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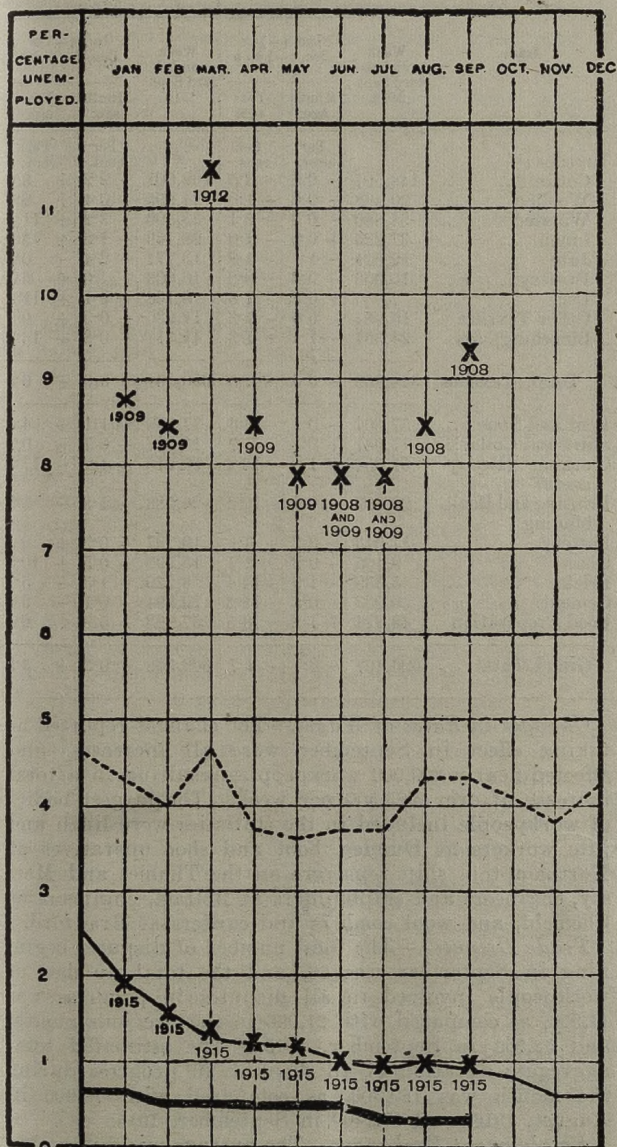
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1916. — Thin Curve = 1915.
..... Dotted Curve = Mean of 1906-15.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1906-15.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

THE LABOUR MARKET.

In September all the principal industries were well employed, while those engaged on Government contracts continued to work at high pressure. In a few minor trades or branches of trades there was some slackness, but in no case was there an appreciable number of unemployed. Compared even with the good conditions of a year ago employment on the whole showed an improvement. The substitution of women and girls for men continued, but the depletion of industry, owing to increased enlistments, necessitates their employment in much greater numbers if industrial requirements are to be met.

Employment at coal, iron and shale mines continued very good; lead mines were also busy, but tin mines were affected by the general shortage of labour. Employment at quarries was fairly good on the whole.

In the pig iron industry employment was good, and there was a further increase in the number of furnaces in blast, and an improvement in the supply of raw materials. At iron and steel works employment was very good, and the engineering and ship-building trades continued to work at high pressure, with much overtime. There was a marked decline in the tinplate trade, largely due to the commandeering of pig iron by the Government, but most of the other metal trades continued very active, and much overtime was reported.

The cotton trade continued to be affected by the shortage of labour; the woollen and worsted trades were very active. The linen trade showed a further improvement in Ireland, and was also better than a month ago in Scotland; in the jute trade employment was good, but showed a slight decline. The plain net branch of the lace trade was very busy on Government orders; there was also an improvement in the levers branch, but the curtain branch declined. Employment continued good in the hosiery, bleaching, dyeing and finishing trades, and fairly good in the silk trade. In the carpet trade it was quiet.

Great activity continued in the boot and shoe trades, and employment in the leather trades remained good, except in some branches of the saddle and harness trades, in which it was still quiet. There was a seasonal improvement in bespoke tailoring, dressmaking and millinery; there was also an improvement in the mantle, costume and blouse trades, and in the ready-made clothing trades. The shirt and collar and the hat trades showed little change, and employment in the corset trade continued good.

The workpeople remaining in the building trades continued to be well employed. In the brick trades employment was fairly good; in the cement trade it was good, with much overtime. In the furnishing trades employment continued good; in the other woodworking trades it was good on the whole. Em-

ployment in the paper and printing trades was fairly good; in the bookbinding trade it was good.

Employment in the glass and pottery trades continued good. It was also good in the food preparation trades, and much overtime was reported.

Agricultural operations were helped by good weather in England and Wales, and in most districts the corn harvest was completed by the end of the month; in Scotland the harvest was delayed by bad weather. Employment continued fair with dock labourers, and good with fishermen, except at certain East Coast ports, where it was slack. The supply of sailors and firemen for mercantile ships was not equal to the demand.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 946,121 reported 3,736 (or 0.4 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of September, 1916, compared with 0.4 per cent. at the end of August, 1916, and 0.9 per cent. at the end of September, 1915.

Trade.	Membership at end of Sept., 1916, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces.	Unemployed at end of Sept., 1916.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num. ber.	Per- cent- age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building*	70,812	633	0.9	...	- 1.2
Coal Mining†	136,655	9	0.0	...	- 0.1
Iron and Steel	37,290	254	0.7	- 0.4	- 0.3
Engineering	262,385	514	0.2	...	- 0.2
Shipbuilding	73,894	128	0.2	...	- 0.2
Miscellaneous Metal	38,401	43	0.1	...	- 0.1
Textiles†—					
Cotton	79,690	755	0.9	+ 0.1	- 1.0
Woollen & Worsted	7,876	...	...	- 0.1	- 1.4
Other	54,339	195	0.4	...	- 0.1
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	53,422	660	1.2	- 0.2	- 1.6
Furnishing	14,251	146	1.0	- 0.4	- 2.6
Woodworking	27,330	137	0.5	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Clothing	71,173	159	0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Leather	3,810	63	1.7	- 0.5	- 0.5
Glass	715	...	...	...	- 1.9
Pottery	11,810	13	0.1	...	...
Tobacco	2,268	27	1.2	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Total	946,121	3,736	0.4	...	- 0.5

UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of September, 1916, was 0.49, compared with 0.51 at the end of August, 1916, and 0.88 at the end of September, 1915.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces	Unemployed at end of September, 1916.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed on a	
		Number.	Per- cent- age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building	533,184	4,173	0.78	- 0.08	- 0.94
Construction of Works	117,033	433	0.37	- 0.01	- 0.12
Engineering and Iron-founding	1,067,272	4,407	0.41	- 0.03	- 0.02
Shipbuilding	240,791	793	0.33	+ 0.04	- 0.27
Construction of Vehicles	172,152	694	0.40	+ 0.01	- 0.24
Sawmilling	8,854	39	0.44	- 0.07	- 0.34
Other Insured Work-people	40,552	50	0.12	- 0.04	- 0.14
All Insured Work-people	2,179,838	10,589	0.49	- 0.02	- 0.39

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: MINING AND METAL TRADES.

The following Table summarises the returns from firms employing 732,452 workpeople in September, 1916, in the industries mentioned:—

* This percentage is based mainly on Returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.

† In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is more generally met by short-time working.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for September, 1916.	September, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	552,163	Days worked per week by Mines. 5.75	+ 0.06	+ 0.10
Iron	13,269	5.83	- 0.09	- 0.08
Shale	3,188	6.00	...	+ 0.11
Pig Iron	26,500	Furnaces in Blast. 284	+ 6	+ 16
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	23,000	Mills Working. 381 Shifts Worked (One Week). 662,848	- 31	- 108
Iron and Steel	114,332	662,848	+ 1.6	+ 6.8

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

Returns from firms employing 526,467 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September, 1916, showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 4.7 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Trade.	Workpeople.				Wages.			
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Textiles:—								
Cotton	148,501	- 0.6	- 3.5	169,001	- 2.2	+ 3.6		
Woollen	20,408	- 0.6	- 1.0	24,905	- 0.4	+ 6.4		
Worsted	31,880	- 0.3	- 2.1	33,500	+ 3.2	+ 11.5		
Linen	37,225	+ 0.6	- 1.0	28,169	+ 1.9	+ 13.7		
Jute	12,924	- 1.1	- 1.8	13,771	- 2.4	- 0.7		
Hosiery	15,906	- 0.2	- 0.8	16,603	- 1.0	+ 6.3		
Lace	7,050	+ 0.8	- 1.8	8,168	+ 2.1	+ 11.2		
Other Textiles	15,984	- 0.5	- 7.3	14,936	+ 0.3	+ 0.6		
Bleaching, &c.	24,391	- 1.1	+ 1.3	41,311	- 0.8	+ 16.2		
Total, Textiles	314,269	- 0.4	- 2.5	350,364	- 0.9	+ 6.6		
Boot and Shoe	57,307	- 0.1	- 2.6	77,358	+ 1.1	+ 4.3		
Shirt and Collar	17,041	+ 0.3	- 7.7	13,737	+ 0.7	- 0.7		
Clothing (Ready-made)	31,054	+ 1.3	- 18.4	29,210	+ 1.2	- 17.9		
Printing and Book-binding	20,082	- 0.0	- 10.2	26,588	+ 1.3	- 3.9		
Pottery	17,043	- 0.2	- 3.1	19,797	+ 0.2	+ 6.3		
Glass	9,465	- 0.2	- 2.7	15,998	+ 0.5	+ 10.5		
Brick	5,339	- 1.9	- 14.4	8,229	- 1.3	- 5.7		
Cement	6,053	- 0.5	- 11.2	10,994	- 0.1	- 6.4		
Food Preparation	48,814	+ 1.2	- 6.5	57,293	+ 5.8	+ 6.4		
Grand Total	526,467	- 0.1	- 4.7	609,568	+ 0.3	+ 3.8		

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported as taking effect in September were all increases, and affected nearly 200,000 workpeople, resulting in a total increase of over £23,500 per week. The largest bodies of workpeople included in the statistics were linen and jute workers at Dundee, boot and shoe operatives at Northampton, ship repairers on the Thames and Mersey, engineers and shipbuilders at Belfast, engineers at Sheffield, and wool combers and carders at Bradford.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of disputes beginning in September was 36, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 11,959, as compared with 21,096 in the previous month, and 52,869 in September, 1915. The estimated total aggregate duration of all disputes in progress during the month was 180,300, as compared with 78,900 in August, 1916, and 172,400 in September, 1915.

Employment Exchanges.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Employment Exchanges for the four weeks ended 8th September was 38,717, as compared with 39,113 in the previous four weeks, and with 34,957 in the four weeks ended 10th September, 1915. The average weekly number of vacancies filled for the same period was 31,156, 30,846, and 25,534 respectively.

THE EXTENSION OF WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT DURING THE WAR.

THE increased employment of women, which is a noticeable feature of war labour conditions, has made steady progress since April of the current year. The subjoined table, based on periodical returns made by employers to the Employment Department of the Board of Trade, gives the most reliable estimate which can be formed of the whole extent of the movement since July, 1914, and of the rate of progress between April and July, 1916. The estimates relate to employed persons, excluding outworkers, and the women are classified according to the employers' position, e.g. a factory clerk appears under industrial occupations, and a municipal tram conductor under local government.

	Estimated number of females employed in July, 1914.	Estimated increase in the number of females employed since July, 1914.		Estimated number of females reported by employers as directly replacing males.	
		April, 1916.	July, 1916.	April, 1916.	July, 1916.
1. Industrial occupations	2,117,000	275,000	362,000	213,000	263,000
2. Commercial occupations	454,000	166,000	198,000	152,000	201,000
3. Professional occupations (mainly clerks)	67,500	13,000	15,000	12,000	15,000
4. Banking and Finance (mainly clerks)	9,500	23,000	30,000	21,000	26,000
5. Hotels, places of entertainment, &c.	175,000	12,000	19,000	27,000	31,000
6. Agriculture (Great Britain only)	130,000	-14,000*	66,000	37,000	66,000
7. Transport (other than municipal)	15,000	23,000	31,000	24,000	31,000
8. Civil Service	66,000	39,000	48,000	30,000	38,000
9. Arsenals, Dockyards, &c.	2,000	25,000	69,000	13,000	69,000
10. Local Government (including teachers and municipal transport workers)	184,000	21,000	28,000	18,000	26,000
Totals	3,219,000	583,000	866,000	547,000	766,000

The decrease in agriculture in April, 1916, is the result of the seasonal character of the occupation. The number employed shows an increase if compared with April, 1916.

Since the war about 866,000 additional women and girls, or 27 per cent. of the numbers employed in July, 1914, have been drawn into the various occupations included in the table above. The figures do not include domestic service, employment in small workshops and workrooms in the dressmaking trade, and in military, naval, and Red Cross and S. John's hospitals. In the case of the two former, there has been a big displacement of female labour since the war, and it is estimated that there has been a decrease of about 150,000 in the number of women and girls employed. On the other hand, the number of women employed in attending sick and wounded soldiers and sailors at any particular time is now about 27,000 greater than before the war. The net result of this is to show an increase of 738,000 in the total number of women engaged in occupations outside their own homes. It must be borne in mind, however, that a great part of the work previously done by the domestic servants who have gone into other occupations is now performed by unpaid labour.

In Groups 1 and 9 a very large proportion of the increase is, of course, due to the advent of the woman munition worker. Many of these women are not, strictly speaking, replacing the men, but they are doing what was before the war generally regarded as men's work. But munition work is only a part of women's industrial activity. There are very few industries or occupations in which the number of women has not increased. There are few in which some direct substitution of female for male labour has not taken place. The chief instances of decline in numbers of women employed are domestic service and employment in small dressmaking work-rooms. Other important industries which show a numerical decline are laundry work, dressmaking, confectionery, printing and book-binding, linen, lace, and silk, but in all these groups

* Decrease.

some women are directly replacing men, and in many individual firms in these and other groups a decline in the number of women simply means that some of the women have left to go to men's work and have not been replaced.

Women are directly replacing men (only in comparatively small numbers) even in building, mining, and quarrying. They are replacing them in considerable numbers in most of the metal industries, though not on the main processes in iron and steel works. In the cotton trade no less than 25,000 females are returned as directly replacing males, though in other textile industries (except hosiery) progress has been less marked. In the food trades there have been very interesting cases of substitution. In grain milling the number of women and girls employed has risen since July, 1914, from 2,000 to 6,000; in sugar refining from 1,000 to 2,000; and in brewing from 8,000 to 18,000; the increase in these trades is almost entirely due to the direct replacement of men by women. Women are also doing men's work to an appreciable degree in tanning and leather working, saw-milling and woodworking, glass, china, earthenware, and rubber. Very often, however, it is still found that while some firms have fully realised the possibilities of substitution, others in the same trade have hardly made a beginning with it.

The employment of women in what is mainly clerical work, Groups 2, 3, 4 in the table, requires little comment: the most striking new development here is the introduction of women clerks into banks and financial houses. In agriculture the process of substitution made slow progress during the first eighteen months of the war, but an acceleration is now noticeable. Besides the regular women workers there is a large increase in the number of fruit-pickers, harvesters and other casuals.

Railway employment furnishes a particularly interesting series of experiments in female labour. Before the war the railway companies only employed about 11,000 women—clerks, cleaners, attendants, &c. Approximately 33,000 are now employed. The kind and amount of substitution carried out varies from one railway company to another. One has increased the number of its women clerks from 70 to 1,526, and employs also 18 women ticket collectors, 186 carriage cleaners, 55 engine cleaners, and 454 porters. Another, with neither women ticket collectors nor porters, has 480 women carriage cleaners, 475 engine cleaners, 226 labourers in the workshops, and 37 other women labourers. Yet another, with no women engine cleaners or labourers, has 142 ticket collectors. In other branches of transport the most interesting experiments have been made by local authorities, and the resulting figures are included in Group 10. Everywhere women are largely employed in the tramway departments, as cleaners and conductors, and in some districts as drivers. Glasgow led the way in the use of women tram drivers; but several other towns in Scotland and one or two in England and Wales are now employing them. Municipal employment of women also includes work in power stations, on sewage farms, in gas works, in parks, and in road cleaning and scavenging; together with much clerical and educational work. The great increase in the number of women in the service of the central government (Group 8) is mainly connected with clerical and postal work.

An Information Bureau for the collection and circulation of information as to the replacement of male by female labour has been established by the Board of Trade Employment Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington. From this Bureau employers and others interested in the question of substitution can obtain particulars as to what is being done to extend the employment of women throughout the country.

The Home Office and the Board of Trade have also issued a series of pamphlets dealing with the possibilities of substitution in various industries. These pamphlets show the various branches of men's work which are, in the main, or under conditions which are indicated, considered suitable for women by the Factory Inspectors, and which women are successfully

undertaking in various factories and workshops. The pamphlets also refer to the special exemptions from the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Acts which have been sanctioned by the Home Office with a view to rendering possible the employment of women in this work.

THE EXTENT OF JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT CAUSED BY THE WAR.

In the Annual Report* of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, which has recently been issued, a special section is devoted to considering the effect of the War on Juvenile employment.

In the autumn of 1914 Juvenile Employment Committees found it difficult to place children in suitable employment, but this situation was quickly succeeded by an impossibility to meet the demand for child labour. The rapid withdrawal of men and the increased need for workers in connection with the supply of munitions created a demand which inevitably involved not only the children exempt from school attendance, but also those who were within a year or two of legal exemption.

No exact figures are available showing the total number of children who have left school for the purpose of taking up employment during the War, but it is known that under normal conditions about 450,000 children pass out of the Elementary Schools annually at or about the age of 14, and that this figure has been far exceeded during 1915 and since. Some indication of the extent of this movement during 1915 is afforded by a comparison of the number of scholars on the admission registers of Public Elementary Schools on the 31st January for the past ten years. During these years the increase of children in the age groups 11 to 12 years and upwards registered per annum has been approximately 20,000. In 1914 and 1915 this rate of increase was maintained, but in 1916 the number fell by 25,000. These figures, in conjunction with returns furnished by Local Education Authorities, suggest broadly that 45,000 children of ages ranging from 12-15 in excess of the normal number permanently left school for employment during the year 1915. This estimate must only be regarded as approximate, and is incomplete, since it only covers the year 1915. The Report, however, states that the extent of juvenile employment existing to-day is probably much greater than during the year reviewed. Further, this total figure refers almost exclusively to those legally entitled to leave school, and does not include the large number of children normally liable to attend school but excused for longer or shorter periods by Local Education Authorities for agricultural and other employment, nor does it include half-timers.

With regard to agricultural employment, special inquiry has shown that on 31st May, 1916, not less than 15,000 children were excused for the purpose of whole-time employment alone. The Board consider that in some areas exemptions have been granted too freely. Several Authorities have passed resolutions in favour of exempting children under 12, while, on the other hand, a number of Authorities have successfully resisted any such proposal. The Report states that it is very doubtful whether children under 12 thus excused will ever return to school, at any rate for an effective period, and points out that it would be a serious matter if large numbers of children in rural districts under 12 years of age had their education thus permanently interrupted. With regard to industrial employment, no figures are available; the Report, however, states that there has undoubtedly been an extension, but that with some exceptions the extension has been within the law. Several Local Education Authorities have approached the Board concerning the demand for boy labour which exists in connection with the execution of Government contracts. In such cases the Board have stated that they have no authority to sanction the release of children from school on conditions other

* Cl. 8338 of 1915. Price 9d.

than those covered by the existing bye-laws, but they consider that in the area concerned the Authority might, during the period of the War, reasonably excuse boys of the age of 13 years from school attendance, subject to certain prescribed conditions.

From the above particulars it is evident that a considerable number of children have been withdrawn from school since the outbreak of war at an earlier age than that contemplated by the attendance bye-laws. This means not only that education has been arrested just when the child is commencing to assimilate and consolidate the instruction he has received at school, but also that he is exposed to conditions of strain detrimental to his physical welfare. Special provision for the safeguarding of the health of the children employed is, therefore, more than ever necessary, and the Report summarises the opinions of some of the School Medical Officers in this connection. Attention is especially directed to the following recommendations:—

- (1) Careful examination of children leaving school.
- (2) Similar examination of those applying for labour certificates.
- (3) Medical supervision of children employed out of school hours.
- (4) Co-ordination of School Medical Work with Juvenile Employment Committees.

With regard to this last recommendation, much emphasis is laid on the value of an active co-operation between the School Medical Service and that of the Employment Authority directly concerned, normally either the Juvenile Employment Sub-Committee of the Local Education Authority or the Special Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment attached to a Labour Exchange. The Report states that there was a considerable increase during 1915 in the number of placings effected by these Committees, but that the War has created a large number of positions for juvenile workers which can be readily obtained without the assistance of the Committees, and this fact has interfered with the effectiveness of the co-ordination to some extent. But in a number of areas there has been effective co-operation, and it is reported that the Employment Committees who now in many cases have access to the records of the medical inspection of children leaving Public Elementary Schools have been energetic in their efforts to direct children into occupations suitable to their mental and physical capacities. The importance of such co-operation is only too apparent when it is realised, as pointed out in the Report, that one of the ultimate and most important purposes of the School Medical Service is to fit the child for employment, and that one of the ideals to be aimed at is to secure that no child should enter an employment unsuited to his age or physical condition.

EMPLOYMENT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS.

GERMANY.*

THE following is the general conclusion arrived at by the German Department of Labour Statistics as to the course of employment in Germany during August:

"In August employment on the whole continued at the same high level as in previous months; in many instances it was reported as better than in August 1915.

"The mining and the metal trades continued as busy as in the previous month and as in the corresponding period of 1915. To some extent, in these trades and also in the engineering trades (which were usually very busy), there was improved employment as compared with last year. In the electrical and chemical trades certain branches reported increased employment as compared with July, and here again in many cases it was better than in August, 1915. A partial change for

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, September, 1916.

the better took place in employment in the woodworking trades. Certain branches of the clothing trades reported a decline from July; conditions, however, were better than in August, 1915, in several cases. While no improvement of a general character occurred in the building trades, yet (as in July) employment was better in certain localities."

Returns from Trade Unions.—Returns relating to unemployment were furnished by 36 Trade Unions, the membership covered being 806,508. Of these 17,901, or 2.2 per cent., were out of work at the end of August, as compared with 2.4 per cent. in the preceding month, and 2.6 per cent. in August, 1915.

Unions.	Membership reported as Unemployed at end of Month.	Percentage of Membership reported as Unemployed at end of month.		
		August, 1916.	July, 1916.	August, 1915.
All Unions making Returns...	806,508	2.2	2.4	2.6
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:				
Building trade operatives ...	70,307	0.2	0.5	1.0
Textile workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	8,417	1.5	2.2	2.3
Metal workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	238,547	0.7	0.8	1.4
Engineers and metal workers (Hirsch-Duncker) ...	9,668	0.5	0.7	1.2
Metal workers (Christian) ...	17,632	0.4	0.5	1.1
Textile workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	57,820	14.5	15.3	8.1
Hat makers ...	7,728	39.4	38.3	40.5
Boot and shoe makers ...	17,205	1.1	1.1	3.7
Transport workers ...	62,710	0.4	0.5	0.9
Printers (book and job) ...	31,200	0.5	0.8	1.1
Lithographers ...	6,139	1.5	6.7	3.9
Bookbinders ...	17,463	4.5	5.3	9.7
Saddlers and bag makers ...	8,296	1.6	1.9	1.4
Leather workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	5,628	7.6	10.1	3.3
Wood workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	5,485	1.1	1.3	3.5
Porcelain workers ...	4,900	7.8	8.2	11.3
Bakers ...	8,355	2.3	2.8	1.0
Brewery & corn mill workers ...	20,120	0.4	0.4	0.5
Tobacco workers ...	23,341*	...	0.6	0.4
Factory workers irrespective of trade (Soc. Dem.) ...	79,286	0.5	0.7	1.0
State and municipal workers ...	26,943	0.2	0.3	0.3

Among male members of Trade Unions the percentage unemployed at the end of August was 0.7, as compared with 0.9 in the preceding month and 1.4 in August 1915; among female members the percentages were 9.5 both in July and August and 9.9 in August, 1915.

Returns from Labour Exchanges.—Returns relating to the operations of Labour Exchanges during August show the proportion of applications for employment to every 100 situations registered as vacant to have been as follows:—

	August, 1916.	July, 1916.	August, 1915.
Males ...	72	77	98
Females ...	142	151	165

Returns from Employers of Labour.—Returns relating to 225 industrial firms showed a total of 219,396 workpeople employed on the last day of August, as compared with 216,217 on the corresponding day of the previous month, an increase of 3,179, or 1.47 per cent. For a comparison between August, 1916, and August, 1915, returns relating to 265 firms were available. These employed 270,958 persons in the present year and 234,259 in August, 1915, an increase of 36,699, or 15.67 per cent.

CANADA.†

Employment in July.—The labour market continued steady, nearly all industrial districts reporting active conditions and practically no unemployment. A shortage of labour, both skilled and unskilled, male and female, was evident in many localities, and the demand for farm labour increased. Practically all branches of manufacturing continued to show activity, which was especially marked in some branches of the metal trades. The transport trades, both rail and water, showed no falling off from the activity of the previous month, and the earnings of the large railway com-

* Membership at end of July. No return has been made for August.

† The Labour Gazette, August, 1916. Issued by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

panies kept up well. Mining, both metal and coal, was very active, though there was some reduction in the output of coal as the result of labour shortage in the Maritime Provinces, and on account of general unrest and pit-head strikes in the Crow's Nest Pass district in British Columbia and Alberta. Building and construction was maintained steadily in the Maritime Provinces, and improved in Ontario and the Western Provinces. Lumbering was active, though destructive forest fires in Northern Ontario seriously affected the industry in that district. Agricultural operations were carried on actively, with a heavy demand for farm help. Fishing on the Atlantic coast was fair, and toward the end of the month salmon fishermen and canneries became active in British Columbia.

UNITED STATES.*

Employment in July.—Returns furnished to the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics by employers in certain selected manufacturing industries enable comparisons to be made as to the volume of employment in identical establishments, (a) between July, 1916, and the previous month, and (b) between July, 1916, and the corresponding month of last year.

(a) Comparison between July, 1916, and June, 1916.

Industry.	Number of Establishments Reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Earnings.†		
		June, 1916.	July, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	June, 1916.	July, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
Iron and steel ...	100	157,693	159,338	+ 1.0	£ 1,275,925	£ 1,110,286	+ 13.0
Car building and repairing	16	19,499	19,439	- 0.3	141,695	125,755	- 11.2
Cotton manufacturing	52	41,988	42,056	+ 0.2	80,587	78,588	- 2.5
Cotton finishing	14	8,924	8,905	- 0.2	22,172	21,536	- 2.9
Hosiery & underwear	50	27,373	27,140	- 0.9	54,955	51,367	- 6.5
Woolen ...	44	36,594	36,141	- 1.2	91,477	89,363	- 2.3
Silk ...	44	15,196	15,253	+ 0.1	68,987	62,384	- 9.6
Men's ready-made clothing	33	16,657	16,245	- 2.5	47,256	46,399	- 1.8
Boots and shoes	64	48,578	49,096	+ 1.1	132,723	131,359	- 1.0
Cigar manufacturing	55	16,199	16,285	+ 0.5	36,045	36,001	- 0.1

The above Table shows that five industries had a greater number of workpeople on the pay-roll in July than in June, and five had a smaller number. All industries show a reduction in the aggregate wage-bill in July as compared with June, the greatest relative decreases taking place in the iron and steel (13.0 per cent.) and the car building and repairing industries (11.2 per cent.).

(b) Comparison between July, 1916, and July, 1915.

Industry.	Number of Establishments Reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Earnings.†		
		July, 1915.	July, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	July, 1915.	July, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
Iron and steel ...	98	125,613	159,676	+ 27.1	£ 749,464	£ 1,120,476	+ 49.5
Car building and repairing	18	22,383	26,195	+ 17.0	133,277	160,841	+ 20.7
Cotton manufacturing	51	40,781	40,391	- 1.0	66,844	75,754	+ 13.3
Cotton finishing	14	8,542	8,905	+ 4.2	17,106	21,536	+ 25.9
Hosiery & underwear	51	26,228	28,325	+ 8.0	46,518	53,189	+ 14.3
Woolen ...	43	32,473	35,759	+ 10.1	63,516	83,303	+ 39.0
Silk ...	47	14,123	16,063	+ 13.7	56,501	66,053	+ 16.9
Men's ready-made clothing	35	16,074	17,455	+ 8.6	41,310	47,113	+ 14.0
Boots and shoes	63	39,097	48,261	+ 23.4	93,816	129,491	+ 38.0
Cigar manufacturing	56	17,270	16,430	- 4.9	36,523	36,617	+ 0.2

The number of workpeople employed was greater in July, 1916, than in the corresponding month of last year in all industries covered, with the exception of cotton manufacturing and cigar manufacturing, the largest increase (27.1 per cent.) being in the iron and steel industry. The total amount paid out in July in the form of wages was greater in all industries than in the corresponding month of 1915, the maximum increase (49.5 per cent.) being in the iron and steel industry.

* Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, September, 1916, Washington.

† These figures represent the aggregate wages bill for two weeks in the case of the iron and steel, car building and silk industries, and for one week in other cases.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING.

In the following paragraphs relating to the course of prices in this and other countries the latest available statistics are given in every case, but it will be observed that while the returns for this country relate to the end of September, those for the other countries relate to various earlier dates. As prices in all countries are moving upwards this difference of date is important, and should be borne in mind in making comparisons as between one country and another. With regard to the figures for Berlin and Vienna, it must also be remembered that these no longer afford any index to the state of supplies and, being based on artificially fixed maximum prices, are not comparable with figures which are mainly based on the prices in a free market. For all the articles enumerated for Berlin, and for most of those shown for Vienna, consumption is strictly controlled by a system of rationing.

UNITED KINGDOM.

During September the retail prices of food showed an average increase of about 2 per cent. The prices of eggs and fish advanced during the month by about 10 per cent. Increases of from 2 to 4 per cent. were recorded for flour, bread, bacon, milk, butter and cheese. Tea and margarine were about the same price at the end as at the beginning of the month; sugar was a little dearer, and meat slightly cheaper. There were a large number of movements in the prices of potatoes, in some places in an upward and in others in a downward direction, but on the whole the average price remained unaltered.

COMPARISON WITH A YEAR AGO.

As compared with 1st October, 1915, retail food prices at 30th September, 1916, showed an average increase of 20 per cent. The greatest increase recorded is in the price of potatoes—about 65 per cent. Granulated sugar and eggs showed mean advances of 38 per cent. and 24 per cent. respectively. The increase recorded in the prices of meat during the year ranged from 14 per cent. for British ribs of beef to 32 per cent. for frozen breasts of mutton. The price of tea was about the same at the two dates. The prices of the other articles included in the Returns showed increases ranging from 13 to 20 per cent.

COMPARISON WITH JULY, 1914.

In the following Table is given a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 30th September, 1916, in relation to the normal prices of July, 1914:—

Article.	Percentage Increase from July, 1914, to 30th September, 1916.		
	Large Towns (population over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.
Beef, British—			
Ribs	58	58	58
Thin Flank	85	71	78
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs	82	75	79
Thin Flank	99	91	95
Mutton, British—			
Legs	55	54	55
Breast	89	68	79
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs	88	80	84
Breast	120	110	115
Bacon (streaky)	52	48	49
Flour (households)	124	88	106
Fish	62	70	66
Bread	62	53	58
Tea	51	50	50
Sugar (granulated)	169	164	166
Milk	43	36	39
Butter—			
Fresh	55	54	55
Salt	51	53	52
Cheese	20	17	19
Margarine	106	96	101
Eggs (fresh)	58	48	53
Potatoes			
ALL ABOVE ARTICLES (WEIGHTED PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	71	66	68

The widely varying percentage increases recorded for meat represent 5½d. to 6d. per lb. for the better

cuts—ribs and legs—and 4½d. to 5d. per lb. for the inferior cuts. The prices of fish and eggs were, on the average, twice as high as in July, 1914. Flour was over 65 per cent. and bread was nearly 60 per cent. dearer. Potatoes, butter, cheese, bacon and tea may be grouped at 50 to 55 per cent. dearer. As regards tea, however, three-quarters of the advance is owing to increased duty. The prices of milk and margarine were higher by 40 and 19 per cent. respectively. Granulated sugar was 5½d. per lb. in most places outside London (where it was 5d. and 5½d. mainly), as compared with 2d. immediately before the war, 1½d. of the increase being due to additional taxation.

Taking the country as a whole, and making allowance for the relative importance of the various articles in working-class household expenditure, the average increase in the retail prices of food since the beginning of the war is 68 per cent., which is reduced to 62 per cent. if the increase in the duties on tea and sugar is deducted.

These figures relate to food only, and in estimating the increased cost of living this percentage must not be applied to the total family expenditure, but only to that proportion which is expended on food. It should be remembered that rents of working-class dwellings are not appreciably higher than before the war, and that, although many other items of expenditure have increased substantially, they have not advanced, on the average, so much as food. It may be estimated that the average increase in the cost of living of the working classes between July, 1914, and the present time, taking food, rent, clothing, fuel and light and miscellaneous expenditure into consideration, is between 45 and 50 per cent., disregarding increased taxation and assuming that the standard of living has not been modified in view of war conditions.

BERLIN.

According to the figures published in the *Statistische Korrespondenz*, practically no change was recorded in August in the retail cost of food as a whole, the general level advancing by 0.4 per cent. only, as compared with the previous month, and standing at a point 116 per cent. above the level recorded for July, 1914.* In calculating these percentages allowance is made for the relative importance of the various articles of food in working-class consumption:—

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Price in August, 1916, as compared with	
	July, 1916.	July, 1914.
Rye bread	Per cent. No change	Per cent. + 42.9
Wheat bread	No change	+ 27.7
Rye flour	No change	+ 46.7
Wheat flour	No change	+ 14.3
Butter	+ 1.3	+ 105.8
Lard	No change	+ 276.6
Sugar	No change	+ 36.0
Coffee	− 45.0	+ 41.9
Eggs	+ 26.1	+ 314.3
Milk	No change	+ 45.5
Beef	No change	+ 198.2
Mutton	− 5.3	+ 161.7
Veal	No change	+ 125.5
Pork	No change	+ 117.9
Bacon	No change	+ 219.3
Potatoes	+ 28.6	+ 125.0
Rice	+ 4.0	+ 420.0
Split peas	No change	+ 137.5
Haricot beans	− 3.0	+ 96.0
ALL ABOVE ARTICLES (WEIGHTED PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	+ 0.4	+ 115.9

During August eggs and potatoes increased in price by 26 and 29 per cent. respectively. In the case of roasted coffee, the source from which the data are taken records for August a price 45 per cent. below that for July. Since nothing has appeared in the German press indicating an improvement in the coffee

* The percentage rise in July, 1916, as compared with July, 1914, stated as 117.6 in the LABOUR GAZETTE for September, should have been given as 115.0.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING (continued).

supply, and since the lower figure now quoted corresponds to the maximum price already fixed in the majority of Berlin suburbs, it may be assumed that the change is due simply to the adoption by Berlin City in August of the maximum price for coffee already in operation in most of the suburban municipalities.

VIENNA.

According to the official journal *Warenpreisberichte*, retail food prices in August advanced considerably as compared with June (the latest preceding month for which figures are available), and the general level rose to about 178 per cent. above that for July, 1914, i.e. the retail cost of food as a whole was nearly three times as much as just before the outbreak of war.

In the absence of data as to the relative importance of the various foods in household consumption in Vienna, it is assumed, in computing these percentages, that the same standard exists there as in Berlin.

The Vienna prices records for July were incomplete, so that no Table could be constructed for that month. In the following statement comparisons are made between the predominant prices for August and those for June, 1916, and July, 1914:—

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Price in August, 1916, as compared with	
	June, 1916.	July, 1914.
Beef	Per cent. + 5.2	Per cent. + 253.3
Veal	+ 3.4	+ 203.3
Pork	− 7.8	+ 232.2
Bacon	+ 49.3	+ 400.0
Lard	+ 20.0	+ 405.3
Milk	+ 6.1	+ 67.7
Butter	+ 2.2	+ 155.6
Margarine	+ 14.3	+ 330.0
Flour, wheat	No change	+ 179.1
Bread, rye	No change	+ 75.0
Eggs	+ 15.4	+ 328.6
Potatoes	+ 166.7	+ 100.0
Haricot beans	No change	+ 275.0
Onions	− 50.9	+ 170.0
Sugar	No change	+ 18.9
ALL ABOVE ARTICLES (WEIGHTED PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	+ 11.6	+ 177.6

SWEDEN.

The following Table is taken from the current issue of *Sociala Meddelanden* (the journal of the Swedish Department for Social Affairs), and is based on returns collected in forty-four towns:—

Article.	Rise in Price from July, 1914, to July, 1916.	Article.	Rise in Price from July, 1914, to July, 1916.
Bread:—		Dairy Produce, &c.:—	
Wheat, best	23	Milk	27
" 2nd quality	12	Butter	30
Rye, best	27	Margarine (vegetable)	49
" 2nd quality	29	Cheese	60
Flour, Oatmeal, Rice:—		Eggs	46
Flour, wheaten	23	Vegetables:—	
" rye	33	Potatoes	3*
Oatmeal	39	Split peas	80
Rice	31	Beans	135
Meat:—		Groceries:—	
Beef, roasting	76	Coffee, raw Santos	22
" boiling	87	Sugar, lump	
Veal, roasting	63	Fuel and Lighting:—	
Mutton	69	Coal, English	148
Pork, fresh	76	Coke	104
" salt	75	Wood, birch	53
Fish:—		" pine	55
Herrings, salt	135	Petroleum	35

Of the thirty-one articles compared in the Table only one (potatoes) was cheaper in July, 1916, than in the month immediately preceding the outbreak of war. The remaining thirty articles showed rises ranging from 6 per cent. (sugar) to 148 per cent. (coal). Between these extremes the most noteworthy advances recorded are those of salt herrings, beans, coke, beef for boiling, peas, beef for roasting, fresh pork, salt pork, and mutton.

* Decrease.

For the thirty-one articles taken together, irrespective of the relative importance of each in household consumption, the extent of the increase in prices in the period July, 1914, to July, 1916, was 54 per cent.

A somewhat different result is obtained when allowance is made for the quantity of each article usually consumed in the household. A calculation on this basis has been made by the Swedish Department for Social Affairs,* the comparison in this case, being, however, not between July, 1914, and July, 1916, but between the first half of 1914 and June, 1916, while the various articles are combined in groups, as shown below.

Groups of Articles.	Increase in cost in June, 1916, as compared with first half of 1914.	
	Per cent.	
Bread, flour, oatmeal and rice		27.9
Dairy produce, eggs and margarine		40.6
Meat (various)		61.8
Fish (various)		67.3
Other Foods		8.8
All foods together		38.9
Fuel and lighting materials		48.9
Total food, fuel and lighting materials combined		39.4

The above general percentage (39.4) shows the effect which the rise in prices in Sweden would have on the household expenditure of a Stockholm family, assuming that the same standard of consumption (in quality as well as in quantity) was maintained in June, 1916, as before the war.

CANADA.†

The cost of food in Canada in July, measured by the weekly expenditure of a family as computed from returns of retail prices in about sixty cities in the Dominion, showed a slight decrease (0.6 per cent.) as compared with the previous month, but was higher by 14.0 per cent. than in July, 1914.

Taking the total family expenditure—food, fuel, lighting and rent—the July figures show a fall of 0.3 per cent. as compared with June, but an increase of 1.8 per cent. over July, 1914.

The difference in the extent of the rise since July, 1914, between food on the one hand and the total family expenditure on the other, is due to the fact that, while food has become dearer, there has been a reduction in the cost of rent (16.3 per cent.) and of fuel and lighting (0.1 per cent.).

AUSTRALIA.‡

During the month of June the index number representing the average retail price of food in the thirty principal towns in the Australian Commonwealth showed a slight fall (0.3 per cent.) as compared with the preceding month, but was 30.5 per cent. above that for July, 1914. In obtaining these figures account is taken of the extent to which each of the various articles of food entering into the computation of the index numbers is consumed throughout the Commonwealth, and also of the respective populations of the thirty towns.

NEW ZEALAND.§

The index numbers of retail prices of three groups of articles of food in June, based on returns relating to twenty-five representative towns in New Zealand, show, on the whole, an increase amounting to 0.6 per cent. compared with the preceding month. Each group of articles—groceries, dairy produce and meat—was, on the average, dearer than in May.

As compared with July, 1914, also, all three groups of articles were dearer, and the combined index number for June was 19.3 per cent. higher than that for the month immediately preceding the outbreak of war.

* *Sociala Meddelanden*, 1916, No. 7.
† *The Labour Gazette*, issued by the Canadian Department of Labour, August, 1916.
‡ *Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics*, June, 1916. Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne.
§ *Journal of the (New Zealand) Department of Labour*, July, 1916. Wellington, N.Z.

Group of Articles.	Increase in Price on June 15th, 1916, as compared with	
	May 15th, 1916.	July 31st, 1914.
Groceries	0.5	14.9
Dairy produce	1.2	27.9
Meat	0.4	18.7
TOTAL (WEIGHTED AVERAGE) ...	0.6	19.3

UNITED STATES.*

The index number representing the general level of retail food prices in forty-four of the principal industrial cities in the United States increased by 2 per cent. between 15th May and 15th June, and on the latter date was 11 per cent. higher than either on 15th June, 1915, or on 15th June, 1914.

As compared with the preceding month butter, flour, cheese and milk showed a decrease in price in June, the last article, however, being cheaper by a fraction of 1 per cent. only; tinned salmon, rice, prunes, raisins, tea and coffee remained as in May; while all other articles increased in price.

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Average Price on 15th June, 1916, as compared with		Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Average Price on 15th June, 1916, as compared with	
	15th May, 1916.	15th June, 1914.		15th May, 1916.	15th June, 1914.
	Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef—			Cheese	- 1	+
Sirloin steak	+ 4	+ 10	Milk, fresh ...	No change	No change
Round steak	+ 4	+ 3	Flour, wheat ...	- 2	+ 17
Rib roast ...	+ 4	+ 10	Maize meal ...	+ 1	+ 5
Chuck roast	+ 4	+ 6	Rice	No change	+
Plate boiling beef	+ 3	+ 7	Potatoes ...	+ 19	+ 26
Pork chops ...	+ 1	+ 7	Onions	+ 7	+
Bacon, smoked	+ 1	+ 7	Beans, navy ...	+ 2	+
Ham, smoked ...	+ 1	+ 10	Prunes	No change	+
Lard, pure ...	+ 2	+ 12	Raisins, seeded	No change	+
Hens	+ 1	+ 11	Sugar, granulated	+ 2	+ 69
Salmon, tinned	No change	+	Coffee	No change	+
Eggs, strictly fresh	+ 6	+ 6	Tea	No change	+
Butter, creamery	- 2	+ 4	All Articles Combined	+ 2	+ 11

PRICES COMMITTEE: INTERIM REPORT.

THE Departmental Committee, under the chairmanship of the Right Honourable J. M. Robertson, M.P., which was appointed by the President of the Board of Trade "to investigate the principal causes which have led to the increase of prices of commodities of general consumption since the beginning of the war, and to recommend such steps, if any, with a view to ameliorating the situation, as appear practicable and expedient, having regard to the necessity of maintaining adequate supplies," has issued an interim Report.†

The Report opens with a general survey of the movement of prices as between 1914 and 1916, in the course of which it is stated that "the evidence taken goes to show that there is less total distress in the country than in an ordinary year of peace, the majority of the classes which chronically suffer from distress being in unusually regular employment, and that this, together with the higher wages earned by, and the greater needs of, so many skilled and unskilled workers employed directly and indirectly in the production of munitions of war, has tended to increase considerably, in some directions, the total demand for food. On the other hand, certain classes normally in regular employment, whose earnings have not risen in the same proportion as the cost of living—for example, the cotton operatives and some classes of day-wage workers and labourers—are hard pressed by the rise in prices, and actually have to curtail their consumption, even though the pressure of high prices may have been mitigated, in some cases, by the employment of members of a family in munition works, and by the opening of better paid occupations to women.

* Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, September, 1916, Washington.

† Not included in the official prices statistics at this date.

‡ Cd. 8368. Price 2½d.

Many people in receipt of small fixed incomes necessarily also feel the pressure; and it is obvious that while the total receipts of families past school age may have greatly increased, a family of the same class in which children are within school age may suffer exceptionally."

Having sketched the movement of prices in general, the Report proceeds to deal in particular with the circumstances bearing on the prices of meat, milk, and bacon.

MEAT.

Taking meat first, the Committee state that to a certain extent the increase in the retail prices of British meat "can at once be accounted for in terms of cost of production. . . . The prices of feeding stuffs and fertilisers have risen greatly. . . . Agricultural wages have also risen in consequence of the shortage of labour; so that some rise in British meat prices was to be expected even if there were not an advance in those of imported meat, which normally forms over 40 per cent. of the nation's consumption. But such an advance has concurrently taken place; the main reason in this case being the abnormal demand for frozen meat for the armies of the Allies. . . . Not only do the new British armies in the field and in home-training consume very much more per head than was the case in time of peace, but the French and Italian armies also make a new demand on the extra-European supply. Consequently, meat prices have risen in neutral countries in general, as well as among the belligerents of the Entente. In the Central Empires they have risen very much more."

The Committee deal at some length with the exploitation of sources of supply. On the subject of freights it is asserted that "the arrest [of the advance in prices] in the autumn of 1914 was effected by the intervention of the Government to moderate the rise of Plate freights for meat. Systematic shipping arrangements were afterwards made, and the insulated spaces on all British ships trading to South America and Australia were requisitioned, so that freights were regulated in a manner which prevented any serious addition to meat prices on that score. . . . Freights, being thus regulated, do not constitute a main item in the increased cost of imported meat, the average amount, including the increase during the war, being not more than 1d. per lb. The high wholesale prices of foreign meat, therefore, subsist by reason of the reduced amount available for civilian use, the high general demand, and the limitation of means of transport. The last-named factor includes the handling of cargoes in port and by rail; and the frequent congestions in the docks, which so seriously limited the working power of ships, played an important part in the restriction of supplies. But tonnage, too, has been inadequate. . . . Only by an increase of insulated tonnage, seconded by rapid handling in the ports, can the imported meat supply for civilian consumption be effectually increased. Given such an increase, we are of opinion that larger quantities could be imported from the Australasian Dominions, and probably from other quarters."

The Committee state that "it may be taken as certain that considerably increased profits have been made during the war by cattle breeders in the United Kingdom and in the foreign countries, especially South America, chiefly drawn upon for the meat supply of the Allies. This is the first main item in the increase of price; and as regards the cattle breeders of the United Kingdom it is partly offset by the increased cost of labour and of feeding stuffs. An increased amount of capital being thus involved in the handling of the product at each stage, it may be assumed that additional profits have been reaped at some of them."

In view of the large profits of Meat Trusts and other meat dealers the Committee have been at special pains to investigate in that direction, and their conclusion is that, on the whole, "no such profits appear to have been made in the meat importing trade as are recorded in some of the leading 'war industries.'" The Report proceeds: "Nor does it appear from the evidence that meat prices have been inflated by means of the use of cold storage. Chilled meat has to be sold fairly promptly;

and frozen meat brings a lower price. The broad fact remains that in the home-meat trade profits made go mainly to the breeders, the graziers in the case of Ireland, and the jobbers; and in the case of meat imported from North and South America, to the breeders and the meat importing companies. But the substantial cause of increased profits is rather the shortage of supply than any process of combination; and but for the Government control of colonial meat, prices might be higher. Reduction of prices at foreign and home sources of supply is obviously difficult under existing circumstances."

MILK.

"The price of milk," the Committee point out, "is in obvious economic connection with those of meat and cheese. If the farmer can secure a higher profit either by selling his cows to the butcher or by turning his produce into cheese, he will probably do so; and a period of high meat prices is more likely to mean a reduction of the milk herds, because the earnings made through the latter are very laboriously gotten. . . . It was accordingly to be expected that the rapidly rising meat prices of 1915, accompanied as they were by a shortage of labour, would lead to some slaughtering of milch cows."

Proceeding further the Committee state that "while combination among farmers has helped to secure the increased prices, there can be no doubt that an actual increase in demand, and increased cost of production, have been the main factors. In particular, the increased demand of the producers of margarine, tinned milk, and milk chocolate, together with that of the hospitals, has helped to force up prices. The increased price of cheese has had a similar effect. . . . When cheese is selling well he [the cheese maker] will absorb more milk than usual. . . . Artificial and home-grown feeding stuffs and labour costs affect the cost of production of milk as much as of meat. What appears to be clear is that shortage of labour tends to play a considerable part in restricting supply. The latest reports go to show that for sheer lack of milkers a considerable number of farmers are even now reducing their herds."

As to profits, it is remarked that "what is generally certain is that the gains made through high war prices have gone chiefly to the primary producers. That retail dairying in London has of late years been a much less profitable business than formerly, is sufficiently indicated by evidence which has been produced to the Committee by a number of the principal firms in the trade. It would appear that the rise in wholesaler's milk prices has been roughly parallel to the rise in the farmer's contract prices." The special circumstances applying in London are considered in some detail in the Report.

BACON.

Referring to the prices of bacon, the Committee observe that "although bacon prices have risen considerably less than those of other meat, there has been relatively more excitement concerning them within the past summer than has been shown with regard to other foods. This appears to be due to the fact that in the early part of the summer a large quantity of American bacon was put in cold storage in Liverpool, the inference being drawn that there was a design to force up prices artificially. In view of this and other commonly expressed opinions as to the operation of 'rings' in the bacon trade, the Committee have made a searching investigation without, however, finding any proof that any serious inflation of prices has been so produced. . . . The large accumulation of bacon at Liverpool in May and June, 1916, is explained as a result of American shippers exporting largely in the cool months, the refrigerated tonnage which is requisite for bacon carrying in the hot months being scarce and especially costly. But freights (including port charges, &c.) in any case absorb a relatively large part of the rise of bacon prices."

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Premising that any proposals to control the prices of articles of general consumption would require to be discussed with regard to each article separately, the

Committee make the following recommendations as regards the prices of meat, milk and bacon:—

"1. We propose to return, in a later Report, to the general questions of shipping and freights. Meanwhile, we recommend that further efforts should be made to hasten, so far as is compatible with naval needs, the construction of mercantile shipping, especially that required for the conveyance of refrigerated meat. If the completion of a ship is delayed by questions of cost between builder and owner, and efforts to effect a fair and reasonable arrangement of the incidence of the increased cost fail, the Government should not hesitate to requisition the ship and complete her themselves. It is assumed that all such new shipping in private hands shall be under the existing system of control with respect to employment and freight.

"2. In view of the danger of renewed congestion on the docks and railways during the coming autumn and winter, we strongly recommend that immediate measures should be taken to provide sufficient men to attend to the necessary work. The measures to be taken should distinguish between temporary stress and relatively continuous local requirements, and should be arranged with the assent of the employers and the trade unions concerned.

"3. The principle, already adopted by the Government, of restricting the importation of less necessary commodities, should be carried out on a larger scale.

"4. In order to maintain the live stock of the country, we think it desirable that Article I. of the Maintenance of Live Stock Order of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (1915) should be strengthened by the substitution of the following words: 'No animal in calf, in lamb, or in pig shall be slaughtered, or caused or permitted by its owner to be slaughtered.' We recommend that any contravention of this Order should be treated as an offence punishable, on conviction, by fine or imprisonment, or both, and, in addition to any such sentence, by the forfeiture of the carcass of the animal in respect of which the offence was committed; and that the necessary provision should be made for the strict enforcement of the Order, which should be applied to the United Kingdom.

"5. It has often been suggested that a withdrawal of the embargo on the importation of live cattle from Canada would be desirable at the present juncture. Without going into the vexed question of the alleged danger of disease, we have to report that there seems to be, at present, no likelihood of any considerable supply of live cattle from that source, even if scarcity of shipping did not make the importation of live as against dead meat uneconomical.

"6. In view of the proved success of the policy of large scale purchase of meat by the Government, we recommend that the Government should develop, as far as possible, those sources of supply from which they can make direct purchases.

"7. In disposing of the meat which it purchases for the civil population, the Government should impose such conditions, not only on wholesale merchants, but also on retailers, as would tend to secure the sale of such meat to the ultimate consumers at reasonable prices.

"8. The Government should expedite the establishment of refrigerating stations and other necessary plant at Rio de Janeiro, Santos, or Bahia, or some other convenient port, to open up the supplies of Brazilian meat.

"9. We urge all those who are not engaged in severe manual labour, and who at present eat butcher's meat every day, to abstain from the consumption of butcher's meat on one day in each week. We believe that a large number of patriotic citizens are only waiting for clear and authoritative guidance, and that such voluntary abstention on the part of the more fortunate, while it will have no harmful effect on health, will appreciably enlarge the supply of meat available for the poorer members of the community. We therefore press this moderate measure of self-denial as a public duty upon all those who know they are in a position to carry it out.

"10. We recommend that the War Office should bring under renewed consideration the question whether economies could not be effected in the supply of meat

to the Army, by improvements in methods of cooking and serving, without any reduction of the amount of meat actually reaching the individual soldier.

"11. If additional summer milk could be imported from Ireland in any considerable quantity, it should be considered whether it could be put on sale, under Government control, in poor town districts, at an across-counter price which would cover expenses, thus putting cheap milk within the reach of the poor without setting up any elaborate machinery of distribution.

"12. In view of recent statements as to the possibility of drying and re-liquefying milk without loss of food value, a scientific inquiry as to the possibility of obtaining desiccated milk ('milk powder') in large quantities in pastoral countries, with a view to its being re-liquefied for consumption here, seems to us worth carrying out, but we do not regard such an inquiry as within our competence.

"13. In view of the admitted scarcity of milkers and consequent reduction of dairy herds, we advise that further attempts should be made by the Board of Agriculture, through the County War Agricultural Committees and similar organisations, to induce women to take up the work and to persuade farmers to employ them.

"14. All wholesale milk dealers in large towns should be required, as soon as the winter contracts are arranged, to furnish to the Board of Agriculture, or the Board of Trade, the names and addresses of the farmers from whom they have purchased milk, and the estimated quantity and price of the milk supplied by each producer, together with similar information as to expiring contracts.

"15. We suggest that fresh powers should be vested in the Local Authorities so as to provide that where there is reason to believe that any group of retailers are using the present abnormal situation in order to obtain excessive profits, municipal shops may be opened, on a business footing, for the sale of milk, meat, bacon and other necessary foodstuffs.

"16. We recommend that in the present emergency all Local Authorities (including the London County Council and the Metropolitan Borough Councils) should be urged to start a sufficient number of maternity centres, baby clinics and child nurseries, and should be empowered to provide a certain supply of milk to children under the age of five, and dinners to expectant and nursing mothers; that doctors in charge of maternity centres, crèches, baby clinics, or nursery schools should be authorised to order milk and dinners for expectant or nursing mothers, for babies that cannot be nursed by the mothers, and for children under the age of five; and that the cost of milk, as well as that of dinners to expectant and nursing mothers, if incurred at such institutions on the certificates of duly qualified medical men, should be allowed as part of the expenses towards which special grants are made by the Local Government Board and the Board of Education.

"With a view to ameliorating the situation produced by the increase of prices, we desire, without waiting for our Final Report, to make the following additions to the preceding recommendations:—

"17. We recommend that if, in any direction, the announced policy of the Government to establish fair and adequate rates of wages for women workers in Controlled Establishments has not yet been completely carried out, it should be enforced there with the least possible delay.

"18. We urge upon all employers and public bodies the desirability of reviewing their pay-roll, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any of the lower-paid grades of labour have not yet received a substantial increase of earnings, and of taking steps to improve the position of those who hitherto may not have sufficiently benefited by the general upward movement."

The following Memorandum, signed by seven of the twelve members of the Committee, is appended to the above recommendations:

"We have signed the recommendations agreed to by all the members of the Committee, being of opinion that if these recommendations are co-ordinated into a working scheme they will have a distinctly steadying effect

upon prices. But, in addition, we would urge the following proposals. The present circumstances, being altogether exceptional and abnormal, lend themselves readily to the inflation of prices and the making of large profits, and we think the evil cannot be effectively checked short of Government action, which must be wise and well considered, but at the same time far-reaching. The Government, we think, should more and more enlarge its purchases of meat and bacon from outside sources, and, where possible, become the sole purchaser, and should insist upon the purchasing public getting the full benefit of advantageous buying.

"We think the recommendations should also have dealt with the home supplies of meat, bacon and milk. In many cases far too much profit is being made by the home producers, and we are of opinion that a large measure of public control should be exercised over these home supplies and that reasonable prices should be fixed. There is no new principle in this. The Board of Trade, which has taken wide action in respect to the price of coal, is now extending its powers. There has been legislative action affecting the rents of houses. The Government has taken over the whole woolclip of the United Kingdom at a price determined by reference to the prices of the previous year. We know of no adequate reason why the public control of prices should not embrace the primary foodstuffs produced at home. In regard to the milk industry, for instance, a Committee of men and women acquainted with the conditions of the trade might be appointed to regulate prices, taking all the factors fully into account, and endeavouring to act fairly as between the farmers, the distributors, and the public.

"We believe that machinery could be set up by Parliament which, whilst allowing for the increased cost of production and distribution, and laying down safeguards to prevent a decrease in the number of milch cows, would eliminate from milk prices any element of extortion and encourage more efficient organisation in distribution."

PROVISION OF FOODSTUFFS AND OTHER PRODUCTS IN ITALY DURING THE WAR.

The *Bolletino* of the Italian Labour Department publishes, in its issue for 16th August, 1916, the text of a Vice-Regal Decree, dated 2nd August, making arrangements to facilitate the supply of foodstuffs and other articles of ordinary consumption. It is based on a law dated 22nd May, 1915.

For so long as the war may last the Minister of Agriculture is empowered (a) to procure supplies of goods of which there may be a scarcity in the country; (b) to requisition goods for the needs of the Government and the civil population, and (if necessary) productive establishments, and to fix prices and compensations to be paid for the requisitioned goods; (c) to fix maximum retail prices in pursuance of the Decree dated 27th April, 1916 (*see* BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, June, 1916, p. 198), and to supervise the enforcement of the regulations; (d) to supply the goods imported or requisitioned in accordance with (a) above for sale through the local authorities; (e) to sanction the foundation of self-governing bodies for the distribution of supplies; (f) to regulate the sale and consumption of goods of which a shortage exists; and (g) in general to adopt all necessary steps towards the attainment of the desired purpose.

The Minister of Agriculture will exercise the above powers through (1) a Central Board for Supplies and (2) a Temporary Department for Supplies. The Central Board for Supplies is to consist of officials representative of various Government Departments, of the railway and shipping interests, of civilian experts, and of persons delegated by associations of consumers; the Under-Secretary of Agriculture is to be the president.

The functions of the Central Board will include the decision of questions relating to the importation and requisitioning of produce and merchandise for the

civilian population, their prices and conditions of sale, the selection of the goods to be subjected to maximum price regulations in pursuance of the Decree of 27th April, 1916, and the scales of such maximum prices.

The Temporary Department for Supplies is to be composed of civil servants (either active or retired), military officers and soldiers declared unfit for service at the front, and officers of non-combatant corps. Civilian commercial experts may also be employed, subject to special conditions, for the duration of the war. The Temporary Department for Supplies will take over the functions of the existing Central Corn Supply Office.

The Minister may delegate some of his functions to provincial prefects, who are authorised to nominate Advisory Committees (composed of commercial experts and of representatives of consumers) to assist him.

Subsidiary to the Central Board for Supplies there are to be two Committees. The first of these will deal with the acquisition, sale and distribution of goods, and will decide all questions of administration, their acts being subject to the sanction of the Minister. The second Committee will be charged with the settlement of disputes.

A Committee of Supervision, to be nominated by the Ministers of Finance and of Agriculture, acting jointly, is to control finance and account-keeping. The expenses incurred are to be charged to the vote of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Decree is to apply in particular to supplies from abroad, such as grain, flour, frozen meat, live cattle, sugar, coffee; and in general to all foodstuffs and products which are of importance for both the Army and the civil population. Wares intended for the Army will be placed under the care of the Commissariat at the port of entry.

The requisitioning of grain within the Kingdom for the civil population will be effected by the Minister of Agriculture in accordance with the law of 8th January, 1916.

The competent Ministers are to adopt measures to co-ordinate the work of the Temporary Department for Supplies (established under the present Decree) and the work of other services and authorities.

Persons who withhold foodstuff and other wares from consumption for the purpose of artificially raising prices are to be liable to the penalties prescribed by Article 293 of the Criminal Code.

The foregoing Decree does not apply in respect to purchases of coal in foreign countries, such purchases being regulated by other prescriptions.

ORGANISATION OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

The Coal Mining Organisation Committee have recently issued their third report* dealing with the conditions prevailing in the coal mining industry of the United Kingdom and the measures taken to secure the necessary production of coal during the war. Details of the first two reports have already been published in THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE. [See June, 1915, p. 199, and January, 1916, p. 10.]

The effect of the war on the production of coal is shown in the following Table:—

Calendar Month.	1915-16.			1914-15.			1913-14.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
August	20,462,000	18,367,000	21,241,000	20,702,000	20,702,000	23,621,000	20,790,000	25,018,000	
September	21,254,000	20,702,000	23,621,000	21,924,000	21,924,000	25,018,000	21,410,000	23,725,000	
October	20,790,000	21,924,000	25,018,000	21,133,000	21,066,000	24,125,000	20,745,000	20,757,000	
November	21,410,000	20,179,000	23,725,000	20,708,000	20,328,000	23,105,000	20,708,000	20,708,000	
December	21,133,000	21,066,000	24,125,000	22,818,000	25,241,000	24,876,000	22,818,000	25,241,000	
January	21,133,000	21,066,000	24,125,000	18,768,000	20,383,000	21,171,000	18,768,000	20,383,000	
February	20,745,000	20,757,000	24,784,000	22,818,000	20,383,000	23,958,000	22,818,000	20,383,000	
March	20,708,000	20,328,000	23,105,000	22,818,000	20,383,000	23,958,000	22,818,000	20,383,000	
April	22,818,000	25,241,000	24,876,000	22,818,000	20,383,000	23,958,000	22,818,000	20,383,000	
May	18,768,000	20,383,000	21,171,000	22,818,000	20,383,000	23,958,000	22,818,000	20,383,000	
June	22,818,000	20,383,000	23,958,000	21,564,000†	20,510,000	23,411,000	21,564,000†	20,510,000	
July	21,564,000†	20,510,000	23,411,000						
Total	254,748,000	250,368,000	281,135,000						

* Cd. 8845. Price 2½d.

† Preliminary only and subject to revision.

It is evident from these figures that an improvement has recently set in. Not only has the downward tendency in production been arrested, owing to the recruiting of coal miners having been stopped, but a small increase has been secured, which is probably to be accounted for by the more regular attendance of the miners at work, and a gradual increase in the number of persons employed.

Up to the end of March, 1916, 282,200 miners (or 25 per cent. of the labour employed at collieries at the outbreak of war) had joined the colours, and this number had increased to over 288,000 at the end of June. The replacements up to March amounted to 116,900, leaving a net reduction of 165,300, or 14·8 per cent. After the passing of the Military Service Act steps were taken to restrict the enlistment of miners, but notwithstanding the position, the coal supply became serious, and in June the Government prohibited the recruiting of miners, and decided, further, that all miners in home service units who were unfit for foreign service should be returned to the mines, as well as such other miners as were in the home units after 1st August. It was estimated that under this arrangement over 15,000 men would return to the mines, and that the annual production would thereby be increased by about 4,000,000 tons.

As regards irregular attendance at work, returns obtained by the Committee show that the percentage of absentees from mines in the United Kingdom for the four months ended 31st March, 1916, was 9·9, compared with 10·0 in the corresponding period of the previous year. Although there was practically no improvement in this period, the figure for 1916 is 1 per cent. lower than in the pre-war period, and represents a reduction of 20 per cent. in avoidable absenteeism.

It should also be noted that the men who have entered the collieries during the year are not equal in endurance to those who had joined the Forces. In order, however, to reduce the amount of avoidable absenteeism to a minimum, pit, colliery group, and district committees have been formed by employers and workmen to watch and deal with the avoidable absenteeism.

The following Table shows the average number of days worked by collieries from the middle of 1913 to the end of March, 1916:—

	Days worked per week by Collieries.		
	England and Wales.	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
	Days.	Days.	Days.
3rd quarter 1913.	5·53	4·73	5·47
4th quarter 1913.	5·63	5·34	5·60
1st quarter 1914.	5·64	5·15	5·60
2nd quarter 1914.	5·41	5·20	5·39
3rd quarter 1914.	4·94	4·10	4·87
4th quarter 1914.	5·13	4·88	5·11
1st quarter 1915.	5·61	5·26	5·59
2nd quarter 1915.	5·70	5·33	5·67
3rd quarter 1915.	5·46	4·82	5·41
4th quarter 1915.	5·69	5·28	5·66
1st quarter 1916.	5·74	5·45	5·71

The results for the first quarter of 1916 are better than in all the preceding quarters. The average loss of time by the collieries in Scotland is greater than in England and Wales, but this is largely compensated for by the greater regularity of attendance of the miners in Scotland on the days on which the pits were open for work.

The Committee made representations to the workmen in respect of the Christmas, New Year, Easter, and Whitsuntide holidays; these representations met with a very hearty response from the miners, and it is estimated that holidays were reduced by about 50 per cent. compared with pre-war times.

The action taken by the Government in stopping the recruiting of coal miners, the curtailment by the miners of holidays, the abandonment of stop days, and more regular attendance, have undoubtedly resulted in a marked improvement in output, but the Com-

mittee are of opinion that these measures alone are not sufficient to meet the case. Absenteeism is capable of much greater reduction, and an improvement is being sought in this direction, but even this would not make good the deficiency in output, and the Committee are convinced that if legitimate requirements are to be fully met, economy must be practised in the consumption of coal.

STATE SUBVENTIONS TO WORKMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN FRANCE.

The *Journal Officiel*, of 30th July, publishes the text of a Presidential Decree embodying regulations for administering a Law, dated 18th December, 1915, affecting Workmen's Co-operative Societies. The regulations deal chiefly with the administration of a grant voted for the purpose of assisting Co-operative Societies for Production through Co-operative Credit Societies.

The Law to which these regulations are subsidiary defines a Workmen's Co-operative Society for Production as one constituted in accordance with the Law of 24th July, 1867. It must consist of at least seven persons (some of them may be employees of the Society), and must have for its object the exercise, in common, of the trade or other calling of its members in executing works, or in the sale of articles manufactured or otherwise produced by its members. Should the shareholders include persons who are neither workmen in the industry nor permanent employees of the Society, two-thirds at least of the managing committee must consist of such workmen or employees. The interest of such shareholders must be limited by a maximum fixed by the rules, which must, moreover, contain provisions for buying them out.

A Co-operative Society for Production is declared to be entitled to the benefits provided by the laws for supporting the credit of small-scale and medium traders and craftsmen; also the special subventions provided by the State under the provisions of the Law of 18th December, 1915.

For the purposes of that Law Workmen's Co-operative Credit Societies must observe three conditions: (1) Their shareholders must consist exclusively of Co-operative Societies for Production or for Credit; (2) their banking operations must be confined to such societies; (3) their loans and credit facilities must be confined to Co-operative Societies for Production.

Credit Societies are empowered to discount bills, transfer credits, &c., for their legitimate customers, and they are entitled to share in the above-mentioned State subventions. They may borrow money for the purposes of their business.

Credit Societies are prohibited from advancing loans or pledging their credit to Productive Societies except on contracts already assigned to the latter, and of which the execution has been completed or is proceeding. The amount to be lent is restricted to 80 per cent. of the value of the work done but not paid for. The period for which money is advanced must not, as a rule, exceed three years; nor must it exceed one-third of the capital of the borrowing Society. Nevertheless, loans for a long period may be granted by a Credit Society to a Productive Society for the establishment of an enterprise requiring a large initial outlay. In any case, the period for which the loan is made must not exceed twenty years; and the aggregate amount of such long-period loans must not exceed 15 per cent. of the capital of the lending Society.

Both Productive and Credit Societies are empowered to receive donations and legacies.

A Special Commission is to be appointed to administer the State subventions already mentioned. The members are to consist of representatives of various Government Departments, together with six representatives of Co-operative Societies for Production or for Credit and three members of the Higher Council for Labour, the Minister of Labour being the president.

Under the provisions of a Law dated 29th December,

1911, the Government is authorised to dispose of a sum of £80,000 for granting loans (subject to interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum) to Productive Societies or to Credit Societies. Such loans are made upon the recommendation of the Special Commission just mentioned—either directly by the Treasury or through approved Co-operative Banks, established in conformity with the Law of 24th July, 1867. The repayments of loans are to form a fund which is to be available for making fresh loans. These approved Co-operative Banks are not permitted to grant credit or to advance loans to any customers other than Co-operative Societies for Production or for Credit. They are allowed to retain as profit the interest of 2 per cent. payable by the Societies which borrow from them; and in certain cases they may be allowed to charge extra interest—not less than 2 nor more than 5 per cent.—to defray the cost of collection.

UNITED STATES RAILWAYS: EIGHT-HOURS ACT.*

ABOUT the beginning of June differences arose between the Railway Unions in the United States and the railway managers with reference to certain demands made by the former for increased pay and other changes in the conditions of work, including an 8-hours day. The employers asserted that they desired to arbitrate these differences, but the men declared that some points could not be arbitrated. The result was a threatened general strike, which was announced for the 4th September. As such a strike would have resulted in a general paralysis of industry and commerce, and the cutting off of supplies to all the great centres of population, the President of the United States summoned both sides before him and suggested a compromise, which was to the effect that the railway managers should accept the 8-hours day instead of the 10-hours day as the factor in estimating the rate of pay. The change was to take effect on the 1st January, and a Commission would examine the whole question and report.

The managers contended that once the 8-hours day was accepted it would be impossible to restore the 10-hours basis; that the loss to the railways would amount to a sum so large as to cripple the companies; and that the only means of restoring the equilibrium was to allow the railways to recoup themselves by raising the passenger and freight rates. In view of the uncompromising attitude of both parties, and the imminence of a general strike, the President referred the matter to Congress, and urged the immediate consideration of a Bill and its passage without delay.

A Bill was accordingly introduced. In the House of Representatives it was passed at once by a very large majority; in the Senate it met with some opposition, but passed without amendment, and on the 3rd September received the President's signature.

The Act consists of four sections, the first of which provides that "eight hours shall . . . be deemed a day's work . . . for the purpose of reckoning the compensation for services of all employees." The third section provides that for a certain period the present day's wage must be paid for a day of eight hours. The effect of this clause is to raise the employees' wages about 25 per cent.

The Act is to become operative on 1st January next, and the wage increase is to continue in force for at least thirty days after a Commission named by the President to study its workings shall have reported to Congress. This Commission must report not later than ten months from 1st January, 1917, and may report in as short a time as seven months. There is, therefore, no chance of a readjustment of wages in less than eight months. If the Commission takes the full time allowed, there can be no readjustment for eleven months from 1st January. The railway managers estimate the additional expense as amounting to at least ten millions sterling per annum.

* Based on a despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Washington to the Foreign Office, dated 4th September, 1916.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING SEPTEMBER.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good during September, and showed an improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. There was an increase of 5,656 (or 1.0 per cent.) in the number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, and of 18,390 (or 3.4 per cent.) compared with a year ago.

Of the 552,163 workpeople included in the returns for September, 1916, 301,348, or 54.6 per cent. of the total, were employed at pits working twelve days* during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while a further 206,305, or 37.4 per cent., were employed at pits working eleven but less than twelve days.

Districts.	No. of Work-people employed in Sept., 1916, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1916, on a	
		Sept. 23rd, 1916.	August 26th, 1916.	Sept. 25th, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Northumberland ...	44,433	5.89	5.81	5.31	- 0.02	+ 0.08
Durham ...	88,912	5.59	5.57	5.51	+ 0.02	+ 0.08
Cumberland ...	7,490	5.66	5.49	5.84	+ 0.17	- 0.18
South Yorkshire ...	66,291	5.74	5.77	5.77	- 0.03	- 0.03
West Yorkshire ...	24,716	5.79	5.74	5.53	+ 0.05	+ 0.26
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	51,612	5.87	5.66	5.65	+ 0.21	+ 0.22
Derbyshire ...	29,788	5.87	5.89	5.86	- 0.02	+ 0.01
Nottingham and Leicester ...	37,542	5.72	5.55	5.43	+ 0.17	+ 0.29
Staffordshire ...	28,551	5.87	5.74	5.83	+ 0.13	+ 0.04
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,122	5.87	5.84	5.81	+ 0.03	+ 0.06
Gloucester and Somerset ...	6,029	5.95	5.96	5.92	- 0.01	+ 0.03
North Wales ...	7,161	6.00	5.69	5.76	+ 0.31	+ 0.24
South Wales and Mon. ...	104,803	5.98	5.95	5.98	+ 0.03	...
ENGLAND AND WALES.	505,450	5.77	5.72	5.69	+ 0.05	+ 0.08
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	18,208	5.40	5.39	5.22	+ 0.01	+ 0.18
The Lothians ...	2,504	5.50	5.36	5.19	+ 0.14	+ 0.31
Fife ...	25,577	5.34	5.44	5.19	+ 0.10	+ 0.35
SCOTLAND	46,289	5.48	5.42	5.20	+ 0.06	+ 0.28
IRELAND						
...	424	5.46	5.50	5.20	- 0.04	+ 0.26
UNITED KINGDOM	552,163	5.75	5.69	5.65	+ 0.06	+ 0.10

Compared with a month ago employment showed an improvement in Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, Nottingham and Leicester, Staffordshire, North Wales, the Lothians and Fife. In the other districts there was not much change.

Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in every district, except Cumberland and South Yorkshire, which showed a decline, and in South Wales and Monmouth, where there was no change; the improvement was most marked in West Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Nottingham and Leicester, North Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Description of Coal.	No. of Work-people employed in Sept., 1916, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Pits in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1916, on a	
		Sept. 23rd, 1916.	August 26th, 1916.	Sept. 25th, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite ...	4,692	5.98	5.81	5.30	+ 0.17	+ 0.08
Coking ...	27,549	5.80	5.72	5.78	+ 0.08	+ 0.02
Gas ...	36,195	5.59	5.59	5.41	...	+ 0.18
House ...	59,571	5.75	5.67	5.60	+ 0.08	+ 0.15
Steam ...	195,959	5.80	5.76	5.76	+ 0.04	+ 0.04
Mixed ...	228,267	5.71	5.64	5.59	+ 0.07	+ 0.12
ALL DESCRIPTIONS	552,163	5.75	5.69	5.65	+ 0.06	+ 0.10

Compared with a month ago employment at gas coal pits showed no change, but at all other pits there

* The figures in this article and the following only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore or shale was got and drawn from the mines or open works included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked every day that the mines or works were open.

was an improvement, which was most marked at anthracite coal pits. Compared with a year ago there was a general improvement, which was most noticeable at gas and house coal pits.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during September amounted to 3,699,000 tons, an increase of 33,000 tons on a month ago, but a decrease of 398,000 tons on a year ago. Of the total export of coal in September, 1916, over 1,700,000 tons were sent to France.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

At iron and shale mines employment continued very good; lead mines were also busy. At tin mines there was a general shortage of labour.

At quarries employment was, on the whole, fairly good, except in the Plymouth district, Aberdeen and Forfarshire. With sett-makers it was quiet generally.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods named below, relating to the same mines and open works in each case, show that 13,269 workpeople were employed in September, 1916, an increase of 124 compared with August and of 51 compared with a year ago.

Districts.	Work-people employed in Sept., 1916.	Average number of days worked per week by Mines in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1916, on a	
		23rd Sept., 1916.	26th August, 1916.	25th Sept., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland ...	5,620	5.98	5.98	5.95	-	+ 0.03
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,831	5.56	5.94	5.86	- 0.38	- 0.30
Scotland ...	774	5.90	5.93	5.61	- 0.03	+ 0.29
Other Districts ...	2,044	6.00	5.71	5.98	+ 0.29	+ 0.02
ALL DISTRICTS	13,269	5.83	5.92	5.91	- 0.09	- 0.08

The weekly average number of days* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5.83, compared with 5.92 in the previous month and 5.91 a year ago. In the Cumberland and Lancashire district there was a decline of about one-third of a day per week compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland, compared with a year ago, there was an improvement.

Shale.—The returns received show 3,188 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 23rd September, 1916, at mines which worked, on the average, 6.00 days per week, compared with 3,168 workpeople in August, 1916, at mines which also worked 6.00 days, and with 2,911 workpeople in September, 1915, at mines which worked an average of 5.89 days per week.

Tin.—At most mines in Cornwall there was a shortage of labour; employment was fairly good in the Camborne district.

Lead.—In Flintshire and at Darley Dale (Matlock) employment was good. In Weardale it was very good, and better than a month ago.

QUARRYING.

Slate.—In North Wales employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago. It was also fair at Delabole (Cornwall).

Granite.—In the Leicestershire macadam quarries employment was fair; there was a marked shortage of labour. In the Cornwall and South Devon quarries it was, on the whole, dull; at Penryn, however, it was fair. At Aberdeen there was a further decline, and conditions were much worse than a year ago.

Limestone.—In the Cleveland and South Durham

* See note * in previous column.

and in the Buxton districts the quarries were busy; there was an improvement on a year ago. In Wear-dale employment continued good. In the Plymouth district it was moderate.

Other Stone.—The chert quarrymen at Bakewell continued well employed. At Clee Hill employment in the road material (basalt) quarries was good, but labour was scarce. In the Rowsley district it was still bad in the building stone quarries, but at grindstone quarries it was good and better than a month ago. The depression in the Forfarshire sandstone quarries continued.

Sett-making.—Employment was slack in Leicestershire, and quiet at Clee Hill.

China Clay.—In the St. Austell and Shaugh and Lee Moor districts employment was good, and better than a year ago.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September continued good, and was better than a year ago. Certain of the returns mentioned a continued difficulty in obtaining the necessary supplies of iron ore, coke and limestone; but, taking the industry as a whole, it would appear that there has recently been an improvement in this respect. At many works there was still a shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour.

Returns received show that 284 furnaces were in blast at the end of September, compared with 278 a month ago and 268 a year ago. During the month seven furnaces were relit (one each in Cumberland and Monmouthshire, and five in Ayrshire), and one in Lanarkshire was blown out.

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1916, on a	
	Sept. 1916.	August, 1916.	Sept. 1915.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Cleveland	71	71	68	...	+ 3
Cumberland and Lancs ...	34	33	26	+ 1	+ 8
S. and S.W. Yorks	11	11	11	...	...
Derby and Nottingham ...	26	26	28	...	- 2
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton	28	28	28	...	...
Staffs and Worcester ...	30	30	32	...	- 2
S. Wales and Monmouth...	12	11	11	+ 1	+ 1
Other districts	5	5	5	...	...
ENGLAND AND WALES ...	217	215	209	+ 2	+ 8
SCOTLAND	67	63	59	+ 4	+ 8
TOTAL	284	278	268	+ 6	+ 16

The quantity of iron ore imported during September, 1916, was 602,000 tons, a decrease of 139,000 tons on a month ago, but an increase of 132,000 tons on a year ago.

The exports of pig iron amounted to 73,000 tons, a decrease of 23,000 tons compared with August, and an increase of 20,000 tons compared with a year ago. The quantity sent to France and Italy during September, 1916, amounted to over 60,000 tons.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very good, and showed some improvement as compared with the previous month; it was much better than a year ago.

According to returns relating to 114,332 workpeople the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 23rd September, 1916, was 662,848, showing an increase of 10,182 (or 1.6 per cent.) on a month ago, and of 41,967 (or 6.8 per cent.) on a year ago.

Compared with the previous month, employment showed some decline in the Cleveland and Staffordshire districts, but an improvement in every other district.

Compared with a year ago the number of workpeople employed and the aggregate number of shifts worked showed an increase in every district, except in the Leeds and Bradford district, where there was a decline; the largest increases were in "other Midland counties," Wales and Monmouth, and in Scotland. As regards

departments, the aggregate number of shifts worked showed a slight decline at foundries, but an improvement in all the other departments, which was greatest at open hearth melting furnaces, crucible furnaces, and forges and presses.

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts worked.	
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	11,108	+ 21 + 7.2	66,019	+ 2.9 + 8.9
Crucible Furnaces	623	+ 3.3 + 13.3	3,693	+ 6.0 + 17.2
Bessemer Converters ...	1,543	+ 0.2 + 4.6	8,474	+ 1.3 + 8.7
Puddling Forges	7,140	+ 3.7 + 3.7	37,477	+ 7.6 + 5.9
Rolling Mills	31,831	+ 0.2 + 5.1	172,590	- 0.2 + 5.9
Forging and Pressing ...	5,783	+ 3.3 + 9.4	33,243	+ 5.1 + 9.9
Founding	17,318	+ 1.6 + 1.5	110,436	+ 2.7 - 1.2
Other Departments	16,266	+ 2.0 + 5.1	94,770	+ 4.2 + 5.5
Mechanics, Labourers ...	22,700	- 2.7 + 13.7	136,146	- 1.9 + 14.3
TOTAL	114,332	+ 0.6 + 6.5	662,848	+ 1.6 + 6.8
DISTRICTS.				
Northumberland & Durham	12,512	+ 0.4 + 4.4	71,510	+ 0.9 + 4.2
Cleveland	9,960	- 6.2 + 5.6	58,080	- 1.8 + 6.5
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	28,743	+ 1.5 + 5.5	176,921	+ 1.6 + 3.9
Leeds, Bradford, &c. ...	3,737	+ 2.0 - 6.3	21,090	+ 3.2 - 5.0
Cumberland, Lancashire & Cheshire	8,889	+ 0.9 + 6.6	49,868	+ 1.0 + 8.4
Staffordshire	8,470	- 0.4 + 1.5	46,171	- 0.9 + 0.4
Other Midland Counties ...	5,779	+ 0.4 + 7.7	32,819	+ 1.9 + 10.1
Wales and Monmouth	13,576	+ 2.0 + 8.3	75,125	+ 0.1 + 11.0
TOTAL, England & Wales	91,666	+ 0.3 + 5.1	531,584	+ 0.7 + 5.3
Scotland	22,666	+ 2.2 + 12.6	131,264	+ 5.2 + 13.3
TOTAL	114,332	+ 0.6 + 6.5	662,848	+ 1.6 + 6.8

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during September, 1916, amounted to 60,000 tons, a decrease of 11,000 tons on a month ago and of 75,000 tons on a year ago. Steel blooms, billets and slabs from the United States declined from 37,000 tons in September, 1915, to just over 9,000 tons in September, 1916.

The exports (excluding pig iron, black plates, tinplates and galvanised sheets) amounted to 129,000 tons, compared with 170,000 tons a month ago and 150,000 tons a year ago.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

THESE trades continued exceptionally busy during September, and a large amount of overtime was worked. Trade Unions with 262,385 members (mostly in skilled occupations) reported 0.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, the same percentage as a month ago, compared with 0.4 a year ago.

The number of workpeople (skilled and unskilled) in those trades insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was 1,067,272, of whom 0.41 per cent. were reported as unemployed at the end of September, compared with 0.44 at the end of August and 0.43 at the end of September, 1915.

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1916, on a	
		29th Sept., 1916.	25th Aug., 1916.	24th Sept., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	119,859	0.86	0.87	1.08	- 0.01	- 0.22
Northern Counties	100,654	0.23	0.25	0.25	- 0.02	- 0.02
North-Western	199,890	0.50	0.56	0.46	- 0.06	+ 0.04
Yorkshire	133,691	0.21	0.25	0.22	- 0.04	- 0.01
East Midlands	66,808	0.37	0.34	0.23	+ 0.03	+ 0.14
West Midlands	138,513	0.39	0.44	0.44	- 0.05	- 0.05
Eastern and S.E. Counties	71,844	0.36	0.32	0.32	+ 0.04	+ 0.04
South-Western	42,100	0.41	0.34	0.48	+ 0.07	- 0.07
Wales	19,996	0.23	0.26	0.30	- 0.03	- 0.07
Scotland	153,280	0.20	0.24	0.18	- 0.04	+ 0.02
Ireland	21,137	1.43	1.39	2.13	+ 0.04	- 0.70
UNITED KINGDOM	1,067,272	0.41	0.44	0.43	- 0.03	- 0.02

The general state of employment as described above applied, with few exceptions, to all districts and to all occupations. Some short time was reported at textile

engineering works, but many of the workpeople usually employed at such works are now working overtime elsewhere. With ironmoulders at Leeds, Nottingham, Derby and Belfast employment was better than a month ago.

In various centres the workpeople took a few days during the month as a "rest period."

The total value of the imports of machinery during September, 1916, was £591,000, or £27,000 less than a month ago and £215,000 less than in September, 1915.

The exports (British and Irish) were valued at £1,765,000, compared with £1,934,000 in the previous month and with £1,611,000 in September, 1915.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

THE high pressure of recent months continued during September. There was much overtime, and the demand for certain classes of men could not be met.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and shipwrights, with 73,894 members, reported 0.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, the same percentage as in each of the four preceding months.

The number of workpeople (skilled and unskilled) in these trades insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was 240,791, of whom 0.33 per cent. were reported as unemployed at the end of September, compared with 0.29 per cent. at the end of August, and 0.60 per cent. at the end of September, 1915.

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in September, 1916, compared with a	
		29th Sept., 1916.	25th Aug., 1916.	24th Sept., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	10,473	0.89	0.77	0.93	+ 0.12	- 0.04
Northern Counties	53,087	0.20	0.19	0.28	+ 0.01	- 0.08
North-Western	37,233	0.15	0.10	0.24	+ 0.05	- 0.09
Yorkshire	5,977	0.18	0.20	0.51	- 0.02	- 0.33
East Midlands	1,613	0.93	0.74	1.38	+ 0.19	- 0.45
West Midlands	445	0.67	0.90	0.91	- 0.23	- 0.24
Eastern and S.E. Counties	7,292	0.22	0.19	0.49	+ 0.03	- 0.27
South-Western	22,582	0.53	0.35	0.62	+ 0.18	- 0.09
Wales	11,475	0.33	0.30	1.01	+ 0.03	- 0.68
Scotland	72,606	0.08	0.10	0.22	- 0.02	- 0.14
Ireland	18,008	1.55	1.40	2.91	+ 0.15	- 1.36
UNITED KINGDOM	240,791	0.33	0.29	0.60	+ 0.04	- 0.27

The principal exceptions to the general state of employment given above are as follows:—

Employment at Southampton, though very good, was stated to be not so good as a year ago. With ship joiners on the Tees an improvement was reported compared with a month ago.

TINPLATE AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADE.

THE following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of September, 1916, at the works covered by the Returns.

Works.	Number of Works open.				Number of Mills in operation.			
	At end of Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Tinplate	72	- 2	- 4	315	- 31	- 92		
Steel Sheet	12	...	...	66	...	- 16
TOTAL	84	- 2	- 4	381	- 31	- 108		

TINPLATE.

The number of mills working at the end of September showed a decline of 31 compared with the previous month and of 92 compared with July. Compared with a year ago the decrease was 92. This decline is largely due to the commandeering of pig iron by the Govern-

ment. A number of firms reported short time and sharing of work.

The exports of tinned plates and tinned sheets during September, 1916, showed a decrease of nearly 15,000 tons on a month ago and of 800 tons on a year ago. Compared with a month ago there were large decreases in the shipments to "Other Countries," Australia, China and Japan, France, Portugal and the British East Indies. There was an increase of 1,400 tons in the quantity sent to Russia. Compared with a year ago there were increases to Russia, "Other Countries," Argentina, France, and China and Japan, and decreases to Australia (3,900 tons), the Netherlands, Italy, and the British East Indies.

	Sept., 1916.	August, 1916.	Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1916, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
To United States	Tons. 172	Tons. 73	Tons. 33	+ 99	+ 139
" British East Indies ...	962	2,152	1,839	- 1,190	- 877
" France	2,272	4,506	1,304	- 2,234	+ 968
" Netherlands	1,281	2,062	2,543	- 781	- 1,262
" Russia	1,897	480	33	+ 1,417	+ 1,864
" Norway	1,916	1,564	1,960	+ 352	- 44
" Portugal	740	2,081	632	- 1,341	+ 108
" Italy	884	278	1,971	+ 606	- 1,087
" China and Japan	904	3,539	68	- 2,635	+ 838
" Australia	717	5,137	4,644	- 4,420	- 3,927
" Canada	29	58	128	- 29	- 99
" Argentina	1,627	1,031	546	+ 596	+ 1,081
" Other Countries	5,825	11,163	4,301	- 5,338	+ 1,524
TOTAL	19,226	34,124	20,002	- 14,898	- 776
Black Plates for Tinning.					
TOTAL	2,266	5,810	2,693	- 3,544	- 427

STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

The number of mills working was the same as a month ago, but 16 less than a year ago. The mills in operation were engaged principally on the very heavy gauges of sheets.

The imports of crude zinc during September, 1916, totalled 5,775 tons, compared with 6,060 tons a month ago and with 6,432 tons a year ago.

The exports of galvanised sheets amounted to 6,900 tons, a decrease of 1,400 tons on a month ago and of 13,500 tons on a month ago.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

MOST of these trades continued very active during September, and much overtime was worked, especially by sheet metal and brass workers. Trade Unions with 38,401 members reported 0.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, compared with 0.1 per cent. a month ago and 0.2 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork and Bedsteads.—Employment during September continued very good at Birmingham and the other principal centres; about 65 per cent. of the workpeople were on overtime. Bedstead workers were fairly well employed at Birmingham.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—Nut, bolt, rivet and spike makers at Blackheath and Halesowen, and wire nail and shoe rivet makers at Birmingham were very busy. Employment was also reported good with nut and bolt makers at Darlaston, Birmingham, and Smethwick, and on the Tyne.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, &c.—The Sheffield cutlery trades continued working at full pressure, and workpeople were greatly in demand. With edge tool makers employment was good at Wednesbury and fair at Birmingham. With hoe makers at Wednesbury there was an improvement on a month ago. At Walsall employment continued fair with makers of saddle and harness furniture, but was slack with bit and stirrup makers. At Redditch employment was good, with needle makers and fishing tackle makers, and fairly good with fish hook makers.

Tubes.—Tube workers continued busy throughout the Midlands; a good deal of overtime was worked. There was a scarcity of skilled workers.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, &c.—At Cradley employ-

ment continued good in the cable, chain and anchor trades. With anchormen on the Tyne and Wear it was fair. It was good with motor chain makers at Walsall, but case hame and cart gear makers reported a decline on both a month ago and a year ago. Axle and spring makers at Wednesbury and makers of springs and small steel parts at Redditch and West Bromwich were fully employed. Employment was fair with anvil and vice makers at Dudley; with shipping tackle and block makers at Wolverhampton it was quiet.

Sheet Metal Workers.—The brazing and sheet metal working trades continued busy, and much overtime was worked. At Bolton employment was fairly good; at Warrington and Birmingham fair; and at Grimsby moderate. An improvement on a year ago was reported from Manchester, Blackburn, Accrington and Oldham. In the ironplate trade employment was fairly good in the Lye district; slack at Bilston, Dudley and Wolverhampton, and quiet at Birmingham. There was a general decline on a year ago.

Wire.—With wire workers employment was good in London, fair at Glasgow, and fairly good at Manchester. With wire weavers it was good at Norwich and Glasgow. Wire drawers were well employed at Halifax, Newport, Warrington and Sheffield. At Ambergate employment was fairly good, but not so good as a year ago. Much overtime was worked at Halifax and Newport. Wire rope makers on the Tyne and Wear continued well employed.

Locks, Hollow-ware, &c.—Employment in the lock and latch trade at Wolverhampton and Willenhall continued good. At Wolverhampton employment was good with hollow-ware stampers and piercers, and tin and enamel hollow-ware makers, and fairly good with cast iron hollow-ware tanners and turners. Hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich reported it as fair. Makers of galvanised hollow-ware and tanks at Wolverhampton were well employed, but in other Midland centres employment was quiet (with short time), and much worse than a year ago. It was also quiet in the builders' ironmongery trades at Wolverhampton.

Stoves, Grates, &c.—Employment was quiet at Rotherham and Leeds; bad at Sheffield; moderate at Thornaby and good at Luton and Glasgow. Much short time was worked at Rotherham and Sheffield.

Jewellery, Plated Ware, &c.—In London employment was good generally, but not so good as a month ago in some branches. At Birmingham it was good with electroplaters and silversmiths, but the jewellery trade was hampered by shortage of both men and materials. At Sheffield it continued good.

Farriers.—The reports received indicated that employment continued good.

COTTON TRADE.

DURING the month employment showed little change in the spinning section and a slight decline in the weaving department. The shortage of labour became more acute during the month, and was largely responsible for the considerable amount of idle machinery. The irregularity in the weaving department is not only due to the direct shortage of weavers but the output of those at work is restricted in some cases by the insufficient supply of weft, due in its turn to the labour difficulty.

Returns from firms employing 148,501 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.5 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the amount of earnings.

In the Oldham district employment continued good, and was better than a year ago, but the shortage of labour was very acute, and the very small percentage of unemployment recorded was largely due to the scarcity of piecers and little tenters. About 12 per cent. of the spindles were stopped during the whole of the month, and, in addition, about 80 per cent. of those working were inadequately staffed. The number

of women and girls, however, who are taking up work in the spinning rooms was reported to be on the increase.

In the Bolton district employment was reported as fair with weavers and winders and good with card-room workers and spinners; 16 per cent. of the spinning machinery was stopped owing to the great shortage of labour.

In the Blackburn, Darwen and Preston districts employment in the weaving sections was very irregular during the month, largely due to the scarcity of weavers and to waiting for weft. In the Burnley district employment for those at work was good, but here also a considerable number of looms were standing idle owing to the insufficient supply of labour.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing	18,041	- 0.1	- 4.3	19,348	- 1.3	+ 4.6
Spinning	32,247	- 0.3	- 1.5	37,764	- 0.5	+ 7.5
Weaving	73,134	- 0.9	- 3.9	78,965	- 3.4	+ 2.1
Other	12,940	- 0.2	- 4.6	17,886	- 3.2	- 0.4
Not specified	12,139	- 0.8	- 3.4	15,038	- 0.4	+ 6.1
TOTAL	148,501	- 0.6	- 3.5	169,001	- 2.2	+ 3.6

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Ashton	7,497	- 2.2	- 9.7	8,416	- 6.1	- 0.1
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	10,357	- 0.4	- 4.1	11,634	- 4.8	+ 6.7
Oldham	13,083	- 0.6	- 2.0	17,279	- 0.9	+ 6.4
Bolton and Leigh	21,514	+ 0.0	- 1.6	22,628	+ 0.2	+ 6.7
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden	15,041	- 0.9	- 7.2	17,048	- 1.3	- 0.7
Manchester	10,880	+ 0.3	- 7.7	11,513	+ 1.3	- 1.1
Preston and Chorley	10,127	- 0.8	+ 0.1	10,751	- 1.1	+ 12.5
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	24,050	- 1.2	+ 2.6	27,053	- 5.5	+ 8.2
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	19,086	- 0.8	- 5.1	25,241	- 1.6	+ 0.2
Other Lancashire Towns	3,995	- 0.8	- 10.6	3,740	- 5.1	- 4.0
Yorkshire Towns	6,442	+ 0.8	- 1.6	6,881	+ 1.0	+ 2.3
Other Districts	6,394	- 0.6	- 5.5	6,817	- 4.1	- 4.1
TOTAL	148,501	- 0.6	- 3.5	169,001	- 2.2	+ 3.6

The quantity of raw cotton imported during September, 1916, was 1,053,000 centals, a decrease of 270,000 centals on a month ago, and an increase of 488,000 centals on a year ago.

The exports of cotton yarn during September, 1916, totalled 14,254,000 lb., a decrease of 758,000 lb. on a month ago and of 1,952,000 lb. on a year ago. The quantity of cotton piece goods exported during September, 1916, was 461,700,000 yards, compared with 424,300,000 yards in the previous month and with 409,800,000 yards a year ago.

COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

Description of Cotton.	Sept., 1916.			August, 1916.			Sept., 1915.		
	Bales.	200,645	2,592	Bales.	190,133	2,956	Bales.	223,278	4,496
American	200,645	2,592	2,956	190,133	2,956	4,496	223,278	4,496	22,633
Brazilian	3,592	3,357	3,334	4,919	4,919	4,919	4,919	4,919	4,919
East Indian	3,357	3,357	3,334	4,919	4,919	4,919	4,919	4,919	4,919
Egyptian	7,551	7,551	11,038	16,253	16,253	16,253	16,253	16,253	16,253
Miscellaneous	7,769	7,769	7,995	10,525	10,525	10,525	10,525	10,525	10,525
TOTAL	222,824	222,824	215,456	259,471	259,471	259,471	259,471	259,471	259,471

PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

The average daily price of Middling American cotton during September, 1916, was 9.54d. per lb., an increase of 7.3 per cent. on the average for the previous month and of 51.2 per cent. on the average for a year ago. During September the price, though still remaining very high, showed a drop, the quotation for the 1st being 9.90d. and for the 30th 9.50d.

The average daily price of good fair Egyptian cotton during September was 13.18d. per lb., an increase of 12.5 per cent. on the previous month and of 58.4 per cent. on a year ago. At the beginning of September the quotation was 13.35d., by the 11th it had fallen to 12.40d., but from this date onwards there was an upward movement, and on the 30th the figure was 13.85d.

MIDDLING AMERICAN:	September, 1916.		
	Pence per lb.	Increase on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Monthly average of Daily Quotations	9.54	0.65	3.23
Highest price on any one day ...	9.90	0.06	2.86
Lowest " " " " " " " " " "	9.25	1.13	3.47
GOOD FAIR EGYPTIAN:			
Monthly average of Daily Quotations	13.18	1.46	4.86
Highest price on any one day ...	14.05	1.40	4.65
Lowest " " " " " " " " " "	12.40	1.10	4.95

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

In all the principal districts there was much activity during September, a large part of the output being for our own Government or the Allies; much difficulty was experienced in keeping the machinery fully employed owing to the shortage of labour, and in some cases production was curtailed on this account.

Returns from firms employing 20,408 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 6.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 12 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime during the month.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Wool Sorting	476	+ 4.3	+ 0.4	637	- 3.0	+ 7.6
Spinning	5,102	- 1.6	+ 2.0	6,738	- 1.3	+ 11.6
Weaving	7,954	- 0.2	- 3.2	8,674	+ 1.3	+ 5.0
Other Departments	5,532	+ 0.1	+ 1.3	7,232	+ 1.0	+ 5.5
Not specified	1,344	- 3.6	- 7.8	1,624	- 9.4	- 1.9
TOTAL	20,408	- 0.6	- 1.0	24,905	- 0.4	+ 6.4

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Huddersfield District	2,966	- 0.9	+ 0.1	4,398	- 1.6	+ 12.0
Leeds District	1,984	- 0.8	- 3.6	2,631	- 2.7	- 0.6
Dewsbury & Batley District	2,467	- 3.3	- 3.3	3,381	- 1.5	+ 4.4
Other Parts of West Riding	2,373	+ 1.6	- 0.3	3,079	+ 3.7	+ 3.4
TOTAL, WEST RIDING	9,790	- 0.9	- 4.1	13,489	- 0.6	+ 5.4
Scotland	4,479	- 0.6	- 0.7	5,041	+ 1.2	+ 8.1
Other Districts	6,139	- 0.1	+ 4.0	6,375	- 1.2	+ 7.3
TOTAL	20,408	- 0.6	- 1.0	24,905	- 0.4	+ 6.4

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley districts employment continued very good, but a number of looms were standing owing to the insufficient supply of labour. In the heavy woollen district of Dewsbury and Batley the operatives were busy, chiefly on blankets and heavy woollen cloths. In the Leeds district employment was good throughout the month, most of the output being materials for our own army, while large contracts have also been placed for the Allies. In departments where only men are employed there was much overtime. In the Rochdale, Stockport and Milnrow districts considerable overtime was worked, and the difficulty experienced in getting sufficient labour to run the machinery continued.

In Scotland employment remained good, but here also the labour difficulty was much felt.

WORSTED TRADE.

In this trade also the shortage of labour was general, and all the available operatives were fully employed. Returns from firms employing 31,880 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 11.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Wool Sorting and Combing	4,076	- 0.4	- 5.7	5,781	+ 3.2	+ 4.3
Spinning	15,146	- 0.6	+ 0.7	12,294	+ 4.1	+ 18.0
Weaving	7,320	+ 0.4	- 5.7	8,695	+ 3.4	+ 6.7
Other Departments	3,298	+ 0.3	+ 2.5	4,541	+ 0.3	+ 14.0
Not specified	2,040	- 1.7	- 7.7	2,189	+ 3.8	+ 10.4
TOTAL	31,880	- 0.3	- 2.1	33,500	+ 3.2	+ 11.5

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Bradford District	16,905	- 0.4	- 0.7	18,223	+ 4.5	+ 14.2
Keighley District	5,089	+ 0.1	- 6.1	4,952	+ 2.0	+ 3.9
Halifax District	2,649	- 0.9	- 6.2	2,568	+ 6.9	+ 8.7
Huddersfield District	3,332	- 0.4	- 1.3	3,934	- 3.4	+ 10.5
Other Parts of West Riding	1,684	+ 1.8	+ 3.5	1,772	+ 5.5	+ 19.6
TOTAL, WEST RIDING	29,659	- 0.2	- 2.1	31,449	+ 3.3	+ 11.3
Other Districts	2,221	- 1.3	- 2.0	2,051	+ 2.5	+ 6.5
TOTAL	31,880	- 0.3	- 2.1	33,500	+ 3.2	+ 11.5

In the Bradford district employment continued very good, and was much above the level of a year ago, especially in the spinning department: the output generally was restricted by the shortage of men and women; all the 8,000 operatives in the National Society of Machine Woolcombers were reported to be fully employed. In the Huddersfield district employment was good, but there was not much overtime during the month. In the Halifax and Keighley districts all the available workers were well employed.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF WOOL.

The imports of wool (sheep's and lambs') amounted to 46,555,000 lb. in September, 1916, an increase of 15,092,000 lb. on August, 1916, but a decrease of 11,255,000 lb. on the total for September, 1916.

The exports of tops and of woollen and worsted yarn in September, 1916, totalled 3,079,000 lb., compared with 3,180,000 lb. a month ago and with 2,712,000 lb. a year ago. Exports of woollen tissues amounted to 10,699,000 yards in September, 1916, compared with 13,061,000 yards a month ago and 7,596,000 yards a year ago. For worsted tissues the corresponding figures were 4,558,000 yards, 4,650,000 yards, and 3,192,000 yards respectively.

PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.

The price of Lincoln hogs' wool at Bradford during September was the same as in the previous month, but 3d. per lb. (or 4.8 per cent.) higher than a year ago. The average price of 40's crossbred tops was 1/2d. per lb. (or 1.9 per cent.) above a month ago, and 3 3/4d. per lb. (or 15.1 per cent.) above a year ago. For 60's super Botany tops the September, 1916, average was 1d. (or 1.9 per cent.) higher than a month ago, and 15d. (or 38.0 per cent.) higher than a year ago.

	Sept., 1916.	Aug., 1916.	Sept., 1915.
AVERAGE PRICES:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hogs	19	19	18 1/2
40's Crossbred tops	26 3/4	26 3/4	23 3/4
60's Super Botany tops	54 1/2	53 1/2	39 3/4
COURSE OF PRICES:			
Lincoln Hogs	19	19	18 1/2, 18
40's Crossbred tops	26 1/2, 27	26, 26 1/2	24, 22 1/2
60's Super Botany tops	54, 55	54, 53, 54	41, 38

LINEN TRADE.

In Ireland employment was fair generally, and in Scotland it was good; in both countries it was better than a month ago and a year ago. A shortage of labour of both sexes was reported in Scotland, and to a less extent in Ireland in towns other than Belfast.

Returns from firms employing 37,225 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September, 1916, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 13.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing	5,301	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	3,822	- 1.9	+ 20.5
Spinning	11,193	+ 0.7	+ 2.0	6,843	+ 1.7	+ 21.2
Weaving	12,038	+ 1.0	- 3.9	9,533	+ 3.6	+ 10.0
Other	5,641	- 0.1	- 2.2	5,712	+ 2.3	+ 8.4
Not specified... ..	2,982	+ 0.3	+ 1.1	2,259	+ 0.7	+ 11.1
TOTAL	37,225	+ 0.6	- 1.0	28,169	+ 1.9	+ 13.7
DISTRICTS.						
Belfast	16,766	+ 0.4	+ 1.4	12,470	+ 2.4	+ 20.4
Other places in Ireland	9,783	+ 1.5	+ 1.6	6,704	+ 2.5	+ 17.3
TOTAL, IRELAND	26,549	+ 0.8	+ 1.5	19,174	+ 2.4	+ 19.3
Fifehire	5,133	- 0.5	- 10.2	3,979	+ 0.9	- 1.7
Other places in Scotland	5,079	+ 0.9	- 2.9	4,625	+ 1.4	+ 7.4
TOTAL, SCOTLAND	10,212	+ 0.2	- 6.7	8,604	+ 1.2	+ 3.0
England	464	- 0.2	- 1.5	391	- 9.5	+ 10.5
UNITED KINGDOM	37,225	+ 0.6	- 1.0	28,169	+ 1.9	+ 13.7

In the Belfast district short time working continued at certain mills. Flax roughers reported employment as fairly good; weavers and winders as fair, and flax dressers as bad. In other parts of Ireland there was some improvement in both the spinning and weaving branches. At Brechin and Dunfermline employment was good, and a little overtime was worked in the finishing department at the former place. At Barnsley the mills were fully employed.

The imports of flax (dressed and undressed) during September, 1916, amounted to 9,000 tons, compared with 12,000 tons in the previous month and with 4,700 tons a year ago. Practically the whole of these imports came from Russia.

The exports of linen yarn during September, 1916, totalled 659,000 lb., a decrease of 223,000 lb. on a month ago, but an increase of 179,000 lb. on a year ago. The figures for linen piece goods were 10,599,000 yards in September, 1916, 9,546,000 yards in August, 1916, and 7,835,000 yards in September, 1915.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago. It showed little change compared with a year ago. Some shortage of labour was reported.

In the Dundee district, in which 94 per cent. of the workpeople reported on are employed, employment was good, but not quite so good as in the previous month; some of the mills, however, were still working overtime. At Forfar and Arbroath employment continued good.

Returns from firms employing 12,924 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September, 1916, showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed a decrease of 1.8 per cent. and the amount of wages paid a decrease of 0.7 per cent.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing	3,013	- 1.4	...	2,933	- 1.1	- 0.4
Spinning	3,552	- 2.6	- 2.1	3,345	- 2.4	- 3.0
Weaving	1,503	+ 0.4	- 2.7	4,916	- 1.6	- 0.5
Other	1,856	- 1.1	- 2.2	2,527	- 5.4	+ 2.1
TOTAL	12,924	- 1.1	- 1.8	13,771	- 2.4	- 0.7

The imports of jute during September, 1916, amounted to 4,854 tons, compared with 488 tons a month ago and with 17,440 tons a year ago.

The quantity of jute yarn exported during September, 1916, was 1,621,000 lb., a decrease of 1,852,000 lb. on a month ago and of 1,882,000 lb. on a year ago. The exports of jute piece goods amounted to 10,281,000 yards, compared with 9,275,000 yards in August, 1916, and 8,390,000 yards in September, 1915.

LACE TRADE.

DURING the month there was great activity in the plain net branch owing to Government orders, and employment was above the level of a year ago. In the levers branch there was an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago; in the curtain branch employment was fair on the whole, but showed a decline as compared with last month. A shortage of labour, including twist-hands, threaders, and weavers, was reported.

Returns from firms employing 7,050 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 11.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lavers... ..	1,479	+ 3.3	+ 3.5	1,933	+ 10.1	+ 15.0
Curtain	1,537	- 1.7	- 16.1	1,955	- 3.0	- 5.8
Plain Net	2,992	+ 0.5	+ 5.0	3,282	+ 0.7	+ 20.1
Others... ..	1,042	+ 2.1	- 2.5	998	+ 2.5	+ 11.1
TOTAL	7,050	+ 0.8	- 1.8	8,168	+ 2.1	+ 11.2
DISTRICTS.						
Nottingham City	2,112	+ 1.7	- 5.5	2,171	+ 2.6	+ 6.5
Long Eaton and other out-lying Districts	1,003	+ 2.0	+ 6.6	1,438	+ 9.6	+ 16.8
Other English Districts	2,635	+ 0.8	+ 8.2	2,992	+ 1.6	+ 24.0
Scotland	1,300	- 1.6	- 17.0	1,567	- 4.0	- 5.6
TOTAL	7,050	+ 0.8	- 1.8	8,168	+ 2.1	+ 11.2

At Nottingham there was much activity in the plain net section during the month owing to the large orders placed by the Government for mosquito nets, a large part of the output of certain machines being used for military purposes. In the curtain section employment was fair, but in the levers branch it was very irregular. At Long Eaton employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the West of England employment in the plain net branch was considerably above the level of a year ago. At Newmills the operatives were fully employed and working a considerable amount of overtime.

SILK TRADE.

In this trade employment continued fairly good. There was a shortage of operatives in some sections, especially women weavers and men dressers.

Returns from firms employing 10,250 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the numbers employed and in the amount of earnings. Compared with a year ago the numbers employed showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent., and the earnings an increase of 5.9 per cent.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing	1,277	+ 2.6	+ 4.4	687	+ 3.3	+ 6.2
Spinning	2,567	- 1.9	- 3.4	2,545	- 0.9	+ 7.2
Weaving	3,680	+ 1.3	- 5.3	3,059	- 0.8	- 0.4
Other	1,737	- 1.0	+ 3.7	1,637	- 0.4	+ 13.5
Not specified... ..	989	+ 4.9	- 3.1	1,014	+ 9.1	+ 11.6
TOTAL	10,250	+ 0.6	- 2.0	8,942	+ 0.6	+ 5.9
BRANCHES.						
Throwing	1,277	+ 2.6	+ 4.4	687	+ 3.3	+ 6.2
Spinning	2,567	- 1.9	- 3.4	2,545	- 0.9	+ 7.2
Weaving	3,680	+ 1.3	- 5.3	3,059	- 0.8	- 0.4
Other	1,737	- 1.0	+ 3.7	1,637	- 0.4	+ 13.5
Not specified... ..	989	+ 4.9	- 3.1	1,014	+ 9.1	+ 11.6
TOTAL	10,250	+ 0.6	- 2.0	8,942	+ 0.6	+ 5.9
DISTRICTS.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	2,713	+ 0.0	- 5.7	2,818	+ 1.4	+ 8.0
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	2,801	- 1.4	- 3.3	2,363	- 3.7	+ 0.4
Eastern Counties	2,975	+ 2.6	- 0.0	2,508	+ 4.7	+ 7.9
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,761	+ 1.3	+ 2.8	1,253	- 0.6	+ 8.3
TOTAL	10,250	+ 0.6	- 2.0	8,942	+ 0.6	+ 5.9

At Macclesfield employment was good with throwsters and spinners, and fair with weavers, except with those employed on hand-loom in factories, with whom it was bad. At Leek and Congleton employment continued good with throwsters and trimming weavers, but at Congleton employment with dressers was affected by a dispute. In the Eastern Counties employment was reported as good at Norwich and Yarmouth, and fair, with slight exceptions, at Sudbury, Halstead and Braintree. In the West Riding employment also continued fair. At Coventry artificial silk workers reported employment as fairly good, and ribbon weavers were fairly well employed.

HOSIERY TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during September continued good, and the supply of workpeople, especially women and girls in the Leicester district, was insufficient.

Returns from firms employing 15,906 workpeople in the week ending 23rd September showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 6.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Practically all the workers were on full time during the month, and about 6 per cent. worked overtime.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester	8,562	- 0.1	- 1.5	9,369	- 2.4	+ 4.1
Leicester Country District... ..	1,822	- 1.4	- 4.4	1,828	+ 1.1	+ 2.1
Notts and Derbyshire	2,079	+ 0.1	- 1.4	2,150	- 2.0	+ 7.2
Scotland	2,890	+ 0.1	+ 1.8	2,820	+ 1.8	+ 14.5
Other Districts	544	- 0.5	+ 11.7	436	+ 9.0	+ 23.2
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	15,906	- 0.2	- 0.8	16,603	- 1.0	+ 6.3

At Leicester employment continued good, but there was not quite so much pressure as a month ago; there was still, however, a demand for women and girls. At Hinckley employment continued fair, while at Loughborough most departments were fairly busy, and a small amount of overtime was reported.

In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment continued good with power frame workers, and was better than a year ago; about a quarter of the operatives worked overtime during the month. In the hand-frame

section also employment was good, and much better than a year ago. In Scotland the operatives were well employed, and employment was above the level of a year ago.

CARPET TRADE.

THE ordinary carpet trade was somewhat quiet, partly owing to seasonal causes, but the operatives employed in making blankets or spinning yarn for military purposes were well employed.

Returns from firms employing 5,734 workpeople and paying £5,994 in wages in the week ending 23rd September showed a decrease of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 15.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Kidderminster employment on the whole was moderate, but better than a year ago; the home trade continued quiet, as is usual at this time of year, but the production of Army blankets was maintained, and spinners were as busy as the scarcity of labour will allow in meeting military requirements. In the West Riding some unemployment was reported among carpet operatives, but employment on the whole was fairly good, some of the workers being engaged in making blankets.

In Scotland the returns show a decline of 23 per cent. in numbers employed, but an increase of about 2s. 4d. per head in average earnings, as compared with a year ago, and employment for those still in the trade was good.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

DURING September employment on the whole continued good in these trades, but was affected by the scarcity of men and boys in several sections, especially in the dyeing and finishing branches. Employment generally was above the level of a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 24,391 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 16.2 per cent. in the wages paid.

TRADES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Bleaching	2,699	- 0.2	- 2.9	3,552	+ 1.8	+ 9.6
Printing	636	+ 1.6	+ 12.0	1,094	+ 4.8	+ 33.1
Dyeing	12,444	- 2.5	+ 0.3	24,943	- 1.6	+ 16.4
Trimming, Finishing and other Departments	7,016	+ 0.5	+ 2.7	9,852	- 0.3	+ 18.1
Not specified	1,596	- 0.1	+ 7.5	2,570	+ 0.1	+ 10.7
TOTAL	24,391	- 1.1	+ 1.3	41,311	- 0.8	+ 16.2
DISTRICTS:						
Yorkshire	11,979	- 2.8	- 0.4	23,271	- 2.0	+ 15.2
Lancashire... ..	8,326	+ 1.0	+ 5.4	12,805	+ 1.4	+ 21.5
Scotland	1,791	+ 0.2	- 4.6	2,219	+ 1.9	+ 11.7
Ireland	710	- 1.3	- 1.4	658	+ 3.1	+ 11.1
Other Districts	1,585	- 0.4	+ 2.6	2,358	- 3.5	+ 5.6
TOTAL	24,391	- 1.1	+ 1.3	41,311	- 0.8	+ 16.2

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire on the whole continued fair. At Basford overtime was reported in the hosiery section, and the lace section was fully employed. At Dundee employment was good with bleachfield workers.

Printing.—Machine calico printers in England reported employment as fairly good for the number of machines at work, but many were standing idle owing to the labour shortage. In Scotland employment was good, and better than a year ago.

* Comparison with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

Dyeing.—Employment with *woollen* and *worsted* dyers continued good, and was better than a year ago; a considerable amount of overtime, largely due to the labour shortage, was reported, affecting about 85 per cent. of the operatives. With *cotton* dyers in Yorkshire and Lancashire and with *silk* dyers in the Macclesfield district employment was also good. *Lace* and *hosiery* dyers at Nottingham and Basford reported overtime.

Trimming, Finishing, &c.—At Leicester employment was good on the whole, but was affected by the shortage of trimmers. At Hinckley it was good generally, but somewhat slacker on cotton goods; at Loughborough it was fairly good. At Basford overtime was general.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

In this trade much activity prevailed during the month in all the principal districts, and with rare exceptions the average earnings were above the level of a year ago. The Russian and other army boot contracts were being executed in many districts, including Northampton, Kettering, Bristol, Kingswood, Leeds and Leicester; skilled men and women were therefore in as great demand as ever. Firms engaged in the civilian trade, which is carried on chiefly at Leicester, Leeds, Norwich and Stafford, also continued well employed.

Returns from firms employing 57,307 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	2,247	- 0.4	- 3.7	3,310	- 0.2	+ 4.3
Leicester	11,480	- 0.3	+ 4.5	17,153	- 0.8	+ 1.6
Leicester Country District	2,788	- 0.4	+ 0.2	3,651	+ 0.9	+ 4.5
Northampton	9,220	+ 0.6	- 3.0	13,614	+ 4.8	+ 11.5
Northampton Country District	8,214	+ 0.3	- 5.0	11,108	+ 0.6	+ 4.5
Kettering	3,001	+ 0.6	- 6.3	4,150	+ 0.9	- 1.4
Stafford and District	2,568	- 0.6	- 2.9	3,188	- 0.3	+ 2.0
Norwich and District	3,098	+ 0.0	+ 3.0	3,286	+ 0.9	- 3.0
Bristol and District	1,831	- 3.0	+ 3.2	1,994	...	+ 9.0
Kingswood	1,442	- 0.7	- 6.5	1,929	...	+ 5.8
Leeds and District	2,129	- 1.3	- 6.5	2,838	+ 1.9	+ 4.0
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	3,504	+ 0.9	+ 4.4	4,200	+ 1.0	+ 4.1
Birmingham and District	904	- 0.8	- 2.9	1,035	+ 4.2	+ 15.0
Other parts of England and Wales	2,030	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	2,131	+ 2.0	+ 8.4
ENGLAND AND WALES ...	54,264	- 0.1	- 2.8	73,587	+ 1.1	+ 4.5
SCOTLAND	2,675	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	3,448	- 0.1	- 1.9
IRELAND	368	+ 0.3	+ 12.2	323	+ 3.2	+ 24.2
UNITED KINGDOM ...	57,307	- 0.1	- 2.6	77,358	+ 1.1	+ 4.3

The *exports* (British and Irish) of boots and shoes of leather during September, 1916, amounted to 94,200 dozen pairs, compared with 165,600 dozen pairs in August and 79,000 dozen pairs a year ago.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, with overtime in certain districts. It remained quiet, however, with short time in some branches of the saddle and harness trade at Walsall; at Birmingham employment in this trade improved to fair; there was a further decline in the London district.

Trade Unions with 3,810 members reported 1.7 per cent. as unemployed at the end of September, compared with 2.2 per cent. a month ago and a year ago.

The *exports* (British and Irish) of leather during September, 1916, amounted to 17,900 cwts., a decrease of 1,500 cwts. on a month ago, and an increase of

5,000 cwts. on a year ago. The value of exports of leather manufactures (excluding boots and shoes) was £164,300 in September, 1916, £162,500 in August, 1916, and £136,500 in September, 1915.

TAILORING TRADE.

BESPOKE.

London.—During September employment showed a seasonal improvement, but was somewhat slack; it was slightly better than a year ago. Returns from firms paying £8,099 to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 23rd September showed an increase of 7.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—At Liverpool employment was quiet at the beginning of the month, but fair at the end, and on the whole about the same as a year ago. At Sheffield it continued good, and was better than a year ago. At Glasgow employment was good; at Edinburgh and Belfast it was reported as quiet.

READY-MADE.

In this branch there was a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but employment was not so good as a year ago. A shortage of cutters and machinists was reported in some cases, especially at Leeds.

Returns from firms employing 31,054 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 23rd September showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 18.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 17.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Indoor Workpeople.					
	Number Employed.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Leeds	7,681	+ 1.4	- 19.7	7,560	+ 2.5	- 16.8
Manchester	3,125	+ 0.3	- 20.6	3,197	+ 0.9	- 18.8
Other places in Yorkshire, Lancs and Cheshire	4,165	+ 0.8	- 16.1	3,765	+ 3.7	- 6.1
Bristol	1,520	+ 2.8	- 20.6	1,191	+ 6.5	- 23.2
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	3,134	- 0.9	- 16.5	2,679	- 2.6	- 10.8
South Midland and Eastern Counties	3,122	+ 1.7	- 6.8	2,456	- 0.9	- 14.5
London	3,831	+ 3.6	- 27.7	4,556	+ 3.9	- 30.7
Glasgow	1,375	- 2.4	- 25.4	1,400	- 6.1	- 23.4
Rest of United Kingdom	3,101	+ 2.8	- 10.2	2,406	- 2.3	- 11.5
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	31,054	+ 1.3	- 18.4	29,210	+ 1.2	- 17.9

The total amount of wages paid to outworkers by the above firms showed an increase of 5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 35 per cent. compared with a year ago.

At Leeds employment showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but was not so brisk as a year ago; the Jewish operatives reported employment as slack. At Manchester employment continued moderate; compared with a year ago there was a decline of 21 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 19 per cent. in earnings.

At Hebdon Bridge employment continued good; at Huddersfield it was fairly good, but affected by the insufficient supply of labour. At Liverpool employment was moderate. At Bristol employment showed an improvement compared with last month, but was below the level of a year ago; at Stroud it was fair.

At Walsall and Tamworth employment continued fairly good. At Norwich, Colchester and Plymouth it was fair, but not so good as a year ago.

In London employment was fair, and slightly better than a month ago, but considerably below the level of a year ago, the numbers employed showing a decline

of 28 per cent. and the earnings one of 31 per cent. as compared with September, 1915.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

THERE was little change in this trade as compared with a month ago, and employment on the whole continued fair. Compared with a year ago all the principal districts showed a decline in the number employed, but an increase in average earnings. The supply of women machinists and male cutters was not equal to the demand, especially in London and Manchester.

Returns from firms employing 17,041 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 7.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	3,884	+ 1.8	- 4.3	3,702	+ 1.7	+ 2.8
Manchester	3,024	+ 0.6	- 11.6	2,729	+ 3.1	- 6.9
Rest of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,679	+ 0.5	- 2.7	1,159	+ 1.4	+ 2.2
S.W. Counties	2,134	- 1.2	- 5.1	1,401	- 2.2	- 3.5
Rest of England and Wales	1,344	- 0.3	- 15.2	1,127	+ 0.4	- 3.9
Glasgow	1,778	- 1.4	- 13.9	1,534	- 3.3	- 0.7
Londonderry	1,627	+ 0.6	- 6.1	1,012	+ 0.5	+ 3.8
Belfast	1,029	+ 0.2	- 3.4	776	- 0.4	+ 2.5
Rest of Ireland	542	- 0.7	- 3.4	297	+ 3.5	+ 12.5
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	17,041	+ 0.3	- 7.7	13,737	+ 0.7	- 0.7

In London employment continued fairly good. In Manchester employment was fair, and rather better than a month ago.

In the South-Western Counties there was, on the whole, a slight decline compared with last month; employment was reported as fairly good at the collar and cuff factories at Bideford, moderate at Barnstaple, and good at Exeter.

At Glasgow the average earnings were much above the level of a year ago, and employment on the whole was fairly good.

In Ireland employment generally continued fair.

HAT TRADE.

Silk.—Employment in this branch was reported as quiet in London and the provinces, and was better than a year ago for a reduced number of workpeople.

Felt.—In this branch employment continued good, and was better than in September, 1915, for those still in the trade. At Denton employment continued fairly good, and was slightly better than a year ago; 20 per cent. and 10 per cent. of the operatives were on short time and overtime respectively, the short time being chiefly due indirectly to the shortage of labour on preparatory stages of manufacture. At Stockport employment was good and better than a month ago and a year ago; in Warwickshire also it continued good.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

EMPLOYMENT with dressmakers in London in retail firms was fair, and showed a marked seasonal improvement as compared with a month ago, when a number of workers were having holidays; employment was also better than a year ago. Returns from firms, chiefly in the West End, employing 2,318 dressmakers in the week ended 23rd September showed an increase of 43.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago and of 8.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

With court and private dressmakers there was also

a seasonal improvement, but employment was not so good as a year ago. Firms employing 628 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed a decline of 18.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a year ago.

With milliners in the West End a seasonal improvement was shown, but employment was not equal to a year ago. Firms employing 643 milliners in the week ended 23rd September showed an increase of 50.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 12.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The supply of labour in both dressmaking and millinery was not equal to the demand, especially junior labour.

MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and millinery trades firms in London employing 4,062 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 12.1 per cent. compared with September, 1915. Employment during the month was fair.

At Manchester returns from firms employing 3,894 workpeople (excluding as far as possible firms affected by holidays last month) in the week ended 23rd September showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

At Glasgow employment in the mantle, underclothing, &c., trades showed a seasonal improvement. Returns from firms employing 1,667 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed an increase of 7.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 9.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the trades covered by this section more women and girls were wanted, especially machinists, at all three centres.

CORSET TRADE.

Employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago. Returns from firms (mainly in England) employing 6,379 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 23rd September showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

PRIVATE building work remained quiet, and many men were still working in non-building occupations. Men remaining in the building trades, however, were generally well employed, partly owing to Government requirements, and overtime on war work was frequently reported. The general percentage of State insured workpeople unemployed in all building occupations was 0.71, compared with 0.78 in August, and 1.49 a year ago. For plasterers the percentage was as high as 2.5, but for plumbers and navvies it was below 0.4.

Occupations.	Number Insured at end of September, 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of September.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Carpenters	105,655	0.81	- 0.17	- 0.86
Bricklayers	46,996	1.04	- 0.23	- 1.75
Masons	26,990	1.34	- 0.20	- 0.87
Plasterers	13,440	2.55	- 0.35	- 1.43
Painters	84,366	0.74	+ 0.15	- 1.09
Plumbers	28,373	0.29	- 0.12	- 0.71
Other skilled occupations	32,175	0.55	- 0.08	- 0.74
Navvies	104,248	0.39	- 0.01	- 0.24
Labourers	207,974	0.61	- 0.04	- 0.40
ALL OCCUPATIONS	650,217	0.71	- 0.07	- 0.78

The next Table shows in detail the percentage unemployed in the above occupations in each geographical division. The percentage for all occupations taken together was 0.6 or less in all divisions, with the exception of London, where it was 1.4, and of Ireland,

where it was 3.1. The percentage for plasterers was as high as 5.6 in Ireland and 6.0 in London, while for masons the corresponding figures were 6.5 and 3.5 respectively. Apart from these two occupations the percentage unemployed never exceeded 0.7, except in London and Ireland, and with bricklayers in a few districts.

Compared with a month ago the percentage unemployed showed a slight decrease with bricklayers, masons, plasterers and plumbers in most districts, and a slight increase with painters, other occupations showing little general change. In six districts the general percentage unemployed remained stationary, and in no district was there a difference of more than 0.1 per cent. compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago the percentage unemployed showed, with few exceptions, a decrease in every occupation in every district.

Districts.	Number Insured.	Per-centage Un-emp-ly'd.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Number Insured.	Per-centage Un-emp-ly'd.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
		M'nth ago.	Year ago.	M'nth ago.	Year ago.		M'nth ago.	Year ago.			
Carpenters.											
London	19,272	1.4	-0.8	-2.2	8,342	2.5	-0.6	-5.7			
Northern Counties ...	5,055	0.1	...	...	2,363	0.2	-0.1	-0.7		
North-Western ...	11,986	0.3	...	...	5,614	0.7	+0.1	-0.1		
Yorkshire	8,089	0.4	+0.1	-0.4	4,025	0.2	...	-0.7			
East Midlands... ..	5,008	0.4	...	-0.1	3,391	0.3	-0.2	-1.0			
West Midlands ...	7,314	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	5,585	0.3	+0.1	-0.1			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	14,538	0.4	-0.3	-0.6	9,077	1.0	-0.2	-1.7			
South-Western ...	13,734	0.6	...	-0.8	4,064	0.9	...	-1.1			
Wales	5,036	0.5	-0.2	-0.7	1,435	0.6	-0.2	-1.3			
Scotland	9,852	0.2	...	-0.5	1,653	0.1	+0.1	-0.7			
Ireland	5,771	4.9	+0.8	-1.8	1,447	4.6	-1.6	-3.4			
Bricklayers.											
London	1,768	3.5	-0.2	-1.2	2,733	6.0	+0.6	-2.8			
Northern Counties ...	1,899	0.3	-0.1	...	576	0.2	-0.5	-0.6			
North-Western ...	2,553	0.9	-0.8	-1.0	1,457	2.0	-1.1	-0.3			
Yorkshire	3,221	0.3	-0.2	-0.7	1,393	0.2	-0.1	-1.0			
East Midlands... ..	658	1.1	+0.6	-0.8	326	0.2	-1.5	-1.9			
West Midlands ...	650	0.9	-0.6	-0.8	638	0.5	-1.1	-1.2			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	736	1.2	+0.2	-1.5	1,058	2.9	...	-1.9			
South-Western ...	4,843	1.3	...	-1.1	1,533	1.8	-1.1	-2.6			
Wales	3,891	0.6	...	-1.1	1,108	1.0	+0.4	-0.5			
Scotland	4,994	0.6	-0.2	-1.6	1,424	0.4	-0.2	-0.3			
Ireland	1,897	6.5	-0.8	+0.9	1,194	5.6	-0.8	+0.7			
Masons.											
London	1,768	3.5	-0.2	-1.2	2,733	6.0	+0.6	-2.8			
Northern Counties ...	1,899	0.3	-0.1	...	576	0.2	-0.5	-0.6			
North-Western ...	2,553	0.9	-0.8	-1.0	1,457	2.0	-1.1	-0.3			
Yorkshire	3,221	0.3	-0.2	-0.7	1,393	0.2	-0.1	-1.0			
East Midlands... ..	658	1.1	+0.6	-0.8	326	0.2	-1.5	-1.9			
West Midlands ...	650	0.9	-0.6	-0.8	638	0.5	-1.1	-1.2			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	736	1.2	+0.2	-1.5	1,058	2.9	...	-1.9			
South-Western ...	4,843	1.3	...	-1.1	1,533	1.8	-1.1	-2.6			
Wales	3,891	0.6	...	-1.1	1,108	1.0	+0.4	-0.5			
Scotland	4,994	0.6	-0.2	-1.6	1,424	0.4	-0.2	-0.3			
Ireland	1,897	6.5	-0.8	+0.9	1,194	5.6	-0.8	+0.7			
Plasterers.											
London	1,768	3.5	-0.2	-1.2	2,733	6.0	+0.6	-2.8			
Northern Counties ...	1,899	0.3	-0.1	...	576	0.2	-0.5	-0.6			
North-Western ...	2,553	0.9	-0.8	-1.0	1,457	2.0	-1.1	-0.3			
Yorkshire	3,221	0.3	-0.2	-0.7	1,393	0.2	-0.1	-1.0			
East Midlands... ..	658	1.1	+0.6	-0.8	326	0.2	-1.5	-1.9			
West Midlands ...	650	0.9	-0.6	-0.8	638	0.5	-1.1	-1.2			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	736	1.2	+0.2	-1.5	1,058	2.9	...	-1.9			
South-Western ...	4,843	1.3	...	-1.1	1,533	1.8	-1.1	-2.6			
Wales	3,891	0.6	...	-1.1	1,108	1.0	+0.4	-0.5			
Scotland	4,994	0.6	-0.2	-1.6	1,424	0.4	-0.2	-0.3			
Ireland	1,897	6.5	-0.8	+0.9	1,194	5.6	-0.8	+0.7			
Painters.											
London	23,778	1.4	+0.5	-2.1	6,013	0.5	-0.4	-1.3			
Northern Counties ...	2,875	...	...	-0.4	1,484	0.1	...	+0.1		
North-Western ...	10,233	0.3	+0.2	-0.7	4,949	0.2	...	-0.3			
Yorkshire	5,501	0.3	+0.1	-0.6	2,518	0.1	-0.1	-0.3			
East Midlands... ..	3,287	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	1,120	...	-0.3	0.4			
West Midlands ...	5,604	0.3	...	-0.2	1,732	0.1	-0.1	-0.3			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	12,212	0.4	-0.2	-0.8	2,835	0.5	...	-0.7			
South-Western ...	8,389	0.7	+0.1	-0.4	2,327	0.1	-0.1	-0.5			
Wales	2,553	0.6	+0.2	-0.3	832	0.2	-0.3	-0.2			
Scotland	6,454	0.1	-0.1	-1.4	4,277	0.0	-0.1	-0.3			
Ireland	3,420	2.5	+0.9	-1.1	1,186	1.9	-0.1	-3.5			
Plumbers.											
London	23,778	1.4	+0.5	-2.1	6,013	0.5	-0.4	-1.3			
Northern Counties ...	2,875	...	...	-0.4	1,484	0.1	...	+0.1		
North-Western ...	10,233	0.3	+0.2	-0.7	4,949	0.2	...	-0.3			
Yorkshire	5,501	0.3	+0.1	-0.6	2,518	0.1	-0.1	-0.3			
East Midlands... ..	3,287	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	1,120	...	-0.3	0.4			
West Midlands ...	5,604	0.3	...	-0.2	1,732	0.1	-0.1	-0.3			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	12,212	0.4	-0.2	-0.8	2,835	0.5	...	-0.7			
South-Western ...	8,389	0.7	+0.1	-0.4	2,327	0.1	-0.1	-0.5			
Wales	2,553	0.6	+0.2	-0.3	832	0.2	-0.3	-0.2			
Scotland	6,454	0.1	-0.1	-1.4	4,277	0.0	-0.1	-0.3			
Ireland	3,420	2.5	+0.9	-1.1	1,186	1.9	-0.1	-3.5			
Other Skilled Workers.											
London	7,133	1.1	-0.1	-1.7	9,846	0.8	-0.1	-0.8			
Northern Counties ...	2,106	0.1	+0.1	-0.3	5,975	0.1	...	-0.1			
North-Western ...	4,289	0.4	...	-0.9	12,992	0.4	+0.2	-0.1			
Yorkshire	2,419	0.3	+0.1	-0.2	12,099	0.0	...	-0.3			
East Midlands... ..	1,256	0.1	+0.1	-0.7	5,235	0.6	+0.1	-0.1			
West Midlands ...	2,407	0.3	...	-0.3	7,614	0.3	+0.1	-0.1			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	2,388	0.3	-0.4	-0.1	9,396	0.4	...	-0.2			
South-Western ...	2,085	0.5	-0.1	-0.6	7,381	0.5	-0.2	-0.6			
Wales	1,195	0.1	-0.1	-0.7	11,150	0.1	...	-0.3			
Scotland	5,390	0.1	...	-0.2	16,939	0.2	...	+0.1			
Ireland	1,507	2.8	+0.2	-0.8	5,951	1.4	-0.2	-1.4			
Navvies.											
London	7,133	1.1	-0.1	-1.7	9,846	0.8	-0.1	-0.8			
Northern Counties ...	2,106	0.1	+0.1	-0.3	5,975	0.1	...	-0.1			
North-Western ...	4,289	0.4	...	-0.9	12,992	0.4	+0.2	-0.1			
Yorkshire	2,419	0.3	+0.1	-0.2	12,099	0.0	...	-0.3			
East Midlands... ..	1,256	0.1	+0.1	-0.7	5,235	0.6	+0.1	-0.1			
West Midlands ...	2,407	0.3	...	-0.3	7,614	0.3	+0.1	-0.1			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	2,388	0.3	-0.4	-0.1	9,396	0.4	...	-0.2			
South-Western ...	2,085	0.5	-0.1	-0.6	7,381	0.5	-0.2	-0.6			
Wales	1,195	0.1	-0.1	-0.7	11,150	0.1	...	-0.3			
Scotland	5,390	0.1	...	-0.2	16,939	0.2	...	+0.1			
Ireland	1,507	2.8	+0.2	-0.8	5,951	1.4	-0.2	-1.4			
Labourers.											
London	41,750	1.2	...	-0.8	120,635	1.4	-0.1	-1.9			
Northern Counties ...	9,163	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	31,486	0.1	...	-0.3			
North-Western ...	24,762	0.4	...	-0.1	77,975	0.5	+0.1	-0.3			
Yorkshire	17,017	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	56,282	0.2	...	-0.4			
East Midlands... ..	9,887	0.3	+0.1	...	29,968	0.3	...	-0.3			
West Midlands ...	14,756	0.3	...	+0.1	46,200	0.3	...	-0.1			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	25,521	0.5	+0.1	-0.4	78,790	0.5	-0.1	-0.8			
South-Western ...	24,307	0.3	-0.3	-1.0	68,963	0.6	-0.1	-0.9			
Wales	12,365	0.3	...	-0.3	39,565	0.3	-0.1	-0.6			
Scotland	16,695	0.1	...	-0.2	67,348	0.2	...	-0.5			
Ireland	10,962	2.5	-0.1	-0.5	33,335	3.1	...	-1.3			
All Occupations.											
London	41,750	1.2	...	-0.8	120,635	1.4	-0.1	-1.9			
Northern Counties ...	9,163	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	31,486	0.1	...	-0.3			
North-Western ...	24,762	0.4	...	-0.1	77,975	0.5	+0.1	-0.3			
Yorkshire	17,017	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	56,282	0.2	...	-0.4			
East Midlands... ..	9,887	0.3	+0.1	...	29,968	0.3	...	-0.3			
West Midlands ...	14,756	0.3	...	+0.1	46,200	0.3	...	-0.1			
Eastern & S.E. Counties	25,521	0.5	+0.1	-0.4	78,790	0.5	-0.1	-0.8			
South-Western ...	24,307	0.3	-0.3	-1.0	68,963	0.6	-0.1	-0.9			
Wales	12,365	0.3	...	-0.3	39,565	0.3	-0.1	-0.6			
Scotland	16,695	0.1	...	-0.2	67,348	0.2	...	-0.5			
Ireland	10,962	2.5	-0.1	-0.5	33,335	3.1	...	-1.3			

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

MILL SAWING AND MACHINING.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good on the whole, but showed a slight decline. Overtime was reported at Bristol and in

the Glasgow district, but some short time was worked at Hull and Oldham. Employment continued quiet at Edinburgh, and was very dull at Belfast, and bad at Hull. There was an improvement at Bristol.

The percentage unemployed at the end of September among workpeople engaged in sawmilling and insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was 0.4, compared with 0.5 a month ago and 0.8 a year ago.

FURNISHING.

In the furnishing trades employment continued good

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally; there was a marked improvement on a year ago in the china section. Very little short time was worked, except by makers of tiles and sanitary wares. There was a continued shortage of men and boys, skilled and unskilled, especially of biscuit and glost placers, ovenmen, kilnmen and general labourers. A steady increase in the employment of women was reported.

Returns from firms employing 17,043 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 6.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
China Manufacture ...	3,176	+ 1.3	+ 13.0	4,806	+ 1.5	+ 23.7		
Earthenware Manufacture ...	11,158	- 0.2	- 3.6	12,245	+ 1.1	+ 3.8		
Other Branches (including unspecified)	2,709	- 1.7	- 15.5	2,746	- 0.4	- 6.5		
TOTAL ...	17,043	- 0.2	- 3.1	19,797	+ 0.2	+ 6.3		
DISTRICTS.								
Potteries ...	13,180	- 0.2	- 4.9	14,172	+ 0.9	+ 3.3		
Other Districts ...	3,863	- 0.3	+ 3.3	5,625	- 1.5	+ 14.8		
TOTAL ...	17,043	- 0.2	- 3.1	19,797	+ 0.2	+ 6.3		

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, any short time worked being due to stoppages for repairs or to the shortage of certain classes of labour.

Returns from firms employing 9,465 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed a decrease in the number of workpeople employed of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago and 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed, however, an increase of 0.5 per cent. on a month ago and 10.5 per cent. on a year ago.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Glass Bottle ...	7,322	- 0.5	- 3.3	13,033	+ 0.4	+ 11.7		
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,448	+ 1.3	+ 3.1	2,018	+ 3.3	+ 9.9		
Other Branches ...	695	- 0.3	- 7.9	947	- 3.5	- 2.8		
TOTAL ...	9,465	- 0.2	- 2.7	15,998	+ 0.5	+ 10.5		
DISTRICTS.								
North of England ...	1,054	+ 2.9	- 9.8	1,935	+ 5.1	+ 5.3		
Yorkshire ...	4,707	- 1.1	- 4.2	7,977	- 1.7	+ 9.7		
Lancashire ...	1,250	+ 1.8	+ 13.4	1,869	+ 4.7	+ 24.4		
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	778	+ 0.1	- 2.3	1,123	+ 0.5	+ 3.0		
Scotland ...	713	- 4.0	- 15.0	1,241	+ 2.9	- 2.0		
Other parts of the United Kingdom	963	+ 0.4	+ 5.7	1,853	...	+ 22.0		
TOTAL ...	9,465	- 0.2	- 2.7	15,998	+ 0.5	+ 10.5		

The glass bottle trade remained very active, and continued to benefit from the absence of foreign competition. With flint glass makers and cutters in the Midlands employment continued good. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it remained fair. At St. Helens it was good with sheet and plate glass workers and sheet glass flatteners.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good, with a scarcity of men and, to a lesser extent, of women. A considerable amount of overtime was worked.

Returns from firms employing 48,814 workpeople in the week ended 23rd September showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, while the amount of wages paid showed an increase of 5.8 per cent. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 6.5 per cent. in the number employed, but the amount of wages paid increased by 6.4 per cent.

Trade.	Workpeople.				Wages.			
	Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 23rd Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Sugar Refining, &c. ...	5,623	+ 1.2	+ 6.2	9,645	+ 7.4	+ 14.6		
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	21,580	+ 1.8	- 15.6	24,486	+ 7.1	- 2.1		
Biscuits and Cakes, &c. ...	8,888	+ 3.9	+ 2.6	9,002	+ 6.3	+ 12.0		
Jams, Marmalade, &c. ...	7,163	- 4.9	+ 0.2	7,850	+ 3.2	+ 19.6		
Bacon and Preserved Meats	4,599	+ 2.1	- 2.3	5,131	+ 1.0	+ 5.4		
Pickles, Sauces, &c. ...	961	+ 6.1	+ 16.6	879	+ 3.7	+ 27.4		
TOTAL ...	48,814	+ 1.2	- 6.5	57,293	+ 5.8	+ 6.4		

In the sugar refining, cocoa, &c., and biscuit trades the increase compared with a month ago was greater in the amount of wages paid than in the number of persons employed, while in the bacon and preserved meats and the pickle trades the contrary was the case. In the jam trade there was a decline in the number employed, but an increase in the wages paid.

The cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery trades were still affected by the shortage and high prices of materials, and some short time was reported as due to this cause. Employment was better, however, than a month ago, and overtime was frequently worked, though not to the same extent as in the other trades.

The jam trade was affected in some cases by a shortage in the supply of fruit.

Compared with a year ago the sugar refining, biscuit, jam and pickle trades showed an improvement. There was a slight decline in the number of persons employed in the bacon and preserved meat trades, and a decided decline in the number employed in the manufacture of cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery.

AGRICULTURE.*

ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE weather during September was favourable for agricultural work, except for a few days at the beginning of the month. Good progress was made with the corn harvest, which was nearly all completed, except in hilly districts, by the end of the month. Labour was still very short, but the scarcity did not seriously hinder the gathering of the crop, as help from soldiers and women was very generally obtainable. In the northern counties farmers were very short of men, especially skilled workers, and the harvest was protracted in consequence. A deficiency of men for threshing was reported from some parts of Yorkshire. Casual labour was difficult to obtain in Wales generally, but farmers assisted each other in many cases.

SCOTLAND.

In Scotland the weather, though not generally unfavourable, was not very suitable for harvest work, and in the northern counties the grain crops were badly laid by winds and heavy rain. In north-east Fife and the Lothians, however, the conditions were much more satisfactory. Labour continued scarce, and was, generally speaking, practically unobtainable. Women and boys have given help to relieve the pressure, and in many districts soldiers also have assisted.

* Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EXCEPT at certain ports on the East Coast employment continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago. Compared with a month ago there was an improvement in London, but a decline at Liverpool and Glasgow.

LONDON AND TILBURY.

London.—Employment continued fair generally, and was better than a month ago, although not so good as in September, 1915.

The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended 30th September was 16,397, an increase of 5.2 per cent. on a month ago and a decrease of 10.6 per cent. on a year ago.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Sep. 2nd	6,287	2,769	9,056	6,358	15,414
" " " 9th	6,862	2,884	9,746	6,583	16,329
" " " 16th	6,856	3,221	10,077	6,729	16,806
" " " 23rd	6,906	3,240	10,146	6,935	17,081
" " " 30th	6,449	2,778	9,227	7,127	16,354
Average for 5 weeks ended 30th Sep., 1916	6,672	2,979	9,651	6,746	16,397
Average for Aug., 1916	6,418	2,651	9,069	6,522	15,591
" " Sept., 1915	7,521	3,438	10,959	7,380	18,339

The numbers employed at the docks and principal wharves on each day* in September, 1916, were as follows:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	15,572	12	16,689	22	16,909
2	14,573	13	16,899	23	16,594
3	15,919	14	17,255	24	16,288
4	15,902	15	16,822	25	16,391
5	16,508	16	16,582	26	16,490
6	16,864	17	16,695	27	16,662
7	16,695	18	17,472	28	16,461
8	16,085	19	17,394	29	15,833
9	16,085	20	17,394	30	15,833
10	16,588	21	17,421		

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during September was 2,391, compared with 2,153 a month ago and 2,498 during September, 1915.

OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—On the Tyne employment continued good on import cargoes of ironstone, grain and timber; it was fair with quayside labourers. It was fairly good and better than a month ago with trimmers and teamers on both the Tyne and Wear. There was a general decline at Blyth. Employment continued fairly good at Hartlepool, and good at Stockton and Middlesbrough. It was again slack and worse than a year ago at Hull, Grimsby, Goole, Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Lynn, but continued fair at Ipswich.

Southern and Western Ports.—At Plymouth employment was fair, but was affected to some extent by a dispute; it was very good at Dartmouth and Hayle, and fair at Falmouth. Employment was good at Bristol and fair at Gloucester. Dock labourers and coal trimmers were exceptionally busy at Cardiff, Newport, Barry and Penarth. At Liverpool employment was very quiet at the South End, but was still fair at the North End docks.

SCOTTISH AND IRISH PORTS.

Employment was fair at Dundee. It was slack and worse than a month ago at Glasgow, but was still good at Greenock, Ayr and Troon. Employment was fair at Belfast, and bad at Londonderry, Waterford and Cork.

* Sundays are omitted.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EXCEPT at certain ports on the East Coast employment was good on the whole, showing little change on a month ago.

East Coast.—At Hartlepool employment with fishermen was fair, but not so good as a month ago; fish curers continued well employed. At Hull and Grimsby employment was again good with fishermen and fish dock labourers; with fish curers it was good and better than a month ago at Hull and continued fair at Grimsby. Fishing operations remained practically suspended at Yarmouth, but most of the men have found other employment. Employment at Lowestoft was worse than a year ago.

South Coast.—Employment generally continued good off the coasts of Devon and Cornwall. Packers, carters and curers were very well employed.

Scotland.—There was a decline at Dundee, and employment was dull at Arbroath and Montrose. At Aberdeen and Peterhead it was good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers and curers. Employment at Fraserburgh was good with fishermen and fish curers and fair with fish dock labourers; at Macduff it was fair with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers and curers.

Quantity.	Value.	
	Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Sept., 1915.
Fish (other than shell):		
England and Wales ...	407,301	- 89,443
Scotland ...	281,129	+ 87,662
Ireland ...	56,421	+ 12,987
TOTAL ...	744,851	+ 11,206
Shell Fish ...	—	—
TOTAL VALUE ...	1,108,956	+ 220,830

SEAMEN.

THE supply of seamen and firemen for mercantile ships during September was not on the whole equal to the demand. A marked shortage was reported from Southampton, and scarcity was also reported from Middlesbrough, Bristol, Penarth, Liverpool, London and Glasgow. At nearly all the other ports included in the Table the supply was stated to be equal to the demand.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Nine months ended		
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Sept., 1915.	Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1916.
ENGLAND AND WALES:						
East Coast—						
Tyne Ports... ..	1,209	- 545	- 725	15,875	14,664	- 1,211
Sunderland	198	+ 103	+ 22	2,478	1,875	- 603
Middlesbrough	394	+ 32	+ 50	2,191	3,141	+ 950
Hull	1,034	+ 176	- 130	10,955	9,619	- 1,336
Grimsby	37	- 15	- 34	440	351	- 89
Bristol Channel—						
Bristol †	883	- 413	- 643	12,062	8,905	- 3,157
Newport, Mon.	720	- 215	+ 91	8,880	7,753	- 1,127
Cardiff ‡	4,184	- 286	+ 475	41,374	39,001	- 2,373
Swansea	233	+ 45	+ 40	2,769	2,016	- 753
Other Ports—						
Liverpool	11,637	- 2,302	- 630	115,559	101,215	- 14,344
London	8,087	+ 407	- 143	72,801	65,180	- 7,621
Southampton	1,618	+ 429	+ 239	12,408	9,058	- 3,350
SCOTLAND:						
Leith	403	+ 74	+ 136	2,905	3,901	+ 996
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	22	+ 13	- 15	588	312	- 276
Glasgow	2,932	- 373	- 274	27,022	24,963	- 2,059
IRELAND:						
Dublin	50	- 51	...	659	645	- 14
Belfast	147	+ 28	- 668	4,146	1,455	- 2,691
TOTAL ...	33,718	- 2,893	- 2,189	333,112	294,054	- 39,058

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

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

(a) DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of new disputes beginning in September was 36, as compared with 26 in the previous month and 55 in September, 1915. In these new disputes 5,803 workpeople were directly and 1,145 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before September and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 11,959 workpeople involved in trade disputes in September, 1916, as compared with 21,096 in the previous month and 52,869 in September, 1915.

New Disputes in September, 1916.—In the following Table the new disputes for September are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	1	20	...	20
Coal Mining	3	853	951	1,804
Other Mining and Quarrying	1	50	...	50
Engineering	1	30	...	30
Shipbuilding	2	222	...	222
Other Metal	2	22	5	27
Textile	2	354	2	356
Clothing	5	347	...	347
Transport	5	771	187	958
Miscellaneous	11	3,035	...	3,035
Employees of Public Authorities	3	99	...	99
TOTAL, SEPTEMBER, 1916	36	5,803	1,145	6,948
TOTAL, AUGUST, 1916	26	14,006	6,201	20,207
TOTAL, SEPTEMBER, 1915	55	14,170	2,169	16,339

Causes.—Of the 36 new disputes, 24, directly involving 4,266 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages; 4, directly involving 442 workpeople, on other wages questions; 5, directly involving 882 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 3 arose on other questions.

(c) PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN SEPTEMBER, 1916.

Occupations and Locality.†	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡				
COAL MINING:— Driver boys, hewers and dotal men.— Workington.	88	916	11th Sept.	3	For withdrawal of notices of dismissal given to two boys for alleged breach of regulations.	Notices suspended pending consideration by Conciliation Board.
TEXTILE:— Card and blowing-room operatives, &c., and other workpeople.—Wigan.	4,000	...	28th Aug.	30	Objection to local Employers' Association (non-federated) post-dating an advance in wages accepted by federated Associations in other towns, followed by demand for further advance of 5 per cent.	Further advance of 5 per cent. granted.
Woolen workers.—Galashiels	300	...	1st Sept.	2	For advance in wages	Modified advances granted.
CLOTHING:— Machinists and finishers.—Peterborough	200	...	11th Sept.	2	Demand for a war bonus, following deduction from wages of Unemployment contributions now due under National Insurance Acts.	Work resumed unconditionally.
TRANSPORT:— Carters.—Londonderry	300	...	15th Sept.	5	For advance in wages and other concessions.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Coal trimmers, tippers, &c.—Swansea ...	280	125	26th Sept.	9	For payment of "waiting time."	Work resumed pending consideration by Trimming Board.
OTHER TRADES:— Cabinet makers, &c.—Bradford	158	...	25th Sept.	...	Dispute as to date from which an advance in wages should be paid on private work, workpeople claiming "back pay" under an arbitration award alleged to apply to both munition work and private work.	No settlement reported.
Flour millers.—Liverpool and District	1,500	...	8th Sept.	21	Dispute arising out of refusal of employers to negotiate with representatives of Trade Union as to an advance in wages.	Work resumed.
Co-operative employees.—Plymouth ...	712	...	10th Sept.	...	For advance in wages	No settlement reported.

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—25 disputes, involving about 3,400 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going to press.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e. number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, &c.) exceeded 100 days.
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved" (i.e. thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 22 new disputes directly involving 3,254 workpeople, and 4 old disputes directly affecting 2,237 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes 4 were settled in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employers, and 13 were compromised. In the case of 5 other disputes work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The number of working days lost in September by disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 173,600. In addition, 6,700 working days were lost owing to disputes which began before September and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total aggregate duration in September of all disputes, new and old, was 180,300 days, as compared with 78,900 in the previous month, and 172,400 in September, 1915.

(b) DISPUTES IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1915 AND 1916.†

Groups of Trades.	Jan. to September, 1915.			Jan. to September, 1916.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople Involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople Involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Building... ..	45	13,570	99,600	61	6,422	163,600
Coal Mining	56	280,256	1,570,000	47	34,547	194,600
Other Mining and Quarrying	3	149	3,800	8	1,073	17,600
Engineering	76	21,237	196,800	46	18,439	135,500
Shipbuilding	41	6,581	44,700	15	11,878	30,300
Other Metal	37	11,099	55,300	19	2,633	7,700
Textile	55	29,276	262,800	48	54,970	1,133,800
Clothing... ..	31	4,643	20,200	25	6,359	30,700
Transport	63	18,446	118,000	44	31,987	127,400
Other Trades	124	22,707	241,900	101	19,080	278,000
TOTAL	531	407,964	2,613,100	414	187,388	2,119,200

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

The changes in rates of wages (including war bonuses) reported to the Department as taking effect in September affected nearly 200,000 workpeople, and resulted in a net increase of over £23,500 per week. No decreases in wages were reported.

The industries which accounted for the largest number of workpeople affected were the engineering and shipbuilding (over 85,000) and textile (over 50,000). The increases in the engineering and shipbuilding trades were principally under awards by the Committee on Production, and were usually confined to time-workers.

In addition, over 120,000 coal, iron and shale miners in Scotland and nearly 30,000 workpeople in the engineering and shipbuilding trades in the Clyde district received increases under awards issued in September, but as the increases were dated to take effect in August, they are excluded from the above September figures.

Changes in January—September.—The total number of workpeople affected by the changes in wages which have been reported to the Department as taking place during the nine months ended 30th September, 1916, is over 2,800,000, of whom practically all have received increases. The net effect of all these changes is an increase of over £410,000 per week.

The amounts stated above are exclusive of increased earnings due to overtime, and also of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees. Important changes in wages were announced during September affecting railway servants and Post Office employees. As regards

railwaymen, the war bonuses of 5s. and 2s. 6d. per week granted in 1915 to men and boys respectively were increased to 10s. and 5s. per week. The war bonuses of 2s. and 3s. per week previously paid to male Post Office servants over 18 years of age were increased to 3s. and 4s. per week, while 6d. per week was added to the bonuses of female workers, and war bonuses of 1s. 6d. and 2s. per week were granted to males under 18 years. These changes were dated to take effect in the week ended 16th September in the case of railwaymen, and as from 1st July in the case of Post Office employees. A number of employees in other Government departments were also granted a war bonus.

The extent to which the different groups of trades have contributed to the totals shown above will be seen in the following Table:—

Group of Trades.	No. of Workpeople affected.	Amount of Net Increase per week.
Building	172,000	25,500
Coal Mining	852,000	170,600
Iron and Other Mining	21,500	6,900
Quarrying	10,500	1,700
Pig Iron Manufacture	25,000	6,000
Iron and Steel Manufacture	83,000	25,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding	382,000	53,500
Other Metal	83,000	14,400
Textile	780,000	58,200
Clothing	83,000	7,900
Transport	130,000	21,400
Printing, Paper, &c.	36,000	3,500
Glass, Brick, Pottery, Chemical, &c.	60,000	3,900
Other Trades	53,000	7,000
Local Authority Services	50,000	4,900
TOTAL	2,821,000	410,400

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN SEPTEMBER, 1916.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Particulars of Change.†
ENGLAND AND WALES:				
	South Shields	1st full pay in Sept.	Plumbers	Increase of ¼d. per hour in standard rate, making wages 10¼d. per hour, + 2s. per week war bonus.
	Sheffield	1 Sept.	Slaters	Increase, as war wages, of ¼d. per hour (10d. to 10¼d.).
	Westhoughton	1 Sept.	Carpenters and joiners	Increase of ¼d. per hour (9¼d. to 10d.).
	West Bromwich	1 Sept.	Bricklayers Masons	Increase of ¼d. per hour (10¼d. to 11d.). Increase of ¼d. per hour (banker hands, 10¼d. to 11d.; fixers, 11d. to 11¼d.).
	Chatham and District	18 Sept.	Bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, and plumbers Painters Labourers	Increase, as war wages, of 1d. per hour, substituted for war bonus of 2s. 6d. previously granted, making rate 10d. per hour. Increase, as war wages, of 1d. per hour, substituted for war bonus of 2s. 6d. previously granted, making rate 8¼d. per hour. Increase, as war wages, of 1d. per hour, substituted for war bonus of 2s. 6d. previously granted, making rate 7d. per hour.
SCOTLAND:				
	Arbroath... ..	8 Sept.	Masons Masons' labourers	Increase of 1d. per hour (9d. to 10d.). Increase of 1d. per hour (6¼d. to 7¼d.).
	Dundee	15 Sept.	Joiners	Increase of 1d. per hour (10¼d. to 11¼d.).
	Dunfermline	9 Sept.	Plasterers	Increase of ¼d. per hour (9¼d. to 10d.).
	Glasgow	1 Sept.	Plumbers†	Increase of ¼d. per hour (11d. to 11¼d.).
	Kilmarnock and Stevenston	1 Sept.	Slaters	Increase of ¼d. per hour (9¼d. to 10d.).
	Forest of Dean	25 Sept.	Hewers, other underground and surface workers (including enginemen and mechanics) Hewers and other underground workers	Increase of 10 per cent., making wages 80 per cent. above the standard of 1888. Increase of 12½ per cent. on basis rates, making wages 150 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
	Scotland ... ..	||	Surfacemen, mechanics and boiler firemen Enginemen... ..	Increase of 2d. per shift. Increase of 6d. per shift to winding enginemen and of varying amounts to others.
	Shale Mining... ..	||	Miners and other underground workers	Increase of 12½ per cent. on basis rates, making wages 150 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
	Scotland ... ..	||	Winding enginemen Other surface workers Oilworkers	Increase of 6d. per shift. Increase of 4d. per shift. Increase of 4d. per shift.
	Iron Mining ... ..	||	Ironstone miners Underground oncostmen and surface workers	Increase of 6d. per day. Increases of 2d. to 6d. per day.
	Cleveland	1st full pay after 8 Sept.	Bricklayers at blastfurnaces and iron and steel works	Increase, as war wages, of 1¼d. per hour substituted for war bonus of 3s. per week, granted in 1915, making wages 11¼d. per hour.
	West of Scotland... ..	1st full pay after 19 Sept.	Steel founders Labourers, sawmen, cranemen, slingers, &c. in steel foundries	Increase, as war wages, of ¼d. per hour, or 8s. per week to time-workers only. Increase, as war wages, of ¼d. per hour, or 6d. per day.

* Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police, and Government employees.
† War bonuses and "war increases" have been so described where possible, but the information available is not, in all cases, sufficient to distinguish between these and increases not thus limited.
‡ See also under "Change in Hours of Labour."
§ At some of the collieries wages are 85 per cent. above standard.
|| These increases were given as the result of an arbitrator's award issued on 11th September, but were ante-dated to take effect in August.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Particulars of Change.*
Increases in Rates of Wages, and War Bonuses (continued).				
YORKSHIRE:	Hull	1 Sept.†	Iron moulders	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week on time rates.
	Keighley	20 Sept.†	Labourers in tool and general engineering shops	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
	Sheffield	30 Aug.†	Fitters, turners, smiths and strikers, machinemen, brassmoulders and finishers, patternmakers, ironmoulders, coremakers, dressers, plumbers, joiners, painters, woodcutting machinists, electrical workers, enginemen, crane-men, labourers, &c.	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
LANCASHIRE:	Burnley	16 Sept.	Plate and machine moulders	Increase of 8s. per week on time rates, and of 7½ per cent. on piece rates.
	Liverpool and Birkenhead	1 Sept.	Iron, steel and metal dressers... ..	Increase, as war wages, of 4s. per week on time rates to men rated at 33s. 6d. and 34s. 6d. Increase, as war wages, of 8s. per week to time-workers only.
	Mersey District (Ship repairing)	30 Aug.†	Joiners, shipwrights, drillers, cabinet-makers, upholsterers and sailmakers Plumbers Woodcutting machinists and smiths' strikers Iron and steel dressers Labourers and scalers	Increase, as war wages, of ¼d. per hour to time-workers only. Increase, as war wages, of 1s. per week to time-workers only. Increase, as war wages, of 6d. per week to time-workers only. Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week to time-workers only. Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week on time rates, and 2½ per cent. on piece rates.
	Oldham	11 Sept.†	Ironmoulders Labourers and semi-skilled workers... ..	Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week to time-workers only. Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week on time rates, and of 2½ per cent. on piece rates; and a further increase of 1s. per week on time rates to men rated at less than 26s. per week before the above change.
	Preston and District ...	19 Sept.†	Labourers and semi-skilled workers ...	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
	St. Helens	11 Sept.†	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, brass finishers and ironmoulders	Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week to time-workers only.
MIDLAND, EASTERN AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES:	Colchester	4 Sept.†	Ironmoulders	Increase, as war wages, of 1d. per hour to men over 21, and of ¼d. per hour to youths under 21, substituted for war bonus of 2s. per week, granted in 1915. War bonus of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
	Gloucester and Stroud	9 Sept.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, brass finishers, patternmakers and ironmoulders	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
	Grimsby (Engineering and Ship-repairing)	1st full pay in Sept.	Fitters, turners, smiths and strikers, copper-smiths, patternmakers, ironmoulders, core-makers, joiners, platers' helpers and labourers	Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week to time-workers only.
	Ipswich	20 Sept.†	Smiths and strikers	Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week to time-workers only.
	Luton	7 Sept.†	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen and patternmakers	Increase, as war wages, of ¼d. per hour to time-workers only.
	London and District ...	29 Sept.†	Ironmoulders, brassmoulders, coremakers, firemen, and trimmers	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
	London (Ship-repairing)	14 Sept.†	Engineers, smiths, hammermen, joiners, shipwrights, and plumbers	Increase, as war wages, of 8s. per week, substituted for war bonus of 1¼d. per hour previously paid on Admiralty work and war wage advance of 4s. per week previously paid on merchant work.
	Southampton (Engineering and Ship-building)	27 Sept.†	Mechanics' assistants and labourers	Increase, as war wages, of 8s. per week, substituted for war bonus of 1¼d. per hour previously paid on Admiralty work and war wage advance of 3s. per week previously paid on merchant work.
	Southampton (Engineering and Ship-building)	27 Sept.†	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, toolmakers, ironfounders, brassmoulders and finishers, coppersmiths, shipwrights, joiners, woodcutting machinists, painters, plumbers, electrical workers, sheet metal workers, sailmakers, labourers, &c.	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
SCOTLAND:	Scotland	19 Sept.†	Ironmoulders	Increase, as war wages, of ¼d. per hour, or 3s. per week, to time-workers only.
	Clyde District (Engineering)	†	Smiths and strikers, brassfounders and finishers, coppersmiths, sheet metal workers, patternmakers, boiler-makers, electrical workers, brass dressers, platers' helpers, labourers, &c.	Increase, as war wages, of ¼d. per hour, or 3s. 4d. per week, to time-workers only.
	Clyde District (Shipbuilding)	†	Brassfounders and finishers, coppersmiths, patternmakers, electrical workers, riggers, red-leaders, platers' helpers, smiths' strikers, labourers, &c.	Increase, as war wages, of ¼d. per hour, or 3s. 4d. per week, to time-workers only.
	Kilmarnock	19 Sept.†	Angle ironsmiths, platers, riveters, and caulkers	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
IRELAND:	Belfast (General Engineering)	19 Sept.†	Brassfounders, coppersmiths, patternmakers, sheet metal workers, enginemen, labourers, &c.	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
	Belfast (Iron Founding)	19 Sept.†	Ironmoulders	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
	Belfast (Marine Engineering and Shipbuilding)	10 Sept.†	Engineers, machinemen, smiths and strikers, coppersmiths, electrical workers, ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers, patternmakers, boiler-makers, iron and steel shipbuilders, shipwrights, sheet metal workers, joiners, painters, plumbers, cabinetmakers, upholsterers, woodcutting machinists, helpers, and labourers	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
Light Castings Manufacture	England	1st full pay in Sept.	Moulders, cupola men, patternmakers, fitters, fettlers, grinders and other work-people engaged in the manufacture of light castings.	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
	Scotland	19 Sept.†	Moulders	Increase, as war wages, of ¼d. per hour, or 3s. per week, to time-workers only.
Cutlery	Sheffield	9 Sept.†	Table and butcher blade grinders	Increase of 5 per cent.
	Birmingham and District	2 Sept.†	Scissor forgers Metal rolling mill, wire and tube workers ...	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers only.
Other Metal Trades	Dudley	1 or 2 Sept.	Stove, grate, fender and kindred trade workers	Increase of 7½ per cent. to piece-workers, and of 10 per cent. to time-workers rated at less than 30s. per week (including bonus), of 7½ per cent. to those rated at 30s. and under 40s. (including bonus), and of 5 per cent. to those rated at 40s. and over (including bonus). Increase of 1d. per hour (10¼d. to 11¼d.).
	London and District ...	5 Sept.	Hot water fitters, whitesmiths, &c.	Increase of 10 per cent.
	Congleton	1 Sept.	Velvet cutters	Increase of 5 per cent.
Cotton	Lancashire	1st pay day after 2 Sept.	Weavers, winders, beamers, twisters, drawers, &c., in weaving section of hard waste trade; also loom overlookers on standing wages	Increase of 5 per cent.
Woolen and Worsted	Bradford	8 Sept.	Woolcombers and carders	Increase of 1s. per week.
Linen and Jute	Dundee	29 Sept.	Preparers, spinners, reelers, winders, weavers, etc.	Increase of 2s. per week.

* War bonuses and "war increases" have been so described where possible, but the information available is not, in all cases, sufficient to distinguish between these and increases not thus limited.
† The change took effect in the first full pay after the date named.
‡ These increases were given under an award issued by the Committee on Production dated 20th September, but were ante-dated to take effect in August.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Particulars of Change.*
Increases in Rates of Wages, and War Bonuses (continued).				
	Leeds and District ...	1st pay day after 4 Sept.	Boot and shoe operatives: † Male workers earning over 25s. per week	War bonus of 2s. per week granted in 1915 increased to 4s. per week.
	Kingswood	16 Sept.	Male workers earning less than 25s. per week, and female workers over the age of 18.	War bonus of 1s. 6d. per week granted in 1915 increased to 3s. per week.
	Northampton	15 or 16 Sept.	Hand finishers on civil work Boot and shoe operatives: Men over 21 years of age	Increase of 5 per cent. on gross weekly earnings. War bonus of 3s. per week previously granted increased to 6s. per week for men employed as clickers or on standard manufacturing operations, at 33s. per week or less; to 4s. 6d. per week for other men earning not more than 40s. per week; and to 4s. per week for men earning over 40s.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture	London	1st pay day after 4 Sept. 23 Sept.	Youths 18 and under 21 years of age, and women 18 years and over Boys and girls under 18 years of age ...	War bonus of 2s. per week previously granted increased to 3s. War bonus of 6d. or 1s. per week previously granted increased by 6d.
	Aberdeen, Arbroath, Carnoustie and Dundee	28 Sept.	Boot and shoe operatives	Increase of 10 per cent. on piece rates in shops making and finishing by hand in machine-sewn department.
Carting	Glasgow	28 Sept. 11 Sept.	Carters (excluding those employed by railway contractors) Carters employed by railway contractors ...	War bonuses previously granted increased to 4s. 6d. per week for adult male operatives, and to 2s. 6d. per week for females, and youths of 18 and under 21. Increase of 4s. per week to men and of 2s. per week to boys.
Printing and Allied Trades	North of England ...	1st pay day after 9 Sept.	Paper mill workers	War bonuses granted in 1915, of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week to men, and of 1s. per week to female workers, and youths receiving less than 20s. per week, increased by 2s. and 1s. 6d. per week respectively.
Baking	Glasgow	1 Sept.	Compositors and machinemen, linotype and monotype operators, and electrotypers and stereotypers (book and jobbing)	War bonus of 2s. per week.
	Manchester, Salford and District	2 Sept.	Bakers	War bonuses previously granted increased from 1s. per day to 1s. 6d. per day for jobbers, from 6s. per week to 9s. per week for other adult operatives, and from 2s. 6d. per week to 4s. per week for juveniles.
Change in Hours of Labour.				
Building	Glasgow	1 Sept.	Plumbers	Decrease of 1 hour per week (Summer hours after change, 50.

* War bonuses and "war increases" have been so described where possible, but the information available is not, in all cases, sufficient to distinguish between these and increases not thus limited.
† Excluding piece-workers engaged on Army contracts.
‡ See also under "Increases in Rates of Wages."

SLIDING SCALE CHANGES IN WAGES.

THE results of the ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron in various districts are given below:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Increase of last Audit† on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
COAL (Average of all classes of Coal at pit's mouth.)	1916	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland	June—Aug.	18 11¼	2 5	6 0
PIG IRON.	July—Sept.	87 11¼	6 5¼	23 10¼
Cleveland	July—Sept.	No sales.	—	—
Cumberland	July—Sept.	No sales.	—	—
MANUFACTURED IRON.	July—Aug.	247 0¼	9 6¼	68 3¼
North of England (Rails, plates, bars and angles.)	July—Aug.	282 2	8 2¼	90 11¼
Midlands (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, &c.)	July—Aug.	282 8¼	10 2	91 11
West of Scotland (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods.)	July—Aug.	282 8¼	10 2	91 11

Coal.—In connection with the ascertainment of the average selling price of Northumberland coal for the three months June to August, the wages of miners were advanced under the sliding scale by 19 per cent. on the basis rates, making the wages 131 per cent. above the standard of 1879.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of No. 3 Cleveland pig iron for July, August and September, the wages of blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Durham were increased by 8 per cent., making wages 69½ per cent. above the standard. There were no transactions in Cumberland.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England and in the West of Scotland the ascertainment of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron resulted in an increase of 6d. per ton to puddlers and 5 per cent. to millmen. In the Midlands the increases amounted to 3d. per ton and 2½ per cent. for puddlers and millmen respectively.

All the above changes come into force in October, and will be given in detail in the November GAZETTE.

* Stated to the nearest farthing.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN SEPTEMBER.

THE total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of September, 1916, was 14, compared with 19 at the end of September, 1915, and with 17 at the end of September, 1913. The total number of persons who received employment relief during September was 382, as compared with 96 a year ago, and with 572 in September, 1913. The aggregate duration of employment relief was 9,130 days in September, 1916, compared with 1,593 days in September, 1915, and with 8,355 in September, 1913, and the average duration for those employed was 25.9 days compared with 16.6 days a year ago, and with 17.9 days in September, 1913. The total amount of wages paid in September, 1916, was £671, compared with £134 in September, 1915, and with £1,488 in September, 1913, and the average earnings were 35s. 2d., compared with 27s. 11d. a year ago and 52s. in September, 1913. Those not employed on piece-work received an average of 1s. 5d. a day, compared with 1s. 8d. a year ago and 3s. 2d. a day in September, 1913.

Districts.	No. of Applicants given Employment Relief.		Aggregate Duration of Employment Relief.		Total Amount of Wages Paid.	
	Sept., 1916.	Sept., 1915.	Sept., 1916.	Sept., 1915.	Sept., 1916.	Sept., 1915.
London: County	...	...	...	...	£	£
Outer	...	5	...	...	81	10
Total, London	...	5	...	...	84	10
Northern Counties ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lanes. and Cheshire ...	...	39	...	...	188	...
Yorkshire ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Midlands ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eastern Counties ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Southern Counties ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wales and Monmouth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ENGLAND AND WALES ...	...	44	...	...	272	25
Scotland	28	52	634	1,321	77	109
Ireland	351*	...	8,496	...	594	...
UNITED KINGDOM ...	382*	96	9,130	1,593	671	134

* Including 90 women employed on piece-work, to whom £25 was paid in wages.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

[Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.]

THE total number of cases of poisoning, of anthrax and of toxic jaundice reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during September, 1916, was 58, of which 27 were due to lead poisoning, 1 to mercurial poisoning, 7 to anthrax, and 23 to toxic jaundice. Two deaths due to lead poisoning, one to anthrax, and 9 to toxic jaundice were also reported. In addition, 2 cases of lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

During the nine months ended September, 1916, the total number of cases of poisoning, of anthrax and of toxic jaundice reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 472, compared with 337 during the corresponding period of 1915. The number of deaths in 1916 was 62, as compared with 22 in 1915. In addition, 52 cases of lead poisoning (including 13 deaths) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during the first nine months of 1916, compared with 93 cases (including 26 deaths) during the corresponding period of 1915.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Cases.			Deaths.		
	Month of Sept., 1916.	Nine Months ended Sept., 1916.	Sept., 1915.	Month of Sept., 1916.	Nine Months ended Sept., 1916.	Sept., 1915.
Lead Poisoning.						
AMONG OPERATIVES ENGAGED IN—						
Smelting of Metals ...	2	23	40	1	4	1
Brass Works ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	1	2	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	1	6	14	—	—	—
Printing ...	1	10	23	—	—	3
File Cutting ...	3	8	1	—	2	—
Tinning of Metals ...	—	4	3	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	2	17	28	—	1	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	1	10	6	—	—	—
Pottery ...	1	20	16	1	5	4
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Vitreous Enamelling ...	2	5	5	—	—	1
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	1	40	47	—	—	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	2	19	10	—	—	—
Coach and Car Painting ...	2	21	31	—	—	4
Shipbuilding ...	3	18	13	—	2	1
Paint used in other Industries ...	1	12	10	—	—	2
Other Industries ...	5	42	39	—	2	—
TOTAL IN FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS	27	258	288	2	16	16
Other Forms of Poisoning.						
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	2	52	93	—	13	26
MERCURIAL POISONING—						
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	1	3	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	1	13	3	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	14	6	—	—	—
PHOSPHORUS POISONING	—	1	3	—	—	1
ARSENIC POISONING—						
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	1	—	—	—
ANthrax.						
Wool ...	6	56	22	—	7	1
Handling of Horselair	1	6	1	1	3	3
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	15	14	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	2	2	—	—	1
TOTAL ANTHRAX	7	79	39	1	13	5
TOXIC JAUNDICE	23	120	—	9	33	—
TOTAL REPORTED UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT	58	472	337	12	62	22
GRAND TOTAL	60	524	430	12	75	48

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS. CASES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER, 1916.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.]

THE number of workpeople, exclusive of seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in September, 1916, was 274, an increase of 7 on a month ago and 2 on a year ago. The mean number for September during the five years 1911-15 was 250, the maximum being 272 and the minimum 210.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during September, 1916, numbered 31, compared with 28 in August, 1916, and 42 in September, 1915.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 117, an increase of 7 on a month ago and of 21 on a year ago. There were 4 fatal accidents at quarries, compared with 9 a month ago and 10 a year ago.

The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in September was 119, an increase of 4 on August, 1916, and a decrease of 3 on September, 1915.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen during September, 1916, was 91, a decrease of 74 on a month ago and of 39 on a year ago.

The Table shows the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during August and September, 1916, and September, 1915:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1916, on a	
	Sept., 1916.	Aug., 1916.	Sept., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
RAILWAY SERVICE—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	—	4	+ 1	- 3
Engine Drivers	1	—	1	+ 1	—
Firemen	—	3	—	- 3	—
Guards (Passenger)	—	1	—	- 1	—
Permanent Way Men	7	8	10	- 1	- 3
Porters	6	7	9	- 1	- 3
Shunters	1	1	3	—	- 2
Mechanics	4	3	—	+ 1	+ 4
Labourers	—	1	—	- 1	—
Miscellaneous	11	4	12	+ 7	- 1
Contractors' Servants	—	—	3	—	- 3
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	31	28	42	+ 3	- 11
MINES—					
Underground	105	100	87	+ 5	+ 18
Surface	12	10	9	+ 2	+ 3
TOTAL, MINES	117	110	96	+ 7	+ 21
Quarries over 20 feet deep	4	9	10	- 5	- 6
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—					
Textile—					
Cotton	4	4	4	—	—
Wool and Worsted	—	2	2	- 2	- 2
Other Textiles	4	1	3	+ 3	+ 1
Non-Textile					
Extraction of Metals	6	5	5	+ 1	+ 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	22	22	21	—	+ 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	2	3	+ 1	—
Ship and Boat Building	10	9	16	+ 1	- 6
Gas	2	1	2	+ 1	—
Wood	3	—	2	+ 3	+ 1
Clay, Stone, &c.	2	2	1	—	+ 1
Chemicals	4	9	11	- 5	- 7
Laundries	—	—	1	—	- 1
Food	2	2	5	—	- 3
Drink	4	3	2	+ 1	+ 2
Paper, Printing, &c.	6	5	1	+ 1	+ 5
Other Non-Textile Industries	28	25	23	+ 3	+ 5
TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	100	92	102	+ 8	- 2
ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	10	14	13	- 4	- 3
Warehouses	2	3	1	- 1	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies	7	6	6	+ 1	+ 1
TOTAL UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.	19	23	20	- 4	- 1
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	3	5	2	- 2	+ 1
TOTAL, EXCLUDING SEAMEN.	274	267	272	+ 7	+ 2
SEAMEN—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	10	7	7	+ 3	+ 3
Steam	66	131	104	- 68	- 38
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	1	1	—	—	+ 1
Steam	11	23	19	- 9	- 5
TOTAL, SEAMEN	91	165	130	- 74	- 39
TOTAL, INCLUDING SEAMEN.	365	432	402	- 67	- 37

PAUPERISM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.]

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in September, 1916, in the 35 selected urban areas named below corresponded to a rate of 148 per 10,000, a decrease of 1 per 10,000 on a month ago and of 17 per 10,000 on a year ago.

Compared with the previous month, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 1,679 (or 0.6 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers increased by 246 (or 0.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 1,925 (or 1.3 per cent.). The most marked change was an increase of 5 per 10,000 in the central metropolitan district. Five other districts showed increases, eight showed no change, and 21 showed a decline.

Compared with September, 1915, the total number of paupers decreased by 28,894 (or 9.5 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers decreased by 8,508 (or 6.1 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 20,386 (or 12.5 per cent.). Every district showed a decrease; the largest decreases were in the Stockton and Tees district (37 per 10,000 of population), and in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (29 per 10,000 of population). Eight other districts showed a decrease of 20 and under 30 per 10,000, and 25 under 20 per 10,000.

Selected Urban Areas.*	Paupers on one day in second week of September, 1916.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES,†						
Metropolis.						
West District	9,589	1,612	11,201	138	+ 1	- 11
North District	11,948	5,277	17,225	171	- 1	- 17
Central District	3,508	1,174	4,682	329	+ 5	- 22
East District	10,900	4,112	15,012	227	- 2	- 16
South District	19,308	10,933	30,241	160	- 1	- 18
TOTAL, Metropolis	55,343	23,108	78,451	174	—	- 16
West Ham	4,055	9,250	13,305	174	- 1	- 18
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	1,976	3,384	5,360	110	- 2	- 20
Stockton & Tees District	1,007	2,648	3,655	145	- 3	- 37
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	3,552	2,926	6,478	80	- 1	- 13
Wigan District	1,742	4,388	6,130	139	- 1	- 13
Manchester District	8,258	5,106	13,364	130	+ 1	- 17
Liverpool District	9,275	9,898	19,173	168	- 1	- 16
Bradford District	1,792	1,344	3,136	84	- 2	- 13
Hull District	1,041	2,136	3,177	83	—	- 13
Leeds District	2,193	2,541	4,734	98	—	- 14
Barnsley District	738	2,745	3,483	112	—	- 13
Sheffield District	2,574	2,802	5,376	109	- 1	- 22
Hull District	1,073	4,837	5,910	206	—	- 14
North Staffordshire	1,837	4,199	6,036	149	—	- 20
Nottingham District	1,792	3,465	5,257	113	- 3	- 15
Leicester District	1,289	2,283	3,572	152	+ 1	- 17
Wolverhampton District	3,160	5,278	8,438	121	- 3	- 23
Birmingham District	6,131	3,489	9,620	113	- 1	- 19
Bristol District	2,594	3,266	5,860	150	- 1	- 18
Cardiff & Swansea	2,111	4,851	6,962	155	- 3	- 24
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	54,740	71,606	126,346	126	- 1	- 18
SCOTLAND,†						
Glasgow District	2,921	16,521	19,442	204	- 2	- 15
Paisley & Greenock District	654	2,229	2,883	150	- 2	- 21
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,232	4,545	5,777	143	—	- 11
Dundee and Dunfermline	609	1,913	2,522	126	- 1	- 6
Aberdeen	435	2,457	2,892	173	—	- 17
Coatbridge and Airdrie	241	1,377	1,618	156	- 3	- 29
TOTAL for the above } Scottish Districts	6,092	29,042	35,134	174	- 1	- 14
IRELAND,†						
Dublin District	5,299	4,849	10,148	247	+ 3	- 10
Belfast District	2,388	802	3,190	75	+ 1	- 2
Cork, Waterford and Limerick District	3,061	3,810	6,871	277	—	- 20
Galway District	254	157	411	119	- 2	- 7
TOTAL for the above Irish } Districts	11,002	9,618	20,620	184	+ 1	- 10
Total for above 35 Dis-	131,232	142,624	273,856	148	- 1	- 17

* These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales and Ireland more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, West Ham, Belfast and Galway districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district.

† Exclusive of Vagrants, of Patients in the Fever and Smallpox 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.

BUILDING PLANS.

RETURNS received by the Department from 94 of the principal urban districts in the United Kingdom (exclusive of the County of London), giving the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans were passed during the third quarter of 1916, show that there was a net decrease of £742,024 (or 29.9 per cent.) compared with the corresponding period of 1915. The population of the districts included in the Returns is over 12,000,000.

District and Population at Census 1911.	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses and other business premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, Additions and Alterations.	TOTAL.

PRICES OF WHEAT, FLOUR AND BREAD.

I.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Supplies.

Imports in September, 1916.—The quantity of wheat and wheat meal and flour imported into the United Kingdom during September, 1916, together with the increase or decrease compared with September, 1915, 1914 and 1913, is shown in the following Table:—

From	Quantity imported during September, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with		
		September, 1915.	September, 1914.	September, 1913.
WHEAT.				
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
From Russia	4,665,800	+2,396,700	- 670,019	+2,115,467
„ United States	490,900	-1,967,900	- 976,000	-2,273,100
„ British East Indies	160,200	+160,200	- 420,900	-1,327,300
„ Australia	1,710,600	+113,800	-3,429,100	+ 62,600
„ Canada	100	- 24,300	- 36,800	- 31,700
„ Argentine Republic	100	- 100	- 5,900	- 31,700
„ Other Countries	100	- 100	- 5,900	- 31,700
TOTAL	7,027,600	+ 547,500	-5,569,019	-1,842,333
WHEAT MEAL AND FLOUR.				
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
From United States	446,823	- 11,677	- 11,721	- 256,674
„ Canada	349,286	+169,286	+203,388	+ 5,139
„ Other Countries	800	- 29,100	- 5,400	-147,000
TOTAL	796,909	+128,509	+188,267	-408,813

During September, 1916, the first month of the new cereal year, the total imports of wheat showed an increase of rather more than 8 per cent. compared with a year ago, but decreases of over 40 per cent. and of over 20 per cent. compared with September, 1914 and 1913, respectively. In September, 1916, of the total imports of over 7,000,000 cwts., nearly 6,400,000 cwts. came from North America—4,700,000 cwts. from the United States and 1,700,000 cwts. from Canada. Comparing September, 1916, with September, 1913, which was unaffected by war conditions, there was a marked increase in the quantity imported from the United States, but this increase was insufficient to counterbalance large decreases from the British East Indies, Australia and the Argentine Republic.

In the case of wheat meal and flour, as in that of wheat, practically the whole imports in September, 1916, came from North America. Compared with September, 1913, there was a total decline of nearly 409,000 cwts., of which 262,000 cwts. is accounted for by decreased receipts from the United States and Canada.

Deliveries of British Wheat.—In the following Table the deliveries of wheat by farmers at the various markets of England and Wales from which returns are received by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries are shown for the four weeks ended 30th September, 1916, together with the increase or decrease compared with the corresponding weeks of the three previous years:—

1916.	Quantity delivered.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1916 compared with corresponding weeks of		
		1915.	1914.	1913.
	Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.	Quarters.
9th September... ..	23,084	- 16,260	- 77,871	- 36,502
16th „	43,258	- 9,685	- 74,730	- 20,808
23rd „	87,770	+13,329	- 8,004	+ 2,594
30th „	92,222	+16,383	+ 4,371	+16,098
TOTAL	251,334	+ 3,767	-156,234	- 38,618

Prices.

In the following Table particulars are given of the average declared values and market prices of wheat and wheat meal and flour during September, 1916, together with the increase or decrease compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

WHEAT:—	September, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
		August, 1916.	September, 1915.
Imported: Average declared value per 480 lb.	65 1	+ 7 3	+13 7
Imported: Spot price at Liverpool per 480 lb.			
No. 1 Northern Manitoba: Average price	70 2	+ 2 7	+13 2
No. 2 Hard Winter (old): Average price	66 8*	- 0 3	+ 9 9
No. 2 Hard Winter (new): Average price	67 4	†	+18 8
Australian: Average price	74 5†	+ 6 2	§
Choice White Karachi: Average price	69 7‡	- 0 8‡	+18 2
British: Gazette average price per 480 lb. (England & Wales)	59 4	+ 2 2	+15 9
English white wheat per 504 lb. (London)	64 6	+ 2 10	+18 0
WHEAT MEAL AND FLOUR:—			
Imported: Average declared value per cwt.	16 7	+ 0 5	+ 0 9
Flour: Town Households No. 1, London (ex mill, less usual discount), average price per 280 lb.	55 0	+ 1 0	+13 6

During September the spot price of No. 1 Northern Manitoba wheat at Liverpool remained fairly steady. During the opening days of the month it was at about 70s. per quarter, rising to 73s. on the 9th; from this date the quotation fell to 70s. on the 14th, and for the remainder of the month the prices fluctuated between 70s. 5d. and 68s. 2d. For No. 2 Hard Winter (new wheat) quotations are available from the 12th onwards; the prices tended downwards, though the fall was not regular; the quotation on the 12th was 70s. per quarter, and on the 30th about 66s. 9d. During the first week of the month Australian wheat was quoted at 74s. 5d. per quarter, and for choice white Karachi (Indian wheat) 69s. 7d. to 70s. was quoted on 1st September, and 69s. 2d. to 69s. 5d. on the 30th. The Gazette price of British wheat showed but little variation during the month, and for the weeks ending 2nd September and 7th October the prices were 59s. 4d. and 59s. 2d. per quarter respectively. The price of No. 1 Town Households flour in London was 54s. 6d. per 280 lb. on 4th September, and 56s. 6d. on 11th September, the price then fell to 54s. 6d. on the 18th, and remained at that level till 4th October, when an increase took place; the present price (16th October) is 56s. 6d.

II.—BREAD.

The following information with regard to the prices of bread is derived from two main sources: (1) Master Bakers' Associations; and (2) Co-operative Societies. Returns are also received from the local correspondents of the Department in industrial districts.

In preparing the statistics, the predominant prices, i.e. the prices at which the bulk of the bread was sold, are utilised, but it will be understood that bread was also sold at both lower and higher prices. The prices quoted are for 4 lb., and in cases in which the weight of the loaf has been varied instead of the price per loaf being altered, the necessary allowance has been made.

(1) Master Bakers' Associations, &c.

Returns received from 120 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations and thirty returns received from other sources are summarised in the following Tables.

The prices most frequently returned for 2nd October were 9d. and 9½d. per 4 lb. The movements reported as having occurred since 1st September were mainly increases from 8½d. to 9d. per 4 lb., and thus in the three districts for which the average price a month ago was 8½d., an average increase of ½d. per 4 lb. is recorded. In Scotland also there was an average increase of ½d. per 4 lb., but in the three districts in England and Wales in which the average price exceeded 9d. a month ago no change is recorded in the average price. As compared with a year ago the usual increases are 1d. or 1½d. per 4 lb., the average advance being under 1½d.

* Two quotations only. † Not quoted in August, 1916. ‡ Six quotations only. § No quotations. ¶ Five quotations only. †† Three quotations only.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN SEPTEMBER.*

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

THE total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Employment Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the five weeks ended 29th September, 1916, was 9,579, as compared with 7,808 during the four weeks ended 25th August, 1916, and with 22,329 during the four weeks ended 24th September, 1915. Of the total of 9,579 claims, 6,162 (or 64 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 3,417 (or 36 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the five weeks was 2,045, 1,829, 1,937, 1,853 and 1,915, the average being 1,916, as compared with 1,952 in the four preceding weeks and with 5,582 in September, 1915.

The total amount of unemployment benefit paid direct for the five weeks ended 29th September, 1916, was £1,330, and through associations during the five weeks ended 23rd September, 1916, £770.

Districts.	Average Weekly No. of Claims Made.			Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid.		
	Sept., 1916.	Aug., 1916.	Sept., 1915.	Sept., 1916.†	Aug., 1916.†	Sept., 1915.
London	724	774	2,028	£ 122	£ 165	£ 353
South-Eastern	121	125	516	30	46	162
South-Western	234	158	496	45	31	119
West Midlands	53	54	161	10	10	29
East Midlands	56	53	190	12	12	65
Yorkshire	116	115	275	21	26	150
North-Western	171	196	665	28	39	156
Northern	27	41	169	6	4	51
Scotland	68	89	376	19	7	105
Wales	20	28	178	8	7	47
Ireland	356	319	528	119	104	245
UNITED KINGDOM	1,916	1,952	5,582	420	451	1,381

BOARD OF TRADE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

FOUR WEEKS ENDED 8th SEPTEMBER, 1916.

THE total number of workpeople remaining on the Registers† of the Board of Trade Employment Exchanges (377 in number) on 8th September was 110,388, as compared with 109,598 on 11th August, 1916, and 93,050 on 10th September, 1915. These comprise workers in professional, commercial and clerical, as well as in industrial occupations.

Excluding cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, there were on the Register at some time or other during the period 376,382 workpeople (men 118,926, women 203,467, boys 25,584, and girls 28,405), as compared with 385,066 in the previous four weeks, and 326,973 in the four weeks ended 10th September, 1915.

The number of vacancies filled was 124,623, a daily average of 5,193, as compared with 5,141 in the previous four weeks, and with 4,256 in the four weeks ended 10th September, 1915.

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
On Register at beginning of period	30,874	64,217	6,640	7,867	109,598
Registrations during period	92,776	142,608	19,292	20,893	275,569
Individuals registered	58,004	132,212	18,905	20,517	229,738
Re-registrations	4,712	3,396	387	346	8,841
On Register at end of period	30,794	65,605	6,077	7,912	110,388
Vacancies notified during period	67,733	64,739	11,267	11,128	154,867
Vacancies filled during period	50,894	55,953	9,166	8,610	124,623
Applicants placed in other districts	14,500	14,750	1,743	1,475	32,473

* The percentages unemployed in the Insured Trades will be found on page 356.

† The figures for Association Payments relate to periods terminating one week earlier than the periods to which the Direct Payments relate.

‡ Excluding workmen in certain occupations of a more or less casual nature (i.e. dock labourers and cloth porters); these are dealt with in the last paragraph but one.

§ Of the women on the Register over 11 per cent. were known to be in employment, and a further 15 per cent. were reported never to have been in employment.

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant price was as under:—

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lb. on 2nd October, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with		Last Change.*	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Amount per 4 lb.
London	9 & 9½	d.	d.	Aug., 16	+ 1½
Birmingham	9 & 9½	+ ½	+ 1½	Aug., 16	+ 1
Bristol	9 & 9½	+ ½	+ 1½	Sept., 16	+ ½
Cardiff	9½	+ ½	+ 1½	Sept., 16	+ ½
Derby	9½	+ ½	+ 1½	Aug., 16	+ ½
Hull... ..	8½ & 9	+ ½	+ 1½	Sept., 16	+ ½
Ipswich	9	+ ½	+ 1	Sept., 16	+ ½
Leicester	9	+ ½	+ 2	Aug., 16	+ 1
Liverpool	9½	+ ½	+ 1½	Aug., 16	+ 1
Manchester	9½	+ ½	+ 2	Aug., 16	+ 1½
Middlesbrough	9	+ ½	+ 1½	Jan., 16	+ ¾
Norwich	9	+ ½	+ 1½	Sept., 16	+ ½
Nottingham	8½ to 9½	+ ¾	+ 2	Sept., 16	+ ¾
Portsmouth	9½	+ ½	+ 1½	Aug., 16	+ 1½
Southampton	9½	+ ½	+ 1½	Aug., 16	+ 1
Stoke-on-Trent	8½	+ ½	+ 1½	Aug., 16	+ 1
Wolverhampton	9	+ ½	+ 1½	Aug., 16	+ 1
Aberdeen	8½ & 9	+ ½	+ ¾	May, 16	+ 1
Dundee	9½ & 10	+ ½	+ 1½	Sept., 16	+ ½
Edinburgh	9½	+ ½	+ 1	Sept., 16	+ ½
Glasgow	9	+ ½	+ 1	Aug., 16	+ ½
Belfast	9	+ ½	+ 1	Aug., 16	+ ½
Dublin	9½	+ 1	+ 1½	Sept., 16	+ 1

(2) Co-operative Societies.

The following Table summarises the Returns received from 350 Co-operative Societies:—

District.	Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on		
	2nd October, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.			
London	8½ & 9½†	+ ½	+ 1½
Northern Counties and Yorks.	9½	+ ½	+ 1
Lancashire and Cheshire	9½	+ ¾	+ 1½
N. Midland Counties	8½	+ ½	+ 1
W. do. do.	8½	+ ¾	+ 1
S. do. do.	8½	+ ¾	+ 1
Eastern Counties	9	+ ¾	+ 1
South Eastern Counties	9	+ ¾	+ 1
South Western Counties and Wales	8½	+ ¾	+ ¾
ENGLAND AND WALES...	9	+ ¾	+ 1
SCOTLAND.			
Northern Counties	8½	+ ¾	+ ¾
Eastern Counties	9	+ ¾	+ ¾
Lanarkshire	8½	...	+ ¾
Other Southern Counties	9	...	+ ¾
SCOTLAND	9	+ ¾	+ ¾
GREAT BRITAIN	9	+ ¾	+ 1

The slight upward movement since 1st September appears to be fairly general in all parts of the country except in the Southern Counties of Scotland. The most marked changes in the average prices are in London and in Lancashire. As compared with a year ago the usual increase is of 1d. per 4 lb.

* Entries in this column are exclusive of changes applying for a short time only, unless previous columns are affected by such changes. Where two changes occurred in August they are added together.

† Counter. ‡ Delivered.

In the following Table are shown, for men and women, the proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified, and of vacancies filled to registrations (including those on the Register at the beginning of the period), in the principal groups of trades:—

Trades.	Proportion of Vacancies filled to Vacancies notified.		Proportion of Vacancies filled to Registrations.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
<i>Insured Trades—</i>				
Building, Construction of Works and Sawmilling	75.2	87.3	47.0	146.6
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Construction of Vehicles	82.6	100.7	71.6	181.0
<i>Uninsured Trades—</i>				
Textiles	48.3	69.2	42.3	42.5
Dress	43.6	76.8	18.5	20.3
Transport	70.7	83.5	30.6	24.6
Agriculture	41.8	95.8	24.3	17.2
Paper, Prints, &c.	43.9	76.6	17.7	34.1
Chemicals, Explosives, &c.	88.2	104.0	40.0	20.9
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging	38.4	78.0	35.3	39.0
Commercial and Clerical	70.7	85.9	12.8	21.5
Domestic	51.9	62.5	23.5	26.4
General Labourers	86.5	—	30.2	—
TOTAL	75.1	86.4	41.2	27.3

The average daily number of registrations and vacancies filled for the periods stated are shown below:—

District or Department.	Insured Trades.			Uninsured Trades.		
	4 weeks ended 8 Sept., 1916.	4 weeks ended 11 Aug., 1916.	4 weeks ended 10 Sept., 1915.	4 weeks ended 8 Sept., 1916.	4 weeks ended 11 Aug., 1916.	4 weeks ended 10 Sept., 1915.
REGISTRATIONS.						
London	470	478	633	2,652	2,655	2,111
South-Eastern	179	162	213	665	670	545
South-Western	165	164	254	561	488	399
West Midlands	334	279	245	721	643	574
East Midlands	135	125	123	438	396	277
Yorkshire	217	186	222	819	679	566
North-Western	357	352	427	1,313	1,252	1,004
Northern	102	108	171	477	455	444
Scotland	225	209	252	943	958	808
Wales	161	144	225	364	317	203
Ireland	129	101	130	327	284	256
<i>Men</i>	2,050	1,967	2,690	1,815	1,697	1,765
<i>Women</i>	340	297	157	5,602	5,453	4,011
<i>Boys</i>	72	68	66	732	786	594
<i>Girls</i>	12	9	7	1,181	861	817
TOTAL	2,474	2,341	2,900	9,330	8,797	7,187
VACANCIES FILLED.						
London	280	308	250	1,072	1,070	1,055
South-Eastern	139	121	107	204	263	189
South-Western	71	82	127	206	212	161
West Midlands	290	309	182	271	236	195
East Midlands	130	152	67	180	127	107
Yorkshire	239	198	148	229	217	195
North-Western	306	283	188	389	386	322
Northern	102	137	113	80	93	103
Scotland	352	320	144	325	319	297
Wales	103	99	155	154	141	59
Ireland	23	21	23	48	47	64
<i>Men</i>	1,842	1,271	1,293	779	741	1,010
<i>Women</i>	613	676	153	1,718	1,713	1,095
<i>Boys</i>	60	61	49	322	325	214
<i>Girls</i>	20	22	9	339	333	333
TOTAL	2,035	2,030	1,504	3,158	3,111	2,752

INSURED TRADES.*

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 57,333 (men 47,133, women 7,991, boys 1,702, and girls 987). The total number of workpeople on the Register was 75,051 (men 59,518, women 12,903, boys 2,218, and girls 412). These figures exclude 2,263 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed during the period, and represent separate individuals.

Of the registrations among men, 50.0 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 39.5 per cent. in engineering, and 7.6 per cent. in shipbuilding.

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register at 8th September was 18,347, as compared with 17,930 on 11th August, 1916, and 21,617 on 10th September, 1915.

* The figures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the provisions of Part II. of the National Insurance Act.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 57,636, a daily average of 2,404, as compared with 2,451 in the previous four weeks, and 2,176 in the four weeks ended 10th September, 1915. The number of vacancies filled was 48,843, a daily average of 2,035, as compared with 2,029 in the previous four weeks, and 1,504 in the four weeks ended 10th September, 1915.

Building and construction of works account for 47.7 per cent. of the total vacancies notified for men, and 46.0 per cent. of the total vacancies filled by men, the corresponding figures for engineering and shipbuilding being 42.0 and 7.6 per cent. of the vacancies notified, and 44.8 and 7.4 per cent. of the vacancies filled.

UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations.—The number of registrations during the period was 209,615 (men 40,931, women 131,221, boys 17,203, and girls 20,260). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 301,331 (men 59,408, women 190,564, boys 23,366, and girls 27,993). These figures exclude 6,578 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate individuals.

Among men 25.1 per cent. of the total registrations were in the transport, &c., trades, and 31.7 per cent. as general labourers, while of the women registered 19.9 per cent. were in domestic offices or services and 37.8 per cent. in explosives, &c. Commercial and clerical occupations accounted for 8.0 per cent. of the registrations among men, and 6.2 per cent. among women.

The number of workpeople on the Register at 8th September was 92,041 (men 18,319, women 60,466, boys 5,483, and girls 7,773), as compared with 91,668 on 11th August, 1916, and 71,463 on 10th September, 1915.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 97,181, a daily average of 4,049, as compared with 4,067 in the previous four weeks and 3,650 in the four weeks ended 10th September, 1915. The number of vacancies filled was 75,780, a daily average of 3,157, as compared with 3,112 in the preceding four weeks and 2,752 in the four weeks ended 10th September, 1915.

Of the vacancies notified for men 23.3 per cent. were in the transport, &c., trades, and 23.5 per cent. as general labourers. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 23.8 per cent. and 29.3 per cent. Among women 31.1 per cent. of the vacancies notified were in domestic offices or services, 5.8 per cent. in the textile trades, and 30.7 per cent. in explosives, &c. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 23.6 per cent., 4.9 per cent., and 38.8 per cent.

Of the vacancies filled 4,368 (men 1,902, women 2,263, boys 108, and girls 95) were known to be for less than a week's employment, while of the 15,864 vacancies filled by boys and girls, 3,960 (boys 1,715 and girls 2,245), or 25.0 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men who obtained casual employment through the Exchanges was 1,300, and the number of casual jobs found for them was 3,374 (3,259 for dock labourers and 115 for cloth porters at Manchester), a daily average of 141, as compared with 173 in the preceding four weeks and 144 in the four weeks ended 10th September, 1915. During the period there were 1,081 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House system for dock labourers at Liverpool.

UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

The shortage of fitters, turners, metal machinists and other workers in the engineering and shipbuilding trades continued, and many vacancies for colliers, navvies and labourers of all kinds could not be filled. The demand for women workers in the textile trades and for domestic servants remained unsatisfied.

BOARD OF TRADE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES—FOUR WEEKS ENDED 8th SEPTEMBER, 1916.
Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 8th September, 1916.

A.—INSURED TRADES.

OCCUPATION GROUPS.†	ADULTS.				JUVENILES.			
	REGISTRATIONS.		VACAN- CIES.		REGISTRATIONS.		VACAN- CIES.	
	Live Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.*	Live Register at End of Period.	Filled during Period.	Live Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.*	Live Register at End of Period.	Filled during Period.
<i>Building:—</i>								
Carpenters, Joiners, &c.	1,644	4,644	1,758	2,289	18	28	15	28
Bricklayers	789	2,159	728	829	1	1	1	3
Masons	422	666	437	82	—	—	—	1
Painters, Decorators, &c.	564	3,031	757	1,675	2	10	3	9
Plumbers, Glaziers	215	660	226	262	3	11	4	17
Other skilled occupations	413	974	390	232	—	—	—	4
Labourers	1,400	6,867	1,321	2,924	7	38	17	43
<i>Works of Construction</i>	1,353	5,617	1,305	6,537	3	2	1	1
Sawmilling...	110	359	109	144	3	17	7	40
<i>Shipbuilding:—</i>								
Platers, Riveters	205	1,394	195	970	6	26	12	8
Shipwrights	28	525	35	428	—	4	3	3
Labourers	304	1,825	291	982	50	122	59	113
<i>Mechanical Engineering:—</i>								
Moulders (Iron and Steel)	271	849	249	287	8	26	5	33
Smiths	146	519	126	240	2	7	1	10
Erectors, Fitters, Turners	1,335	4,799	1,344	4,257	176	585	198	398
Metal Machinists	586	2,089	595	1,277	98	385	127	294
Wiremen	150	594	152	376	12	33	15	31
Other skilled occupations	645	2,410	602	1,144	36	96	32	117
Labourers	1,482	7,218	1,507	6,844	56	294	80	252
<i>Making of Vehicles</i>	245	842	255	389	20	16	10	18
Cabinet Making, &c.	80	220	93	39	1	16	4	9
TOTAL MALES	12,387	49,203	12,475	32,207	502	1,717	594	1,435
TOTAL FEMALES ‡	4,913	8,167	5,139	14,724	128	289	139	477
GRAND TOTAL	17,300	57,370	17,614	46,931	630	2,006	733	1,912

* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.
† Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected.
‡ These figures are mainly in respect of the Engineering Trade.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

OCCUPATION GROUPS.	ADULTS.									JUVENILES.					
	On Register at Beginning of Period.			Registrations during Period.*			On Register at End of Period.			Vacancies Filled during Period.					
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.			
<i>Mining and Quarrying</i>	122	15	137	270	11	281	122	16	138	128	9	137	23	8	31
<i>Miscellaneous Metal Trades</i>	185	408	593	1,067	1,306	2,373	158	493	651	1,183	901	2,084	254	327	581
<i>Textile:—</i>															
Cotton	96	579	675	447	1,658	2,105	112	599	711	239	672	911	71	70	141
Wool and Worsted	38	209	247	175	542	717	31	175	206	109	244	353	34	38	72
Silk, Flax, Linen, &c.	77	433	510	239	1,319	1,558	91	482	573	106	1,096	1,202	94	321	415
<i>Dress:—</i>															
Boot and Shoe Workers	84	64	148	281	309	590	71	87	158	110	171	281	73	85	158
Tailors	121	339	460	300	1,375	1,675	142	397	539	16	301	317	20	69	89
Dressmakers and Milliners	—	307	307	—	1,031	1,031	—	396	396	—	262	262	—	179	179
Seamstresses	—	621	621	—	2,513	2,513	—	821	821	—	653	653	—	199	199
Others	22	124	146	38	531	569	10	152	162	31	75	106	25	62	87
<i>Conveyance of Men, Goods, &c.:—</i>															
On Railways	67	—	67	170	—	170	64	—	64	313	—	313	124	—	124
On Roads, Seas, Rivers, &c.	3,516	1,485	5,001	10,782	3,444	14,396	3,842	1,666	5,572	4,129	1,215	5,657	1,831	779	2,734
<i>Agriculture:—</i>															
Fruit, &c., Pickers	49	716	765	51	956	1,007	4	637	641	3	61	64	12	4	16
Others	470	1,231	1,701	1,102	1,352	2,454	397	941	1,338	403	673	1,076	104	22	126
<i>Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery</i>	119	241	360	225	758	983	102	208	310	61	341	402	168	465	633
<i>Wood, Furniture, Fittings, &c.</i>	165	80	245	503	387	890	154	104	258	271	643	914	266	122	388
<i>Chemicals, Explosives, Oil, Grease, &c.</i>	1,871	25,568	27,439	5,055	50,869	55,924	1,918	24,051	25,969	2,762	15,994	18,756	1,101	1,001	2,102
<i>Brick, Cement, Pottery and Glass...</i>	62</														

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

I.—IMPORTS IN SEPTEMBER.

[Note.—Goods (other than articles of food) which, at the time of importation, were the property of H.M. Government or of the Governments of the Allies, are not included in the imports.]

(a) VALUES.

The total value of the net imports (i.e. less re-exports) in September, 1916, was £70,368,000, an increase of £7,646,000 (or 12 per cent.) compared with September, 1915; of £30,635,000 (or 77 per cent.) compared with September, 1914; and of £15,865,000 (or 29 per cent.) compared with September, 1913. The value in September, 1914, the second month of the war period, was abnormally low.

Groups.	Value of Imports (less re-exports) in Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in September, 1916, compared with		
		Sept., 1915.	Sept., 1914.	Sept., 1913.
Food, Drink and Tobacco	£1,000 34,885	+ 3,304	+13,204	+11,007
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured	22,848	+ 7,058	+10,788	+ 6,051
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	12,392	- 2,636	+ 6,487	- 1,235
Miscellaneous	243	- 80	+ 156	+ 42
TOTAL	70,368	+ 7,646	+30,635	+15,865

(b) QUANTITIES.

Principal Articles.	Quantity imported (less quantity re-exported) during Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in September, 1916, compared with			
		Sept., 1915.	Sept., 1914.	Sept., 1913.	Sept., 1916.
Food, Drink and Tobacco—	1,000's.	1,000's.	1,000's.	1,000's.	
Grain and Flour cwt.	15,829	+ 313	- 4,148	- 5,242	
Dead Meat cwt.	2,250	- 90	+ 965	+ 164	
Butter and Margarine cwt.	388	- 91	+ 28	- 71	
Cheese cwt.	294	+ 26	+ 65	+ 34	
Eggs Great Hundreds (120's)	326	- 678	- 357	- 1,705	
Cocoa, Raw cwt.	2,793	- 13,200	- 3,944	- 2,537	
Sugar cwt.	2,494	- 526	+ 874	- 716	
Tea lb.	47,663	- 8,297	+ 16,152	+ 5,175	
Tobacco lb.	22,356	- 158	+ 9,634	+ 6,018	
Metals and Manufactures of Metals—					
Iron Ore tons	602	+ 132	+ 77	+ 74	
Other Metallic Ores tons	105	- 14	- 19	- 8	
Iron and Steel Manufactures tons	55	- 78	- 18	- 118	
Copper, Lead, Tin and Zinc tons	26	- 15	- 23	- 14	
Machinery tons	4	- 3	- 2	- 2	
Textiles—					
Raw Cotton cents of 100 lb.	976	+ 626	+ 688	+ 179	
Sheep's or Lambs' Wool lb.	43,865	- 3,803	+ 19,427	+ 19,958	
Flax, Hemp and Jute tons	21	- 1	+ 13	+ 6	
Silk Broadstuffs, wholly of silk yds.	3,815	+ 1,788	+ 2,456	+ 3,018	
Miscellaneous mixed materials yds.	2,035	+ 1,434	- 1,842	- 377	
Miscellaneous—					
Wood, hewn, sawn or split loads	591	- 372	- 182	- 894	
Flax or Linseed grs.	126	- 53	- 182	- 233	
Petroleum galls.	39,582	- 1,839	+ 11,395	+ 8,136	
Hides, wet and dry cwt.	99	- 53	+ 15	+ 6	
Wood Pulp tons	70	- 55	- 100	- 27	
Rubber cents of 100 lbs.	102	+ 82	+ 51	+ 44	
Leather cwt.	126	- 6	+ 98	+ 25	
Paper cwt.	634	- 475	- 305	- 394	

The total quantity of wheat imported during September, 1916, was over 500,000 cwt. more than in September, 1915, but less by 5,500,000 cwt. and 1,800,000 cwt. than the quantity received during September, 1914 and 1913, respectively. Barley showed an increase on September, 1914, but was less than in September, 1913, by 800,000 cwt. Oats showed a substantial increase on all three periods, due to larger shipments from the Argentine Republic and from Canada. Maize from the United States increased from practically nil in September, 1913, to over 1,000,000 cwt. in September, 1916; imports from the Argentine, however, declined from over 5,500,000 cwt. in September, 1913, to just over 1,500,000 cwt. in September, 1916. The quantity of rice imported in September, 1916, was much higher than in the same month of the three previous years—the British East Indies sent 127,000 cwt. in September, 1913, compared with nearly 500,000 cwt. in September, 1916. Chilled beef from the Argentine totalled 474,000 cwt. in September, 1913, as compared with 121,000 cwt. in September, 1916. The total of the imports of frozen beef in September, 1916, was 548,000 cwt., over 300,000 cwt. less than in 1915, but considerably more than in the two previous years. Imports of frozen mutton from New Zealand in September were 388,000 cwt. in 1916; 207,000 cwt. in 1915; 63,000 cwt. in 1914; and 220,000 cwt. in 1913. Butter imports showed a large decrease on 1915, due to the absence of supplies from Russia. Cheese, on the other hand, increased, the supply from Canada having been well maintained. The great decrease in the supply of eggs was due, in the main, to the entire absence of imports from Russia, which country sent nearly 1,300,000 great hundreds in September, 1913. Imports of refined sugar dropped from 1,250,000 cwt. in September, 1913, to 376,000 cwt. in September, 1916. Unrefined sugar, however, increased from 532,000 cwt. to over 2,000,000 cwt., nearly all of which came from Java and Cuba. Cotton from the United States amounted to 807,000 cents in September, 1916, compared with 235,000 cents, 100,000 cents, and 576,000 cents in the three previous years.

II.—IMPORTS IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 1916.

During the nine months ended September, 1916, the total value of the imports (less re-exports) was £627,170,000, an increase of £58,977,000, £181,491,000, and of £151,773,000 compared with the total value for the corresponding period of 1915, 1914, and 1913 respectively.

III.—EXPORTS IN SEPTEMBER.

(a) VALUES.

The value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom during September, 1916, amounted to £43,478,000, an increase of £11,169,000 (or 35 per cent.) compared with September, 1915; of £16,804,000 (or 63 per cent.) compared with September, 1914, and of £1,053,000 (or 2½ per cent.) compared with September, 1913. In September, 1914, the value of the exports was abnormally low.

Groups.	Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in September, 1916, compared with		
		Sept., 1915.	Sept., 1914.	Sept., 1913.
Food, Drink and Tobacco	£1,000 2,660	+ 491	+ 522	- 529
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured	5,749	+ 1,027	+ 2,236	- 18
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	33,905	+ 9,902	+13,243	+ 1,475
Miscellaneous	1,164	- 251	+ 803	+ 125
TOTAL	43,478	+11,169	+16,804	+ 1,053

(b) QUANTITIES.

Particulars as to the quantities of some of the principal articles exported are given in the following Table:—

Principal Articles.	Sept., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in September, 1916, compared with			
		Sept., 1915.	Sept., 1914.	Sept., 1913.	Sept., 1916.
Coal and Metals and Metal Manufactures:—	1,000's.	1,000's.	1,000's.	1,000's.	
Coal—Steam tons	2,386	- 323	- 337	- 2,081	
Other sorts tons	1,058	- 125	- 78	- 672	
Total of Coal—tons	3,444	- 448	- 415	- 2,753	
Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof:—					
Pig Iron tons	73	+ 20	+ 35	- 34	
Railroad Materials tons	6	- 19	- 40	- 37	
Plates and Sheets (except galvanised and tinned) tons	28	+ 1	+ 13	+ 8	
Galvanised Sheets tons	7	- 13	- 13	- 57	
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets tons	19	- 1	- 4	- 17	
Tubes and Pipes and Fittings, wrought and cast tons	12	- 8	- 7	- 16	
Steel Bars, Angles, Rods and Shapes or Sections tons	31	+ 5	+ 19	+ 14	
Other Iron and Steel Manufactures tons	54	+ 9	- 3	- 17	
Total Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof } tons	230	- 16	+ 5	- 156	
Copper and Manufactures thereof tons	2	-	+ 1	- 2	
Lead, Tin, Zinc and Manufactures thereof tons	4	+ 1	- 2	- 2	
Cutlery and Hardware tons	44	+ 5	- 6	- 41	
Machinery tons	26	- 2	- 3	- 35	
Textiles:—					
Wool, Sheep's or Lambs' lb.	613	- 3,397	- 2,448	- 1,591	
Cotton Yarn lb.	14,254	+ 1,952	+ 4,586	+ 1,480	
Piece Goods yds.	461,698	+ 51,889	+ 87,339	+ 87,275	
Woolen Tissues yds.	10,699	+ 3,104	+ 6,173	+ 2,100	
Worsted Tissues yds.	4,558	+ 1,366	- 94	+ 364	
Jute Piece Goods yds.	10,281	+ 1,892	+ 2,551	+ 6,074	
Linen Piece Goods yds.	10,599	+ 2,764	+ 6,153	+ 579	
Miscellaneous:—					
Tobacco and Snuff lb.	2,120	- 994	- 145	- 910	
Boots and Shoes dozen pairs	116	+ 18	- 29	- 46	
Chemical Manures tons	33	- 5	- 22	- 37	
Painters' Colours cwt.	149	- 1	+ 10	- 44	
Paper cwt.	185	+ 103	- 32	- 104	

IV.—EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 1916.

During the nine months ended September, 1916, the value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom amounted to £379,329,000, an increase of £96,237,000 and of £28,581,000 on the value for the corresponding period of 1915 and 1914 respectively, but a decrease of £11,427,000 compared with the first nine months of 1913.

V.—EXPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

During September, 1916, the total value of the re-exports was £7,121,000 compared with £7,564,000, £5,274,000 and £6,853,000 in September, 1915, 1914, and 1913 respectively.

During the nine months ended September, 1916, the total value was £76,875,000, being £1,255,000 and £79,000 more than in the corresponding period of 1915 and 1914, but £5,495,000 less than in January-September, 1913.

OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896, AND THE MUNITIONS OF WAR ACTS, 1915 AND 1916.

MUSIC HALL EMPLOYEES, LONDON.—In furtherance of Sir George Askwith's award of June, 1907, due notice was given by the National Association of Theatrical Employees of proposals for the alteration of rules, regulations and rates fixed by that award. No agreement on differences was effected between the parties, and the matter proceeded to Sir George for decision. Sir George heard the parties on August 10th, 29th and 30th, and issued his award on 12th September, increasing the rates of pay and making a number of other revisions in conditions of service.

MOHAIR AND ALPACA SORTERS, BRADFORD.—The Federated Employers of Mohair and Alpaca Sorters and the National Union of Woolsorters in the Bradford district referred to Sir George Askwith for decision a difference that had arisen regarding a proposed increase of war bonus. In his award of 20th September, Sir George decided that, in addition to the present war bonus, a further war bonus of 4s. per week, or 8d. per day, be given in place of the increase proposed by the employers.

MANAGERS AND OVERLOOKERS, WEST RIDING.—The Committee representing the Worst Spinning Federations of the West Riding of Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Managers and Overlookers' Society, being unable to agree as to the incidence of certain advances granted in July, 1916, referred the matter to Sir George Askwith for decision. Sir George issued his award on 21st September, finding that no fixed basis of 34s. (the basis rate claimed by the employers) was in operation prior to the war, and that the firms in Federations which paid on a basis of more than 34s. should take that higher rate as the basis for the purpose of the present advances.

COKE OVEN WORKERS, CELTIC COLLIERIES.—A difference having arisen between the South Wales Miners' Federation and Messrs. The Celtic Collieries, Ltd. (members of the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coke Ovens and By-Product Works Associations) in regard to an application for increased rates of pay, a stoppage of work took place. Work was, however, shortly afterwards resumed, following negotiations by Sir George Askwith, and the differences referred to him for decision. Sir George issued his award on 22nd September, fixing the rates to be paid.

BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES, GLASGOW.—Differences having arisen between the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives and certain manufacturing firms in the Glasgow district regarding an application for an advance of wages, the matter was referred to Sir George Askwith for decision. A war bonus of 2s. per week to adult male operatives and 1s. to females and youths had previously been given by the firms, who offered during the course of the negotiations a further bonus of 3s. per week and 1s. 6d. respectively. In his award of 22nd September, Sir George awarded that this amount should be paid as a war wage.

At the hearing there was also brought before the arbitrator for decision a similar claim for an advance of wages made by the Union to eleven retail co-operative societies in the Glasgow district. In respect of this application, Sir George decided that the Union had not established their claim.

PRESSMEN AND CLICKERS, SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD., GOVAN.—A difference having arisen between the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives as to the payment of 1s. per week to certain pressmen and clickers at the Shieldhall Boot Factory, Govan, and the date on which such increase was to commence, the question was referred to Sir George Askwith, who issued his award on 14th September, deciding that the said payment should commence from 11th December, 1915, any question of permits to be adjusted between the parties.

GLASSWORKERS, SOWERBY'S ELLISON GLASS WORKS, LTD., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.—A difference having arisen between the above firm and the Pressed Glassworkers' Society in connection with a request of the firm that the men should work night work, a stoppage of work resulted. Following negotiations, an officer of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department presided at a meeting of the parties on 14th September, when an agreement was arrived at for the men to work at night, the firm giving assurance that sufficient helpers will be available for work to be commenced when the men present themselves.

BRICKLAYERS IN IRON AND STEEL WORKS, CLEVELAND DISTRICT.—Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed to act as arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between the Cleveland Iron Masters' Association and the Steel Ingot Makers' Association on the one hand, and the Operative Bricklayers' Society on the other, in connection with an application for an advance of wages. In his award of 8th September, the arbitrator decided that the present rate of 10½d. per hour plus 3s. per week war bonus should be converted into a rate of 11½d. per hour.

EMPLOYEES OF MESSRS. SAMUEL FOX & Co., LTD., NEAR SHEFFIELD.—A difference arising between the firm and the National Steelworkers' Association Engineering and Labour League, acting on behalf of some of the workpeople employed in the firm's rail mill, was referred to the arbitration of Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C. The point raised for decision by the arbitrator was the prices to be paid to the workers concerned during the period in which certain alterations and extensions of the mill are now being carried out. Mr. Mackenzie issued his award on 8th September, deciding the matter in dispute.

BOILERMAKERS, LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY COMPANY.—Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed to act as arbitrator to decide a difference that had arisen between the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company and the Boilermakers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society regarding a claim of the Society "that the wages in Horwich works rise and fall with the Manchester rates, and that these conditions be applicable as from March, 1915." The arbitrator issued his award on 14th September, deciding that the Union had not established their claim.

WIRE ROPE SPVICERS, HEPBURN, GALE & ROSS, LTD., BERMONDSEY.—A difference which had arisen between Messrs. Hepburn, Gale and Ross, Ltd., and their men engaged in splicing wire rope for artillery traces, was referred to the arbitration of Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C. The firm sought to reduce the prices which had been fixed about Christmas, 1914, when the men were new to the work. The arbitrator decided, in an award of 18th September, that the rate is high, but that the claim of the firm to reduce the rate has not been established, having regard to the length of time during which it has been in existence and the statements publicly made on behalf of the Government.

PIG IRON LOADERS, MESSRS. JAMES OAKES & Co., ALFRETON.—Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to determine a difference between Messrs. James Oakes, Alfreton Iron Works, Derbyshire, and the National Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers in respect of an application for an advance of wages to pig-iron loaders. The arbitrator issued his award on 19th September, deciding that the claim of the Union had not been made out.

EMPLOYEES OF E. PARKES & Co., LTD., WEST BROMWICH.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. E. Parkes & Co., Ltd., Atlas Iron Works, West Bromwich, and the cutters-down, bar-weighers, bundlers, tapwheelers, pigwheelers, and piers being day workers in their employ, in connection with an application by the workmen to the firm to agree with them in their desire to join the Midland Iron and Steel Workers' Board in order that their wages may be governed by the fluctuations of the Board, Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to determine the matter. The arbitrator issued his award on the 30th September, deciding that the men's application had not been made out. The arbitrator determined that the men concerned shall, as from 4th September, receive rates of pay which shall fluctuate with the ascertainment of the Wages Board at a rate specified in the award.

FOUNDRY LABOURERS AND TRIMMERS, JOHN OSWALD & Sons, LTD., BATTERSEA, S.W.—Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference between the firm and the Workers' Union in respect of an application for an advance of wages made by the latter on behalf of their members employed by the firm as foundry labourers and trimmers, issued his award on the 30th September, deciding that the claim has not been made out.

EMPLOYEES OF BLAENAVON COMPANY, LTD., BLAENAVON.—The firm submitted to the Minister of Munitions a proposal for a change in the rate of wages of those men in their employ whose rates had hitherto followed the rates fixed by the South Wales and Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Makers' Association, the proposed change being that a percentage of 60 should be paid on the base rates in place of a percentage of 45. The Minister referred the matter to arbitration, and Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on 29th August, giving consent to the proposed change.

EMPLOYEES OF THE EBBW VALE STEEL, IRON AND COAL CO., LTD., PONTNEFFYDD.—The company made a proposal to the Minister of Munitions for an increase in the wages of certain of the employees in their seamless tube works, and the Minister referred the matter to arbitration. Mr. Charles Doughty, the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 7th September, giving consent to the proposed change.

OIL MILL WORKERS, ALEXANDER M. SMITH & Co., LTD., LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed to act as arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between the above firm and the National Warehouse and General Workers' Union in connection with an application for an advance of wages. At the hearing before Mr. Doughty on 16th September an agreement was made between the parties providing for an advance of 6d. per day to certain grades of adult workers, and this agreement was declared by Mr. Doughty to be his award.

GLASS BOTTLE WORKERS, YORKSHIRE.—Certain differences arose between the Yorkshire Flint Glass Bottle Manufacturers' Association and the National Glass Bottle Makers of Great Britain in connection with the introduction of diluted labour in the glass bottle trade. Under the provisions of an agreement between the parties, Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed umpire, and issued his award on 18th September, determining the questions of difference.

BRASSWORKERS, HUMBER BRASS AND COPPER WORKS COMPANY, HULL.—A difference existed between the above firm and the Associated Brassfounders, Turners, Fitters, Finishers and Coppersmiths' Society in connection with the employment of women upon work usually done by men or boys. Mr. Doughty was appointed arbitrator in the matter, and issued his award on 25th September, deciding that under the provisions of the Munitions of War Acts, the Order of the Minister of Munitions, designated L2, is applicable to the business of the firm and that therefore women of 18 years of age and over employed on work not hitherto done by women shall be paid not less than £1 per normal week, and that the overtime rates usually paid to men shall be paid to these women.

QUARRYMEN, THE STEETLEY LIME COMPANY, LTD., WORKSOP.—A difference having arisen between the above company and the Workers' Union in regard to an application for an advance of wages, Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed arbitrator in the matter. The arbitrator issued his award on 26th September, deciding that the firm have met the requests of the workmen and of the Union in a reasonable manner, but that, having regard to the further increase in the cost of living since the war bonus was last increased, that bonus should be raised from 12½ to 15 per cent.

COOPERS, MOND NICKEL CO., LTD., CLYDACH.—A claim for an advance of wages made to the firm by the coopers in their employment was referred to the arbitration of Mr. Charles Doughty, who issued his award on the 29th September, deciding the rate to be paid.

FIREMEN, LLANELLY CO. (1907), LTD., LLANELLY.—Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between the firm and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union in respect of the rate of wages and rates for week-end work to be paid to the firemen in the firm's employ. At the hearing an amicable settlement was arrived at, and the arbitrator issued his award on the 29th September, declaring such terms of settlement to be his award.

EMPLOYEES OF BLAENAVON CO., LTD., BLAENAVON, MON.—The Minister of Munitions withheld his sanction from a proposal to grant a war bonus to workmen paid by tonnage rates in the productive side of the firm's steel mill, and directed that the matter should be referred to arbitration. Mr. Charles Doughty, the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on the 29th September, giving consent to the proposed increases as from the 14th August, 1916.

EMPLOYEES OF BLAENAVON CO., LTD., BLAENAVON (MON.).—A difference having arisen between the firm and the National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics, and Electrical Workers in connection with an application for an advance of wages made on behalf of the men and boys employed on the engineering side of the company's steel mill, Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on the 29th September, deciding that from the 14th August, 1916, a war bonus of 12½ per cent. shall be paid to the men and boys concerned, and that waiting time shall be paid to boys on the engineering side in the same manner as at present paid to men on the productive side.

BLASTFURNACEMEN, BLAENAVON CO., LTD., BLAENAVON (MON.).—A proposal to grant a war bonus to the blast furnace pig-breaker men and boys of 15 per cent. on their wages was submitted by the firm to the Minister of Munitions, who referred the matter to arbitration. Mr. Charles Doughty, the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on the 29th September, giving consent to the proposal, the bonus to be paid as from 5th August, 1916.

EMPLOYEES OF F. W. BERK & CO., LTD., MORRISTON (GLAM.).—A difference having arisen between the firm and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union in connection with an application made by the latter for a further increase of wages on behalf of the workmen at Pentreboth Chemical Works, joint application was made for the appointment of an arbitrator to determine the matter. Mr. Charles Doughty was so appointed, and issued his award on the 29th September, fixing the ordinary and overtime rates of pay for the various classes of workpeople concerned.

EMPLOYEES OF THE CROWN PRESERVED COAL CO., LTD., CARDIFF.—Mr. Charles Doughty, the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference between the firm and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union, arising out of a claim by the latter for an advance of wages, issued his award on 29th September, deciding that the leading firemen, overlookers, tipmen and pugmen shall receive the same advances and from the same date as they were given in August, 1916, to the other men employed, and that the advances already given have been sufficient.

DOCK WORKERS, HARTLEPOOL.—Application for an advance of wages having been made to the Hartlepool Dock Employers' Association by the National Union of Gas and General

Workers, the matter was referred to the arbitration of Sir William Robinson, who issued his award on 9th September, advancing the rates of the men by ½d. per hour, and of the women by 1d. per hour, and determining certain working conditions.

EMPLOYEES OF BROWN, BAYLEY'S STEEL WORKS, LTD., SHEFFIELD.—Sir William Robinson was appointed to act as arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between the above firm and the National Steelworkers' Association Engineering and Labour League, regarding an application for an advance of wages to men employed in the Bessemer department of the firm's works. The arbitrator, in his award of 13th September, gave an advance of 5 per cent. to piece-workers, and ½d. per hour to time-workers.

SILK COMBERS, LISTER & CO., LTD., BRADFORD.—Sir William Robinson was appointed to act as arbitrator in respect of a difference that had arisen between the firm and the National Society of Machine Wool Combers concerning the rate of wages to be paid to the silk combers in the firm's employ. In his award, dated 13th September, Sir William decided that the work in question is not comparable with that of wool combing, but that, in view of the high cost of living, the wages of the silk combers should be advanced 1s. per week.

PLUMBERS, PALMERS' SHIPBUILDING AND IRON CO., LTD., HEBURN-ON-TYNE.—Mr. Ernest Page, K.C., was appointed to act as arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between the firm and the United Operative Plumbers and Domestic Engineers' Association. Owing to the refusal of certain men to work overtime on a certain day, as a punishment such men were suspended by the firm from work on the following day. The arbitrator, in his award of 23rd September, decided that the company had no lawful power or authority to suspend the workmen, and should compensate the men for the time so lost.

TEEMERS, THE LAMBTON AND HETTON COLLIERIES, LTD., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The teemers employed by Messrs. The Lambton and Hetton Collieries, Ltd., were not employed by the company on Bank Holiday, 7th August, and on the evening of that day they intimated that they would not work on the following day unless they were each paid 1s. 6d. per hour in addition to the ordinary rate. The company, under protest, paid the additional sum. On the matter being referred to the arbitration of Mr. Ernest Page, K.C., he decided in an award of 23rd September that the demand of the workmen to be paid an additional rate for 8th August was improper and illegal.

GASWORKERS, BINGLEY.—Difference having arisen between the Bingley Urban District Council and the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers regarding a claim for a war bonus of 3s. per week to the gasworkers in the Council's employ, the matter was referred to the arbitration of Mr. W. H. Stoker, K.C., who issued his award on 8th September, giving a war bonus of 3s. per week to men in receipt of wages not exceeding 30s. a week, and 2s. 6d. to those exceeding 30s. a week.

STEEL SMELTERS, SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH AND CO., LTD., OPENSHAW.—A difference having arisen between the above firm and the British Steel Smelters' Union in connection with a number of claims made by the latter, the difference was referred to the arbitration of Mr. H. Courthope-Munroe, K.C., who issued his award on 16th September, determining the matters in dispute.

ENGINEERING TRADES, LEEDS.—Mr. E. F. Vesey Knox, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between the Leeds and District Engineering Employers' Association and the Leeds and District Joint Committee of Engineering and Allied Trades in regard to the rate of payment for work done during the Whitsuntide holidays. The arbitrator issued his decision on 6th September, awarding, in the case of day work, payment at the rate of time and a quarter, and, in the case of night work, an addition equal to one-fourth of the ordinary rate of payment for day work.

BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—Differences having arisen between the operatives and manufacturers on the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Shoe Trade of Northampton in respect of prices to be paid for tacking up the backs of Russian Wellington boot and the British field boot, application was made for the appointment of an umpire, and Mr. Alderman T. Smith was appointed to act in that capacity. Mr. Smith heard the parties on 2nd September, when prices were mutually agreed upon and embodied in his award of that date.

BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES, EAST OF SCOTLAND.—The East of Scotland Arbitration Board (Boot Trade) being unable to agree on an application for an increased war bonus, Mr. J. L. Ward was appointed arbitrator in the matter, and issued his decision on 23rd September, increasing the war bonus of adult male operatives to 4s. 6d. per week, and of youths and females to 2s. 6d. per week.

FITTERS, BIRMINGHAM SMALL ARMS COMPANY, LTD., BIRMINGHAM.—A difference having arisen between the firm and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, acting on behalf of the section fitters employed on the production of Lewis gun magazine centres, relative to the piecework prices on the preparing of tools and setting up the machines for the manufacture of the same, the matter was referred to Mr. Walter Dodd, who decided the price to be paid in an award dated 2nd September.

SPRING FITTERS AND VICEMEN, WILLIAM GRIFFITH & SONS, LTD., SHEFFIELD.—Mr. W. A. Willis was appointed arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between Messrs. William Griffith & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield, and the United Society of Spring Fitters and Vicemen, the claim of the union being that each pair of men (fitter and viceman) who worked for the company on Whit-Monday, or Whit-Tuesday, or both, are entitled to be paid 50 per cent. of the wages earned or 10s. per day for each of those days worked. In his award of 12th September, the arbitrator decided that the claim had been established.

POTTERY WORKERS, J. DUCKETT & SON, LTD., BURNLEY.—Mr. W. A. Willis was appointed arbitrator to determine a wages difference that had arisen between the firm and the National Union of General Workers. In his award of 12th September, Mr. Willis decided that the union had not established their claim for a permanent increase in the minimum rates of pay, or for graduations of minimum rates according to age, or for a permanent increase in the existing piece rates, but he awarded in the case of the labourers a war bonus of 2s. per week to adults, and 1s. per week to youths.

BAKERS, & C., SHREWSBURY INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.—Mr. W. A. Willis was appointed arbitrator to determine a difference between the Shrewsbury Co-operative Society, Ltd., and the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers, Confectioners, and Allied Workers, relative to an application of the union for an advance of wages of 5s. per week on the existing minimum rates. In his award of 18th September, the arbitrator decided that the application should be granted.

BLACKSMITHS, MERRYWEATHER & SONS, LTD., GREENWICH.—Mr. W. A. Willis was appointed to act as arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between Messrs. Merryweather & Sons, Ltd., and the Associated Blacksmiths and Iron Workers' Society, relative to a claim of the society for time and a half for work done on Whit-Monday, 1916. In his award of 21st September, the arbitrator decided that the union had failed to establish a claim to payment at a higher rate than time and a quarter.

TAILORING TRADES, SHEFFIELD.—Mr. F. N. Keen was appointed to act as arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between the employers and operatives on the Sheffield and District Tailoring Wages and Conciliation Board, in connection with a claim by the latter for a general advance of wages of 15 per cent. At the hearing before Mr. Keen an agreement was arrived at whereby certain advances of wages were given, which agreement was duly signed by representatives of the parties and approved by Mr. Keen, under date 8th September.

ELECTRICITY WORKERS, BELFAST.—Mr. F. N. Keen, having been appointed arbitrator to determine a difference between the Belfast Corporation and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour with respect to an application for an advance of wages to workpeople employed at the Corporation's electricity works, issued his award on 9th September, deciding that it is not requisite that the Corporation should make any further advance of wages to the men concerned beyond the bonus already granted.

ENGINEERS, STEWARTS AND LLOYDS, LTD., AND THE SCOTTISH TUBE CO., LTD., COATBRIDGE.—Difference having arisen between Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds, Ltd., and Messrs. The Scottish Tube Co., Ltd., on the one hand, and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers on the other, in respect of an application, made on behalf of certain men employed at the employers' tube works in the Coatbridge district, for the payment of time and a half for all work over 54 hours per week and double time for Sundays, the matter was referred to the arbitration of Sir Thomas Munro. In his award of 12th September, the arbiter decided that he would not be justified in upsetting an old-established custom of trade in the district, and accordingly refused the operatives' claims.

FOUNDRY LABOURERS, COLTNESS IRON COMPANY, LTD., NEWMAINS.—Having been appointed to act as arbitrator in a dispute between the West of Scotland Iron and Steel Founders' Association and the Workers' Union respecting a claim made on behalf of labourers employed by Messrs. Coltness Iron Company, Ltd., Newmains, Sir Thomas Munro issued his award on 22nd September, giving a war wages advance of ½d. per hour.

DOMESTIC ENGINEERS, GLASGOW.—Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbiter appointed to determine a difference that had arisen between the Scottish Association of Master Heating, Ventilating, and Domestic Engineers and the National Union of Operative Heating Domestic Engineers in connection with an application made by the latter for an increase of wages in the Glasgow district, issued his award on the 4th September, deciding that from 1st July, 1916, the standard rate of wages shall be 10½d. per hour for men who have been employed five years or more at their trade, charge men to receive ½d. per hour in addition whilst in charge of a job.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MOTHERWELL WAGON AND ROLLING STOCK CO., LTD.—A difference having arisen between the firm and certain sections of their employees in respect of an application for an advance of wages, Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., was appointed to act as arbiter in the matter, and issued his award on 20th September, granting increases to a number of the grades concerned.

BUILDERS' LABOURERS, GLASGOW.—Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., having been appointed arbiter to determine a difference between the Master Masons and Brickbuilders' Association of Glasgow and Neighbourhood and the Workers' Union, issued his award on 19th September, advancing the rate for masons and bricklayers' labourers from 7½d. to 8½d. per hour, but not altering the working rules on the other points referred to him.

There was also referred to Professor Irvine a difference between the Scottish Re-inforced Concrete Contractors' Association and the Workers' Union, and in respect thereof he raised the rate of wages for Re-inforced Concrete Labourers from 7½d. to 8½d. per hour.

TYRE MILLMEN, STEEL COMPANY OF SCOTLAND, LTD., BLOCHAIRN.—A difference having arisen between the Steel Company of Scotland, Ltd., and certain workmen at their Blochairn works, Professor Richard Lodge was appointed arbiter in the matter. An agreement was made between the parties for the payment of time and a half for work done on July 17th-20th in view of the suspended holidays; after this agreement had been made it was necessary, at short notice, to knock off work at the Tyre Mill from Saturday, 15th July, for at least a fortnight; some of the men so suspended did not accept other work meanwhile, and these men claimed time and a half from 1 p.m. on Thursday, 13th July, till Saturday, 15th July, this being a part of their normal holiday period in years before the war. The arbiter decided that their claim had not been established.

JOINERS, EDINBURGH.—A difference having arisen between the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners and the Edinburgh and Leith District Building Trades Association with regard to the payment due to certain operative joiners for work done during the postponed holidays, Professor Richard Lodge was appointed arbiter to determine the matter. The arbiter issued his award on the 30th August, deciding that the men in question were entitled to receive time and a half for work performed during the week August 7th-12th inclusive.

BRASSFOUNDERS, EDINBURGH.—A difference having arisen between the Gas Meter Making Employers' Federation and the Brassfounders, Turners, Fitters, Finishers, and Coppersmiths' Association regarding the payment of holiday rates for work done in the recognised Edinburgh Trades Holidays in July, Professor Richard Lodge was appointed to act as arbiter, and issued his award on 25th September, deciding that the men's claim to double time for work done on the 24th to 26th July inclusive is established.

STOKERS, SALTCOATS GAS CO., LTD., SALTCOATS.—The stokers and their assistants employed by the Company made an application for an advance of wages, and the Company, refusing to concede the claim, the matter was reported to the Board of Trade as a difference under the Munitions of War Acts. Mr. James Macdonald was appointed arbiter, and issued his award on 31st August, deciding that the men had failed to establish their claim.

FOUNDRY LABOURERS, STEVEN AND STRUTHERS, LTD., GLASGOW.—The labourers employed at this firm's large foundry made application for an advance of wages, which was referred under the Munitions of War Acts to Mr. James Macdonald for settlement. During the arbitration hearing the employers offered to give the employees such advance (if any) as should be awarded by the Committee on Production to labourers employed in brass foundries in the Clyde district, and the employees accepted the offer. In view of this agreement the arbitrator dismissed the present claim in his award of 2nd September.

FURNACEMEN, BRAND'S PURE SPELTER CO., LTD., IRVINE.—Mr. James Macdonald was appointed arbiter to determine a claim made to the firm by the Scottish Union of Dock Labourers on behalf of the furnacemen in the firm's employ. It was intimated at the hearing that the furnacemen desired to get relief on one shift per week or alternatively receive double pay for the seventh shift. Since the hearing a relief squad has been put on the furnaces, with the result that every furnaceman now gets one shift off per week. The arbiter issued his award on 5th September, refusing in the circumstances the claim for double time for Sunday work, but awarding an additional 15s. per furnace for Sunday labour from 27th June, 1916, to the date when the relief squad began work at the furnaces.

CAULKERS, MESSRS. D. & W. HENDERSON & CO., LTD., GLASGOW.—A difference having arisen between the firm and the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Association relative to claims of the caulkers for extras when engaged on a meat-carrying steamer, the matter was referred to the arbitration of Mr. Jas. Macdonald, who issued his award on 12th September, allowing one of the men's claims and partially allowing the others.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, DENNY & COMPANY, DUMBARTON.—A difference having arisen between the North-West Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners relative to a claim of the latter for payment of time and a half for work done by their members in the employ of Messrs. Denny & Company, Dumbarton, during the usual fair holidays, the matter was referred to Mr. Jas. Macdonald, who issued his award on 16th September, deciding that the society had not established their claim.

SHIPWRIGHTS, JOHN BROWN & Co., LTD., CLYDEBANK.—Mr. James Macdonald was appointed to act as arbiter to determine a difference that had arisen between the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association and the Shipconstructors and Shipwrights' Association in connection with a claim of the latter for 3d. per hour over and above new work rates for men employed in repairing the wharf at Messrs. John Brown & Co.'s Shipbuilding Yard, Clydebank. By an award of 18th September, the arbiter conceded the men's claim.

FOUNDRY WORKERS, &C., JAMES KEITH & BLACKMAN Co., LTD., ARBROATH.—A difference having arisen between the above firm and the Workers' Union regarding an application for an advance of wages, the difference was referred to the arbitration of Mr. James Macdonald, who issued his award on 20th September, giving an advance of 2s. per week to time workers only.

FIREMEN, DUNSMUIR & JACKSON, LTD., GOVAN.—Mr. James Macdonald was appointed arbiter to decide a difference that had arisen between Messrs. Dunsmuir & Jackson, Ltd., Govan, and certain firemen in their employ in regard to wages to be paid to firemen while engaged in taking H.M. steamers from Glasgow to Irvine or to other ports of the Clyde for completion. The arbiter, while deciding that the men's claim for seamen's rates of wages when engaged on such work had not been established, fixed by his award of 21st September the rates to be paid.

RIVETERS, BARCLAY, CURLE & Co., LTD., GOVAN.—A difference having arisen between the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association and the Boilermakers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society respecting the rate of wages to be paid to the riveters employed by Messrs. Barclay, Curle & Co., Ltd., on certain repair work at Govan, the difference was referred to Mr. James Macdonald, who issued his award on 23rd September, disallowing the rate claimed by the Society.

PLATERS, WILLIAM SIMONS & Co., LTD., RENFREW.—Mr. James Macdonald was appointed to act as arbitrator in a dispute between the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association and the Boilermakers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society regarding (a) framers rates and (b) keel plate rates on paddle steamers for the Indian Government being built by Messrs. William Simons & Co., Ltd., Renfrew. The arbitrator issued his award on 25th September fixing the rates to be paid.

BOILERMAKERS, HURST, NELSON & Co., LTD., MOTHERWELL.—Mr. James Macdonald was appointed arbiter to determine a difference that had arisen between Messrs. Hurst, Nelson & Co., Ltd., Motherwell, and the Boilermakers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders respecting an application of the latter for an advance of wages. The arbiter issued his award on 25th September deciding that the claim had not been established.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION SCHEME.—The Right Hon. Sir David Harell, K.C.B., was appointed to act as independent chairman of an adjourned meeting of Conciliation Board "A" (Locomotive Department) of the Taff Vale Railway to determine a difference between the two sides of the Board as to the time allowed to engine-drivers and firemen at Treherbert Station for certain work. At the meeting presided over by Sir David on 23rd September an agreement was effected between the parties.

COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION.

The Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into the best steps to be taken to ensure the fullest productive power of employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments, and whose reference was subsequently extended to deal with the avoidance of stoppages on work for Government purposes (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1915, p. 83, and August, 1915, p. 280) have issued decisions on further cases referred to them. The following are summaries of the Committee's findings issued during September:

IRONFOUNDERS, HULL (ISSUED 1ST SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders to the Hull Iron Trades Employers' Association. The Committee awarded a war wage advance of 3s. per week on time rates.

METAL, WIRE AND TUBE WORKERS, BIRMINGHAM (ISSUED 2ND SEPTEMBER).—The National Society of Metal, Wire and Tube Workers, the National Union of Gas and General Workers and the Workers' Union made application to the Midland Employers' Federation (Metal Rollers' Section) for an advance of wages. The finding of the Committee is that the time rates of wages of the men concerned shall be advanced 3s. per week, the advance to be regarded as war wages and to apply to time workers only. The Committee further award that the claim for a general advance to piece workers has not been established, but that if there are instances of piece prices which require adjustment, they should form the subject of discussion between the parties.

POSTPONED HOLIDAY PAYMENT, MIDLAND EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION (ISSUED 4TH SEPTEMBER).—A difference arose between the Midland Employers' Federation and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Amalgamated Toolmakers' Society, United Patternmakers' Association, and the Associated Blacksmiths and Ironworkers' Society in regard to the rate of payment to be made in respect of postponed holidays in the Birmingham district. The Committee awarded the rates to be paid in the various circumstances, which rates are to be not less than time and a quarter.

IRONFOUNDERS, COLCHESTER (ISSUED 4TH SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made to the East Anglian Engineering Employers' Association by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders. By an agreement dated 24th July, 1916, between the Employers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, a war wage advance of one penny per hour on all hours worked was granted to all men over 21 years of age and one halfpenny per hour to those under 21 years of age (subject to certain conditions as to good time-keeping) in lieu of a war bonus of 2s. which had previously been paid. The Committee decided in connection with the claim made by the ironfounders (who are also at present in receipt of the "war bonus") that the "war bonus" should be withdrawn and the above agreement should be applied to them.

LABOURERS, &C., MESSRS. FAWCETT, PRESTON & Co., LTD., LIVERPOOL (ISSUED 4TH SEPTEMBER).—A war wage advance of 3s. per week, to be paid to time workers only, was awarded by the Committee in respect of an application made to Messrs. Fawcett, Preston & Co., Ltd., Liverpool, by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour on behalf of crane-men, slingers and labourers in the firm's employ.

BRASSWORKERS, MESSRS. WILLIAM SUGG & Co., LTD., LONDON (ISSUED 4TH SEPTEMBER).—A difference arose between Messrs. William Sugg & Co., Ltd., London, and the London United Brass and General Metal Founders' Society, the Friendly Society of Ironfounders, and the National Society of Amalgamated Brassworkers and Metal Mechanics, in respect of the rate of payment to be made to men on night-shift. The finding of the Committee is that the claim of the Unions that the firm should pay time and a half has not been established.

FITTERS, BLACKSMITHS, SHELTON IRON, STEEL AND COAL Co., LTD. (ISSUED 4TH SEPTEMBER).—The National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics and Electrical Workers made application for an advance of wages on behalf of certain of their members employed by the Shelton Iron, Steel and Coal Company, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent. The Committee awarded that the men concerned shall receive the advance of 1s. per week claimed by the Union.

BOILER AND PIPE COVERERS, IMPROVERS AND LABOURERS, MESSRS. REID, McFARLANE & Co. (BELFAST), LTD. (ISSUED 5TH SEPTEMBER).—Application for certain advances of wages and alterations of working conditions was made to Messrs. Reid, McFarlane & Co. (Belfast), Ltd., by the Workers' Union on behalf of their members in the firm's employ. The Committee awarded in settlement of the claims made that the rates of wages of the workpeople concerned shall be advanced 1d. per hour as from 11th July, 1916, such advance to be regarded as war wages.

BOILER AND PIPE COVERERS, IMPROVERS AND LABOURERS, MESSRS. THOMAS ANDERSON, LTD., BELFAST (ISSUED 5TH SEPTEMBER).—Application was made by the Workers' Union to Messrs. Thomas Anderson, Ltd., Belfast, for an advance of wages and increased allowance when working out of town. The Committee awarded that, in settlement of the claims made, the wages of the labourers and improvers shall be increased by 1d. per hour and the wages of the coverers by 3d. per hour, the advances to be regarded as war wages.

CITY OF MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS (ISSUED 6TH SEPTEMBER).—The Workers' Union made application for an advance of wages to the Tramways Committee of the Corporation of Manchester on behalf of certain grades of workmen employed in the Permanent Way Department. The Committee are of opinion, and they so award, that the claim of the Union for an advance over and above the terms of their finding of 18th July has not been established.

ENGINEERING TRADES, LUTON (ISSUED 7TH SEPTEMBER).—A war wage advance of one halfpenny per hour was awarded by the Committee in respect of an application for an advance of wages made to the Bedfordshire Engineering Employers' Association by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Steam Engine Makers' Society, Amalgamated Toolmakers' Society, United Machine Workers' Association, Scientific Instrument Makers' Society, and other Trade Unions. The advance is to be paid to time workers only.

LABOURERS AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS, ENGINEERING TRADE, OLDHAM (ISSUED 11TH SEPTEMBER).—Application was made to the Oldham District Engineering Trade Employers' Association by the National Union of General Workers for an advance of wages and alteration of overtime payment. The finding of the Committee is that the wages of the men concerned shall be advanced 2s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates, with a further 1s. per week on time rates in the case of men at present rated at less than 26s. per week, the advances to be regarded as war wages. The Committee also decided the rates to be paid for overtime at time and a quarter for the first two hours and time and a half for subsequent hours on weekdays, and time and a half for work done on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday.

ENGINEERS AND ALLIED TRADES, OLDHAM (ISSUED 11TH SEPTEMBER).—A war wage advance of 2s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates was awarded by the Committee in respect of an application made to the Oldham District Engineering Trades Employers' Association by the Joint Committee of Engineering Trades.

IRONFOUNDERS, OLDHAM (ISSUED 11TH SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made by the Friendly

Society of Ironfounders to the Oldham District Engineering Trades Employers' Association. The Committee awarded to the men concerned an advance of 2s. per week, the advance to be regarded as war wages and to apply to time workers only.

MESSRS. W. J. JENKINS & Co., LTD., RETFORD (ISSUED 11TH SEPTEMBER).—Applications were made to Messrs. W. J. Jenkins & Co., Ltd., Retford, by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Boilermakers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders, the Friendly Society of Ironfounders, and the National Union of General Workers for advances of wages. The Committee's finding is that the time rates of wages of the men concerned shall be advanced 2s. per week, the advance to be regarded as war wages, and to be paid to time workers only.

MESSRS. R. A. BRADSHAW & SON, RETFORD (ISSUED 11TH SEPTEMBER).—The Friendly Society of Ironfounders made application to Messrs. R. A. Bradshaw & Son, Retford, for an advance of wages. The Committee awarded to the men concerned of 18 years of age and over an advance of 2s. per week, such advance to be paid to time workers only and to be regarded as war wages.

IRONFOUNDERS, ST. HELENS (ISSUED 11TH SEPTEMBER).—A war wage advance of 2s. per week was awarded by the Committee in respect of an application made to the St. Helens Engineering Employers' Association by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders. The advance is to be paid to time workers only.

ENGINEERS, ST. HELENS (ISSUED 11TH SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made to the St. Helens Engineering Employers' Association by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the Steam Engine Makers' Society. The Committee awarded a war wage advance to time workers only of 2s. per week.

SHIP REPAIRING TRADE, LONDON.—Findings of the Committee on Production were issued on 14th and 22nd September in respect of claims made to the River Thames Dry Dock Proprietors' and Ship Repairers' Association by various Unions. Since the outbreak of war the men in question (in common with other grades in the Thames ship-repairing trade) have received a "war bonus" of 1½d. per hour when engaged on Admiralty work, and early in 1915 it was arranged that the men employed on merchant work should receive a war wage advance of 4s. per week in the case of mechanics and 3s. per week in the case of mechanics' assistants and labourers. Applications were made by (1) the Amalgamated Society and the General Union of Carpenters and Joiners, (2) the Amalgamated Society of Mechanics' Assistants and Dry Dock Workers, (3) the Associated Blacksmiths and Ironworkers' Society of Great Britain and Ireland, (4) the United Operative Plumbers and Domestic Engineers' Association, (5) the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and (6) the Shipconstructors and Shipwrights' Association, and in respect thereof the Committee decided that, in lieu of the bonus on Admiralty work and existing war wage advance on merchant work, there should be paid on both classes of work a war wage advance of 8s. per week. In the case of the shipwrights, a question as to an increase of certain prices for special work was left over for further consideration by the parties.

A similar finding was issued by the Committee on 14th September in respect of an application made by the National Sailors and Firemen's Union to Messrs. Fletcher, Son & Fearnall, Ltd., and to Messrs. Orient Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., on behalf of shore gangs employed by those firms at Tilbury.

ENGINEERS AND ALLIED TRADES, BASINGSTOKE (ISSUED 18TH SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made to Messrs. John I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke, by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Steam Engine Makers' Society, Amalgamated Toolmakers' Society and United Machine Workers' Association. The finding of the Committee is that the time rates of wages of the men concerned shall be advanced 3d. per hour, the advance to be regarded as war wages and to be paid to time workers only.

H.M. FACTORY, GREINA (ISSUED 18TH SEPTEMBER).—Differences arose between the employees engaged on constructional work at H.M. Factory, Greina, and the contractors, agents for the Ministry of Munitions. The claims made on behalf of the workpeople consisted of claims for a war bonus of 1s. per day to all workers, an advance of wages to certain classes and certain alterations of working conditions. The Committee awarded an advance of 3d. per hour to labourers and advances to a few other grades.

MESSRS. HARTLEY & SUGDEN, LTD., MESSRS. LUMBY, SON & WOOD, LTD., AND MESSRS. GRAHAM & FLEMING, HALIFAX (ISSUED 18TH SEPTEMBER).—In respect of applications made by the Workers' Union to the above-named firms on behalf of their members, the Committee awarded all the men concerned (except the welded boiler-makers) a bonus of 4d. per day, to be dependent upon good time-keeping as from day to day. The claim for an advance of wages to the welded boiler-makers was decided not to have been established.

ANNEALERS, MESSRS. GRICE, GRICE & SON, LTD., BIRMINGHAM (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made to Messrs. Grice, Grice & Son, Ltd., Birmingham, by one of the gangs of annealers in their employ. The Committee find that the claim for a special advance to the particular gang in question has not been established.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES, BELFAST (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—Twenty Trade Unions, representing workpeople in the shipbuilding trade, made applications to Messrs. Harland & Wolff, Ltd., and Messrs. Workman, Clark & Co., Belfast, for an advance of wages. The Committee awarded a war wage advance of 3s. per week, such advance to be paid to time workers only.

ENGINEERING TRADE, BELFAST (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—The Committee awarded a war wage advance of 3s. per week to time workers in respect of an application made to the Belfast Engineering Employers' Association by the Belfast District Committee of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.

NOBEL'S EXPLOSIVES Co., LTD., POLMONT (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made to Messrs. Nobel's Explosives Company, Ltd., by the workpeople employed in certain departments at the company's Polmont works. Since the outbreak of war considerable advances of wages have been given by the firm to the workpeople concerned, and the finding of the Committee is that the claim for further advances of wages has not been established.

SEMI-SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WORKERS, ENGINEERING TRADE, PRESTON (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—The Workers' Union made application for alterations in wages on behalf of semi-skilled and unskilled workers, to the Preston and District Engineers and Ironfounders Employers' Association. The Committee decided that the employers' offer of an advance of 2s. per week to labourers transferred to semi-skilled work should be accepted, not conceding the Union's further claim that a probationary period should be fixed, at the termination of which such men should receive the standard rate. A war wage advance of 3s. per week was awarded to time workers.

SEMI-SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WORKERS, ENGINEERING TRADE, PRESTON (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—A war wage advance of 3s. per week was awarded to time workers in respect of an application for an advance of wages made to the Preston and District Engineers and Ironfounders Employers' Association by the National Union of General Workers.

IRONFOUNDERS, BELFAST (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—The Committee awarded a war wage advance of 3s. per week to time-workers in respect of applications made by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders to the Belfast and North of Ireland Iron Founders' Association and the Belfast Engineering Employers' Association.

ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADE, GRIMSBY (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—Applications were made to the Grimsby Engineering Employers' Association by seven Trade Unions on behalf of their members. The Committee's finding is that the wages of the men concerned shall be advanced 3s. per week, the advance to be regarded as war wages, and to apply to time workers only. In accordance with an offer made by the representatives of the employers, the advance is to apply to lads.

IRONFOUNDERS (LIGHT CASTINGS FEDERATION), SCOTLAND (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—The Associated Ironmoulders of Scotland and the Central Ironmoulders' Association made application for an advance of wages to the National Light Castings Ironfounders' Federation. The Committee awarded to the men concerned a war wage advance of 3d. per hour where wages are paid by the hour and 3s. per week where wages are paid by the week, such advance to apply to time workers only.

IRONFOUNDERS (STEEL FOUNDERS' WAGES ASSOCIATION) SCOTLAND (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made to the Scottish Steel Founders' Wages Association by the Associated Ironmoulders of Scotland and the Central Ironmoulders' Association. The finding of the Committee is that the wages of the men concerned shall be advanced 3d. per hour where wages are paid by the hour and 3s. per week where wages are paid by the week, the advance to be regarded as war wages and to be paid to time workers only.

IRONFOUNDERS (IRON AND STEEL FOUNDERS' FEDERATION), SCOTLAND (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—The Associated Ironmoulders of Scotland and the Central Ironmoulders' Association similarly made application to the Scottish Employers' Federation of Iron and Steel Founders for an advance of wages. The Committee awarded a war wage advance of 3d. per hour where wages are paid by the hour and 3s. per week where wages are paid by the week, such advance is to be paid to time workers only.

LABOURERS, CRANEMEN, &C., STEEL FOUNDRIES, SCOTLAND (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—A war wage advance of 3d. per hour, or 6d. per day, was awarded by the Committee in respect of an application made to the Scottish Steel Founders' Wages Association by the British Steel Smelters' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Steel and Iron Workers, acting on behalf of certain grades of workpeople not paid on a sliding scale. The Committee awarded no change in respect of a claim for an alteration of the present rates of payment for Sunday work.

STOVE GRATE MANUFACTURING TRADE (ENGLAND) (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—A war wage advance of 3s. per week was awarded by the Committee to time workers in respect of an application made to the National Light Castings Ironfounders' Association and the Stove Grate Makers' Association by the Central Iron Moulders' Association, the Stove Grate Workers'

Union, the National Union of Operative Heating and Domestic Engineers, and the Rotherham Stove Grate and Fender Grinders' Association.

BOILERMAKERS, KILMARNOCK (ISSUED 19TH SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made to the Kilmarnock District Engineering Employers' Association by the Boilermakers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders. The finding of the Committee is that the wages of the men concerned shall be advanced 3d. per hour, or 3s. per week (according to the custom of the shop), such advance to apply to time workers only.

UNITED ALKALI CO., LTD. (ISSUED 20TH SEPTEMBER).—The National Amalgamated Union of Labour made application to the United Alkali Company for an advance of wages. At the hearing an agreement was arrived at, and was embodied in the Committee's finding, an advance of wages of 6d. per shift being conceded to process men and 6d. per day to labourers.

WAGES OF PATTERNMAKERS, BLACKSMITHS, BRASS FINISHERS, BOILERMAKERS, &c., CLYDE DISTRICT (ISSUED 20TH SEPTEMBER).—Application was made to the North-West Engineering Trades Employers' Association, the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association, the Scottish Sheet Metal Workers Employers' Association, the Scottish Sheet Metal Workers Employers' Association, the Scottish Coppersmiths Employers' Association, and the Scottish Brassfounders and Finishers' Employers' Association by 16 Trade Unions for advances of wages on time rates and piece rates. The Committee's finding is that the time rates of the men concerned shall be advanced 3d. per hour, or 3s. 4d. per week, according to the custom of the shops. The advance is to be paid to time workers only.

LABOURERS, KEIGHLEY (ISSUED 20TH SEPTEMBER).—The Committee awarded to time workers a war wage advance of 3s. per week in respect of an application made to the Keighley Engineering Employers' Association by the Workers' Union and the National Union of General Workers.

BLACKSMITHS AND STRIKERS, IPSWICH (ISSUED 20TH SEPTEMBER).—The Associated Blacksmiths and Iron Workers' Society made application for an advance of wages to the Ipswich and District Engineering Employers' Association. The Committee's finding is that the offer made by the employers to increase the rates of smiths and strikers respectively by 4s. and 5s. on pre-war rates, in conformity with the advances given to other trades, should be accepted, and that a further advance of 2s. per week on time rates should be given. As regards the claim of the society that certain piece-work prices have not been adequately increased, the Committee recommended that the matter should form the subject of discussion between the men and the employers, on the basis of there being an increase of not less than 7½ per cent. on the pre-war prices.

PATTERNMAKERS, MESSRS. HEENAN & FROUDE, LTD., WORCESTER, MESSRS. FISHER, HUMPHRIES & CO., PERSHORE (ISSUED 21ST SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages was made to the above-named firms by the United Patternmakers' Association. The Committee awarded a war wage advance of 2s. per week to the men concerned, and further decided that a "war wage advance" of 3s. per week should be paid in substitution for the "war bonus" of 7½ per cent. now being paid by the latter firm.

PLATERS' HELPERS, DUNDEE (ISSUED 22ND SEPTEMBER).—The National Union of General Workers made application for an advance of wages on behalf of platers' helpers to the Dundee Shipbuilders' Association. The Committee awarded to time workers a war wage advance of 3d. per hour, such advance to be paid by the firms in the case of platers' helpers working with piece-work platers.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, MESSRS. THE UNITED ALKALI CO., LTD., AND MESSRS. WM. GOSSAGE & SONS, LTD., WIDNES AND RUNCORN (ISSUED 22ND SEPTEMBER).—Application for an advance of wages made to Messrs. The United Alkali Co., Ltd., and to Messrs. William Gossage & Sons, Ltd., by the National Associations of Carpenters and Joiners was referred to the Committee, who awarded a war wage advance of 1s. per week, the men concerned having had substantial advances since the outbreak of war.

BUILDERS' LABOURERS, ROYAL GUNPOWDER AND SMALL ARMS FACTORIES (ISSUED 23RD SEPTEMBER).—The builders' labourers employed in the building works department of the Royal Gunpowder and Small Arms Factories made application for an advance of wages. The Committee awarded that the claim of the men to receive a further advance of 1d. per hour has not been established. They are also of the opinion that the differentiation which now exists under which some of the labourers in the factories are rated at 8½d. per hour and others, engaged upon similar work, at 8½d. per hour, should not be continued, and that those now rated at 8½d. per hour should be advanced to 8½d. per hour.

PATTERNMAKERS, MESSRS. CROMPTON & CO., LTD., CHELMSFORD (ISSUED 23RD SEPTEMBER).—An advance of wages of 2s. per week was awarded by the Committee in respect of an application made to Messrs. Crompton & Co., Ltd., Chelmsford, by the United Patternmakers' Association.

PATTERNMAKERS' APPRENTICES, BELFAST (ISSUED 26TH SEPTEMBER).—Application was made to the Belfast Engineering Employers' Association by the United Patternmakers' Association that patternmakers' apprentices shall receive full journeymen's rates as soon as they have completed their apprenticeship. The Committee are of opinion that the claim for

alteration in the existing custom at the establishments of the members of the Belfast Engineering Employers' Association is not one which, under present conditions, they can concede.

ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADE, SOUTHAMPTON (ISSUED 27TH SEPTEMBER).—Differences arose between the Southampton Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers' Association and the Joint Trades Management Committee of the Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades in connection with applications for advances of wages and in respect of the rate to be paid to men working night shifts on the nights of 12th June (postponed Whit Monday) and 7th August (postponed August Bank holiday). The Committee awarded to time workers a war wage advance of 3s. per week, and to men who worked the night shift on 12th June or 7th August double time for the whole of the shift.

LABOURERS, WHITEHEAD TORPEDO WORKS (WEYMOUTH), LIMITED (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).—The Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union and the National Union of General Workers made application for an advance of wages to the Whitehead Torpedo Works (Weymouth), Ltd., and in respect thereof the Committee awarded a war wage advance of 3s. per week. The Committee also awarded, on application of the unions, that the "bonus" of 4s. per week now being paid shall be taken into account as part of the rates of wages for the purposes of overtime payment, &c.

ENGINEERS, CARRON COMPANY, FALKIRK (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).—Applications were made to Carron Company, Falkirk, by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (1) that the firm should pay to fitters, turners, &c., in their engineering department the rates of wages that are paid in the Clyde district, (2) that "time and a half" should be paid for overtime during weekdays and double time for Sundays, and that there should be an allowance of 1s. per night to men working on night shifts. The Committee disallowed the former claim, but with regard to the overtime claim, awarded time and a half for work done over 54 hours per week, with double time for Sunday and the 1s. per night allowance on night shift work.

MESSRS. CHRISTOPHER THOMAS & BROTHERS, LTD., BRISTOL (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).—The Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union made application for an advance of wages to Messrs. Christopher Thomas & Brothers, Ltd., Bristol. The Committee awarded advances on the time rates of wages of 3s. per week to men rated at or under 25s. per week and 2s. per week to men rated at more than 25s. per week.

LABOURERS, NATIONAL SHELL FACTORY, BRISTOL (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).—A war wage advance of 3s. per week was awarded by the Committee in respect of an application regarding rates of wages made to the West of England Munitions Committee by the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union on behalf of labourers employed at the National Shell Factory, Bristol.

IRONFOUNDERS AND BRASSWORKERS, LONDON (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).—The Friendly Society of Ironfounders, London United Brassfounders, National Society of Brassworkers and Metal Mechanics, and the Amalgamated Society of Brassworkers made application for an advance of wages to the London and District Association of Engineering Employers. The Committee awarded to time workers a war wage advance of 3s. per week.

MESSRS. HARDMAN & HOLDEN, LTD., MANCHESTER AND BLACKBURN (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).—Applications for advances of wages and for the payment of extra rates for week-end work were made to Messrs. Hardman & Holden, Ltd., by their workpeople at Manchester and Blackburn. The Committee's opinion is that under present circumstances the claim for extra payment for week-end work is not one which can be conceded. As regards the Manchester works, the Committee's finding is that the "war bonus" of 4d. per day now being paid by the firm shall be increased to 10d. per day, and as regards the Blackburn works their finding is that the rates of the men concerned (exclusive of the war bonus now being paid) shall be increased to the present rates (exclusive of "war bonus") of men of similar grades at the firm's Manchester establishment.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 to 1916.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS TO THE UMPIRE.

In pursuance of Regulations made by the Board of Trade and dated 26th day of March, 1912, notice is hereby given that the Umpire (Unemployment Insurance) has received applications for decisions as to whether contributions are payable or not in respect of the following classes of persons:—

- 471x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture and fitting of non-mechanical refrigerators, ice houses, &c., for use on ships.
472x. Workmen engaged in the preparation of materials for colouring and decorating pottery.
473x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of weed killers, disinfectants, insecticides and similar preparations.
474x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of railway fog signals.
475x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture by hand or machinery of gold and silver braids, lace and embroidery.
476x. Stablemen employed in connection with any insured trade.

477x. Workmen engaged in fitting wooden handles to spades and shovels.

Note.—Applications for a decision as to whether contributions are payable under the National Insurance (Part II.) (Munition Workers) Act, 1916, are indicated by the letter x at the end of the number, e.g. 421x.

Any representations with reference to the above applications may be made in writing to the Umpire by, or on behalf of, any workman or employer appearing to him to be interested, or on behalf of the Board of Trade, and forwarded to the Registrar, Office of the Umpire, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

The decisions of the Umpire upon the foregoing are announced in the "Board of Trade Journal" from time to time.

Decisions by the Umpire.

Pursuant to paragraph (5) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations, the Board of Trade hereby give Notice of the following decisions by the Umpire on questions whether contributions are payable:—

A. The Umpire has decided that contributions are payable in respect of:—

- 1793x. Workmen engaged in making wooden crates for packing purposes.
1794x. Workmen engaged in making type metal, in manufacturing metal printing type, or in cutting and finishing wood type by machinery. (Application 386x.)
1795x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of brass type for the use of book-binders, gold blockers, &c. (Application 386x.)
1796x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in weaving and making up nets intended for use in war.
1797x. Workmen (including sawmillers and machine woodworkers) engaged in the manufacture of casks and barrels. (Application 394x.)
1800x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in cutting metal stencil plates.
1804x. Workmen engaged in the repair of harness and saddlery intended for use in war.
1805x. Workmen engaged in proofing flax, jute, cotton, asbestos or other fabrics with rubber.
1806x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of carbon electrodes for use in the production of munitions of war.
1807x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of carbide of calcium.
1808x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of fire-clay crucibles for use in the manufacture of munitions of war. (Application 407x.)
1809. Workmen employed in the metal testing department of steel works, and engaged in sawing, slotting, turning and trepanning steel. (Application 363.)
1811x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of hackles and gills for textile machinery.
1812x. Wood turners of all kinds, machine sawyers and other woodworking machinists engaged in the manufacture of wooden heels for boots, whether the boots are intended for use in war or not.
1814x. Workmen engaged in making small ebonite or vulcanite parts of electrical appliances, such as magnets, sparking plugs, &c. (and not covered by decision A. 1230, BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1913.)
1817x. Workmen employed under the Chief Inspector of Equipment and Stores, Royal Dockyard, Woolwich, and engaged in—
(a) Inspecting stores;
(b) Loading, unloading, marking up, bundling, tying, or otherwise handling stores in connection with the inspection department;
(c) Repairing military equipment (including washing in connection with repair and re-issue).
1818x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of metal filaments for electric glow lamps.
1819x. Workmen engaged in cutting, splicing or otherwise preparing halyards, lanyards, tent ropes, head ropes or similar articles made from rope, cord or twine. (Application 389x.)
1824x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in making glass articles for medical or surgical use, such as graduated glass bottles and laboratory apparatus, for use in war, or in experimental glass blowing in connection therewith.
1826x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of life belts, life buoys and ships' fenders. (Application 443x.)
1827x. Colliery blacksmiths and mechanics engaged in repairing or sharpening miners' tools, or in repairing metal parts of tubs or trams or general colliery plant. (Application 439x.)
1828x. Workmen engaged in preparing artists' colours (including the processes of filling into tubes, moulding into cakes, packing, and labelling). (Application 442x.)
1830x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of new uppers for clogs. (Application 424x.)
1831x. Workmen employed wholly or mainly in repairing military boots, otherwise than to individual order.
1836x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of glass bottles (including jam or pickle jars) which are intended for use in war.
1838x. Workmen engaged in lime burning. (Application 419x.)

1840x. Workmen engaged in cutting-out or making-up from cocoanut fibre matting, mats, deck coverings, or other articles intended for use in war. (Application 410x.)

1844x. Pattern-makers engaged in making patterns for brass foundries when not engaged in a trade insured under the provisions of Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911.

1847x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in sawmilling or machine woodwork in connection with the manufacture of wooden railway sleepers, including boring and charring. (Application 460x.)

1849x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the preparation of photographic emulsions. (Application 402x.)

1851x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of reeds for textile machinery, including wire flatteners, wire polishers, reed makers and finishers, dippers-in, rubbers-up, paperers.

1853x. Workmen described as machine or hand nailers, hoopers, dovetailers, conveyor attendants or truckers engaged in connection with the manufacture of wooden cases.

1854x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of composition pipes out of scrap lead, including the washing in liquid tin.

1855. Female cloak room and lavatory attendants, and messengers employed in connection with an insured trade.

1856x. All classes of workmen engaged in the manufacture of brushes intended for use in war. (Application 400x.)

1857x. Sawmillers and machine woodworkers engaged in preparing umbrella sticks and handles.

1858x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly as metal workers or as machine woodworkers in connection with the manufacture of fishing tackle.

1859x. Workmen engaged in making metal parts of bobbins or shuttles. (Application 405x.)

1860x. Workmen engaged in feeding or minding machines which are cutting, boring or sandpapering wood for the manufacture of bobbins or shuttles. (Application 405x.)

1861x. Workmen employed in wood machining department converting timber and cutting it into squares for the manufacture of bobbins or shuttles, including general labourers in the yard and wood machining shops. (Application 405x.)

1863x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of wood wool. (Application 459x.)

1865x. Workmen engaged in sawmilling or machine woodwork in connection with the manufacture of pencils.

1866x. Drivers or attendants of vehicles employed in connection with insured trades and employed mainly on the premises on which such trades are carried on.

1867x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of military caps and military hospital clothing (other than to individual orders).

1869x. Gatemen employed in connection with any insured trade.

1871x. Wood machinists employed in the manufacture of drawing boards, easels, palettes, colour boxes, &c.

1872x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of collapsible tin tubes.

1873x. Workmen employed in the manufacture, including boxing, of metal paper clips.

1875x. Workmen employed in turning wooden rollers for use in textile mills, other than those insured under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911.

1878x. Workmen described as leather cutters and leather machinists and metal workers employed by manufacturers of solid and fancy leather goods. (Application 421x.)

1881x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the preparation of tetanus anti-toxic serum.

1883x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of footballs.

1884x. Workmen employed in the getting of clay or marl for brickmaking (not including fireclay mining). (Application 427x.)

1886x. Workmen engaged in making metal or leather buttons or parts of buttons. (Application 414x.)

1887x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of buttons intended for use in war. (Application 414x.)

1889x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of turpentine.

1890x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in peeling wood into veneers by machinery for making chip baskets.

1892x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of granulated aluminium or in rolling aluminium foil.

1897x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in machine woodwork in connection with the manufacture of wooden boot lasts, legging blocks, &c.

1898x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of fireclay blocks for glass furnaces.

1899x. Workmen employed on the premises of a firm engaged in the manufacture of military clothing (other than to individual order) and engaged in—

(1) Numbering and ticketing garments;

(2) Giving out work or materials.

1900x. Charwomen engaged in sweeping and cleaning work-rooms which are used wholly or mainly for carrying on any insured trade.

1903x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of plaster of Paris, Keene's and other patent cements, or in grinding gypsum in connection therewith. (Application 464x.)

1907x. All classes of workmen engaged in the distillation of tar.

1909x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of canvas hose-pipes for use in war, and not covered by decision B 1908 below.

1913x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture, bagging and dispatching of cement, or in mending and sorting bags or sacks at the cement works.

1914x. Workmen employed wholly or mainly in the manufacture or repair of telephone and telegraph instruments and electrical signalling apparatus.

1915x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in coating cloth or paper with emery or other abrasive materials, or in making up belts or discs from such cloth or paper for use in the manufacture of munitions of war. (Application 468x.)

1917x. Workmen (other than those engaged in the manufacture of textile fabrics) engaged in the manufacture of balata belting.

1918x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture, from asbestos or other cloth, of engine packings, washers and similar articles if containing rubber, with or without a rubber core.

1919x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of slabs, sheets or tiles of asbestos fibre and cement.

1922x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of celluloid fittings for cycles or motor cycles, when the cycles are intended for use in war.

1923x. Workmen engaged in the production of gold leaf. (Application 462x.)

1925x. All classes of workmen employed in making golf iron heads.

1927x. Workmen employed in driving or operating power machinery for woodworking in connection with the manufacture of golf clubs.

1929x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of coins.

1930x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of cork helmets for military or naval use.

1931x. Workmen employed by brick manufacturers and engaged in drawing bricks from kilns, or in stacking or loading them.

1933x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in grinding and preparing ganister for use in brick making. (Application 463x.)

1935x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of wooden butter cases, fruit boxes, and similar packages.

1936x. Workmen (other than those covered by decision No. B. 1823 below) engaged in the manufacture of paper or cardboard discs, washers, container tubes, &c., for shells.

1937x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture (including graduating and figuring) of clinical thermometers intended for use in war. (Application 465x.)

1938x. Workmen engaged in making saddle trees, for saddles which are intended for use in war.

1939x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in saw-milling or machine woodwork in connection with the manufacture of saddle trees, or in making metal parts of saddle trees.

1941x. Workmen (other than those covered by decision B. 1942 below) engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of fur hats for use in war.

1946x. Warehousemen, storekeepers, caretakers, timekeepers, or watchmen, employed wholly or mainly by way of manual labour in factories or workshops or in yards or stores immediately connected therewith, when the aforesaid factories or workshops are engaged wholly or mainly in munitions work or in any of the trades insured under the National Insurance (Part II.) (Munition Workers) Act, 1916.

1947x. Porters, packers, messengers, cleaners, or weighmen, employed in factories or workshops or in yards or stores immediately connected therewith, when the aforesaid factories or workshops are engaged wholly or mainly in munitions work or in any of the trades insured under the National Insurance (Part II.) (Munition Workers) Act, 1916.

1948x. Engine drivers, boiler men, firemen, stokers, cleaners, oilers, and other workmen, engaged wholly or mainly in tending, driving or minding engines or machinery, or in stoking boilers for the production of power, light, or heat for use in connection with munitions work or in any of the trades insured under the National Insurance (Part II.) (Munition Workers) Act, 1916. (This decision does not relate to workmen employed by separate companies or authorities who sell electricity or power for general purposes.)

1949x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in making ridge tiles, finials or chimney pots of terra cotta.

1950x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in treating iron goods to prevent rusting.

1951x. Workmen engaged in dressing stone (either by hand or machine) for grindstones which are for use in the manufacture of munitions of war.

1953x. Workmen employed in the manufacture of leather saddlery or harness.

1956x. Workmen engaged in the repair of leather goods intended for use in war. (Application 398x.)

1959x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of blanco and pipeclay for use in war. (Application 452x.)

1960x. Workmen engaged in assembling cycle and motor repair outfits intended for use in war. (Application 426x.)

1963x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in vitreous enamelling upon metal.

1964x. Workmen engaged in repairing machinery belting in an establishment which is engaged wholly or mainly in munitions work, or in any trade which is insurable under the National Insurance (Part II.) (Munition Workers) Act, 1916.

1965x. Workmen engaged in making metal patterns as described in Decision B 1138 (BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1912), or in making patterns of other

materials, if the patterns are for use in the manufacture of metal goods.

1966x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in grinding or sharpening knives, scissors and razors.

B. The Umpire has decided that contributions are not payable in respect of:—

1798. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of metal polishes. (Application 420x.)

1799. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in printing posters, labels, &c., whether in connection with insured trades or not.

1801. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of paper of all kinds.

1802. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of garden edging tiles or flower pots.

1803. Compass adjusters engaged wholly or mainly in swinging steamers in the river for the deviation and correction of compass error. (Application 435x.)

1810. Workmen engaged in the repair of harness and saddlery not intended for use in war.

1813. Workmen employed in making or finishing by hand wooden heels for boots, unless the boots are intended for use in war.

1815. Workmen (other than sawmillers, machine wood-workers and workmen making metal fittings) engaged in the manufacture of coffins. (Application 438x.)

1816. Workmen (other than sawmillers and machine wood-workers) engaged in the manufacture of type cases, cabinets, and similar articles for the use of printers.

1820. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of rope, cord and twine. (Application 389x.)

1821. Workmen engaged in—

- (1) stereotyping, electrotyping, and process work;
- (2) machine type-setting and making. (Application 386x.)

1822. Lithographers engaged in tin printing. (Application 386x.)

1823. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in making glazed boards for the manufacture of wads for shells or cartridges.

1825. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in assembling, glueing up, cleaning off, glasspapering (unaided by power), French polishing, fitting up and upholstering of domestic cabinet work and school furniture.

1829. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in repairing clogs, in making or repairing by hand wooden soles for clogs or in fixing uppers on to soles of clogs. (Application 424x.)

1832. Workmen employed by a firm of china clay merchants and engaged in mixing ingredients for sizing.

1833. Workmen engaged in creosoting railway sleepers. (Application 460x.)

1834. Telephone attendants employed in businesses carrying on an insured trade.

1835. Workmen engaged in making up sails, awnings, tarpaulins, and similar canvas goods, unless these are intended for use in war. (Application 445x.)

1837. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in weaving textile belting for power transmission.

1839. Storemen employed in the stores of a ship's chandler and ironmonger, and not engaged wholly or mainly in the repair of metal goods or other insured work.

1841. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of coconut fibre matting for sale in stock lengths. (Application 410x.)

1842. Workmen engaged in tallowmelting or in extracting grease from bones.

1843. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of glue, size or gelatine.

1845. Workmen (other than those covered by Decision A. 1697x—BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1916), engaged in the manufacture of baking powder, custard powder and similar preparations.

1846. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of blacklead and stove polish.

1848. Workmen employed by coke manufacturers and engaged wholly or mainly in connection with the working of the coke ovens and not covered by decision A. 1763x (BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1916). (Application 388x.)

1850. Workmen engaged in coating and otherwise preparing and packing photographic plates, films or papers, which are not intended for use in war.

1852. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of wax polishes (for boots, harness, furniture or floors) not intended for use in war. (Application 447x.)

1862. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of bobbins or shuttles, other than workmen mentioned in decisions A. 1859x, A. 1860x and A. 1861x above. (Application 405x.)

1864. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in spinning wool into rope. (Application 459x.)

1868. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of press papers for use in making discs for cartridges, shells or fuses.

1870. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in—

- (1) mining stone;
- (2) mining ochre or other colours.

1876. Workmen engaged in bleaching and otherwise preparing cotton wool or cotton cloth in bulk for use in the manufacture of surgical dressings.

1877. Laboratory staff, other than those included under decision A. 1784x (BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1916) employed at iron and steel works or in businesses carrying on any other insured trade or munitions work, and engaged in analysis, chemical testing or similar work.

1879. Workmen (other than those covered by decision A. 1878x above) who are employed by manufacturers of solid and fancy leather goods, and engaged in making goods in which leather is not more than one-third of the total cost of the completed articles. (Application 421x.)

1880. Ambulance men whether employed in businesses carrying on any insured trade or not.

1882. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in dressing horse-hair, fibre, or bass for brush-making.

1885. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly as cleaners and bed makers in dwellings connected with a munitions factory.

1888. Workmen (other than those covered by decisions A. 1886x and A. 1887x above) engaged in making buttons. (Application 414x.)

1891. Workmen engaged in making by hand chip baskets not intended for use in war.

1893. Workmen employed by water companies as pipe layers (if not insurable under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, 1911), or as engine drivers, stokers, boiler cleaners, coal heavers, filter attendants, meter cleaners, meter readers, turn-cocks, waste inspectors, or storekeepers.

1894. Workmen (other than those covered by decision A. 1754x—BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1916) engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of coffee essence, culinary essences, flavourings and fruit essences. (Application 401x.)

1895. Compositors engaged in setting up type for use in connection with the manufacture of rubber stamps.

1896. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of aerated waters.

1901. Overlookers (male or female) engaged wholly or mainly in teaching or supervising workers.

1902. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of mineral white or terra alba.

1904. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in quarrying or mining gypsum.

1905. Workmen engaged in the outdoor repair and maintenance of overhead, third rail, conduit, surface contact, or cable equipment of railways, tramways, light railways or electric power supply undertakings.

1906. Workmen employed by electricity supply companies as meter fixers or readers, fuse hands, crane-men, boiler cleaners, or in any of the occupations set out in decision B. 264 (BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1912).

1908. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in weaving canvas hosepipe.

1911. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in printing on wood.

1912. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of glazed sanitary earthenware, such as lavatories, closets, sinks and similar articles, unless intended for use in war.

1916. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in crushing, grinding and sieving or grading emery stone. (Application 468x.)

1920. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of asbestos millboard and paper.

1921. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in preparing, spinning, winding, warping, or braiding asbestos yarns, or in weaving asbestos cloth.

1924. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of patent fuel. (Application 467x.)

1926. Workmen engaged in the weaving, calendering or proofing (otherwise than with rubber) of jute or flax, or in any other process anterior thereto.

1928. Workmen engaged in glazing, grinding or fitting, selecting and marking spectacle lenses not intended for use in war.

1932. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in quarrying ganister or in the preparation of plastic ganister. (Application 463x.)

1934. Workmen employed in woods, and engaged in cleaving or hewing timber by hand.

1940. Workmen employed wholly or mainly in repairing boots and shoes not intended for use in war.

1942. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in opening, pulling, carrotting, cutting and blowing skins for the production of hatters' furs.

1943. Workmen engaged in soldering lids on tins containing goods the packing of which is not insured work.

1944. Workmen (other than leather or metal workers) engaged wholly or mainly in making up braces, belts and similar articles not intended for use in war.

1945. Workmen (other than sawmillers, machine wood-workers, leather or metal workers) engaged in the manufacture of wood trunks covered with canvas.

1952. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in pressing handles or scales for knives, forks, tin-openers, &c., out of horn or other material (other than metal, leather or rubber), provided the knives, &c., are not intended for use in war.

1954. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of porcelain insulators or of porcelain parts of electrical switches, lampholders or other fittings, unless such insulators or switches, &c., are intended for use in war.

1955. Workmen engaged in working or setting mother-of-pearl in connection with the manufacture of bedsteads.

1957. Workmen engaged in the repair of leather goods unless intended for use in war. (Application 398x.)

1958. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in graduating thermometers, burettes, pipettes, and similar glass instruments not intended for use in war.

1961. Colliery electricians engaged wholly or mainly in the maintenance of electric light and power installations in or about the colliery (but not in colliery buildings or shops) and not engaged wholly or mainly in repairs to the electrical machinery or switchgear.

1962. Workmen described as outdoor erectors and engaged wholly or mainly in the installation of accumulators.

Note.—Decisions in which the Umpire has decided that contributions are payable under the National Insurance (Part II.) (Munition Workers) Act, 1916, are indicated by the letter x at the end of the number, e.g. 1554x. Contributions under these decisions are payable as from the 4th September, 1916.

Where no reference is given to an application, the question has been decided by the Umpire, without notice, as a matter not admitting of reasonable doubt, in accordance with paragraph (2) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations.

Decisions relating to individual workmen which raise no question of general interest, or which merely apply a principle laid down in a previous decision, are not published.

TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909.

SHIRTMAKING TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

PROPOSAL TO VARY MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES FOR FEMALE WORKERS.

The Shirmaking Trade Board (Great Britain) have issued a notice, dated 7th October, stating that they propose to vary the minimum rate of wages for female workers from 3d. to 4d. an hour, and to vary the minimum rates for female learners in a similar proportion, except in the case of the commencing rates, which will remain unchanged.

Further particulars in regard to the proposed variations may be obtained by persons affected from the Secretary of the Shirmaking Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

TAILORING TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

PROPOSED VARIATION OF MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES FOR MALE WORKERS.

The Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain) have resolved to give notice that they propose to vary the minimum rates of wages at present in force for male workers as follows:—

	Present Rate.	Proposed New Rate.
I.—Male workers other than learners	6d. per hour.	7d. per hour.
II.—Male learners:—		
Age.	Present Rate.	Proposed New Rate.
19 years	17s. 8d. per week*	18s. 9d. per week*
20 "	19s. 10d. " "	20s. 10d. " "
21 "	21s. 11d. " "	22s. 11d. " "

It is not proposed to vary the minimum rates for male learners under 19 years of age.

Due notice of the proposed variation of minimum rates will be sent to employers in the trade, and full particulars may be obtained by persons affected from the Secretary of the Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

TIN BOX TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

PROPOSAL TO VARY MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS.

The Tin Box Trade Board have resolved to give notice that they propose to vary the minimum rate of wages for male workers of 22 years of age and upwards from 26s. to 30s. 4d. per week of 52 hours, and the minimum rate for female workers of 18 years of age and upwards from 14s. 1d. to 16s. 3d. per week of 52 hours, and to vary the minimum rates for learners in a similar proportion, except in the case of the commencing rates, which will remain unchanged.

The Trade Board also propose to vary the minimum rates for male workers of 21 years of age and upwards, and female workers of 18 years of age and upwards, who have had less than twelve months' experience in the trade.

Further particulars in regard to the proposed variations may be obtained by persons affected from the Secretary of the Tin Box Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

* The learners' rates are weekly rates based on a week of 50 hours, but they are subject to a proportionate deduction or increase according as the number of hours actually spent by a learner in the factory or workshop in any week is less or more than 50.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS.

SEPTEMBER, 1916.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.*
Cliff (Warwick)	Dr. W. C. Whiteside, Fazeley, Tamworth	Weekdays, 9-9.30 a.m.
Gortin (Co. Tyrone)	Dr. J. F. P. Devlin, Gortin, Newtownstewart	Gortin Dispensary, Wednes- day, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Uffculme (Devon)	Dr. W. M. Browne, Sampford Peversell, Tiverton	Surgery, Uffculme, week- days, except Saturday, 6-7 p.m.
Swansea (Glamorgan)	Dr. G. A. Stephens, 61, Walter Road, Swansea	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Walthamstow (Essex)	Dr. F. C. Shone, 1,003 Forest Road, Walthamstow, N.E.	17, Orford Road, Waltham- stow, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Crewkerne (Somerset)	Dr. B. I. G. Sibbald, Abbey Street, Crewkerne	Surgery, Market Street, Crewkerne, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated, the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING SEPTEMBER.

[All the United Kingdom Official Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any bookseller from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H. M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. Ponsoby, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of T. Fisher Unwin, London, W.C.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

Coal Mining Organisation Committee. *Third General Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the conditions prevailing in the Coal Mining Industry due to the War.* Home Office. [Cd. 8345: price 2½d.]

Output of Coal in the United Kingdom. Return for Quarters ended 31st March and 30th June, 1916. Board of Trade. [H.C. 120: price ¼d.]

Departmental Committee on Prices. *Interim Report on Meat, Milk and Bacon.* Report of Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to investigate the principal causes which have led to the increase of prices of commodities since the beginning of the War. [Cd. 8358: price 2½d.]

Health of Munition Workers Committee. *Memorandum No. 12. Statistical information concerning output in relation to Hours of Work.* Ministry of Munitions. [Cd. 8344: price 1½d.]

Second Interim Report on an Investigation of Industrial Fatigue by Physiological Methods. A. F. Stanley Kent. Home Office. [Cd. 8335: price 1s. 6d.]

Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. *Annual Reports, 1914. Part B. Industrial and Provident Societies.* [H.C. 139—II.: price 9½d.]

Report to the Board of Trade by the Committee appointed to investigate the question of Financial Facilities for Trade. [Cd. 8346: price 1d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1916. General abstracts showing the Acreage under Crops and the numbers and descriptions of Live Stock in each County and Province, 1915-16. [Cd. 8355: price 2d.]

Banking, Railway and Shipping Statistics, Ireland, 1915. Co-operative credit societies, capital, loans, &c. [Cd. 8330: price 2d.]

BRITISH DOMINIONS.

CANADA.—*The Labour Gazette, August, 1916.* Industrial conditions, proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, wholesale and retail prices, accidents, reports of employment bureaus, &c. *Census and Statistics Monthly, July, 1916.* Prices of agricultural produce, field crops of Canada, crop reports, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—*Labour Bulletin, No. 13, January-March, 1916.* Prices, house rents, wages, disputes, unemployment, &c. *Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics, May, 1916.* Unemployment, industrial disputes, changes in wages, trade unions, prices, rents, cost of living, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co., Printers.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Industrial Gazette, June, 1916.* Cost of living and the minimum wage, dislocations in industries, employment and unemployment, labour exchanges, industrial arbitration proceedings, &c. *The Industrial Arbitration Reports, 1916. Vol. XV. Part I.* [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

VICTORIA.—*Wages Board Determinations, 1916,* showing in brackets the dates of those cancelled thereby. *Cordage, 28th June (3rd September, 1915). Horsehair, 27th June. Bedstead Makers, 21st July (16th November, 1915). Shirt Board, 9th July (11th March, 1912). Electrical Installation, 11th July (6th May, 1916). Printers, 27th July (16th September, 1913). Agricultural Implements, 3rd August (11th November, 1915). Millet Broom, 3rd August (6th April, 1914). Factory Engine Drivers, 3rd August (20th March, 1913). Provincial Printers, 31st July.*

* Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

QUEENSLAND.—*The Industrial Gazette, 10th July, 1916.* Supply of and demand for labour, prices, wages, industrial arbitration, &c. [Brisbane: A. J. Cumming, Government Printer.]

—*Industrial Peace Act Awards, 1916,* showing in brackets the dates of those cancelled thereby. *Bread and Pastry Cooking Trade, South-Eastern Division, 24th May (6th June, 1913). Brisbane Carting Trade, 31st May (30th September, 1914). Brisbane Hairdressing Industry, 12th June (18th September, 1913). Carting Trade, Central Division, 5th June. Confectioners, South-Eastern Division, 20th June (22nd June, 1914). Coal Miners, South-Eastern Division, 21st June (19th June, 1914). Meat Industry, Central Division, 14th June (15th December, 1913). Farriers, Brisbane, 21st June (8th April, 1914). Saddle, Harness and Collar Makers, Northern Division, 25th May. Storemen, Central Division, 20th June (9th July, 1912).*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—*Statistical Register, 1914. Part VII. Industrial Establishments.*

NEW ZEALAND.—*Journal of the Department of Labour, July, 1916.* Condition of employment and trade in June, retail prices, persons assisted to employment, &c. *Awards, Agreements, and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1916. Vol. XVII. Part 4.* [Wellington: Marcus F. Marks, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—*Bulletin des Internationales Arbeitsamts (German edition), 1916. No. 6-7.* [Jena: Gustav Fischer.]

UNITED STATES.—*Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, September, 1916.* Conciliation work of the Department of Labour, retail prices of food, wholesale prices in 1915, retail prices of coal, 1907-1916, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—NEW YORK.—*The Bulletin, August, 1916.* Bureaus of employment, compensation and mediation and arbitration, the labour market, &c. State Industrial Commission. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., Printers.]

—*The Labour Market in July, 1916.* State Industrial Commission.

—MASSACHUSETTS.—*Labour Bulletin No. 115, June, 1916.* Rates of wages and hours of labour in Steam and Electric Railway Service in Massachusetts. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—*Thirty-fourth Quarterly Report on Employment in Massachusetts.* Quarter ending 30th June, 1916.

—MICHIGAN.—*Twenty-third Annual Report of the Department of Labour, 1916.* Factory inspection, coal mine inspection, accidents, free employment bureaus, labour laws, &c. [Lansing: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co., State Printers.]

FRANCE.—*Bulletin du Ministère du Travail, June, 1916.* Activity in industrial and commercial establishments in April, labour disputes in May and June. Ministry of Labour. [Paris: Berger-Levrault.]

GERMANY.—*Reichsarbeitsblatt, August, 1916.* Employment in July, labour disputes in second quarter of 1916, collective labour agreements in 1914.—*Die Tarifverträge im Deutschen Reiche am Ende des Jahres 1914,* Labour Statistics Department of Imperial Statistical Office, 1916. [Berlin: Carl Heymann.]

—*Statistisches Jahrbuch Deutscher Städte.* Edited by Prof. Dr. Neefe, 1916. [Breslau: W. G. Korn.]

ITALY.—*Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro. (Monthly series), May-June, 1916.* Labour disputes in 1913 and in first quarter of 1916, retail prices in March and April, decree of 1st May, 1916 concerning provision for persons employed in private workshops who are called up for military service. (*Fortnightly series*), 1st and 16th September, 1916. Retail food prices in June, labour disputes in second half of August. Labour Department of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labour. [Rome: Fratelli Treves.]

HOLLAND.—*Verslag over het jaar 1915, uitgebracht aan den Minister van Waterstaat door den Raad van Toezicht op de Spoorwegdiensten.* Ministry of Waterways, 1916. *Uittreksel uit het Verslag van den Hoofdingenieur voor het Stoomwezen over het jaar 1915.* Department of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1916. [The Hague: Gebroeders van Cleef.]

DENMARK.—*Statistiske Efterretninger, 7th September, 1916.* Retail prices in August, unemployment in June. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag.]

—*Social Forsorg, August, 1916.* Unemployment in February, March and April. Council for Workmen's Insurance and the Department of the Inspector of Unemployment. [Hellerup.]

SWEDEN.—*Underdånigt Utlåtande med Förslag till Lag om vissa Åtgärder till Främjande av Arbetsfred.* Department for Social Affairs, 1916. [Stockholm: K. L. Beckman.]

SPAIN.—*Anuari d'Estatística Social de Catalunya, 1914.* "Social Museum" of Barcelona. [Barcelona, 1915.]

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