

British and Foreign

UNEMPLOYED DIFFICULTIES.

According to official reports from the local Diarress Committees and the local correspondents of the Labor Department of the Board of Trade, "The amount of distress due to unemployment in November was considerably less than a year ago. The work people most generally affected by lack of employment were those belonging to the building trades and various classes of laborers. Boot and shoe operatives were also affected at Leicester and Northampton.

Returns have been received from 37 boroughs and urban districts, in 31 of which the total number of unemployed registered up to the date of the returns was 24,077.

In West Ham up to December 8, 1,136 men reported themselves as willing to emigrate, and in East Ham over 300.

STARTLING ALLEGATIONS.

The Evening News says: There are more outdoor paupers in Poplar than in Shoreditch, Stepney, Bethnal-green, St. George's-in-the-East, Mile End and Whitechapel put together. The reason of this popularity is not far to seek. The guardians have abolished the labor test, and any day 300 strong, broad-shouldered young men, and another 300 buxom and equally happy-looking young women may be seen killing time agreeably and comfortably in the house. The dietary could not be excelled at a West End hotel. The butter costs 1s. 3^d. a pound, bought by the ton, new laid eggs 2d. each, and bacon (best Irish) 11d. a pound. The bread and meat are the best that can be bought.

Our representative was informed on excellent authority that 6s. each is being paid for articles that are sold wholesale at 6d., and 25s. for an article that is being sold in the open market at 7s. One of the guardians saw 60 stone of food bought some time ago at 8d. a pound. He offered to duplicate it at 2d. a pound.

The staff is equally well looked after. One item of a recent day's food bill was 32 shillings at 1s. 8d. a pound. A strange story was told the representative by a baker. "I had a customer," he said, "who bought five loaves from me weekly. He now gets twelve as outdoor relief and sells seven of them."

A striking proof of Poplar "House's" popularity is common property in the neighborhood. A sick man went to the Bethnal Green Infirmary was granted admission, and told that

his wife and children would have to enter the workhouse. "I can do better than that," he said, and took himself off. He went to the Poplar Infirmary, where he could not be refused admission, and his family are now in receipt of 15s. a week outdoor relief.

A secret of the organization of unemployed demonstrations was told by a prominent ratepayer. Men at work on the farm colony, he stated, had had their fares up to town paid for them by a certain person in order that they might join in a demonstration in the West End.

Statements of the above extraordinary character must surely be answered by the authorities, or the matter will call for further enquiry.

At Romford, according to one of the guardians, they have turned the workhouse into a social club. Concerts are given every other day, a military band plays at the dinner hour, and the inmates are so satisfied that they say they intend to stop for good.

Accounting for the decrease of tramps lately admitted to the Beaminster workhouse, Dorset, the master on Tuesday said they were all going to London to join the unemployed there.

Employment generally continued to improve in November, says the Labor Gazette, the most noticeable improvement being in the pig iron, iron and steel, tin-plate and engineering trades.

The threatened strike of Exeter doctors attached to the dispensary has been averted by an agreement between the management and the doctors.

Increases in their employees' wages of 5 per cent. on piece rates, and 1s. 6d. a week on time rates have been agreed to by the shipbuilding employers at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CHINESE LABOR DECISION.

Colonial Secretary's Order to Lord Selborne.

We are officially informed that Lord Elgin, the Colonial Secretary, in a despatch to Lord Selborne on the subject of Chinese labor, states:

"While reserving their opinion and freedom of action in the whole matter, His Majesty's Government considers that the experiment of the introduction of Chinese laborers should not be extended further, until they can learn the opinion of the colony through an elected and really representative Legislature, and they have accordingly decided that the recruiting, embarkation and importation of Chinese coolies shall be arrested pending a decision as to the

grant of responsible government to the colony. They are not prepared in all the circumstances to be responsible for further importation.

"His Majesty's Government trust that the inhabitants of the Transvaal will recognize that they have felt it their duty to take this step deliberately and after careful review."

In the course of his despatch, of which the foregoing are the concluding sentences, Lord Elgin pointed out that from the beginning the importation of Chinese into the Transvaal was regarded as an experiment.

The Chinese on the Rand now number about 48,000.

One conclusion the Government has arrived at is this: To stop forthwith, so far as it is practicable to do it forthwith, the recruitment and embarkation of coolies in China—(loud and enthusiastic cheering, the audience rising and waving hats and handkerchiefs)—and their importation into South Africa, and instructions have been given to that effect. (Great cheering.)

A barber in the Commercial road, Stepney, announces: "Free shaving by an apprentice every Tuesday. Not responsible for cuts or mistakes he should make."

JOHN BURNS A SOCIALIST.

At an early age John Burns had responsibilities such as few of us are called upon to assume. He had his mother to keep, and the scanty wages he drew as riveter would not go very far towards providing a living. He eked out his salary by seeking and obtaining employment as a pot boy. This work he did in his spare time.

An apprenticeship at Thorns at Millbank leads one to suppose that at a very early period of his life, probably when he was about sixteen, he had very serious thoughts as to the necessity for providing for his future.

With hard manual labor filling his days, and sending him home physically fatigued at night—with the growth of his principles and the dawning of a public life even then before his eyes—John Burns pursued his studies.

They ran on most unconventional lines. Always an insatiable devourer of books, he may be said to have digested John Stuart Mill at a sitting. At any rate, enough did he digest to fix firmly in his mind this one fact—he was a Socialist, he could be nothing less. "Mill made me a Socialist," says Burns. "After reading his exposition against Socialism, I thought, well, if this is the worst this learned writer can say against Socialism, the case was proved."

SORROWS OF MILLIONAIRES.

Are not millionaires notoriously unhappy men? They fly for refuge from melancholy, either to the reckless dissipation of their fortunes or to a frantic scramble after billions.—Church Times.

For leaving work without giving notice 58 men employed at Hylton (Durham) Colliery were ordered to pay 15s each on Saturday. Their action has resulted in 1,000 men and boys coming out on strike.

TRADES TRAINING SCHOOL.

At Carpenters' Hall, London-wall, on Tuesday, Lord Alverstone distributed the prizes won at the Trades Training School in Great Titchfield street, Marylebone, conducted by half a dozen city guilds—the Worshipful Companies of Carpenters, Joiners, Painter-Stainers, Plasterers, Tylers and Bricklayers and Wheelwrights. At this school there are at present 165 students, and of the nineteen in the wheelwrights' class five hold London County Council scholarships. Lord Alverstone also gave prizes to successful students in the evening department of the division of architecture and engineering, King's College, London.

The Lord Chief Justice, in his address, specially congratulated Mr. F. J. Blundell (mason) on winning both the gold medal and the Banister Fletcher medal as the best craftsman in the school; and Miss J. L. Lee, the only lady prize winner, who took a certificate of distinction in constructional drawing in the King's College division. He maintained that in his own lines the British workman was as good as any of his foreign competitors.

Bakers' strike still on.

In reply to the imbecile and indifferent efforts of the English Government to provide some plan for relief to the army of unemployed in London, Lady Henry Somerset says: "Capitalism has reached the height of tyranny for now in the London factories most of the adults have been dismissed and child labor is almost in universal vogue. The boys and girls on leaving school at fourteen to go to the factories and are employed there at half wages until they are eighteen; then they are dismissed or superannuated. They have learned no more useful knowledge when they leave the walls of the places where human lives are thus ground out than when they entered them, and afterward have nothing to do but to loaf round the corners of the streets seeking work which does not come."

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29th April, 1905	8,318,204
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Their Office is in the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, ground floor. Any one having business with them, or desiring to know anything in regard to the Act under which they are employed, will please address them as above.

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