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Original Correspondence.

To the Editor of the *North Devon Journal*.

DEPRESSUN IN TRADE.

Zur,—Tis verry sad tu reyd ov zo minny owt ov work, an starvin, an hot they've dun in London, braykin the shop winders, an staylin the things that be in the shops, I hexpect wen thare is innything like that aun, tis a fine chance vor the loafers that I've yerd be awlways hangin abowt in zitch plases, an that wud rather fite or stayl than work. An I dare zay, Zur, zom ov thay soart be better hoff in thayse bad times than thay be wen times be better vor thay git a share ov the charity that is distributed, an as I rayd in the paper, thay want work if thay cud git it, vor som man zed he zend a man tu git wan ov the honhemployd tu help tu du a job, an he wud gie the man zixpense happeny a hower, but he wudden work, as he zed he was better hoff as he was.

Wile it is like that way a gude minny, I beeeleve thares a lot ov rayl want, an a lot that wud work, but thay cant git it, an I zee varyus raysons zet vore why trade is bad, an wy ovr manufacturers kant compeet way furriners, an som hadvocate hot thay kall "fare trade," but I doant think that wud du it a bit ov gude. If ovr own peepel kant make

gudes an zill it in ovr own markets an beet furriners, thares zomthin rong home that "fare trade" want remedy. A draper towld me not long ago that he cude by merinos made in France vor pense a yard less than hot is made in Bradford, an the quality aykwil. Now, Zur, I zay thayse things hoft not tu be zo, an I'll tell hot I beleeve is wan rayson wy tis zo. Wool is zo cheep yer as tis inny place, an livin is cheep, but the mischeef is that the men be under the yoke ov trades yunions, an thaym bownd vor tu du hot thay tell min, an thay baint allowd tu du but zo much work in a day, nor tu work vor less than a sartin fixed sum, zo in France a man kan git abowt dubbel zo much work vor the same munny as he kan yer. Besides, this, ivery now an then thares a strike, an zom mill is shet up vor weeks together, an the men hev got tu be supported owt ov hot others be workin vor, jist tu live in idleness. I zeed in the *Journal* laest week that zom man wanted a big vessel tu be bilded, and the kontrakt went abrawd: this didden hoft tu be wen thares zo minny shipbuilders owt ov work. I yerd tether day ov a man that went tu zom ironworks away hup the kuntry, an wan ov the masters shawd en arownd the works, ware a lot ov men was standin still, an the visseter axed the rayson, an the maester hexplaynd that thayse men was mimbers of a Society that didden allow min tu du but a sartin amount ov work in a day. Now, sez he, I have a large kontrakt vrom abrawd, but yu wudden think zo tu zee the men, an thay doant kare ware I finish it in the time or no, an I dare not zay a word tu min. In the face ov furrin kompetishun this yer tyranny will hev tu be brawk down, or else England will lose her plase as the fust workshop ov the world.

The second grayt cawse ov depression that I shall notice is the himprovidense ov the working klasses. I zeed a repoart in the paper abowt the dock laburers hingaged in hunloadin timber vessels in the London docks. They airn about 35 shillins a week vor 9 months in the year, an the tether dree wen thay've got no work thare thay'm in a state nex tu starvashun, I've yerd it zed thet minny men thet git gude wages spend a quarter and zom wan haf ov it in drink. I've bin towld thet thare's moar than one hunderd and thirty million pouns spent in drink in the United Kingdom in wan yer, an thet it amounth hup tu over 4 pouns a hed vor ivery man, humman, an cheeld; if tis true, zur, this is zomthin dredful. Wy thet is zo much as the rent ov awl the land an awl the howses in the kuntery. As I've a zed avaur Iv'e turned taytotaler, zo yu muss hexkuse me if I spayk owt, if I cude du wayowt strong drinks, iveryboddy else cude, an if the munny thet is

spend pon thayse things was turned tu other akownts, an if vokes wud by things that required more labour tu make, trade wud be better. Thare issen much labour required tu make drink, about 18 penorth tu make a pownd's worth Ive bin towld, but if yu by a pownd's worth ov kalykew thare's 13 shillins ov it gothe vor labour. A man thet nawd zomthin abowt the stockin trade towld me zom time back thet if wan day's spendin in drink wis yused vor by stockins thet the stocks ov awl the hoalzale daylers in the trade wudden supply the vakansy, an the deemand wud make the factory's bissy vor a long time. It wud be a gude thing tu spend it thet way, an then a cuppel ev days' drinkin pon shews, an put zom pon the pore childern thet go abowt way naked veet in the cowl'd an wet. Then if the vokes gied hup drink thay wud be benefitted, an beezides thet if thay gied hup drink thay wud save a pownd agin a rainy day, an not go pon the parrish or beggin the minnet innnything is the matter way mun. I may be thort tu be a hinthusiast wen I zay thet the drink is no gude hotiver, an quite honnesesary vor a elthy man or humman ether. I shant zay nort abowt the yuse of it doctering, but Im bowld tu zay thet innny given number ov men wud du moar work in zay a month wayowt the drink than thay wud way it vor it gieth no strength at al. Wen vokes be tired an take it thay be stimulated a bit, but tis onnly jist like spurring a weary hoss. Beezides the less thares the misery that followeth in the path, wives an childern ragget an starvin, murders an suisides, wife baytin, jayles an yunions filled moastly way drinkers, an zo on. Zo much that I've kum tu the konklushun that tis dangerous vor hev innnything tu du way it, vor zom ov awl ranks hev bin rewened by it. Aiven klergymen an other passons. Then zom tell me that the Government cudden du way ow't the dutey thet is payd pon it. Then let the dree happense ow't ov a shillen dutey pon drink be payd ow't, an keep the tether ten pence happeny vor other purposes. If that is the best rayzon vy a man shude drink thayse things thares zom maynin in the lines I zeed zomwhare wan day—

"Drink and be mad the, 'tis your country's cause
Demands the assistance of your throats.
Ye all can swallow, and she asks no more."

I daresay thay hot hargey like that think thaym gurt patriots an supporters ov the kuntery, but I think, zur, if the munney was spent in other things, thare wud be no lack

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ov rejuvenate as it wud vend its way tu the Government dru other things. I shude like to zay yer that I baint zayin wan word agin thay hot be hingaged in the drink trade, as thay be duin a bissens protected by the law, an beezides that a man way a bad kariter may engage in almoast inny other bisens, but vor be a publikan he muss be a man ov gude repute, and he muss shaw testaymonealls tu that effect, or he kant git awthority vur zill spiritous lickers, an then he muss konduct hissels properly or helse he will git it tuke away vrom en agen, an onny zill drink vor refreshmints an not allow peepel tu git drink pon his premises; he is rather a licensed vitteler than a drink ziller. His bisens is tu provide vittels an lodgings vor travellers an zo on.

Another way in wich I think the honimployed mite be gied himployment is tu brayk up the waste land an turning it intu cultivashun. If the jintlemin was vor spend less in keepin hosses an foxhounds an was vor spend som ov this in draynin the bogs an gittin the thousands ov aykers ov land that is now nort but wilderness under kultivashun, thay mite not git much per cent vor ther munny, but thay wud hev the satisfackshun ov nawin that they was helpin tu himpruve the kuntery an incraysin its capabilitys vor produsin the necessarys ov life, an wich wud be a benefit vor hunborn ginerashuns. At inny rate, it cudden pay wuss then foxhuntin vor thares no return at al vor that.

If yu shude think thayse remarks worthy ov spase in yer paper, I shall be playesd; an let me zay, zur that I've got it in my mind tu zend a lot moar letters abowt different things if I can onny vind the time, and yu can vind the rume vor mun

Yours truly,

R. GILES

Welcombe, March 6th, 1886.