-Trent report employment as fair, with few unemployed. The iron-founders, with about 10 per cent. idle in all districts, report employment as bad in Derby, Chesterfield and Codnor, and moderate in Butterley; the brass-moulders and finishers, and pattern-makers as fair; the stove-grate workers in Belper district, as dull; and the lace machine builders in Long Eaton as good. Cycle workers are busy.

Iron Trades.—These trades show no improvement; but the malleable iron branch remains fair.

Coal Mining.—In Denby miners generally are on full time; in Ilkeston they are working from 3½ to 5 days per week; in West Hallam, 5 days; in Chesterfield, 3½ days; in Clay Cross, house coal, 3 days; gas coal, 6 days; in Ripley, soft coal, 5 days; hard coal, 4 days; in Codnor district, soft coal, 5 days; hard coal, 5½ days; in Alfreton, soft coal, 5 to 6 days, few men being totally unemployed.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen continue fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally remains good. The painters and decorators, however, report employment as bad.

Textile Trades.—The lace trade in Long Eaton is slack, with many unemployed. Improvement is noticeable in Borrowash. Employment in the cotton trade is unsatisfactory in Glossop, dull in Belper, and good in Borrowash. The wool, silk, and merino manufacturers in Lea and Holloway continue fairly busy. The dyers and hand-frame knitters in Belper district are quiet. The elastic web weavers and surgical bandage-makers report employment as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as good with the tailors and dress and mantle makers, but as slack with the boot and shoe operatives, with none totally unemployed, but the majority on short time.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as good, with few unemployed.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—In the railway carriage and wagon building trades at Derby employment is dull, 4 to 5 days per week being worked. In Long Eaton wagon builders and repairers continue fully employed. Coachbuilders in private shops are fairly well employed; cabinet-makers report employment as good. Sawyers and woodworking machinists and most of the timber workers are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—The shoeing and general smiths, millers and paper-makers report employment as fair; the brushmakers and gas workers as good; the bakers as slack.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment in the levers' branch is fair, and the improvement reported in the curtain branch is well maintained; it is good in the plain net branch, but moderate in the warp lace branch. The operative lacemakers, the warp lacemakers and the wappers, with a total membership of 3,770, return 3·6 per cent. as unemployed, as against 2·9 per cent. at the end of November.

Hosiery Trade.—The improvement in the hosiery trade is fairly well maintained in heavy goods and half hose. The rib-top branch is not so brisk, but has no unemployed. The hand-frame branch at Sutton returns 20 per cent. as unemployed. The circular hosiery branch at Nottingham continues quiet; the hand-frame branch of shirt and pantaloons makers is well employed. Work on Shetland and wool shawls is moderate at Hucknall Torkard. Employment is fairly brisk at Mansfield in the power branch. The women workers generally are well employed. The bleachers and trimmers on hosiery report a slight improvement.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 26 collieries, employing 11,400 men, show an average of about 4 days' employment per week. Collieries are slightly better employed in the Worksop district than in South Nottinghamshire.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineering has again improved, with fewer unemployed. Four branches of the engineers in

Nottingham, with 973 members, return only 2 per cent. as unemployed. Lace machine builders are busy, hosiery machine builders fairly so. The ironfounders at Nottingham and Mansfield have 9 per cent. idle, as against 7·3 in November, the decline having occurred in Mansfield. The cycle trade is good at Beeston and Nottingham. The bobbin and carriage makers report employment as moderate, but improving; the carriage straighteners and brass-workers as fair; the irondressers as improving, with none unemployed. Engineers at Newark, Mansfield, and Beeston make favourable reports. Tool machinists are not well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers, lithographic printers and artists, and the bookbinders, out of 578 members, return 4·7 per cent. as unemployed.

Railways.—Heavy goods traffic at Newark, Retford, Worksop, Mansfield, Netherfield, Colwick, and Toton Siding has been brisk. Passenger traffic has been busy. Employment is good at Nottingham in all branches.

Building Trades.—Fourteen branches of these trades, with 2,776 members, return 2·3 per cent. as unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—Coachbuilders report employment as moderate; the tailors as quiet; the boot and shoe finishers as bad; the blast furnacemen at Bulwell as brisk.—W. L. Harvstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—Improvement is reported throughout this district, fewer workpeople being wholly unemployed or on short time. Employment is rather quieter with tanners and curriers, but continues brisk in the shoe mercery branch.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade is good. In the bespoke branch it is fair at Leicester; slack at Northampton. Silk hatters are well employed; capmakers and felt hatters moderately so. In the stay manufactories work is still plentiful; dressmakers are in full work; milliners are busier, and mantle-makers rather slacker.

Hosiery, Yarn and Spinning Trades.—Employment continues good in all branches of the hosiery trade except on fancy goods. In some of the yarn and wool-spinning factories overtime has been worked. The dyers and trimmers continue fully employed; the woollers moderately so.

Elastic Web and Rubber Industries.—Workpeople are well employed in all branches.

Engineering, Iron and Cycle Trades.—At Leicester and Northampton general engineers, shoe and hosiery machine builders, needle-makers and ironfounders are well employed. At Loughborough the pattern-makers, boiler-makers, moulders, lampmakers, dynamo-builders, fitters, and turners are slack. The cycle-makers are busier.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment is only moderate with coal-miners, good with ironstone-workers and quarrymen engaged on broken stone, but slack in the sett and kerb branches.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Both at Leicester and Northampton letterpress and lithographic printers have been well employed. The bookbinders are in full work.

Building Trades.—Employment with bricklayers, bricklayers' labourers, carpenters and joiners, plasterers and stonemasons is good at Leicester, moderate at Loughborough, Northampton and Kettering, and bad in the Coalville district. Painters, plumbers and glaziers are moderately employed. Gasfitters are still busy.

Furnishing and Coachbuilding Trades.—Employment is reported as fair in the furnishing trades. Carriage-builders, road, tram and railway car builders, polishers, painters and smiths are in full work.

Railways.—Railway workmen in the Leicester district are in regular work. At Rugby and Northampton employment is not quite so full in the goods department. Railway wagon builders are not so fully employed. On the new railway full time is being worked.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with brick and tile makers, blacksmiths, sawyers, gas stokers, paper box and packing-case makers, cigar-makers, shoe lace makers, bone button makers and carters, and slacker with brushmakers, saddlers and basket-makers.

T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment continues brisk, although holidays and stock-taking have caused interruptions in these and other trades. The hollow-ware pressers report 0·5 per cent. out of work, and the sanitary pressers and flat pressers have no unemployed. The printers and transferrers are not so busy. All other branches send good reports.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND AND EASTERN COUNTIES.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The operatives have been fairly well employed, but stocktaking is now going on, and consequently very little work is being done.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, boiler-makers, and ironfounders at Stoke report trade as good, with none out of work. At Hanley and Burslem employment is bad, fully 4 per cent. being idle. At Crewe employment is moderate; the steam engine makers have 3 per cent.; the boiler-makers, 1 per cent.; the ironfounders, 4½ per cent.; and the engineers, 1 per cent. unemployed. At Stafford employment is not so good, 2 per cent. being idle; at Congleton it is moderate. At Uttoxeter the agricultural engineers are not so busy. Copper works at Oakamoor and Frogghall are on full time.

Coal Mining.—The miners have been moderately employed, but are now working about 5 days per week.

Textile Trades.—At Leek in the silk trade there are none actually out of work, but in some departments short time is worked occasionally. At Congleton silkdressers report employment as good, the throwsters as busy; the trimming weavers as quiet. Fustian cutting remains good. At Cheadle and Tean in the tape factories employment is moderate.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone report employment as indifferent. At Stafford, owing to the introduction of machinery, a great displacement of labour has taken place. The tailors report employment as slack in the Potteries; as quiet at Stafford, with 2 per cent. idle; and as quiet at Crewe.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers in the Potteries report full employment. The joiners are well employed, with 4 per cent. idle. Employment is bad at Leek in all branches, with 3 per cent. unemployed, moderate at Crewe, and declining at Stafford. The stone quarrymen at Hollington and Alton, and brick and tile makers at all yards are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as declining, with 7 per cent. unemployed in the Potteries; the lithographic artists and printers as moderate; the bookbinders and machine rulers as unchanged.

Miscellaneous.—Brushmakers are moderately employed. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter are well employed. Railway servants at Stoke, Stafford and Crewe have been exceptionally busy.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—These trades have been fairly brisk in South Staffordshire. Employment with ironworkers has been good in East Worcestershire, and has improved in South Shropshire.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—The engineers and constructive machinists have maintained the recent improvement in the Wolverhampton district, and are well employed in East Worcestershire, but are slacker in South Shropshire. Heavy ironfounders, hydraulic and electrical engineers have been busy, with overtime at some firms. Moulders are fully occupied. The iron door and safe makers have none on the out-of-work books. Employment with the tool-makers and machinists is steady. Cycle-makers and electrical workers are busy. The bridge and girder constructors, and the tank and boiler-makers have been fully employed. The railway sheds are on full time.

Hardware Trades.—Employment has been good amongst tinplate workers, brass and copper workers, tube workers, galvanizers, hollow-ware enamellers, makers of cable chains, edge tools, fenders, bedsteads, malleable nails and castings, spring traps, and iron hurdles and fences; improved amongst makers of hollow-ware, vices and anvils, wrought nails and locks; fair among ironplate workers and japanners; declining amongst plantation hoe makers; and dull amongst key stampers.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe-makers report employment as fairly good, and full time is general. The tailors are slack.

Coal Mining.—In the Cannock Chase (house coal) district employment is reported as having slightly declined. At Hednesford miners are only working about 3½ days per week. In the Black Country district (manufacturing coal) the recent improvement has been barely maintained. In South Shropshire the collieries are working full time.

Wood-working and Furnishing Trades.—All branches in this section report employment as moderate, except the brush-makers, who are busy, and the mill-sawyers and machinists, who report a decline.

Glass-making.—The glass bottle trade at Brierley Hill continues depressed, but the flint glass trade has been good throughout the district.

Building Trades.—These trades have been well employed generally, with a decline at the end of the month. The brickmakers have been busy, but fireclay-workers have been quieter.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers at Wolverhampton, with about 6 per cent. unemployed, have not been so busy. At West Bromwich employment is better.

Miscellaneous.—Oil, colour and varnish makers continue fully employed. Railway men, carters, carriers, canal boatmen and gas stokers have been well employed. In Kidderminster the wool spinners continue busy, and there has been a steady improvement amongst the carpet weavers.—*W. F. Mee.*

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—All branches report employment as good. A proportion are working overtime, and in the whole district only 10 men are returned as unemployed.

Brass and Copper Working.—Employment in every branch of the brass trade is good, and the stoppage for holidays has been only half the usual length. Chandelier and gasfitting work has not been so busy for many years; and the same may be said about electric fittings. Copper-smiths' work has greatly improved, and only a few are out of employment.

Other Metal Trades.—Bedstead work is very good, with none unemployed, and about 1,000 men on overtime. Tin-plate and iron-plate trades are both fairly busy. Tube and wire drawers have in most cases constant employment. Steel-pen making is returned as fair. The cycle trade is busier than usual at this time of year. Workers in cycle components are busy.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Employment on jewellers' and silversmiths' work is fairly good. Electro-plate work is good, many firms working overtime, with no operatives on short time or unemployed.

Building Trades.—Carpenters in three branches return employment as fair, with several working overtime; the plasterers as good, with a few idle.

Other Trades in Birmingham.—The flint glass-workers report employment as unaltered; the glass-bevellers and silverers as busy; the railway carriage and wagon-workers as brisk, but private coach-builders as moderate; the printers as moderate; the cabinet-makers as quiet, except on school furniture. Vegetable ivory button-workers are only making three days per week.

Trades in South Staffordshire.—Iron and steel workers are all fully employed. Vice and anvil work is improving, but with some still on short time. The chain makers return employment as good, with only 1 per cent. unemployed. All galvanised work is brisk. Sheet and tube-strip rollers and tube makers are busy. The lock trade is brisk. All through the district work is good.—*W. J. Davis.*

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

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Electrical engineers at Norwich are busy, but other branches are not so well employed, several men being idle; at Yarmouth work with the engineers is fair, with shipwrights dull; at Lynn and Melton Constable the engineers are working full time with none idle; at Lowestoft the shipwrights are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Full time is being worked at the silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth, but at the latter place trade has been dull and several have been discharged.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe trade at Norwich and at Cambridge is dull. The clothing factories at Norwich are running full time, and one large firm has been working overtime, although the others are not busy. Tailors in the bespoke branch at Norwich, Lynn, Yarmouth and Cambridge are slack, but with few unemployed.

Building Trades.—At Norwich, Cromer, Yarmouth and Lowestoft these trades have been fair, except with painters, who are slack. At Cambridge these trades are slack, but with few idle. At Lynn both the bricklayers and carpenters are slack, with several unemployed.

Furnishing and Coachbuilding Trades.—The cabinet-makers at Norwich and Yarmouth are fairly busy; the coachbuilders at Norwich, Dereham and Fakenham are dull, but have few unemployed.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers have been fairly busy at Norwich, Fakenham and Yarmouth; the lithographic printers have been busy.

Miscellaneous.—Brushmakers at Norwich, Diss and Wymondham are fairly well employed; maltsters are busy throughout the district. Fishing at Yarmouth and Lowestoft has been bad, and shore labour, particularly in Yarmouth, has suffered. Navvies and dock labourers are not so well employed.—*G. Cleverley.*

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—S.E. COUNTIES (contd.), S.W. COUNTIES & WALES.

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—The improvement among the engineers at Ipswich has been maintained, and at Colchester overtime prevails. Employment is good at Bury St. Edmunds, Halstead and Earl's Colne; fair at Chelmsford and Leiston, and bad at Wickham Market. The boiler-makers at Ipswich report employment as moderate. Shipbuilding at Ipswich continues dull.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe makers at Ipswich report employment as dull for the time of year; at Colchester as fair. Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade is good in all departments at Ipswich, but dull at Colchester. The stay and corset makers at Ipswich and Sudbury report employment as fairly good.

Textile Trades.—The matmakers at Lavenham and Long Melford report employment as good; at Sudbury, Hadleigh, and Glemsford as moderate. Employment in the silk trade is reported as good at Sudbury and Halstead, and as fair at Bocking and Braintree. The crape trade is reported as good at Braintree.

Building Trades.—At Ipswich the bricklayers and carpenters have been well employed; the plasterers and painters report employment as dull, the stonemasons as bad. At Bury St. Edmunds these trades are good; at Halstead moderate. The carpenters at Sudbury have been working overtime; the bricklayers and painters report employment as moderate. At Colchester the bricklayers report employment as dull, the carpenters as moderate. At Chelmsford employment is good with the carpenters, and fair with the bricklayers.

Printing Trades.—Employment with the letterpress printers has declined at Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds; is good at Beccles, and moderate at Colchester.

Miscellaneous.—At Ipswich employment is good with the gasworkers, cigar-makers, sack, rick-cloth and tent makers; moderate with the coachbuilders; quiet in the horticultural works; improved with dock labourers, but still depressed with general labourers. At Colchester the leather-workers and gasworkers are well employed. At Beccles the coachbuilders and at Braintree the xylonite workers are busy. At Chelmsford horticultural work is busy.

R. W. Mather.

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

General.—Returns received from 68 trade societies and branches, with a membership of 17,447, report 1,339 (or 7.7 per cent.) as totally unemployed at the end of December, including 520 persons affected by a dispute at a colliery in the Forest of Dean.

Building Trades.—Out of 2,406 members in these trades, 129 (or 5.4 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 5.3 per cent. at the end of November. The painters and decorators report employment as bad; the brickmakers and lathrenders as improving; the bricklayers as dull at Bristol, Bridgwater and Gloucester, and fair at Swindon; the plasterers as slack at Bristol, and fair at Gloucester; the carpenters and joiners as moderate at Bristol, Cheltenham, Taunton and Hereford; dull at Bath, and good at Stroud.

Clothing Trades.—The Bristol boot and shoe industry is reported as quiet, but improving; in the Kingswood district as fairly good. The silk hatters report employment as quiet, with 19 per cent. idle; the wholesale garment makers and bespoke tailors as slack.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Bristol and Somerset coalfields is reported as improving, five days per week being generally worked in the latter district. In the Forest of Dean employment continues steady with house and steam coal-miners.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with coopers, basket-makers, cabinet-makers and upholsterers. The mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists describe employment as moderate; the box and packing-case makers as depressed; the brushmakers as slack, with 18 per cent. unemployed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The bookbinders, machine rulers, and lithographic printers are fully employed; the letterpress printers report about 5 per cent. idle in the district, and employment as overstocked at Bath, fairly good at Bristol, and good at Gloucester.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Out of 2,524 members in these trades, 31 (or 1.2 per cent.) are reported as unemployed, as against 1.9 per cent. at the end of November. The engineers and sheet ironworkers report employment as fair; the boiler-makers as dull at Bristol, and good at Swindon; the shipwrights on repairs as fair, with 15 per cent. unemployed; the ironfounders as moderate at Bristol, and fairly good at Gloucester; the smiths and strikers

as steady; the cycle workers as bad; the galvanizers as unusually busy; the brassfounders and finishers as fairly good; the railway wagon and coach builders as good at Swindon, and fair at Gloucester and Bristol.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment with sailors and firemen at Bristol is reported as good; with quayside labourers as fair on timber and grain work, and as slack on general cargo work. At Bridgwater dock employment is depressed.

Miscellaneous.—The saddle and harness makers report employment as slack, with some on short time; the curriers as fairly good; the railway servants as regular; the bakers and confectioners as depressed; the gasworkers and cotton operatives as busy; the glass bottle makers as dull; the general labourers as bad.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and Clay Industries.—There is no improvement among metal miners in Cornwall, and a further number have left for South Africa. The quarrymen are fairly well employed. The clay industry continues unchanged.

Engineering and Allied Trades.—The engineers report employment as good throughout the district. The Plymouth and Devonport branches, with about 780 members, are fully employed. The ironfounders report employment as good, and men at the Keyham steam factory are working time and a half. The boiler-makers are fairly well employed; the brassworkers are busy.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made and bespoke departments of the tailoring trade and the boot and shoe workers have been quiet. The closing of a boot and shoe factory at Redruth has thrown a number out of work.

Building Trades.—With a few exceptions these trades have been fairly good. Masons, carpenters, and bricklayers in Plymouth and district and at Exeter are busy. Plasterers in some cases have shown a decline. Painters and plumbers are rather slack, but with few unemployed for the time of year.

Dock Labour and Shipping.—Coal porters have been busy. Grain carriers and other general labourers have been better employed. Seamen report no change.

Printing Trades.—Both the letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as fair, with few unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The coachbuilders, smiths and wheelwrights report employment as quiet; the furniture-workers as fair; the brush-makers as improved; the bakers as slack; the brick and tile makers as busy. The fishing industry is bad. Gasworkers have improved. A number of general labourers are unemployed.—*J. Welland.*

WALES.**South Wales District.**

Coal Mining.—The men have made full time in December at but few collieries. There was, however, somewhat better employment in the house coal district.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Changes in the shipping of new crews have not been as frequent as usual in December. Coal shipments have been good at every port, and especially at Barry. Employment in the timber and pitwood trade has been fair, and good in the iron ore and copper ore trades. The corn porters have not been busy.

Building Trades.—The masons, plasterers, bricklayers and plumbers report employment as moderate; the carpenters and joiners (with 4½ per cent. unemployed), paper-hangers and decorators, as bad.

Ship-repairing and Engineering.—Every branch has much improved, but employment generally is still reported as bad. The engineers report 1 per cent. as unemployed at Barry, 4 per cent. at Cardiff, 8 per cent. at Newport, and 7½ per cent. at Swansea. Throughout the whole of South Wales 20 branches of the engineers, with a total membership of 2,692, report 103 (or 3.8 per cent.) as unemployed, exclusive of those on strike. The boiler-makers report employment as fair, with an average of 12½ per cent. unemployed during the month; at Newport it has been good. The shipwrights have had a somewhat better month than usual lately, and the number unemployed has declined, although it is still 25 per cent.; the shipjoiners report employment as moderate, with 4 per cent. unemployed; the moulders as bad, especially at Cardiff, 25 per cent. signing the out-of-work book.

Tinplate Trade.—Employment is again depressed. One works at Neath has only one mill working out of three; another has now definitely closed, the stoppage affecting about 250 men; another has two mills running and one idle. At two works at Briton Ferry notice has been given to terminate contracts, and most of the works at Aberavon are slack.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS.—WALES (continued) AND SCOTLAND.

Iron and Steel Trade.—The iron trade is still dull; the steel trade is improving; at Ebbw Vale and Blaenavon work is in full swing, and other steel works report employment as good. The steel tube works at Landore continue busy.

Miscellaneous.—The waggon-builders, lathrenders, mill-sawyers, compositors, lithographers and bookbinders report employment as moderate; the patent fuel workers as good. The copper and chemical industries remain dull.—*T. Davies.*

Another report from *South Wales* states that a circular has been issued by the Tinplate Workers' Union, instructing all members working on monthly contracts to give notice to terminate them in 28 days. This notice will affect about 15 tinplate works, all the remainder being on weekly or daily contracts.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Lothians continues fairly good. In Mid and East Lothian about 80 per cent. of the miners are working full time, the remainder about three-quarter time. In West Lothian the miners are generally getting about ten days' work per fortnight.

Mineral Oil Trades.—This industry continues busy, and all sections of the workers are well employed. Of the men employed at 21 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian, 93.1 per cent. were at mines which worked full time during the four weeks ended December 28th. The owners of 19 of these mines had 2,439 men employed, as compared with 2,051 in December 1894.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, blacksmiths, pattern-makers, horse-shoers, and range, stove and ornamental fitters report employment as fair; the irongrinders, brassfounders, and coppersmiths as good. In the Falkirk district both the light and heavy moulders report employment as good; in the Edinburgh district the heavy branches report employment as good, and the light branches as fair. Returns from 16 branches of unions show 2.1 per cent. out of work.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in the shipyards on the Firth of Forth has improved. In Kirkcaldy the boiler-makers report employment as bad; the boiler-makers return 13.3 per cent. unemployed in Leith, the shipwrights 13 per cent.

Textile Trades.—The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as still good. In Leith the ropeworkers are fully employed. The linen industry in Dunfermline continues quiet, but the workers generally are fairly well employed. In Galashiels the woollen industry is generally quiet, with a number of weavers idle. In Selkirk spinners and dyers are busy, but weavers are less so. Hosiery workers are fully employed. In Hawick both the woollen and hosiery workers report employment as quiet.

Building Trades.—The plasterers, glaziers, masons, bricklayers and lathsplitters report employment as good; the joiners, slaters and plumbers as fair; the painters as bad.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The sawmill operatives report employment as good; the French polishers and brushmakers as fair; the cabinet-makers as quiet; the coachmakers as bad. Returns from nine branches of unions show 4.3 per cent. idle.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The shipping trade is a little quieter, owing mainly to the closing of the Baltic; the seamen and firemen, however, report very few as unemployed. Employment with the coal porters and dock labourers is fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The press and machine men, bookbinders, lithographic printers, stereotypers and lithographic artists report employment as good; the compositors and typesetters as unchanged, the latter working only five days per week. Returns from seven branches of unions show 2.4 per cent. idle.

Miscellaneous.—The settmakers, pipemakers, glasscutters and gilders report employment as good; the saddlers as quiet; the skinners and bakers as fair; the curriers, shoemakers and tailors as bad; a considerable number of general labourers are unemployed.

J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—The shipwrights reported no change up to December 28th. The shipjoiners report employment as unchanged. In Dumbarton the shipbuilding yards are fairly busy. In Greenock the engineers are idle through the dispute, with few exceptions; joiners are dull, with about 100 idle; shipwrights also are slack, being hampered by the dispute. In Port Glasgow, out of 713 boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, 14 per cent. are idle, and out of 120 blacksmiths 15 per cent.; but shipwrights, joiners, and helpers have been fully employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—About the same number of engineers as reported last month are still idle through the dispute. [See page 16.] The ironmoulders and blacksmiths have more unemployed, but report employment as good except for the dispute. Plumbers report employment as moderate. In Paisley employment with engineers and pattern-makers is reported as good; with ironmoulders, blacksmiths and plumbers as moderate; in Dumbarton these branches are busy, some of them only getting two days' holidays. The iron-drillers report one-third idle through the dispute; their holidays began on December 21st. The iron-dressers report employment as good; the pattern-makers as fair, with 4.3 per cent. idle; the range, stove, and ornamental fitters as exceptionally good; the wireworkers, brass moulders, brass finishers, enginemakers and firemen as good; the cranemen as dull; the tinplate workers as not so busy. In Motherwell nut and bolt making is dull.

Iron and Steel Trades.—At Clydebank and Wishaw the iron and steel trades have been fully employed, and the 300 men thrown idle in November are all at work. In the Motherwell district employment in the iron and steel works has been good.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the West of Scotland is better than it has been at the same period for several years, and the trade is very fairly distributed among the various districts. From some of the poorer districts come reports of the closing of small pits, the seams being exhausted. Meetings of the Scottish Miners' Federation and of delegates of the miners of the Lanarkshire districts were held this month to deal with the improvement of the miners' organisation.

Building Trades.—Except in Greenock and amongst the painters, employment in these trades continues good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The packing-box makers, coopers, saw-millers and wood-carvers report employment as good; the cabinet and chairmakers as dull, with over 3 per cent. idle; the coachmakers as unchanged, with 4.3 per cent. idle; the wood turners as declining.

Textile Trades.—Favourable reports come from the weavers in all branches of these trades and from the calendermen, beamers, spindle and flyer makers, Paisley thread workers and carpet weavers, and the Greenock woollen operatives. The dyers are slack.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade is dull, especially in the lower grades, which are much affected by the dispute in the shipbuilding industry. The knee shoemakers report employment as quiet; the boot and shoe operatives as fair; the boot, pump, and slipper makers as dull, but with none idle.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report no improvement. The dock labourers have been well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as fair, with 4 per cent. idle; the lithographic printers as maintaining their improvement, with 3 per cent. unemployed; the bookbinders and machine rulers as good, with 2 per cent. idle; the stereotypers and electrotypers as good, with none idle.

Miscellaneous.—Pottery-workers and bottle-makers report employment as good; plate-glass makers and flint-glass cutters as dull. Tobacco pipe makers, cigarette-makers, brushmakers, calico engravers and gilders report work as good; carters, railway servants and cabmen as fair.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in these trades remains practically unchanged. Juteworkers are well employed, and a mill closed for some time through a breakdown has been restarted. About 100 workers have been temporarily thrown idle through a fire in a carpet factory. The linen trade continues satisfactory, all looms being at work.

Coal Mining.—At 10 collieries in Fifeshire, employing about one-third of the coal miners in the county, employment has been fairly good, but the average time worked at all the mines in the district has not been more than four days per week. In the Clackmannan district the pits with one exception are working steadily.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Work in these trades remains good in machine-making shops, and moderate in the marine department. The engineers report employment as moderate, with 3 per cent. idle; the blacksmiths, with 5 per cent. unemployed, and the ironmoulders, with nearly 18 per cent., as fair; the boiler-makers, and iron shipbuilders as still slack; the shipwrights as fair on repair work.

Building Trades.—The masons report employment as good; the plasterers as fair; the carpenters and joiners as moderate, with

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

about 8 per cent. idle; the plumbers and painters as slack, with a number unemployed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as good; the bookbinders as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as fair, with none idle; the carvers and upholsterers as slack; the sawmillers and woodcutting machinists as good.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing has been interfered with by the stormy weather; otherwise fair takes are reported. The Tay sparring fishing has proved fairly successful.

Dock and General Labour.—Dock labour has been good during the month, in consequence of further arrivals of jute consignments from India. General labourers are moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors report employment at the beginning of the month as fair, but at the close indifferent. The boot and shoe trade is moderate. Floorcloth and linoleum makers are fully employed.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen and settmakers report employment as good, with none idle; monumental masons and granite polishers as moderate; building masons and granite hewers as busy.

Building Trades.—The plasterers, with 5 per cent. idle, report employment as slack; the plumbers, with 2 per cent. idle, and the painters, with 8 per cent. idle, as moderate; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers' labourers as good.

Fishing.—In December the trawl boats landed 27,088 cwts., realising £20,978 and the line boats 8,511 cwts., realising £5,858, a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value, as compared with November.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, with 13.5 per cent. idle, report employment as declining; the shipwrights, with 4.7 per cent. idle, the ironmoulders and the blacksmiths as good; the tinplate workers, with none idle, and the engineers as moderate; the pattern-makers, with 12.9 per cent. idle, as bad.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment in the woollen, flax, and jute industries is good. The cotton trade shows no improvement. The carpet-weavers, rope and twine spinners, hemp-dressers, and boot and shoe operatives report employment as good; the tailors as bad.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as improved; the lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers as good; the paper-workers as fair.

Furniture and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet chairmakers, sawmillers and woodcutting machinists and coachmakers report employment as good; the woodcarvers and woodturners as fair; the upholsterers as dull.

Miscellaneous.—The combmakers, horse-shoers, toolsmiths and railway servants report employment as good; the dock labourers as fair; the saddlers and general labourers as dull.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

General.—Sixty-seven branches of trade societies, with a membership of 16,500, report 1,432, or 8.7 per cent., as unemployed.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good among the stonecutters, bricklayers, plasterers, sawyers, lathsplitters and slaters; dull with the painters, plumbers, glaziers and whiteners; fair with the carpenters and joiners, with several idle, and with the builders' labourers, paviors and paviors' labourers.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is fair with the cabinet-makers and upholsterers; quiet with the coachbuilders and coopers; dull with the cart and wagon builders.

Metal Trades.—Employment is dull among engineers, smiths, and brassfounders; quiet with boiler-makers; fair with tinsmiths.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Work was brisk with the letterpress printers; on the last day of December only 35, or 4.1 per cent., were idle; employment was fair with the lithographic printers, stereotypers, paper-cutters, machine and despatch hands; dull with the binders; busy with the bookfolders.

Clothing Trades.—The tailoring industry is depressed; the hand-sewn boot and shoe makers report employment as fairly good; riveters as bad. The dressmakers and milliners were fairly well employed until the holidays.

Miscellaneous.—Fishing has been interrupted by the weather. The bottle-workers have been fairly busy. The corkcutters maintain last month's improvement. Employment is dull among

the farriers, ropemakers, brushmakers and basket-makers; fair with the saddlers, organ-builders, millers, engine-drivers, dock labourers, general labourers, tram and railway servants and electricians; bad with the tally-clerks and grain-checkers, and the polishers; good with the shipwrights, vanmen, cab and carmen; improving with the weavers.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

General.—Returns received from 56 trade societies, with a membership of 18,968, show 4,311 (or 22.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 4,369 (or 23 per cent.) of the membership at the end of November. This number includes all society members affected directly or indirectly by the disputes in the engineering trade. (See account on p. 16.)

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of the 8,153 union members engaged in these trades, from which returns have been received, 3,699 (or 45.4 per cent.) are unemployed (mainly owing to the disputes), as against 3,908 (or 47.4 per cent.) of the membership at the end of November. The general labourers and platers' helpers report employment as bad, the blacksmiths, strikers, brassfounders, iron shipbuilders, engineers, carpenters and joiners, machine workers, pattern-makers, and shipwrights as unsettled; the cranemen, firemen, and enginemakers, and furniture workers as fair; and the ironfounders as good. Short time still prevails in one yard.

Linen Trades.—Of the 4,270 members of trade unions engaged in these industries, 151 (or 3.5 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 160 (or 3.8 per cent. of the membership) at the end of November. The power-loom tenters and yandressers report employment as dull; the women workers and spindle and flyer-makers as fair; the flax-roughers as middling; the beetling enginemakers, flaxdressers, hackle and gillmakers, linen-lappers and yarbundlers as good.

Clothing Trades.—Of the 709 members in these trades, 9 are stated to be out of work. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull; the tailors as quiet, the majority working short time.

Building Trades.—Out of the 2,708 members connected with these trades, 330 (or 12.2 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 195 (or 7.2 per cent. of the membership) at the end of November. The plumbers and house-painters report employment as bad, the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as quiet, the hodsmen and the mill-sawyers and machinists as fair, and the bricklayers as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Of the 595 union members employed in these industries, 29 (or 5 per cent.) are out of work, as against 19 (or 3.2 per cent. of the membership) at the end of November. The coachbuilders and packing-case makers report employment as dull; the brushmakers, cabinet-makers, and French-polishers, as fair; the upholsterers as quiet; the coopers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Of the 827 members of trade societies employed in these industries, 34 (or 4.1 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 33 (or 4 per cent. of the membership) at the end of November. The bookbinders and the lithographic printers report employment as good; the letterpress printers as improving, and the lithographic artists as fair.

Miscellaneous.—In this group of nine societies, with a membership of 1,706, 59 (or 3.5 per cent.) are reported as unemployed, as against 48 (or 2.8 per cent. of the membership) at the end of November. The carters report employment as quiet; the paviors as dull; the sailmakers as bad; the bakers, butchers, tinplate workers, and the hotel and club assistants as fair; the locomotive engine drivers and the railway servants as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineering trade is dull in all branches. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights, shipjoiners, riggers and sailmakers in Cork and Passage West also report employment as dull.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, slaters, plasterers, masons, stone-cutters and stucco-workers report employment as fair; the painters as bad; the plumbers and gasfitters as declining. No change is reported in Waterford and Limerick.

Clothing Trades.—The flax, tweed and feather operatives remain busy; tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers and upholsterers report employment as unsettled; the mill-sawyers as good; the coachmakers, corkcutters, and brush and bellows makers as fair; the coopers as bad.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as dull; the quay labourers, coal porters and farriers as fair; the railway servants, engine drivers, gasworkers, corporation and builders' labourers and brewery workmen as good.—*P. O'Shea.*

RECENT PROGRESS OF THE DISPUTE IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE.

THE record of events in connection with the wages dispute in the engineering trade at Belfast and on the Clyde was brought down in the last issue of the GAZETTE (p. 368) to December 13th. At that time the proposals put forward by the employers as to conditions of settlement at the conference held in Glasgow under the presidency of Lord James on the 10th and 11th December, were under consideration by the workmen involved in the dispute, but their decision had not been fully arrived at. By December 14th the result of the ballot was made known as follows:—

	For Acceptance of Employers' Proposals.	Against.
Greenock	42	407
Belfast	25	879
Glasgow	112	1,557
Clydebank	10	313
	189	3,156

The proposals of the employers were thus rejected by a majority of 2,967. At the Greenock meeting, at which the vote was taken, a resolution was unanimously passed to the effect that the Greenock men should not resume work unless an immediate advance to 7½d. per hour were made, with an additional ¼d. per hour in four months. At the Belfast meeting it was resolved that as an alternative to their first demand 1s. advance immediately, and a like advance in or about April, might be agreed to.

In the face of this vote it was felt by Lord James and the conveners of the Glasgow Conference that a further meeting of the representatives of the disputants was not at present likely to lead to any definite result, and no further conference of the parties has yet been held. During the interval, however, Lord James has been in communication with the representatives of both sides, and, should he find a possibility of agreement, will be able to bring them together again.

On the Clyde there has been a renewal of the agitation among the apprentices in the shops concerned in the dispute. Among the men themselves there seems to be a difference of opinion as to the advisability of encouraging the lads to come out, and in some cases they have advised them to return to work. The number of apprentices said to be entered on the Glasgow strike roll is 150. In the shipbuilding branches the difficulty of finding work for all the hands has to some extent been met by considerable extensions of the New Year holidays. Since the holidays the principal shipbuilding establishment at Belfast has been working three-quarter time only.

Since last month no considerable change has been reported in the number of those either directly or indirectly affected by the dispute. (The approximate total number then was 11,000, of whom 4,500 were directly and 6,500 indirectly affected.)

THE NEW FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

THE following notice calling attention to certain requirements of the Factory and Workshop Act 1895, which came into force on the 1st January, was posted on that day at all police-stations and post-offices in the United Kingdom.

The requirements specially mentioned in this notice are those which apply outside the factories and workshops already on the Inspectors' registers, namely:—The provision requiring all workshops to be registered; the provisions as to out-workers' lists and as to infectious diseases, which apply to persons giving out work to be done at the workers' homes, whether the place where the work is given out be a workshop or not; and the provisions as to accidents which now apply to all workshops, including those in which only men are employed.

The other provisions of the new Act have been brought to the notice of the persons affected by them in the abstracts of the Acts which have been issued by the Home Office to factories, workshops, laundries, &c. There are ten separate abstracts showing the provisions

of the law applicable respectively to textile factories, non-textile factories, workshops, whitelead works, print and dye works, steam laundries, hand laundries, docks, wharves, &c., buildings in course of construction, and domestic factories and workshops:—

Special Notice.

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS:

Every person who is in occupation of a workshop on the first day of January, 1896, and who has not previously served such notice on the Inspector, must serve on the Inspector a written notice containing the name of the workshop, the place where it is situate, the address to which he desires his letters to be addressed, the nature of the work, and the name of the person or firm under which the business is carried on. In default he is liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

Every person who begins to occupy a factory or workshop must within one month after his occupation begins send a like notice to the Inspector, and is liable in default to a like penalty.

The occupier of every factory and workshop in which the following industries are carried on, viz., manufacture of wearing apparel, manufacture of electro-plate, cabinet and furniture-making and upholstery work, manufacture of files, and every occupier of any place from which any work of making wearing apparel for sale is given out, and every contractor employed by any such occupier, must keep a list in a prescribed form showing the names of all persons employed by him in the business of the factory, workshop or place outside such factory, workshop or place, and the places where they are employed. Every such occupier and contractor must, on or before the first day of March and the first day of September in each year, send to the inspector of the district a copy of such list. In default of complying with either of these requirements, the occupier or contractor is liable to a penalty not exceeding 40s.

If any occupier of a factory or workshop or laundry, or of any place from which work is given out, or any contractor employed by any such person, causes or allows wearing apparel to be made, cleaned or repaired in any dwelling-house or building occupied therewith whilst any inmate of the dwelling-house is suffering from scarlet fever or small-pox, then, unless he proves that he was not aware of the existence of the illness and could not reasonably have been expected to become aware of it, he is liable to a fine not exceeding £10.

The occupier of every factory or workshop (including any workshop where no child, young person or woman is employed) must send to the Factory Inspector of the district notice of every accident which causes loss of life to any person employed, or which causes to any person employed such bodily injury as to prevent him on any one of the three working days next after the occurrence of the accident from being employed for five hours on his ordinary work.

All complaints with respect to the sanitary condition, bad ventilation or overcrowding in workshops should be made to the Sanitary Authority for the district.

All complaints with respect to overwork, or dangerous machinery, or dangerous processes in factories and workshops, and with respect to overcrowding, bad ventilation, or the sanitary condition in factories should be made to Her Majesty's Inspector for the district, or to

R. E. SPRAGUE ORAM, Esq., C.B.,
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Factories,
Home Office, London, S.W.

All complaints sent to Her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories are considered confidential.

Home Office, Whitehall,
21st December, 1895.

HOME OFFICE NOTICES.

Lists of Outworkers.

In accordance with Section 27 of the Factory and Workshop Act 1891, and Section 42 of the Act of 1895, the Home Secretary has issued an Order to come into force on February 1st 1896, prescribing a form in which lists of outworkers shall be kept by occupiers of factories and workshops in which is carried on the manufacture of wearing apparel, electro-plate, furniture and upholstery work, and files. In addition such lists must be kept by all contractors employed by such occupiers in the business of the factory or workshop; by the occupiers of places from which any work of making wearing apparel for sale is given out, and by contractors employed by them in connection with such work. The prescribed form distinguishes between outworkers employed as

workmen and those employed as contractors. The lists are to be sent to the Inspector before March 1st and September 1st in each year, and must at all times be open to inspection by Factory Inspectors or Officers of Sanitary Authorities.

Dangerous Trades.

By an Order dated January 1st 1896 the Home Secretary has declared that processes in the mixing and casting of brass, gun metal, bell metal, white metal, delta metal, phosphor bronze and manilla mixture are processes dangerous or injurious to health within the meaning of Section 8 of the Act of 1891. (Factories or workshops in which such processes are carried on are liable to be brought under the operation of special rules and measures.)

LOST TIME IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE.

REFERENCE has already been made in the LABOUR GAZETTE to the inquiry which is being pursued by the Department with regard to fluctuations in employment in various industries. In the GAZETTE for November 1894, page 336, some preliminary results of this inquiry were given relating to the engineering trade in Leeds. In the GAZETTE for June 1895, page 175, some general results of the inquiry with regard to seasonal and cyclical fluctuations in several important groups of trades were published. Some further results are given below with regard to the engineering trade in the Manchester and Leeds districts, in continuation of the figures relating to Leeds only, which were published in the article referred to above. It is to be understood that the present figures, though covering a greater range both as regards number of workpeople and period dealt with than those published in the previous article, are still only partial; they relate to the four years 1887 to 1890. The figures for 1891 and 1892 are at present being compiled, and steps are being taken to extend the inquiry to the Newcastle district as a typical centre of marine engineering. When this has been done it is believed that the statistics will be fully representative of skilled engineers (or at least of those who belong to trade unions) throughout the whole country, and that the period covered (viz., 1887 to 1892) will be fairly representative of good, bad and moderate states of trade.

The statistics of loss of time from want of employment are based, as stated in the previous article, upon an analysis of the "vacant books" of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, in which unemployed members sign their names from day to day. The number of members in the Manchester and Leeds districts varied from 5,701 in 1887 to 6,344 in 1890, the mean membership for the period of four years being 5,918.

Two objects have been kept in view in the inquiry, (1) to ascertain the total amount of time lost in each year through want of employment, as distinguished from sickness and other causes, and the average number of working days lost per member from this cause; (2) to show the manner in which this loss of time was actually distributed among the members; the number of persons whose employment throughout each year was perfectly regular; the number who lost less than a week, from a week to four weeks, &c.

The first of these methods of inquiry is of value for the purpose of judging of the deduction to be made from weekly rates of wages in order to obtain average earnings. The second method shows in what way the burden of fluctuations of employment is distributed, and upon what proportion of the total membership it falls.

With this explanation the two following tables may be given, based on tables in the Abstract of Labour Statistics, recently issued by the Department together with the Second Annual Report of the Department (1894-5), pp. 76 and 77.*

It will be seen from the first table that the average percentage of members unemployed at any given time during the year varied from 8.1 in 1887 (a year of bad trade) to 2.1 in 1890 (a year of good trade), the mean percentage being 4.6. The aggregate number of working days lost through want of employment varied from 140,970 in 1887 to 39,206 in 1889, the number of days

* C. 7,900. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price, 10½d.

lost per member being 24.7 in 1887 and 6.5 in both 1889 and 1890. The mean number of working days lost per member per annum (over the four years) was 14.0.

(A.) Average Loss of Time through Want of Employment.

Statement showing particulars with regard to the aggregate and average loss of time through want of employment by the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in the Manchester and Leeds districts, for each of the years 1887-90.

(Based on the entries in the "Vacant Books" of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.)

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	Mean of 4 Years.
Total number of Members in Districts*	5,701	5,637	5,988	6,344	5,918
Members who were unemployed:—					
(a) For some time during the year					
Total number	2,408	1,943	1,188	1,559	1,775
Percentage	42.2	34.5	19.8	24.6	30.0
(b) At same time during the year:—					
Average number	461	363	129	135	272
Percentage	8.1	6.4	2.2	2.1	4.6
Working days lost through want of employment:—					
Aggregate number	140,970	110,652	39,206	41,175	83,001
Per Member	24.7	19.6	6.5	6.5	14.0
Working days lost by those Members who were unemployed for some period during the year:—					
Average number	58.5	56.9	33.0	64	46.8

(B.) Classification of Workpeople according to Time Lost from want of employment.

Statement showing, with regard to the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in the Manchester and Leeds districts, the number of separate individuals who lost the undermentioned number of working days through want of employment during each of the years 1887-90, so far as is shown by the entries in the "Vacant Books" of the Society.

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	Num-ber.	Percentage of Total Member-ship.
Number who lost no time	3,293	3,694	4,800	4,785	4,143	70.0
Number who lost:						
1 day and up to a week	347	320	260	414	335	5.7
Over 1 week and up to 4 weeks ...	726	601	530	684	635	10.7
" 4 " " " 8 " " "	413	313	181	221	282	4.8
" 8 " " " 12 " " "	259	176	69	102	152	2.6
" 12 " " " 16 " " "	171	128	43	43	96	1.6
" 16 " " " 20 " " "	114	87	23	23	62	1.0
" 20 " " " 24 " " "	82	68	18	22	47	0.8
" 24 " " " 28 " " "	59	69	14	17	40	0.7
" 28 " " " 32 " " "	54	34	14	11	28	0.5
" 32 " " " 36 " " "	40	30	9	4	21	0.4
" 36 " " " 40 " " "	38	38	5	6	22	0.4
" 40 " " " 44 " " "	35	27	5	2	17	0.3
" 44 " " " 48 " " "	25	27	3	3	15	0.2
" 48 " " " 52 " " "	45	25	14	7	23	0.4
Total number who lost some time	2,408	1,943	1,188	1,559	1,775	30.0
Total number of Members in Dis-tricts*	5,701	5,637	5,988	6,344	5,918	100.0

The above tables take no account of sickness. If we add the number of days lost through sickness as shown in the returns of the whole Society† we obtain the following figures, giving approximately the total deduction to be made for want of employment and sickness combined.

Loss of Time through want of employment and sickness combined.

Year.	Average No. of Working Days lost per Member through		
	Want of Work.	Sickness.	Want of Work and Sickness.
1887	24.7	7.7	32.4
1888	19.6	7.7	27.3
1889	6.5	6.8	13.3
1890	6.5	6.8	13.3
Mean for 4 years...	14.0	7.2	21.4

This mean figure (21.4 days, or 7 per cent. of full working time) may be found useful in estimating actual average earnings from standard rates of wages, though, of course, it may be subject to some modification when the inquiry has been further extended, as described above. It is also to be observed that no deduction has been made for time lost through personal causes; idleness, drink, &c.

Passing from this point to the question of the distribution of want of employment among the members of

* Mean number of Members for each year (exclusive of Superannuated Members.)
† See Reports of the Chief Labour Correspondent on Trade Unions.

the Society, we find that the percentage of members who were unemployed for some time during the year (that is who signed the vacant books at least once) varied from 42.2 in 1887 to 19.8 in 1889, the mean percentage for the four years being 30.

Thus on the mean of four years, out of every 1,000 members 700 had constant employment throughout the year (apart from sickness); of the 300 remaining 164 lost four weeks or under; 74 lost from 4 to 12 weeks; 34 from 12 to 24 weeks; and 28 lost more than 24 weeks.

Though the proportion of members who lost a large amount of time through want of employment was small, a great proportion of the aggregate days lost is accounted for by this comparatively small number. Thus of the aggregate days lost in the year among the 5,918 members in the district nearly half is accounted for by the 213 members who lost over 20 weeks.

ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION IN DECEMBER.

Gas Stokers at Newcastle.

CERTAIN claims having been made by the stokers in the employment of a gas company at Newcastle, it was agreed to refer such claims to the arbitration of Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P.

The questions referred to him were :-

1. Whether, when gas is made on Sundays, the retort house men should, as they claim, have double pay on that day.
2. Whether they should have double pay for Good Friday.
3. Whether, in engaging and discharging men, the principle of seniority of service should be recognised.

The company contended that the question of double pay on Sundays had practically been settled, it not having been provided for in the agreement of 1895. The terms of Mr. Burt's award on the first two points, issued December 4th, are as follows :-

1. That all retort house men working on the 8 hours shifts be paid at the rate of time and a half on existing wages for the first two shifts of 8 hours worked on Sundays.
2. That the wages for Good Friday remain as at present.

With regard to the third point, the arbitrator drew attention to the difficulty of laying down any hard and fast rule, but recommended that any difference which might arise with respect to turns of employment should be settled by the manager in consultation with representatives of the workmen.

Platers' Helpers on the Tyne.

For some time friction had existed in various yards on the Tyne as to the number of men that should form a squad in connection with platers in the punching and hanging up of plates. Finally, in July last, a joint conference of employers and men drew up a scale of help, giving particulars of the number of men allowed as a squad for plates of various weights. For the purpose of this scale the yards are divided into four classes, to each of which belongs a corresponding scale, according to the facilities available for working plates.

Questions occasionally arise as to which scale applies in a particular yard, or the men consider that the facilities existing are not sufficient to justify the scale under which the yard is working. Three disputes on this question have been settled during the month, two of them, involving together 148 men, by the arbitration of Councillor O'Hanlon, a working driller of Wallsend. It should be added that a further question arises as to whether, when tackle is required for heavy plates, an extra man should be allowed for it or a man be taken from the squad. The two strikes began on November 11th and 25th, and terminated on December 19th and 10th respectively. In one case, in which the employers asked for No. 4 scale, it was decided that No. 4 scale should be worked inside and No. 3 outside, a tackle hanger to be provided in addition. In the second case the men complained that one of the men in the punching squad was taken away to fetch plates in. It was decided that No. 3 scale should be worked, the eight men in the hanging-up squad including the tackle hanger, and that in no case (excepting in the event of a breakdown) should less than the six men allowed in the punching squad work the plates at the punch.

In a third dispute the matter was settled by arrangement between the firm and representatives of the men.

Durham Miners' Conciliation Board.

The question of the abolition of the Miners' Conciliation Board has been submitted by the council of the Durham Miners' Association to a ballot of the county. The result was officially declared on January 6th, as follows:—For the maintenance of the Board, 14,894; against, 30,568. The total membership in 1894 was returned as 58,274. Six months' notice of withdrawal from the Board will be forwarded in due course to the Coalowners' Association.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE UNEMPLOYED.

THE Third Report of the Select Committee on distress from want of employment, together with the proceedings of the Committee, minutes of evidence, appendix and index, has now been issued. The recommendations of the Committee embodied in the Report were published in the LABOUR GAZETTE in September last (p. 288), and need not be repeated. The proceedings of the Committee show that evidence upon the subject was collected by correspondence with the Mayors of Towns and Chairmen of District Councils in England and Wales, 1,574 replies being received.

Witnesses were also examined by the Committee, among them being the Commissioner for Labour on behalf of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, representatives of various Metropolitan Vestries and Poor Law Unions, and of various institutions and societies concerned with the relief of those out of employment. Representatives were also examined from other large towns in which the question of the unemployed aroused special interest, viz., Glasgow, Liverpool and Swansea. Special attention was devoted to the Tinsplate trade as a large industry specially suffering from trade depression, and to the Building trades as being especially affected by severe weather.

Evidence was taken as to the management and working of Dutch and Belgian Labour Colonies and as to a project for the institution of farm colonies in England. The Committee also took evidence from experts with special knowledge of industrial questions, including Mr. Charles Booth.

A statement prepared by the Local Government Board is appended to the report and sets forth the powers possessed at present by local or central authorities in relation to the relief of distress, together with notes as to (a) Out-relief to the aged poor; (b) Relief on loan and its recovery; (c) Employment of the poor by Boards of Guardians for wages; (d) Expedition of loan sanctions; (e) Labour tests for able-bodied, outdoor poor; (f) Powers of Boards of Guardians as regards making grants in aid of work that will anticipate pauperism, and acceptance of sums to be used by them in the anticipation of pauperism. The report also contains a series of charts showing the seasonal and cyclical fluctuations in employment.

Information for Intending Emigrants.—The usual quarterly circulars were issued on January 1st, and can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, and can be seen at the principal free libraries. The circulars contain information as to the climate, government and general characteristics of the various British Colonies, the best method of reaching them and cost of living, together with the demand for labour and the rates of wages prevailing. A poster containing a summary of the demand for labour and cost of passage to each colony is also exhibited at all post offices in the United Kingdom.

Exhibition of Furniture and Figured Silks in East London.—The Science and Art Department have issued a notice that a loan exhibition of English furniture and figured silks of the 17th and 18th centuries will be opened in April 1896 in the galleries of the Bethnal Green Museum. The notice states that these branches of industrial art still form, as in the past, important handicrafts in East London, and that recent changes of fashion have caused a demand for 18th century patterns in figured silks, the manufacture of which formerly gave employment to a very large number of weavers in the East of London. The loan collection will remain open for six months.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

GENERALLY speaking, the rates of wages obtained at the yearly hiring markets mentioned in the table below were substantially the same as those at the previous hiring. In Fifeshire, in some cases, farmers who wished to retain the services of experienced men had to pay £1 extra, but, as a rule, wages varied but little from the previous rates. In Perthshire, at Crieff, there was a slight rise in the wages of foremen. At Perth at the October hiring the wages obtained were generally rather higher than those in the previous year, and at the November hiring women were rather scarce. In the county of Kinross there was little or no alteration in cases where servants remained in their situations, but some who changed had to submit to a reduction of about 10s. In Clackmannan, at Alloa, there was practically no change. At the half-yearly hiring markets in the counties of Aberdeen, Forfar, Banff, Elgin, Kincardine, and Lanark, there was a tendency for wages to fall. Those changing places frequently had to submit to a reduction of from 10s. to 20s. At Nairn wages generally remained the same, and also in Stirlingshire, at Stirling, though at Falkirk some ploughmen, particularly married men, failed to get places. There was generally a good demand for women, especially dairymaids. In addition to the particulars given in the table below, the following information of half-yearly hirings has been received from other counties. In Dumfriesshire, at Dumfries, Lockerbie, Moffat, and Annan, best ploughmen got £11 to £13, second men £8 to £11, cattlemen £8 to £10, and halfins £6 to £8. At Selkirk wages were rather lower than these rates. At Girvan, in Ayrshire, single men, without lodging, got 15s. to 16s. per week, or £7 to £10 for those boarded in the house, while at Ayr cotmen got from 16s. to 19s. a week. In the following counties the number of those hired half-yearly and boarded in the farmhouses is comparatively few, as the majority of farm servants are hired by the year in the Spring and live in cottages on the farms. In the county of Edinburgh, wages at Dalkeith and Mid-Calder remained about the same, men getting from £7 to £11, and women £6 to £8. At Stranraer, in Wigtonshire, boys for farm work got £5 to £10, and girls £11, and young women £6 to £8. At Berwick and Earlston in Berwickshire, wages remained at the old rates; lads received £7 to £9, and young women £6 to £9. In addition to the rates of wages quoted, various perquisites are given. Married men get a free house, certain allowances of milk, meal, and potatoes, and coals carted. Single men are lodged and boarded in the farmhouses, or else lodged in bothies and given allowances of food. The women (outworkers), in addition to the wages quoted, get extra payment at harvest and potato lifting.

Rates of Wages agreed upon for the undermentioned Classes of Farm Servants at certain hiring markets in Scotland, from August to December, 1895:—

(This information was obtained by correspondents of the Department visiting certain hiring markets; by sending forms to farmers, and from local newspaper reports.)

County and Town.	Date when Hiring was Held.	First Horsemen.	Second Horsemen.	Third Horsemen.	Cattlemen.	Orramen.	Halfins. (Youths)	Boys	Women.
YEARLY RATES OF WAGES.									
Clackmannan. Alloa	1895. 29 October	32 to 35	28 to 31	26 to 28	£	Per week. 158. to 18s.	£ 16 to 18	...	Per day. ...
Fife. Cupar	6 August	30 to 33	28 to 30	26 to 28	29 to 32	158. to 18s.	£ 15 to 20	...	rs. 2d. to rs. 4d.
	7 October	30 to 33	29 to 30	27 to 29	29 to 32	158. to 18s.	£ 15 to 20	...	rs. 2d. to rs. 4d.
	28 November	30 to 32	28 to 30	26 to 28	29 to 32	158. to 18s.	£ 15 to 20	...	rs. 2d. to rs. 4d.
	13 August	31 to 33	28 to 31	26 to 28	29 to 32	158. to 18s.	£ 15 to 20	...	...
	2 December	30 to 32	28 to 30	26 to 28	...	...	£ 15 to 22	...	...
Kinross. Kinross	August	30 to 32	28 to 30	24 to 26	27 to 32	158. to 18s.	£ 15 to 20	...	rs. 2d. to rs. 4d.
Perth. Crieff	1 October	32 to 35	30 to 32	27 to 30	30 to 34	168. to 18s.	£ 15 to 20	...	rs. 3d. to rs. 4d.
	18 October	32 to 35	30 to 32	28 to 30	30 to 34	158. to 18s.	£ 16 to 24	...	rs. 3d. to rs. 4d.
	29 November	32 to 35	30 to 32	28 to 30	30 to 34	158. to 18s.	£ 16 to 24	...	rs. 3d. to rs. 4d.

County and Town.	Date when Hiring was Held.	First Horsemen.	Second Horsemen.	Third Horsemen.	Cattlemen.	Orramen.	Halfins. (Youths)	Boys	Women.
HALF-YEARLY RATES OF WAGES.									
Aberdeen. Aberdeen	22 November	14 to 17	12 to 15	11 to 13	14 to 17	11 to 12	£ 6 to 10	...	...
	18 November	14 to 15	12 to 13	10 to 12	12 to 15	...	£ 10 to 11	...	...
	20 November	15 to 16	13 to 14	9 to 11	14 to 16	...	£ 9 to 11	...	...
	21 November	15 to 16	13 to 15	...	...	...	£ 13 to 15	...	...
	22 November	14 to 16	11 to 14	...	...	...	£ 9 to 10	...	...
	19 November	14 to 15	12 to 13	...	...	...	£ 9 to 10	...	...
	23 November	14 to 16	12 to 14	...	15 to 16	...	£ 7 to 8	...	...
Argyllshire. Campbeltown	21 November	14 to 17	10 to 14	...	...	...	£ 7 to 8	...	...
Banff. Banff	25 November	14 to 16	12 to 14	10 to 12	...	...	£ 7 to 9	...	...
	20 November	14 to 16	12 to 13	10 to 12	12 to 15	...	£ 7 to 9	...	...
	20 November	15 to 16	12 to 14	...	...	...	£ 7 to 9	...	...
	16 November	15 to 16	12 to 14	11 to 13	14 to 16	...	£ 7 to 9	...	...
Forfar. Arbroath	1 December	17 to 18	15 to 16	12 to 14	...	...	£ 8 to 11	...	...
	2 December	17 to 18	14 to 16	12 to 13	...	...	£ 8 to 11	...	...
	30 November	17 to 18	16 to 17	14 to 15	...	...	£ 10 to 12	6 to 9	...
	1 December	17 to 19	15 to 16	12 to 14	...	...	£ 8 to 11	6	...
	12 October	17 to 18	15 to 17	13 to 14	...	...	£ 10 to 12	...	...
	30 November	16 to 18	14 to 15	12 to 13	...	...	£ 9 to 11	6 to 8	...
	30 November	16 to 19	14 to 16	12 to 13	...	...	£ 8 to 12	6 to 10	...
	30 November	17 to 19	14 to 16	13 to 14	...	...	£ 9 to 11	5 to 8	...
Kincardineshire. Laurencekirk	28 November	15 to 18	12 to 15	10 to 12	...	...	£ 7 to 10	...	...
	27 November	16 to 17	12 to 15	10 to 12	...	...	£ 7 to 10	...	...
Lanarkshire. Hamilton	18 October	15 to 17	13 to 15	8 to 12	...	...	£ 5 to 7	...	7 to 10
Morayshire. Elgin	29 November	13 to 15	11 to 13	...	...	...	£ 7 to 10	...	6 to 10
Nairn. Nairn	8 December	15 to 16	12 to 14	...	...	...	£ 7 to 10	...	6 to 10
Stirling. Falkirk	31 October	16 to 18	12 to 15	...	...	...	£ 7 to 10	...	6 to 10
	18 October	15 to 16	12 to 14	...	...	...	£ 7 to 10	...	6 to 10

SICKNESS INSURANCE IN AUSTRIA.*

THE figures with respect to the working of the Austrian Sickness Insurance Law in 1893 have just been issued by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior.†

Under the Law of March 30th, 1888, insurance against sickness is compulsory (with certain exemptions) for all workpeople and other employees in factories, mills, mines, quarries, docks, shipyards, building works, railways, internal waterways, agriculture and forestry, works using and manufacturing explosives, and all establishments subject to the Industrial Code.

The obligation to insure may be fulfilled through one or other of the following classes of funds:—

(a) **Funds in existence before the Law of 1888.**—(1) *Miners' Sick Funds* or "*Bruderladen*," established by a law of 1854 (reorganised in 1889), and not included in the statistics given below.

(2) *Guild Sick Funds*, for the insurance of journeymen employed by members of a guild (*i.e.*, by small masters, see last month's GAZETTE, p. 370).

(3) *Friendly Society Sick Funds* which comply with certain conditions.

(b) **New Funds created under the Law of 1888.**—

(4) *Factory Sick Funds*, which may be established under certain conditions by employers for their own workpeople, including also funds established by railway and steamship companies, and in enterprises administered by the State; and industrial sick funds established under the laws of 1859 and 1885. All these funds must comply with certain conditions as to contributions and benefits in order to be recognised.

(5) *Building Works Sick Funds*, established temporarily for persons employed for a long time on temporary works of construction.

(6) *District Sick Funds* established by the civil authorities in each judicial district to insure persons who are not provided for in any of the above five ways.

The detailed regulations for sick insurance are complicated; but, in general terms, the minimum rate of benefit allowed amounts to 60 per cent. of the current rate of wages for common labour in the district, to be continued if necessary for 20 weeks, together with free medical treatment, with funeral benefit amounting to 20 times the daily rate of wages for common labour. No payment is made unless the sickness causes absence from work of three days at least. Women receive sick allowance for four weeks after confinement. In funds created by the law of 1888 the employer pays two-thirds and the employed one-third of the contributions. In the other funds the contributions are subject to certain regulations, but are not precisely determined by that law.‡

The total number of sick funds (exclusive of those for miners) furnishing statistical information in 1893 was 2,876, compared with 2,837 in 1892, the total mean membership being 1,840,043 and 1,741,074 in these years respectively. The following statement gives statistics of membership and sickness in 1892 and 1893:—

Years.	Mean Membership.	Cases of Sickness.		Days of Sickness.	
		Total.	Per 100 Members.	Total.	Per Member.
1892	1,741,074	819,738	47.1	13,869,285	8.0
1893	1,840,043	900,342	49.0	15,089,873	8.2

* The particulars given in this article relate to Austria, as distinct from Hungary, where Sickness Insurance is regulated by a law of April 14th 1891, which differs in some respects from the Austrian law.

† Die Gebarung und die Ergebnisse der Krankheitsstatistik der nach dem Gesetze vom 30 März 1888 (R. G. Bl. Nr. 33), betreffend die Krankenversicherung der Arbeiter eingerichteten Krankenkassen im Jahre 1893. Vienna, Government Printing Office, 1895.

‡ "Étude statistique des Accidents du Travail, d'après les rapports officiels, sur l'assurance obligatoire en Allemagne et en Autriche;" and "Résultats statistiques de l'Assurance obligatoire contre la maladie en Autriche" (Fascicules I. and VI. of "Notices et Comptes Rendus" of the French Labour Department.

The following statement gives the corresponding information for each of the various classes of sick funds:—

	Classes of Sick Funds.				
	Guild.	Friendly Society.	Factory.	Building.	District.
1892.					
Mean Membership ...	273,046	296,955	529,000	773	641,300
No. of cases of Sickness ...	82,361	169,203	298,233	422	269,519
Ditto per 100 Members ...	30.2	57.0	56.4	54.6	42.0
No. of days of Sickness ...	1,511,874	2,965,658	5,073,832	7,633	4,310,288
Ditto per Member ...	5.5	10.0	9.6	9.9	6.7
1893.					
Mean Membership ...	302,173	307,077	543,215	1,845	685,733
No. of cases of Sickness ...	98,472	177,448	322,720	1,265	300,437
Ditto per 100 Members ...	32.6	57.8	59.4	68.6	43.8
No. of days of Sickness ...	1,757,733	3,058,097	5,458,188	16,090	4,799,765
Ditto per Member ...	5.8	10.0	10.5	8.7	7.0

The total income of sick funds of the above classes in 1893 was £1,255,213, compared with £1,176,117 in 1892. The expenses amounted to £1,155,446 and £1,075,973, leaving balances of £99,767 and £100,144 in these years respectively.

The number of sick funds in which the expenditure exceeded the income in 1893 was 840, compared with 734 in 1892.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.—It is reported difficult to obtain men for the lumber camps in Manitoba at 16 to 22 dollars a month, as so many prefer the chance of odd jobs in the towns. There has been also some demand for coal-miners at Lethbridge, in the North-West. The official figures which have just been published show that last harvest was even more abundant than was anticipated, the crop of wheat averaging 28 bushels an acre. Over 5,000 labourers came from the Eastern Provinces to assist in harvest work, labour on the spot being altogether insufficient.

New South Wales.—Owing to the continued depression at the Newcastle Collieries, many miners and other working men have left for the Coolgardie Gold Fields in Western Australia, and for South Africa. There has, however, been a demand for a few experienced silver miners at the Broken Hill Mines (800 miles west of Sydney), though surface miners were plentiful.

Victoria.—The important irrigation Colony of Mildura is in a bad condition, and, unless money is forthcoming, the irrigation works will have to be stopped. Owing to drought the wheat crop of Victoria in 1895-6 is likely to have the lowest yield on record. There is no fresh demand for labour.

South Australia.—There is no improvement in the state of the labour market, except that there has been a temporary demand for married couples without children on farms and stations. The report of the Select Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the village settlements, which were started to relieve the labour market, is not very satisfactory. The report states that the number of villagers has decreased from 592 to 440, that only two of the settlements can possibly support themselves, and that no rent or land tax has yet been paid; 3,276 acres altogether are under cultivation, of which 837 are irrigated and 2,439 planted with cereals.

Western Australia.—There is an unusual demand for skilled telegraph operators, the average pay being not more than about £150 a year; a strike is threatened at the Coolgardie gold fields, the operators demanding an increase of pay to £4 a week, instead of £3 10s., and 2s. an hour for overtime.

Tasmania.—In the quarter ending September 30th last the production of gold and tin was less than in the corresponding quarter of 1894, but that of silver and coal increased, and the number of European miners rose from 3,020 to 3,452.

* And in the South African Republic.

New Zealand.—A report from the district of Taranaki states that the supply of all classes of labour is equal to the demand. The markets are depressed, and the prices of cattle are exceedingly low, but the butter factories show signs of progress. In Auckland trade has been good and prices of wool and gum have been higher; the gold mining industry, however, has been rather slack; the building trade has been good, and carpenters and bricklayers have been in full employment.

Cape Colony.—The Government has increased the wages of all the mechanics employed in the railway workshops by 1d. in the shilling, but guards' and labourers' wages are not raised. The building trade continues brisk at Cape Town. The harvest returns for 1894-5 show a considerable decrease in every product except tobacco, and in the quantity of wine produced. A report from East Griqualand states that there is no demand in that district for any white labour, as natives alone are as a rule employed; general servants, however, are wanted, but the wages offered are only £12 to £24 a year with board and lodging. A report, dated the 10th December last, states that there was then a demand for masons and carpenters at Mafeking, in British Bechuanaland, which was annexed to the Cape Colony last November.

Natal.—The wages of compositors at Durban have been raised to 57s. 6d. per week of 48 hours, piecework 11d. to 11½d. per 1,000, and overtime 1s. 6d. per hour; the cost of living is said to be increasing in the town. The coal industry in the north shows only small progress, the total production of coal for the first eleven months of 1895 having been not more than 144,000 tons. The production, however, was 17,000 tons more than that for the similar period in 1894.

The South African Republic, Transvaal.—A letter from the Transvaal Plumbers' Society to the Editor of the LABOUR GAZETTE, dated Johannesburg, 14th December, and therefore written before the recent events in the Transvaal, conveys a warning to plumbers who intend emigrating from this country. It points out that a plumber at Johannesburg "works on quite other materials, and in quite a different style, from that to which he has been accustomed," galvanised iron or zinc being the main material used in the trade. Therefore men accustomed to lead working are unable to work at their trade unless, or until, they have gained experience of the conditions of local building.

LABOUR ABROAD.
FRANCE.*

Employment in December.—Employment was less plentiful in December than in either of the two preceding months, the proportion of unemployed in trade unions which made returns (480 unions with 120,000 members) being slightly over 6 per cent., whereas in November it was a little over 5 per cent. and in October less than 4 per cent.

In the *Building Trades* seasonal depression prevails, and only here and there works in course of construction are being completed when the weather permits. *Metal Trades.*—The proportion reported unemployed has increased as compared with November among moulders and foundrymen (from 2 per cent. to 5 per cent.), and in engineering works (from 6 per cent. to 8 per cent.); it has decreased among blast furnacemen (from 7 per cent. to 3 per cent.). Tinplate workers and operatives in metal other than iron are also reported busier. Jewellers and golders have none idle. In the *Mining, &c. Trades* general slackness still prevails, and stocks are diminishing at a slow rate. Quarrymen continue fully employed. *Textile Trades.*—Spinners and weavers (both hand and machine) are well employed; and dyers, bleachers, and printers (of stuffs) are somewhat busier. *Clothing.*—Garment-makers and hosiery-makers are slack owing to seasonal depression. Glovemakers are not so busy as in November, and report 5 per cent. idle. Hatmakers continue slack; but boot and shoe operatives are busy with a fair supply of orders.

* From information supplied by the courtesy of the French Office du Travail.

GERMANY.

Labour Disputes.—Five fresh disputes and three outstanding since previous months were reported on in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* in December. Two of the fresh disputes were among printers (Berlin), and one each among cloth-weavers (Eupen), tobacco twisters (Bochum), and cabmen (Berlin). This was the only general strike; it began on Christmas Day, and was due to the refusal of the owners of cabs with automatic fare registers to allow their drivers an increased proportion of takings. No settlement had been reported up to the end of December, but the effect on street traffic is said to have been scarcely perceptible. Four disputes were reported terminated, the workers being unsuccessful in all. Among these was a strike said to have involved several hundred military equipment makers of Elberfeld and Barmen, out since October for increased wages.

Coal and Iron Production, 1894.—The following figures are taken from the official statistics* of the mining, salt, and smelting industries of Germany, inclusive of the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg;—

	Production.			
	Quantity.		Value.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
	Tons	Tons	£	£
Coal—Hard ...	(2,204 lbs.) 73,852,330	(2,204 lbs.) 76,741,127	24,919,750	25,455,000
" Soft ...	21,573,823	22,064,575	2,751,150	2,657,600
Iron—Ore ...	11,457,533	12,392,065	1,990,050	2,108,900
" Pig ...	4,986,003	5,380,039	10,516,300	11,578,500

Munich Municipal Labour Registry.—(See last month's GAZETTE, page 373.) Further information supplied to the Labour Department by the Municipal Statistical Bureau of Munich states that the new labour registry is under direct control of a committee in which employers and workers are equally represented, the delegates of the workers being chosen by the workmen assessors of the Industrial Court, and those of the employers by the Town and Communal Councils. The term of office for members of the Committee is three years.

In the case of strikes or lock-outs a brief term will be fixed by the Committee for the disputants to appeal to the Conciliation Board of the Industrial Court. Failing a settlement by such means, the Committee may declare the registry closed to the particular business or branch concerned.

During the first month of its existence (November last) the registry received 6,851 applications, viz., 5,621 from workers and 1,230 from employers. The number of situations found was 878.

Berlin Labour Colony.—At the beginning of 1894 there were, in the city colony and the branch institution at Tegel, 203 men (only able-bodied males are admitted). During the year 915 entered and 931 left, the number remaining on December 31st being 187. Fifty-eight per cent. of those who entered in 1894 had undergone imprisonment—in a large number of cases for mendicancy. Of those who left during the year, 65 went to situations procured them by the colony; 51 to situations obtained by their own exertions; 538 were discharged at their own request, 198 for inefficiency, laziness, drunkenness or misconduct; 59 left without permission; 18 for various other reasons, and 2 died. The income for the year, including donations and subscriptions, amounted to £11,240, and the expenditure to £11,185. The total number of days of accommodation provided was 51,968. The cost of food per man per day in the city colony was 39d., and in the branch colony at Tegel 46d.

SWITZERLAND.

The following is a summary of information supplied by the Swiss Workmen's Secretary, and transmitted by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, under date of December 24th:—

Labour Disputes.—The strike of glaziers referred to in the last two numbers of the GAZETTE still continues in Winterthur and St. Gall. In Zürich it is reported at an end, the unmarried journeymen having left the town, and the married journeymen having obtained places with employers who had granted the workmen's demands.

A strike of cabinet-makers has broken out in Geneva owing to the refusal of the employers to enter into

* Vierteljahrshefte zur Statistik des Deutschen Reichs (Jahrgang 1895), No. 4, Berlin, 1895.

† Zehnter Bericht von der Berliner Arbeiter-Kolonie über das Jahr 1894. Berlin, 1895. Druck der Buchdruckerei Gutenberg, Schönhauser Allee 141a.

negotiations for a new and higher wages tariff; 250 have ceased work.*

Labour Legislation.—Laws have been passed in the Cantons of Berne and Lucerne for the protection of employés in restaurants and inns. In the former canton the law comes into operation on January 1st, 1896. The law provides for a weekly half-day off, of which two in the month are to be on Sunday mornings. On an application being made by any employer in writing, a temporary suspension of the law may be granted in the case of certain employees.

A Crafts Bill has been brought in by the government of the Canton of Zürich regulating all handicrafts and industrial establishments not subject to the Factory Act or the Cantonal Law for the Protection of Women Workers. Mercantile businesses are only partially, and agriculture not at all affected by the proposed law, which is introduced by the canton in consequence of the rejection in 1893 by the Swiss people of a proposal for a Federal Crafts Law. (See LABOUR GAZETTE.)† Before being delivered to the Cantonal Council for discussion, a draft bill was printed and sent to all those societies, corporations, and cantonal authorities who have an interest in a crafts law, with a request for criticism.

The Bill deals with nuisances caused by crafts, limits or prohibits work on Sundays and festivals, deals with employers' liability, working regulations, fines, overtime pay, apprenticeship, and technical education. With regard to the last points it is stated that complaints are frequently made of the insufficient training of the workmen, and that foreigners are preferred in some branches on this account.

Swiss Labour Department (Workmen's Secretaryship).—The subvention to the Swiss Workmen's Secretaryship has been increased by the National Council from £800 to £1,000, with a view to an extension of the institution.

Berne Voluntary Out-of-Work Insurance.—According to *Der Grüllianer* the number of persons insured in this fund on December 1st, 1895, was 605, compared with 350 at the corresponding date in 1894. Twenty-five persons applied for the benefit on December 1st compared with 22 on the 1st of December 1894.

BELGIUM.†

Labour Disputes in December.—The Belgian Labour Department was notified of 8 strikes affecting 9 establishments in December. Besides 993 workers directly engaged in these strikes 1,120 others suffered enforced idleness in consequence. Six out of the 8 disputes were among textile operatives, and 3 (the most serious) took place in Ghent. One strike—of coal miners—ended in December, the workers being unsuccessful. Four of the strikes were undertaken for advances in wages; one to prevent a reduction of wages; two to obtain and one to prevent the dismissal of a worker.

Workmen Inspectors of Mines.—The Central Committee of the Chamber of Representatives has approved a Bill for the appointment of workmen elected by the miners as inspectors of underground labour in mines.

LUXEMBURG.

Laws regulating the payment of wages and truck.—A law of July 12th, 1895, provides that wages must be paid in money current in the Grand-Duchy. Employers, however, may make deductions for rent of lodgings. They may also supply employees, at cost price, with tools, materials, food, clothing and combustibles. Deductions amounting to not more than one-tenth of wages may be made for (1) fines incurred by breach of rules conspicuously posted, (2) damage occasioned by employee's fault, (3) payments due from employee for insurance, taxes, &c., (4) money advanced to the employee. No deduction may be made for alcoholic drinks. Wages may not be paid in public-houses or shops. Wages must be paid at least twice a month, or in the case of piece-work once a

* Since the date of the Report a compromise has been effected on conditions regarded by the workers as satisfactory. (*Der Grüllianer*, December 31st, 1895.)

† April 1894, page 126.

‡ From information supplied by the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department.

month. This law does not apply to agricultural labourers, domestic servants, or those boarding and living with their employers.

A law of July 19th, 1895, fixes the limits within which wages may be assigned or seized. (United States Consular Reports, November 1895.)

HOLLAND.

The following is based on information transmitted by Sir Horace Rumbold, H.M. Minister at the Hague, and furnished by Mr. Turing, H.M. Consul at Rotterdam, and Mr. Robinson, H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, under date of December 28th:—

Rotterdam Labour Exchange.—The business of this Exchange has for the last six months been carried on in a shed, pending the completion of a permanent building. This building was formally opened on December 2nd, on which occasion it was stated that, since the inauguration of the Exchange, 1,379 workpeople had inscribed their names, of whom 310 had obtained situations. Applications had been received from 329 employees.

Labour disputes.—The results obtained for the workmen in the late strikes of bakers, printers, cigar makers, and diamond workers, at Amsterdam, are believed to have proved to a considerable extent illusory, owing to their organisations not being sufficiently strong to hold on to the apparent advantages obtained during the struggles.

The Unemployed.—The committee for providing work during the winter for the unemployed of Amsterdam has resumed its operations. It has been subjected to criticism on the part of the regular administrators of poor relief, on the ground that the effect of this method of providing labour is to increase the tendency of country labour to swarm into the cities, without decreasing the number of winter unemployed.

Communal Statistics of the Unemployed.—A return* recently prepared by the Communal Statistical Bureau of Amsterdam, under the direction of Dr. Falkenburg, gives particulars of persons who, in the winter of 1894-5, applied for assistance to the Amsterdam Committee for Providing Work (see GAZETTE of January 1895, page 31). The total number of unemployed who applied to the committee during the three months ended February 28th, 1895, was 4,700, but only 3,465 filled up the forms on which the present statistics are based. Of these 1,720, or 49.6 per cent., were building operatives, after whom in decreasing numerical importance came: casual labourers 512, or 14.8 per cent.; porters 481, or 13.9 per cent.; shoemakers 147, or 4.2 per cent.; while members of other trades together numbered 605, or 17.5 per cent.

Of the 3,465 applicants, 886, or 26 per cent., were set to work by the Committee in the manufacture of articles of common use for distribution among the poor. For this they were paid at the rate of 4d. an hour. Most of those employed (806) had learnt a trade, but only 37 per cent. were found to be efficient workers.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Labour Disputes.—Austrian labour papers in December contained reports of 9 fresh disputes and of 7 continued since previous months. None of the fresh disputes were of a serious character. They comprised 3 among metal-workers, 2 among glassworkers, and 1 each among coopers, leather-workers, joiners, and tortoise-shell workers. Though several establishments were affected by each of the two last-named disputes—arising out of demands for a shorter working day—they only involved from 60 to 70 workpeople each. The compositors of Buda-Pesth, of whom from 2,000 to 3,000 have been on strike (see last month's GAZETTE), have accepted the employers' offer to raise the minimum time-wage from £1 to £1 1s. 8d. (instead of £1 3s. 4d. as demanded) and to increase piece rates. The demand for a reduction of working hours from 9 to 8 per day has fallen through.

With regard to a general strike in the glove-making trade at Prague, also notified last month, it was reported on December 17th that 22 employers had conceded the increase asked for—viz., from 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d. per dozen four-buttoned gloves—and that 400 workers were still out.

Of 6 disputes reported terminated in December, 3 ended favourably and 2 unfavourably to the workers, while 1 was compromised.

* Statistische Mededeelingen uitgegeven door het Bureau van Statistiek der Gemeente Amsterdam, No. 1.—Statistiek der Werklozen die zich in den Winter 1894-95 bij de Commissie voor Werkverschaffing te Amsterdam hebben aangemeld. Amsterdam, 1895. To be obtained at the Communal Bureau of Statistics (Raadhuys).

UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information supplied by Captain R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, under date December 24th 1895.

Electric Street Railwaymen's Strike.—A strike of motor-men and conductors on the electric street railways of Philadelphia began on December 17th, at the instance of the Amalgamated Society of Street Railwaymen. At mid-day on that day, when the men were ordered to leave the cars, some cars on different lines were assailed and wrecked, and the motor-men and conductors were dragged from their posts. The entire traffic was thus soon brought to a stand. The primary object of the strike was to obtain increased wages and shorter hours. The President and Board of Directors declared their willingness to hear complaints from their own men, but the Amalgamated Society claimed to be properly recognised by the President and Board, and desired them to receive a Committee specially appointed by the society to discuss all matters in dispute. They further asked that all men discharged for other causes than drunkenness and bad conduct should be forthwith reinstated in the positions which they had formerly held. These conditions the President refused to entertain. Cars were run from time to time under police protection, but were frequently subjected to attack.

On December 24th the strike was declared at an end, an agreement in the following terms having been come to between the Company and the men:—

(1) While the Company does not propose to govern the membership or connection of their servants with any lawful associations, such connection must not enter into the relation between the men and the Company, and cannot be recognised in the business conducted between them.

(2) Any grievance, of whatever character, that any man or men may have will always be considered fairly and promptly before such man and the officers of the Company.

(3) All men discharged since December 17th last (except those discharged for just cause) will be reinstated on examination of the records of such employees, the committee representing the employees to furnish the list of names of those they believe to have been unjustly discharged, and the men allowed to divide the runs, other than the runs laid out for the present employees, meaning those who have entered the service of the Company since the evening of December 17th.

NOTE.—Since the date of the above report the strike is reported to have broken out afresh.

Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics.—The eighth biennial report of the Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics (1894) deals chiefly with taxation in that State, the object being to prove and illustrate the under-assessment of property for the purpose of property tax, especially in Cook County (containing Chicago). An appendix gives full particulars of the coal miners' strike in Illinois in the Spring of 1894, for an increase of wages (see LABOUR GAZETTE for May 1894, p. 159). The information received by the Bureau related to 25,207 men employed at 276 mines. The average duration of the strike per man was 72.4 days; 3,172 of those who suspended work are reported to have obtained some gain by the strike, and 22,035 to have resumed on the previous terms or at a reduction. The appendix also states in full the opinion given by the Supreme Court of Illinois on November 20th 1894, in the case of *W. E. Ritchie v. The People of the State of Illinois*, declaring invalid Section 5 of the Factory Inspection Law, forbidding the employment of women for more than 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week in factories and workshops; and also a portion of Section 10 appropriating salaries for inspectors. The judgment of the Court was that Section 5 unwarrantably restricts the right to contract, and thus contravenes Section 2 of Article II. of the constitution that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." It was claimed by counsel for the people that the section is a sanitary provision, and justifiable as an exercise of the police power of the State, but the Court held that there was nothing in the title to indicate that the Act was a sanitary measure, that an Act cannot "invade the rights of persons and property under the guise of a mere police regulation when it is not such in fact," and that sex cannot be made the basis of the claim that the Act is a measure for the promotion of public health, inasmuch as it is conceded that the kinds of employment contemplated are not unsuited to women, and women are as much entitled to freedom of contract as men.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR DECEMBER.

The value of the imports and exports continues to maintain the increase over those for 1894 which has been observable since July last.

Imports.—The total declared value of the imports during December was £36,967,505, or 11.8 per cent. more than the value for December 1894. This total is also greater than that in December 1893, but falls short by about a million sterling of that in 1892. For the year ended December 31st the imports amounted to £416,687,630, or 2.0 per cent. more than for the year 1894. They also exceeded in value the imports of 1893, but fell short of those of 1892 by about seven millions sterling.

The following table shows the declared values of the imports, grouped in large classes, for the months ending December 31st, 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

Class of Goods.	Dec. 1895.	Dec. 1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	£14,980,385	£14,036,799	£943,586	—
Metals ...	1,766,646	1,450,770	315,876	—
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances ...	1,290,718	1,072,932	217,786	—
Raw Materials for Manufacture...	11,627,358	10,042,978	1,584,380	—
Manufactured Articles ...	5,918,317	5,263,143	655,174	—
Miscellaneous ...	1,384,081	1,203,858	180,223	—
Totals ...	36,967,505	33,070,480	3,897,025	—

With the exception of cotton, which has decreased by 888,592 cwts., and £174,838 in value (the decrease on the whole year amounting to about 2½ millions sterling), the imports of all the principal raw materials for textiles have increased. The largest increases are those of sheep and lambs' wool (£315,109), and of jute (£320,411). Among manufactured articles the principal increases are those of silk manufactures (£134,258), and of leather and leathern articles (£109,079). Under the head of metals the principal increase is that of tin (£124,872). Live animals for food increased by £162,866, sugar by £149,645, bacon by £137,836, and Indian corn by £123,806. Petroleum increased by £180,835, and caoutchouc by £118,626.

British and Irish Exports.—The total declared value of the exports during December was £19,179,538, an increase of 9.6 per cent. over the total for December 1894. This increase follows on percentage increases of 8.1 in November, 8.8 in October, 10.6 in September, 10.2 in August, and 11.7 in July, over the figures for the corresponding months of 1894. The total is also higher than that for December 1893, though slightly less than that for December 1892. The total for the whole year 1895 is £226,169,174, which is greater than that for 1894 (£215,824,333) and 1893, but less than that for 1892.

The following table shows the total declared value of the exports grouped in large classes, for the months ended 31st December 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

Class of Goods.	Dec. 1895.	Dec. 1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink ...	£898,792	£860,186	£38,606	—
Raw Materials ...	1,355,244	1,547,621	—	£192,377
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	8,523,703	7,783,218	740,485	—
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery)	2,879,048	2,238,452	640,596	—
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,321,938	1,079,308	242,630	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,200,813	3,991,800	209,013	—
Totals ...	19,179,538	17,500,585	1,678,953	—

There is an increase in almost every group of the textiles. Woollen and worsted tissues have increased by £367,477, and cotton piece goods by £104,828; woollen and worsted yarn by £112,240. The export of telegraphic wires was more than seven times as great in December as in either of the two previous years, but on the whole year there is a considerable decrease. Iron and steel show an increase of £211,362, and some increase is shown in most metals. Machinery (excluding steam engines which show a decrease) has increased by £259,719. The export of coal and patent fuel decreased by 169,212 tons, and in value £181,974.

Taking a few of the more important exports we find that the value in 1895 of the export of woollen and worsted tissues increased by 46.4 per cent., of machinery and mill work by 7.1 per cent., and of iron and steel by 5.4 per cent. On the other hand, coal and patent fuel decreased by 11.1 per cent., and cotton piece goods by 6.8 per cent. These five classes of goods represent more than half of the total exports.

Re-Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—The value of these for December was £5,027,446, or £199,585 more than the value for December 1894.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom in December

from Foreign Countries and British Possessions was 2,604,372 tons, as against 2,288,588 tons in December 1894 an increase of 315,784 tons. Of vessels cleared the tonnage was 2,797,293 tons, or 61,968 tons more than in December 1894, when it amounted to 2,735,325 tons. The tonnage of vessels entered coastwise was 2,535,981 tons, as compared with 2,467,301 tons in December 1894, and of those cleared 2,406,680 tons, as against 2,344,125 tons in December 1894.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during December 1895 show a large decrease as compared with December 1894. This decrease is entirely in American cotton, other classes of cotton having increased. The exports have also decreased, but the amount forwarded from ports to inland towns has increased. The number of bales imported during the year 1895 is only slightly less than in 1894. The following are the figures for 1895 and 1894:—

	Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	Exports.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
December 1895	455,692	298,015	34,491
December 1894	649,008	248,181	45,309
Total for 1895	3,607,743	3,229,741	432,622
" 1894	3,762,551	3,239,784	505,806

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended December 28th amounted to £5,524,975, an increase over the corresponding period of last year of £256,640, or 4.9 per cent. Passenger traffic accounted for £30,726 of the total increase, and goods and mineral traffic for £225,914; the total receipts under these heads for last month being £2,265,005 and £3,259,970 respectively.

Fishery Statistics.—The total declared value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during December was £519,637, or 8.3 per cent. more than the value in December 1894 (£479,868). The increases in England and Wales amounted to £29,881, in Scotland to £8,486, and in Ireland to £1,402. In 1895 the total declared value amounted to £7,533,855, being £333,965 more than in 1894.

British Corn.—The following are the prices of British wheat, barley, and oats in the last weeks of December 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

	Average price per Quarter in—		
	Dec. 1895.	Dec. 1894.	Increase.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat	25 0	20 5	4 7
Barley	23 11	20 10	3 1
Oats	13 10	13 9	0 1

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankruptcies gazetted during December was 386, or 57 more than in the corresponding month of 1894. The total for last month is, however, 26 less than in December 1893, and 1 less than in December 1892. The figures for the above-mentioned month and for the whole of each of the years 1895, 1894, 1893 and 1892 are as follows:—

	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
December	386	329	412	387
Whole year	4,440	4,778	4,911	4,674

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The total number of British and foreign passengers who left the United Kingdom during December for places out of Europe was 9,474, a number less by 394 than that for December 1894. The decrease was entirely in the number of passengers of British or Irish origin. During the year 1895* the number of passengers amounted to 271,854, an increase of 45,027, or 19.8 per cent., on the numbers for 1894.

British and Irish.—Of the above total for last month, 6,022 were of British or Irish origin, as compared with 6,461 for December 1894, a decrease of 439, or 6.8 per cent. There was a falling off of 1,056 in the number going to the United States, and an increase of 588 in the number going to South Africa. During the year 1895* the passengers of British and Irish origin numbered 185,366, an increase of 29,336, or 18.8 per cent., on the numbers for 1894. The figures are as follows:—

Destination.	Dec. 1895.	Dec. 1894.	Year 1895.	Year 1894.
United States	2,925	3,981	126,646	104,001
British North America	214	210	16,658	17,459
Australasia	624	730	10,532	10,917
South Africa	1,394	806	20,254	13,177
Other places	865	734	11,276	10,476
Totals	6,022	6,461	185,666	156,030

* The figures for the year are subject to correction in the annual returns.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 9,474 passengers, viz., 3,452, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished. This figure shows an increase of 45 on the number in December 1894.

Alien Immigration.—The total number of aliens who arrived in the United Kingdom during December was 4,033, or 692 more than in December 1894, when the total was 3,341. Those stated to be en route for America numbered 1,453, an increase of 171, while those not so stated amounted to 2,580 (including 629 sailors), as compared with 2,059 (including 562 sailors) during December 1894. In the year 1895* the number of aliens en route to America was greater by 9,238 than in 1894, and the number not so stated was greater by 1,912, or excluding sailors, by 1,879, i.e., by about 6.6 per cent.

CO-OPERATION IN DECEMBER.

England and Wales.—During December two new distributive and two productive societies were registered, and the Old Kent Road Distributive Society, in London, has been dissolved.

Four existing distributive societies have opened new branches and premises and one boot and shoe society a new factory.

Scotland.—One new distributive society has been registered, and one existing society has opened a new bakery. A dispute has taken place in the boot and shoe factory of the Scottish Wholesale Society on the question of repair (without payment) of flaws discovered in work which had been passed by foreman, the men ceasing work from the 11th to 26th December, when work was resumed pending the decision of a Committee appointed to consider the question.

Ireland.—One agricultural distributive society and two agricultural and dairying societies have been registered, and one existing dairy society has commenced milling.

The report of the Irish Co-operative Agency Society (a federation of thirty dairy societies) for the quarter ended September 30th shows total sales amounting to £30,847.

Co-operative Congress.—The Co-operative Union has decided that the special subjects to be brought before the next Co-operative Congress to be held in Whit-week at Woolwich shall be—(1) The relations of the Co-operative movement to national and international commerce, and (2) Are modifications of the Rochdale system of co-operation necessary to meet the needs of great centres of population?

LABOUR CASES IN DECEMBER.

The following are among the legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month. A general statistical account of prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines Regulation Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, will be found on page 25.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

City of London Court, December 3rd.—A workman engaged in window-cleaning claimed £100 for injuries received through the breaking of a ladder. The defence was that the plaintiff used a ladder improper for the purpose, knowing it to be unsafe. Judgment for defendants.

Leeds County Court, December 6th.—A working miller, whose hand was crushed while oiling machinery, recovered £195 damages.

Manchester Assizes, December 7th.—Damages were claimed in respect of injuries received by a boy put to work a tin-plate pressing machine. The jury found that the machine was safe if ordinary care was employed, and that the boy was hurt through his own negligence. Judgment for defendant.

House of Lords, December 9th.—The widow of a workman, employed by a firm of steel manufacturers, who had been killed by a waggon, not sufficiently scotched, being set running down an incline through a bump from an engine, had brought an action against these employers. The County Court nonsuited the plaintiff on the ground that there was no evidence that the death was caused by the negligence of the defendants' servants in charge or having control of the train, and this decision was affirmed by the Queen's Bench and the Court of Appeal.† On appeal to the House of Lords, it was held that the driver and fireman (who were servants of the defendants) had the charge of the engine and trucks, and negligence on their part made their employers liable. The judgment of the Court of Appeal was reversed, with costs.

Marylebone County Court, December 9th.—A firm of railway contractors were sued for £150 damages by a workman, who lost the sight of one eye owing to a brick having fallen into a heap of compo, a particle of which spurted into his eye. Judgment for plaintiff for £50, with costs on the higher scale.

Dundee, December 12th.—A widow, whose husband, engaged in uncoupling waggons, lost his life in consequence of his head and body coming into contact with a lamp-post, recovered from a railway company £225 damages.

† See LABOUR GAZETTE for April 1895, page 120.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN DECEMBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence	Prosecutions.	Con- victions.	Total Amount of Penalties.	Total Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to Limewash	4	4	2 10 0	2 1 6
Allowing Factory or Workshop to be over-crowded	9	9	27 1 0	0 18 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	11	9	45 2 6	2 15 0
Allowing children to clean machinery in motion, or to work between fixed and traversing parts of a machine in motion	1	1	1 0 0	0 12 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	20	20	15 5 0	9 6 8
Employing Children under the legal age ...	7	7	6 15 0	5 18 6
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour	28	28	25 15 6	24 8 2
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	13	12	17 13 6	9 13 8
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	17	17	19 8 6	11 3 6
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays	2	2	2 5 0	1 1 6
At night	1	1	5 0 0	4 4 0
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	4	4	2 2 6	2 4 0
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.				
Not keeping registers	27	27	21 8 6	10 8 4
Not affixing or properly filling up notices and abstracts	21	21	21 5 0	6 3 2
Not sending notices required by Act ...	7	7	7 15 0	3 15 2
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules	1	—	—	—
By Workmen:				
Employment during meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	2	2	0 17 6	1 13 6
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules ...	26	26	11 7 6	13 0 0
Total for December 1895	201	197	232 12 0	109 6 8
Total for December 1894	147	142	169 18 6	106 13 11

II.—Under the Mines Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.
By Owners, Managers, &c.—					£ s. d.
Fencing	3	3	—	—	3 3 6
Ventilation	2	2	—	—	5 7 0
Shafts and Manholes	4	3	—	1	23 0 0
Miscellaneous	20	16	1	3	47 2 0
By Workmen—					£ s. d.
Safety Lamps	4	3	—	1	2 11 6
Shot-firing and Explosives	6	6	—	—	11 15 0
Lucifer Matches, &c.	13	13	—	—	9 14 11
Riding on Trams	5	5	—	—	2 11 6
Miscellaneous	14	14	—	—	9 6 5
Total for December 1895	71	65	1	5	114 14 10
Total for December 1894	48	46	—	2	49 1 0

III.—Under the Quarries Act.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nil.

IV.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Carrying excessive deck cargoes... ..	1	1	5 0 0	—
Carrying passengers without certificate	9	9	9 0 0	3 6 6
Not providing life-saving ap- pliances	9	9	18 0 0	4 16 0
Not providing proper safety- valve	3	3	3 0 0	2 0 6
Misconduct, endangering life at sea	1	1	5 0 0	—
By Civilians—				
Misdealing with wreck	6	6	2 10 0	1 1 0
By Boarding-House Keepers and others—				
Receiving remuneration for pro- curing employment as seamen... ..	5	5	9 0 0	10 10 0*
Total for December 1895	34	34	51 10 0	21 14 0
Total for December 1894	16	16	154 10 4	36 11 0

V.—Under Trade Union Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nil.

* In one case three weeks' imprisonment was awarded as an alternative to fine. Defendant went to prison.

Manchester County Court, December 13th.—A hoist failing to work, a workman stood, as he alleged by order of the manager, on the weights, and, the rope which he held breaking, fell 60 feet, and was injured. Judgment for plaintiff, with £100 damages and costs on the lower scale.

Coine County Court, December 16th.—For injury to his eye caused by a flying shuttle a weaver claimed damages, and his employers settled the action by the payment of £50.

Bideford County Court, December 18th.—A carpenter, injured owing to defective scaffolding, recovered £50 damages and costs.

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Rotherham West Riding Police Court, December 2nd.—Three shillings damages were claimed from a miner alleged to have wrongfully absented himself from work on November 13th. The bye-laws of the colliery required the colliery owners to provide the employees with work unless prevented by the state of trade, want of railway waggons, or certain other causes, and stipulated that 14 days' notice in writing should be given or received to terminate the contract, that every person employed should, when required, attend and perform a full and fair day's work on each day the pits were open, and that no person should leave work upon the close of the shift without permission from the proper official, except in case of sick- ness or accident. The defendant descended the mine, but refused to work, and ascended again. The defence was that there was not sufficient evidence that there was an adequate supply of waggons for a full day's work, and that there was nothing in the bye-laws to compel a man to perform anything short of a full day's work. The defendant was ordered to pay 3s. damages, a similar case against a second defendant being decided in the same manner.

(3) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

Stoke-on-Trent Police Court, December 6th.—Twenty-six operative potters were charged with having neglected to have their workshops swept in accordance with the special rules relating to the manufacture of earthenware and china, under which "every male or female worker shall be responsible for the cleansing of that portion of the room in which he or she is employed, and shall see that the floors of shops and of such stoves as are entered by the workers are sprinkled and swept, and the dust, scraps, ashes, and dirt be removed every day, and that the work-benches and stairs are cleansed at least once a week. The sweeping of floors and of potters' shops shall be done after the working hours, unless there is a sufficient reason to the contrary, by an adult male, employed and paid by the workers, and approved by the employer." One of the adult male defendants was fined 20s. and costs, the others 12s. 6d. each; the adult females 5s. and costs; apprentices, male 7s. 6d. and costs, female 2s. 6d. and costs. The total amount of the fines was £11 7s. 6d. and of the costs £13.

(4) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT.

Leeds County Court, December 20th.—In 1884 a member of a friendly society, being incapacitated, through defective eyesight, from following his usual occupation, became entitled under the rules to a weekly pension. This was paid until 1894, when new rules were made, under which no member was to be entitled to a pension if he earned more than 20s. a week. The plaintiff, who was earning more than this amount, and who was now refused payment of his pension, brought an action against the society to recover the same. The judge held that the plaintiff was not bound by the new rules, having ceased to be a member of the society ten years ago, and not having assented to the new rules. Judgment for plaintiff; leave given to appeal.

(5) MINES REGULATION ACT.

Leigh Police Court, December 16th.—In this case, in which the prosecution was instituted by Her Majesty's inspector of mines, the agent and the manager of a coal company were charged with infringing the rule of the Act which requires that, "where a place is likely to contain a dangerous accumulation of water, the working approaching that place shall not, at any point within 40 yards of that place, exceed 8 feet in width, and there shall be constantly kept at a sufficient distance, not being less than 5 yards, in advance, at least one bore-hole near the centre of the working, and sufficient flank bore holes on each side." The defendants admitted the non-observance of the rule; but pleaded that what they did was more in the interests of the miners' safety than if they had carried out the Act. The agent was fined £10 and costs, the manager £5 and costs.

(6) MISCELLANEOUS.

Shoreditch County Court, December 3rd.—A grocer's assistant, engaged at a weekly wage of 30s., paid on Saturdays, who was dismissed on a Monday, his employer giving him 30s. in lieu of notice and offering him 7s. for the day's work, claimed a second 30s. in lieu of notice. The Judge said that a working man employed by the week or the month, unlike a domestic servant, cannot be given notice at any time, but must get notice at the end of a week (or a month, as the case may be), and if discharged in the middle of a week must receive two weeks' wages. Judgment for plaintiff for 30s., in addition to the 30s. already paid to him, with costs.

Population of Italy, 1894.—The estimated population of Italy on December 31st, 1894, is officially stated to have been 30,913,663, as compared with 30,724,897 at the corresponding date in 1893, and 28,459,628 at the date of the last census (December 31st, 1881). The annual estimates are based on the results of the last census, it being assumed that in each district the population has increased at the same rate since the date of that census as during the period from 1871 to the end of 1881. In districts which showed a smaller population in 1881 than in 1871, the figure for 1881 has been allowed to stand.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN DECEMBER.

THE 10 bureaux furnishing returns registered 2,322 fresh applicants for work during December. The total number of workpeople for whom work was found during the month was 1,838, of which number 1,362 were engaged by private employers, and 476 by local authorities.

The number of fresh applicants at the 7 bureaux which also furnished returns for the corresponding month of last year has decreased by 127, the figures for December 1895 and 1894 being 1,070 and 1,197 respectively.

(1) Work Done in December.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Workpeople on Register, No. of Fresh Applicants during Dec., No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities), and Dec. 1895/1894.

(2) Previous Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of December.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, Clerks and Warehousemen, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men, Women and Girls, Grand Total.

* Particulars relating to men only have been furnished. † Women and Girls are not registered at Hackney, Salford and Plymouth.

PAUPERISM IN DECEMBER.

(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 December was 340,223, or 232 per 10,000 of the population of those districts in 1891.

Compared with November, these figures are an increase of 6,444 in the number relieved, and of 4 in the rate per 10,000. This is a smaller seasonal increase than in the same period in 1894, when the rate rose 6 per 10,000. The districts in which the increase is most marked are Coatbridge and Airdrie with an increase of 18 per 10,000 of population, Bristol with 12, and Hull with 10.

Compared with December 1894, the number has increased by 4,689 (equal to 3 per 10,000 of the population), of which increase 3,385, or 72 per cent., is in outdoor relief. In the Scottish districts especially the rate of pauperism is much higher than a year ago, the increase in Coatbridge and Airdrie amounting to 45 per 10,000; in Aberdeen to 26; in Paisley and Greenock to 20; and in Dundee and Dunfermline to 18.

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

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, Other Districts, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, Glasgow District, Edinburgh & Leith Dist., Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie, Total for the above Scottish Districts, IRELAND, Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, Galway District, Total for the above Irish Districts, Total for above 35 districts in Dec. 1895, Total in November 1895.

* Based on the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas.

† Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

THE number of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed by accidents reported in December was as follows:—

Table with columns: December 1895, December 1894, Railway Servants, Miners, Factory and Workshop Operatives, Seamen, Others (so far as reported), Total.

Of the 2,602 non-fatal accidents reported, 628 were to railway servants, 653 in mines and quarries, 945 in factories and workshops, and 376 to other workpeople.

Railway Servants.†

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of December 1895.

[The number of servants employed by the railway companies of the United Kingdom was 381,626 on 31st December 1889.]

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

Miners and Quarrymen.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries, during the month of December 1895.

[The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 739,097, and in and about quarries as 84,986, in 1894.]

Table with columns: MINES, QUARRIES, Cause of Accident, Number of Persons, Killed, Injured.

Factory and Workshop Operatives.‡

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of December 1895.

Table with columns: Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident, Killed, Cause of Accidents, Fractures, Injuries to Head or Face, Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes, Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries, Total Persons Injured, Males, Females, Total Males and Females for Dec. 1895, Total for Dec. 1894.

* There were also 9 quarrymen reported as killed during December. The Act under which these accidents are returned was not, however, in force in 1894.

† In addition to the above the companies have reported 3 servants killed and 377 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during December, as compared with 3 killed and 388 injured in December, 1894.

‡ The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July 1893, page 66. § The classes of accidents reported under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, are those set forth on page 340 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for November 1894. ¶ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

Seamen.

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)

Table showing the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, Isle of Man and Channel Islands, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of December 1895, as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes. (Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Table with columns: Class of Vessels, Number of Deaths, exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide, and unknown causes, By Wreck and Casualty, By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty, Total, Sailing, Steam, Sailing, Steam, Sailing, Steam, Total.

Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894. §

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

Table showing the number of separate accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of December 1895, and the number of persons killed and injured in such accidents.

Table with columns: A.—DISTINGUISHING NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT, Group, Nature of Works, &c., Construction or Repair, Use or Working, No. of Accidents, No. of persons killed, No. of persons injured, B.—DISTINGUISHING NATURE OF INJURY, (The Groups are the same as in Table A.), Nature of Injury, Construction or repair, Use or working, Construction or repair, Use or working, Use or working.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

THE number of fresh disputes occurring in December was 37 as compared with 38 in November, and 43 in December 1894. Particulars obtained with regard to 34 of these disputes show that 3,931 workpeople were affected. Seven disputes took place in the building trades, 2 of which were due to questions of travelling allowance, 2 to questions of working arrangements, 1 to the employment of a labourer on plumbing work, and 1 arose in defence of colleagues, the remaining dispute being due to a union defaulter. The 2 disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding trades were due to demands for an advance in wages, as also was the only dispute in the metal trades. Of the 13 disputes in the mining and quarrying industries 8 were chiefly due to wages questions, 3 to questions of working arrangements, and 1 in defence of a colleague, the remaining dispute being due to a proposed increase in working hours. The dispute in connection with dock labour arose on a wages question. Two of the 5 disputes in the textile trades arose on wages questions, 2 upon grievances in connection with working arrangements, the remaining dispute being due to a demand for the dismissal of an overseer. The two disputes in the clothing trades were both upon wages questions. Six disputes took place in a miscellaneous group of industries, 3 of which were in defence, or for discharge of colleagues, 1 was due to a wages question, and 2 to questions of working arrangements.

The geographical distribution of the 37 disputes was as follows:—Northern Counties, 12; Midland Counties, 4; Western Counties and Wales, 8; London, 1; Scotland, 9; Ireland, 3.

Thirteen old disputes, 12 of which involved 1,819 workpeople, were settled during December, and at the end of the month 11 new and 26 old disputes, involving 7,954 workpeople, were known to be still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER 1895.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Bricklayers ...	Exeter...	For reinstatement of two fellow workmen discharged for using insulting language to clerk of the works	1	18	Dec. 4	Dec. 6	Work resumed without reinstatement of discharged men.
Stonemasons ...	Gloucester ...	To compel a union man to pay up his arrears of contributions	1	4	18	...	Still unsettled.
Plumbers ...	Edinburgh ...	Refusal of employer to pay 6d. per day extra when men are working more than two miles from shop	1	25	10	10	Employer agreed to pay the extra 6d. per day, and to pay the men for time lost over dispute.
Ditto ...	Nottingham ...	Against the employment of labourers on plumbing work	1	9	20	28	Labourers taken off plumbing work.
Plasterers ...	Dundee ...	Alleged refusal to pay travelling allowance	1	3	2	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Dublin ...	Alleged sub-letting of a contract	1	7	4	...	Ditto.
Bath Brickmakers ...	Bridgwater ...	Refusal to work in an alleged unsafe kiln	1	10	4	...	Ditto.
Engineering & Ship-building Trades.							
Smiths' Hammermen...	Newport, Mon.	For an advance in wages of 6d. per day (4s. to 4s. 6d.)	1	7	7	7	Work resumed, and dispute submitted to arbitration.
Fitters and Turners ...	Cardiff ...	For an advance in wages of 3s. per week (36s. to 39s.) on special work	1	7	2	20	Advance granted.
Metal Trades.							
File Smiths ...	Birmingham...	For an advance in wages	1	13	...	...	No details of settlement.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Coal Miners ...	Pentre, Glam.	Dispute as to price to be paid for working the seam	1	—	1	—	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Walkden, Bolton	Against a proposed reduction in wages	1	200	4	—	Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Near Barnsley	Men objected to the re-taring of weighing machine	1	150	3	5	Men submitted to the re-taring of weighing machine.
Ditto ...	Coleford, Gloucester-shire	Refusal of men to accept a revised scale of prices for certain work, alleged to entail a reduction in wages	1	520	9	—	Still unsettled.
Hewers, &c. ...	Cornsay, Durham	Against an increase in working hours	1	480	18	—	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Lochgelly, Fifeshire	Against a reduction in wages	1	110	30	—	Ditto.
Hewers and Putters ...	Sunderland ...	Refusal to work a night shift	1	75	19	—	Ditto.
Pit Lads ...	Denby, Derbyshire	For an advance in wages of 3d. per day	1	60 dir. 340 indir.	11	14	Some of the lads received an advance, others were promoted.
Putters ...	Hebburn-on-Tyne	Against dismissal of one of their number	1	650 dir & indir.	11	16	Work resumed, the putters paying 30s. each damages, and the boy in question was discharged.
Settmakers ...	Near Dalbeattie	For an advance in wages	1	7	2	—	Men found work elsewhere.
Ditto ...	Creighton, Kirkcubrightshire	Against the introduction of a revised scale of prices through being required to drill their own stone	1	13	19	—	No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Letham, Fifeshire	For the adoption of a bill of prices, entailing an advance in wages	2	—	9	—	Ditto.
Coke Drawers ...	Blaydon-on-Tyne	Men alleged that they were unable to work on account of the overloading of the coke-benches	1	20	4	9	Work resumed, the men being subsequently summoned and fined for absenting themselves from work.
Dock, &c., Labour.							
Dock Labourers ...	Middlesbrough	Demand for payment on account of time lost through wet weather by 32 of the men	1	120	2 9 a.m.	3 9 a.m.	Employer acceded to men's demands.
Textile Trades.							
Overlookers ...	Preston ...	Refusal of employer to pay a minimum wage of 4s. per week	1	7	4	5	The men accepted the former minimum wage of 37s. 6d. per week
Cotton Spinners ...	Hyde ...	Alleged bad material	1	—	19	2	Work resumed on promise of improved material.
Cotton Weavers ...	Burnley ...	Alleged excessive fining	1	330	7	9	Modification of the cause of complaint.
Flush Weavers...	Near Huddersfield	Against the introduction of a revised scale of prices involving a reduction on certain classes of work	1	13	2	6	A modification of the revised scale accepted.
Jute Spinners ...	Dundee ...	Against the dismissal of overseer	1	90 dir. 60 indir.	13 lasted	13 7 hours	Work resumed unconditionally.
Clothing Trades.							
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Shieldhall, Glasgow	Refusal of men to repair without payment any flaws discovered in their work after it had passed the foreman	1	300	13	25	Work resumed, and a committee of representatives of men and employers appointed to enquire into grievances.
Slipper-makers...	Waterfoot ...	For a minimum wage of 25s. a week for those employed on lasting machines	1	26	5	—	Still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER 1895—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Cabinet-makers ...	Cork ...	Against being kept waiting for their wages two hours after stopping time	1	5	Dec. 14	Dec. ...	Still unsettled.
French-polishers ...	London, E.C.	For introduction of a "time list"	1	51	5	7	Employer agreed to accept men's "time list."
Cigarette-makers ...	Glasgow ...	For reinstatement of two discharged fellow-workmen	1	60 men, 20 women	20	23	Discharged men reinstated.
Compositors ...	Leeds ...	Against employment of a non-society man at less than the standard rate of wages	1	2	14	—	Shop closed to trade unionists.
Bookbinders* ...	Dublin ...	Against the employment of female and unskilled labour	1	19	7	7	Men stated to have been replaced.
Navvies (Railway Construction)	Budleigh Salterton	For advance in wages...	1	100	16	7	Six of the men were discharged and the remainder returned to work unconditionally.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Bricklayers ...	West Bromwich	Against slaters doing work (roof-tiling) alleged to belong to bricklayers	1	4	16 Oct	Dec. 1	Employer promised that the work should in future be done by bricklayers.
Plumbers ...	Leeds ...	Alleged breach of working rules (i.e., refusal to pay railway fares of men going away to a job)	1	3	19 Nov.	7	Employer agreed to pay railway fares and to adhere in future to working rules
House Painters ...	Aberdeen ...	Alleged breach of the bye-laws regulating the proportion of men to apprentices	1	4	11 Nov	26	Employer agreed to observe the bye-laws.
Engineering and Ship-building Trades.							
Platers' Helpers ...	Walker-on-Tyne	Dispute as to number of helpers to be allowed on different classes of work	1	40 direct 800 indir	28 Oct.	11	Scale of help agreed to.
Ditto ...	Wallsend	Ditto	1	119	11 Nov.	19	Ditto (dispute settled by arbitration.)
Ditto ...	Low Walker...	Ditto	1	29	25 Nov.	10	Ditto (dispute settled by arbitration.)
Coal Mining.							
Coal Miners ...	Near Bradford	Inability to agree upon the price to be paid for getting the coal	1	...	Oct. (lasted about 10 weeks)	11	Dispute submitted to Joint Board and settled by a compromise.
Textile Trades.							
Bleachers and Dyers ...	Stalybridge ...	For an advance in wages	1	430 dir. 150 indir.	30 Aug.	10	Work resumed unconditionally by those of the old hands whose places had not been filled up.
Cotton Spinners ...	Oldham ...	Employer refusing to "slow" mules when working alleged bad material	1	110	22 Nov.	20	Employer acceded to men's demands.
Twisters (Woolen) ...	Longwood, Huddersfield	Against a reduction in piece work prices...	1	14	15 Nov.	9	Work resumed at a reduction of 10 per cent. on one class of work.
Flax Dressers ...	Leeds ...	Against proposed increase in the daily amount of flax to be dressed	1	23	19 Nov.	28	Some of the men resumed work on 23rd December, and the remainder on 30th December; full details of settlement not yet to hand.
Clothing Trades.							
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Manchester ...	Refusal to take out work offered at less than statement prices	1	37	1 Nov.	30	An advance obtained of about 10 per cent on the prices previously offered.
Ditto ...	Croydon ...	For an advance in the price offered for certain work	1	56	19 Nov.	10	Employer granted the advance.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in November were still unsettled:—Stonecutters, Dublin; coopers, Cork; engineers, Clyde District; cotton reelers, Oldham; curriers, Liversedge; fitters, &c., Dowlais.

The following which commenced before November were also still unsettled:—Coal miners, Standish, Wigan; cardroom hands and spinners, Wigan; bedstead makers, Sowerby Bridge; anchormen, Gateshead; bottle makers, compositors and coachmakers, Dublin; engineers and ironfounders, Belfast; cotton weavers, Barnoldswick; range, stove, &c., fitters, Larbert (since settled, January); coal miners, Rotherham (since settled, January 1st); plate-glass bevellers, London, N.; lace trade (two disputes), Nottingham; fustian weavers, Astley, Leigh (since settled, January); building trade employees, Plymouth; fitters, &c., Cardiff; gas meter makers, London.

The following dispute, commencing in November, of which information has only recently been obtained, was also still unsettled:—

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Workpeople.	Date of Commence-ment.
Packing Case Makers ...	Liverpool ...	Against the employment of non-union labour	1	12	15 Nov.

* This dispute was reported in last month's GAZETTE as occurring in November, but from later information it appears that the men did not cease work until 7th December.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS OF CANADA.

THE Statistical Year Book of Canada for 1894* contains an analysis of the results shown by the census of 1891, with a comparison of the figures obtained by the preceding census (for 1881), from which the following details relating to industrial establishments† are abstracted:—

Canada.	Census Year 1881.	Census Year 1891.	Increase.	
			Number.	Per cent.
Number of establishments ...	49,722	75,968	26,246	52.8
Capital invested ...	£34,366,130	£73,879,323	£39,513,193	115.0
Number of employees ...	254,894	376,256	121,362	47.5
Wages paid (in 1880 and 1890) — total	£12,375,355	£20,971,594	£8,596,239	69.5
" " " " per head	£48 10s. 10d.	£56 13s. 4d.	£8 2s. 6d.	16.7

* The Statistical Year Book of Canada for 1894. Ottawa; Government Printing Bureau, 1895.

† The census definition of an industrial establishment is "any place where one or several persons are engaged in manufacturing, altering, making up, or changing from one shape into another, materials for sale, use, or consumption."

Recent Swiss Labour Publications.—The Department has recently received copies of the annual report of the Swiss Workmen's Secretary (Herr Greulich) relating to the year 1894. The chief feature of the report is the account which it gives of labour disputes which have taken place in Switzerland from 1860 to the end of 1894 (see LABOUR GAZETTE for October, page 310).*

The Reports of the Cantonal Governments on the enforcement of the Federal Factory Law for the years 1893 and 1894 have also been received. These are distinct from the reports issued by the three Federal Factory inspectors, with which they appear in alternate years.†

Industrial Statistics of the Province of Syracuse.‡—This forms one of the series of monographs of provinces published from time to time by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. It shows that out of a total of 8,158 industrial workers (not counting domestic weavers) in the province, 2,557 were occupied in oil pressing, and 2,081 in mining, quarrying, or the production of lime, cement, bricks or terra-cotta.

* Achter Jahresbericht des leitenden Ausschusses des Schweizerischen Arbeiterbundes und des Schweizerischen Arbeitersekretariats für das Jahr 1894, nebst dem Protokoll der Sitzung des Bundesvorstandes. Zürich, 1895.

† Berichte der Kantonsregierungen über die Ausführung des Bundesgesetzes betreffend die Arbeit in den Fabriken 1893 und 1894, Aarau 1895.

‡ Notizie sulle condizioni industriali della provincia di Siracusa. Rome, Government Printing Office. 1895.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

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

Of the 16,500 workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during December, 11,500 received increases and about 5,000 sustained decreases. The most important increase affects the iron shipbuilders on the Clyde and in Belfast. These men, over 5,000 in all, have been promised an increase to take effect on 3rd February of 5 per cent. on the rates paid to piece workers, who form the bulk of the whole number, and of 1s. per week in the wages of time workers. The blast furnacemen in the Cumberland and Lancashire districts, to the number of 2,270, have received advances under sliding scales. Arrangements have been made between the glass bottle manufacturers of Yorkshire and their workmen as to wages for 1896, with the result that an advance of 5 per cent. on the rates paid in December for "overwork" came into operation on 1st January. Over 2,500 workpeople are affected. In the tinplate trade 100 workpeople are reported to have received an advance, and 600 to have sustained decreases. The 4,000 blast furnacemen in the Cleveland and Durham district have suffered a decrease, under sliding scale, of 2 per cent. The remaining decreases were small and unimportant.

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, IRON AND STEEL TRADES, TINPLATE TRADE, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, and CLOTHING TRADES.

* In all cases the accuracy of newspaper reports is enquired into before the information is used here. † 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. ‡ See also Reductions in Hours of Labour, p. 31.

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 GLASS BOTTLE TRADE, WOOD WORKING TRADES, CORPORATION EMPLOYEES, MISCELLANEOUS TRADES, and SEAMEN.

* These changes are in addition to those affecting other employees of the Corporation of Leeds reported last month. † The predominant wage, however, remained the same as in the previous month.

Changes in Rates of Wages of Agricultural Labourers.—The weekly wages of agricultural labourers in some districts of the East of England, and in Berks and Wilts, have shown a tendency to fall below the rates paid during the winter months of last year. For further particulars see article on Agricultural Labour in December, page 5.

REDUCTIONS IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN DECEMBER.

THE 8 cases of reductions of hours of labour reported during December affected 238 persons.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime) before and after change, Dec. per week.

Reduction of Hours of Duty of Railway Servants.

Consequent upon representations made to the Board of Trade, under the Railway Regulation Act of 1893, the undermentioned company has reduced the hours of duty of certain signalmen, viz:—

Table with columns: Name of Company, District Affected, Class of Servant.

PARIS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

A SCHEME adopted by the Paris Municipal Council on July 13th, 1895, and approved by the Prefect of the Seine on November 14th, 1895, regulates the conditions of employment of workmen in the service of the Municipality. Among the conditions which a man must fulfil in order to obtain employment is that he shall be a Frenchman, and shall have resided in Paris over five years. All workmen are to be employed on a monthly salary, to be paid by fortnightly instalments. The hours of work are to be fixed separately for each department; but in no case must the normal hours exceed 10 out of 24 for manual labourers, while, where

the man is employed only as a watchman or alternately in manual labour and as watchman, the limits are 11 hours of day work or 12 hours of night work; all time worked in excess of normal hours is to be paid for as overtime. In all cases alike the workman is entitled to one day's rest in every fortnight, and all, except workmen employed only temporarily, are to have an annual holiday of 10 days on full pay. The Municipality will provide its workmen with all tools required. If a workman is temporarily incapacitated by an accident arising out of the performance of his duties, he will receive his pay in full until complete recovery. The workman attacked by illness will receive his pay in full during the continuance of the malady, provided this does not exceed one year; if it does, then the Administration will enquire whether it is proper that the man shall get his pay, in whole or in part, or whether he shall receive a pension.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN DECEMBER.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)
From the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in December it will be seen that 5 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 4 Associations for Production, 2 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 20 new Friendly Societies, and 67 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Thirty Building Societies, one Industrial and Provident Society, and 9 Trade Unions, one of which has amalgamated with an existing society, are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding up," or to have had registry cancelled.

NEW ORGANIZATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Oldbury and District Chemical and General Workers, Brown Lion Hotel, Birmingham St., Oldbury; Barnsley District Society of Quarrymen, Griffin Inn, Sheffield Rd., Barnsley; Leicester and District Builders' Labourers' Pro. Accident and Burial Soc., Sun Inn, Church Gate, Leicester; Portsmouth Government Labourers, 26 George St., Buckland, Portsmouth; Ship Riveters and Holders-up, Powerscourt Arms, Church St., Landport. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Shaw Progressive Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 76a Market St., Shaw, Oldham; Willingham Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Willingham R.S.O. Cambs. *Scotland.*—Kirkconnel Co-op. Soc. Ltd., Kirkconnel, Dumfries. *Ireland.*—Clonlisk Co-op. Agricultural Soc., Ltd., Drumkeen, Roscrea. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Canterbury Co-op. Tanners, Ltd., 113 Wincheap St., Canterbury; Holmfirth and District Co-op. Boot and Shoe Soc., Ltd., 3 Victoria Sq., Holmfirth, Huddersfield. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Londonderry Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc. Ltd., Londonderry; Louth Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Louth.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Market Harborough and District Liberal Club, Ltd., 22 The Square, Market Harborough; Cudworth Working Men's Club and Institute Soc., Ltd., Cudworth, Barnsley. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 8; Female, 1; Juvenile, 3; Dividing, 2; Specially Authorised, 3; Working Men's Clubs, 3. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—I.O. Rechabites S.U., 24 (of which 18 are Juvenile and 1 a Juvenile District); A.O. Foresters, 8; L.O. Ancient Shepherds, 6; O. Sons of Temperance, 4 (2 Juvenile); London Caledonian Friendly Soc., 4; G.U.O. Oddfellows, 3; various others, 8. *Scotland.*—I.O. Rechabites, S.U., 8; L.O.A.S.A.U., 1. *Ireland.*—I.O. Rechabites, 1.

OLD ORGANIZATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Notice of dissolution of following unions has been registered.—Hammermen, Helpers' and General Labourers', Victoria Dock Rd., E; Society of Women employed in Shirt, Collar and Under-linen making, 2 Clerkenwell Rd., E.C.; Coventry Watch-case Engine Turners, Spon Lane, Coventry; London and Counties Labour League, Perry Hill, Lewisham; Amalgamated Soc. of Welded Boiler-makers, Halifax; *United Bargemen's and Watermen's Protection Soc., Rochester; *United London County Council Employees Labour Union; *†Portsmouth Dairyman's Protection Association. The Metropolitan Trade Society of Operative Plasterers has ceased to exist by amalgamation with

* Registry cancelled by request of society.

† An Employer's Association.

the National Association of Operative Plasterers. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Old Kent Rd. Co-op. Soc., Ltd. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—Dissolved by Instrument, 13; Notice received of termination of dissolution, 9; Notice received of commencement of dissolution, 8.

NEW INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED IN 1895.

The following table is based upon returns supplied to the Labour Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and shows the number of industrial organisations registered during the year 1895 in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, together with the totals for the United Kingdom.

The total number of trade unions and employers' associations registered in 1895 was 75, a decrease of 8 compared with 1894; of industrial and provident societies 123, an increase of 10; of friendly societies and branches 897, a decrease of 17; and of building societies 5, a decrease of 88; the total number of industrial organisations registered in 1895 being 1,100, as compared with 1,203 in 1894:—

	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	Totals, United Kingdom.
Trade Unions	63*	2	7	72
Employers' Associations	3	—	—	3
Total	66	2	7	75
Industrial and Provident Societies—				
For distribution... ..	32	7	13	52
„ production	8	2	31	41
„ miscellaneous purposes... ..	28	1	1	30
Total	68	10	45	123
Friendly Societies—				
(1) Ordinary Friendly	73	4	6	83
(2) Specially authorised	47	—	8	55
(3) Dividing	48	—	—	48
(4) Juvenile	44	2	—	46
(5) Female	5	—	—	5
(6) Benevolent	3	—	—	3
(7) Tontine and Collecting	2	—	—	2
(8) Working Men's Clubs	61	2	1	64
(9) New Orders	1	—	—	1
(10) New branches of existing Societies	499†	80	11	590
Total	783	88	26	897
Building Societies	4	1	—	5
Total Industrial Organisations Registered in 1895	921	101	78	1,100
Corresponding totals in 1894	1,051	96	56	1,203

The Willow-Plaiting; Industry of Modena.—Official statistics of industries of the province of Modena, in Italy, show that out of a total of 16,063 industrial workers in the province in 1894, 10,815 were engaged in the willow-plaiting industry—most of them domestically. These included 1,345 adult males, 3,570 adult females, and 5,900 girls under 15 years of age. About 10,000 work at this trade during 6 months of the year, and about 5,000 during the other 6 months. The men earn about 1s. 2½d., the women less than 10d., and the children less than 3d. a day. Most of the wares are exported, chiefly to Paris, London, Luton, Dresden and Brussels.

* Including 1 Federation of Unions.

† Including 11 "Districts."

‡ Trucolo, commonly known as "rice straw."

§ Notizie sulle condizioni industriali della provincia di Modena. Rome, Government Printing Office. 1895.

NOTICE.

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR,
44 Parliament Street, London, S.W.

All letters respecting advertisements, or the purchase of copies of the GAZETTE, should be sent to the Publishers:—

VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & CO., Limited,
31-37 Cursitor-street, Chancery-lane, London, E.C.

Copies may also be obtained from bookstalls and newsagents.

Wholesale Agents in all principal towns of Great Britain and Ireland.

Terms of Subscription—2s. per Annum, Post Free.

Printed and Published for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & CO. LTD., 31 to 37 Cursitor-street, London, E.C.—January, 1896.