

The effects of indulgence in alcohol are strongly suggested, though not conclusively proved, by the records of absenteeism. It is stated,\* for instance, that at an engineering works the time lost by the men was so considerable that the employers made total abstinence a condition of employment. The lost time fell to 0.5 per cent., as compared with the figure of about 10 per cent. experienced at other engineering works. The same authority states that the General Manager of the Shipping Federation, who sought information from forty-eight large shipping offices about the time lost by seamen through indulgence in alcohol, obtained a positive reply from thirty-three firms. Five of the firms stated that one or two days a week were lost from this cause, whilst fifteen firms put it at six to eight hours. The men were specially inclined to a debauch shortly before coming on board, and they thereby imperilled the safety of the ship.

Amongst coal-miners absenteeism is specially marked on Mondays and Saturdays. This is well shown in the absenteeism data published in the Report of the Coal Commission.† They relate to the week October 12-17, 1925, and in the present Table are recorded samples of these data from various coal-fields. They relate to the whole of the men, both underground and surface; but the surface men (who are paid at a time rate and on a lower scale) showed much less absenteeism than the coal-face men, as is shown by the sample data recorded on the right side of the Table.

\* T. Oliver, "Alcohol in Relation to Indust. Efficiency." Roy. Soc. Arts, 1922.

† Report of Royal Commission on Coal Industry, 1926, App. 316.