

As the labour employed in these highest lines of manufacture is the highest skilled labour the country possesses, the conclusion is irresistible that skilled labour was in a much better financial condition so far as related to rewards of labour, i.e., income, in 1891 than in 1881.

There can be no doubt also that the expenditure, the out-go, was less in 1891 than it was in 1881, every class of articles needed having depreciated in value with the exception of shelter rents not showing a diminished value, and probably flesh foods also.

The number of employees in this group in 1891 was 139,080 compared with 83,526 in 1881, showing an increase of 66·5 per cent. There was thus a large increase in the number of employees in group 5 as well as an increase in the reward of their labour.

In groups 3 and 4, the figures show that Labour secured a larger share of the wages fund in 1891 than it did in 1881, the proportion in group 4 being \$44.50 in each \$100 in 1891, against \$43.70 in 1881, and in group 3, \$45.70 in each \$100, against \$44.30 in 1891.

In groups 1 and 2, the conditions do not appear to be as favourable to Labour in 1891 as they were in 1881; group 1 showing that Labour received \$52.10 in every \$100 in 1891, against \$60 in 1881, and group 2 showing that Labour received \$46.30 in every \$100 in 1891, against \$49.30 in 1881.

In both 1881 and 1891, the Census returns show that Labour in groups 1 and 2 received a larger per centage of the surplus than it did in the other four groups, but the approximation to the other groups is closer in 1891 than it was in 1881. The average of the three larger groups in 1891 being 44·9 per cent against an average of 49·2 per cent in the two smaller groups, while the average of the three larger groups in 1881 is 43·2 per cent against an average of 54·6 per cent, the difference in 1881 being 11·4 and in 1891, 4·3. Part of this difference is undoubtedly due to the greater care exercised in 1891 by the enumerators and by the compilers in the Census of the smaller industries. Part is due to the fact that in the small industries, Capital plays a less important part than it does in the larger industries.