

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

Vol. XXIV.—No. 8.]

AUGUST, 1916.

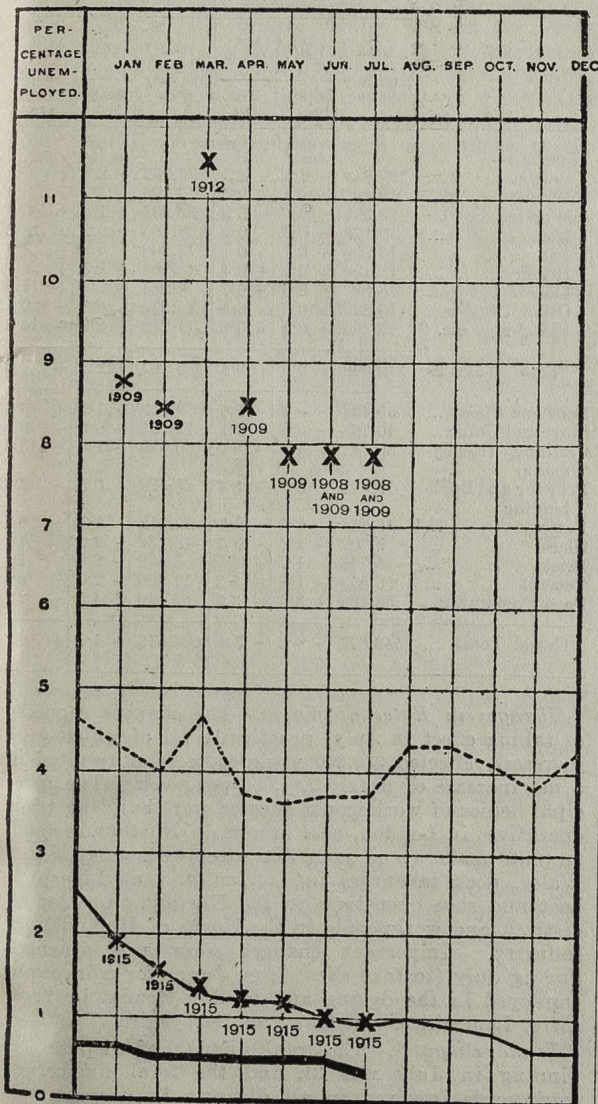
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR STATISTICS.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

The Offices of the Department of Labour Statistics, at which the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE is prepared and edited, are being removed, and in future all communications in connection with this journal or with labour statistics should be addressed as under :

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 13 Albemarle Street, Piccadilly,
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The telegraphic address of the Department is
 "Industrial, Piccy, London," and the telephone
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THE LABOUR MARKET.

In July all the principal industries were well employed, and in those directly concerned with war requirements the pressure was very great. The depletion of labour owing to further enlistments continued, and the need for more women substitutes is acutely felt.

Employment at coal and iron mines continued very good; at shale mines it was good. Lead mines were busy, but in tin mines employment was still quiet. In the quarrying industry employment was fairly good on the whole.

Employment in the pig iron industry continued good, but difficulty was still experienced in obtaining full supplies of raw materials; at iron and steel works employment continued very good. Great activity prevailed in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, and much overtime was worked. There was little change in the tinplate and steel sheet trades, but most of the other metal trades continued very busy.

In the spinning section of the cotton trade employment was good; in the weaving section there was some slackness. Much activity prevailed in the woollen industry, and employment continued very good in the worsted industry. In the linen trade employment continued fairly good in Scotland, but in Ireland it was quiet. Employment was good in the jute, hosiery, lace, bleaching, dyeing and finishing trades. In the silk trade it was fairly good; in the carpet trade fair.

The boot and shoe trades were very busy, and labour was in great demand. In the leather trades employment was good generally, but short time was still reported in some centres of the saddlery and harness trades.

Employment was good in the corset trade, fairly good in the ready-made tailoring, mantle, costume and blouse trades, and in the felt hat trade. In the shirt and collar trades and with dressmakers in retail firms in London employment was fair; in the London bespoke tailoring, however, there was a seasonal decline. With court and private dressmakers employment was very slack; with milliners it was moderate.

The workpeople remaining in the building industry

were generally well employed. In the brickmaking trade employment was fairly good, and in the cement trade it was good, with much overtime. In the furnishing trades employment showed a slight improvement. In the woodworking trades it continued good. In the printing and paper trades employment was fairly good; in the bookbinding trade it was good.

Employment in the glass and pottery trades continued good generally. It was also good in the food preparation trades, the jam and fruit preserving section being especially busy. Agricultural operations were hindered in the early part of the month by wet and cold weather, but when conditions became more favourable the effects of the labour shortage were minimised by the assistance of women and soldiers.

Employment with dock labourers continued fair on the whole, except on the East Coast, where it was slack. The supply of seamen and firemen for mercantile ships was not quite equal to the demand.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 939,165 reported 3,761 (or 0.4 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of July, 1916.

Trade.	Membership at end of July, 1916, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces.	Unemployed at end of July, 1916.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Per-cent-ge.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building*	77,359	695	0.9	- 0.1	- 1.9
Coal Mining†	132,872	12	0.0	...	- 0.1
Iron and Steel	37,209	214	0.6	- 0.2	- 0.3
Engineering	259,846	518	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.4
Shipbuilding	72,976	121	0.2	...	- 0.2
Miscellaneous Metal	38,036	71	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Textiles† :-					
Cotton	78,963	668	0.8	- 0.2	- 0.7
Woolen & Worsted	7,955	16	0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Other	54,023	139	0.3	...	- 0.2
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	53,447	809	1.5	- 0.1	- 0.6
Furnishing	15,535	222	1.4	- 0.3	- 1.4
Woodworking	28,315	97	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Clothing	67,055	67	0.1	...	- 0.1
Leather	3,808	83	2.2	+ 0.7	+ 1.1
Glass	704	...	...	...	- 1.9
Pottery	8,810	3	0.0	...	...
Tobacco	2,252	26	1.2	+ 0.5	- 1.4
Total	939,165	3,761	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.5

UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of July, 1916, was 0.6.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces	Unemployed at end of July, 1916.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed on a	
		Number.	Per-cent-ge.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building	528,991	5,207	0.98	+ 0.02	- 0.93
Construction of Works	111,677	415	0.37	- 0.01	- 0.25
Engineering and Iron-founding	953,451	4,265	0.45	+ 0.02	- 0.09
Shipbuilding	231,994	569	0.25	- 0.03	- 0.58
Construction of Vehicles	166,702	690	0.41	- 0.06	- 0.22
Sawmilling	8,497	48	0.56	...	- 0.51
Other Insured Work-people	40,918	70	0.17	+ 0.01	- 0.23
All Insured Work-people	2,042,230	11,264	0.55	+ 0.01	- 0.48

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: MINING AND METAL TRADES.

The following Table summarises the returns from firms employing 720,564 workpeople in July, 1916, in the industries mentioned:

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for July, 1916.	July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	539,554	Days worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Iron	13,312	5.71	+ 0.12	+ 0.69*
Shale	3,138	5.90	+ 0.09	+ 0.27
		5.75	- 0.23	+ 0.09
Pig Iron	25,624	Furnaces in Blast.	No.	No.
		277	+ 3	+ 13
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	24,695	Mills Working.	+ 5	- 37
		449	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel	114,241	Shifts Worked (One Week).	+ 0.6	+ 10.1
		660,970		

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

Returns from firms employing 543,077 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July, 1916, showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 4.2 per cent. in the wages paid.

Trade.	Number Employed.			Wages Paid.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Textiles :-						
Cotton	150,644	- 0.6	- 4.5	175,082	+ 2.8	+ 5.5
Woolen	19,480	- 0.5	- 0.5	23,496	+ 1.6	+ 8.9
Worsted	29,395	- 0.1	- 2.3	29,967	+ 1.9	+ 10.5
Linen	39,173	- 0.7	- 0.7	28,785	+ 0.2	+ 13.3
Jute	13,266	+ 0.1	- 0.4	14,203	+ 0.8	- 1.0
Hosiery	18,104	+ 0.3	+ 3.4	18,208	+ 2.5	+ 9.4
Lace	8,027	- 0.8	- 0.7	9,215	+ 0.4	+ 11.5
Other Textiles	16,222	- 0.8	- 6.4	15,372	- 0.6	+ 2.4
Bleaching, etc.	25,298	- 0.5	+ 3.8	41,239	+ 2.0	+ 14.8
Total, Textiles	319,609	- 0.5	- 2.4	355,567	+ 2.1	+ 7.6
Boot and Shoe	60,434	- 0.1	- 1.6	79,350	+ 1.5	+ 3.4
Shirt and Collar	16,733	- 0.8	- 3.7	13,393	+ 0.5	- 0.4
Clothing (Ready-made)	32,141	- 1.9	- 13.9	30,629	- 1.0	- 13.6
Printing and Book-binding	19,302	- 0.8	- 8.4	25,532	+ 0.8	- 2.2
Pottery	16,454	- 0.5	- 2.5	19,312	- 1.1	+ 6.6
Glass	9,702	- 1.2	- 0.5	16,136	- 0.2	+ 10.7
Brick	5,746	- 1.7	- 16.9	8,839	- 2.6	- 7.6
Cement	6,553	- 1.0	- 13.3	11,920	- 2.0	- 6.5
Food Preparation	56,403	+ 3.0	- 3.6	63,540	+ 4.5	+ 2.1
Grand Total	543,077	- 0.2	- 3.8	624,218	+ 1.7	+ 4.2

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported as taking effect in July, practically all of which were increases, affected 336,000 workpeople, and resulted in a net increase of nearly £55,000 per week. The principal bodies of workpeople affected were building trade operatives in London, coal miners in Northumberland, tinplate makers and iron and steel workers in South Wales, dock labourers in London and at Liverpool, boot and shoe operatives in the Northampton County district, and workpeople in the North of Ireland linen industry. Important changes were also arranged during July (to take effect from June) for workpeople employed in the dyeing and kindred trades in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of disputes beginning in July was 31, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 34,520, as compared with 33,823 in the previous month and 209,261 in July, 1915. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during the month was 118,000

* 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 usually met by short time working.

* The average in July, 1915, was reduced by the coal strike in South Wales and by holidays in Scotland.

working days, as compared with 265,600 in June, 1916, and 1,385,900 in July, 1915.

Labour Exchanges.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the five weeks ended 14th July was 39,154, as compared with 40,263 in the previous four weeks, and with 34,000 in the five weeks ended 16th July, 1915. The average weekly number of vacancies filled for the same periods was 30,823, 31,785, and 25,714 respectively.

EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY IN JUNE.*

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

"On the whole there was practically no change in the state of employment during June. Trades engaged in supplying the needs of the Army and Navy continued working to their utmost capacity. There were certain cases of seasonal slackness, such as occur during every summer, but their extent was in no way remarkable.

"As regards mining and the metal and engineering trades, no great change was reported compared with the preceding month; while in comparison with June, 1915, there were many cases of improvement. In the chemical trades employment improved to some extent; but no appreciable change was on the whole experienced in the electrical trades. A further decline took place in certain branches of the textile trades. The clothing trades, on the other hand, in many cases reported a continuation of fair or good employment. Here and there some improvement took place in the building trades."

Returns from Trade Unions.—Returns relating to unemployment were furnished by 38 Trade Unions, the membership covered being 826,924. Of these, 20,583, or 2.5 per cent., were out of work at the end of June, the same percentage as at the end of the preceding month, and also at the end of June, 1915.

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

	June, 1916.	May, 1916.	June, 1915.
Males	80	88	96
Females	158	162	157

RETAIL FOOD PRICES.

UNITED KINGDOM AT 1ST AUGUST, 1916.

BETWEEN 1st July and 1st August, 1916, the general level of retail prices of food showed a slight decrease, mainly owing to the decline in the price of potatoes, though there was also a general reduction in the price of cheese, and imported meat was a little cheaper on 1st August than a month earlier.

Although the decrease in the general level of prices was quite small, it is noteworthy as being the first decline reported since August, 1914. The average percentage increase on retail prices in July, 1914, at the beginning of each month since the commencement of the war, is as follows:—

	Per cent.		Per cent.
September, 1914	10	September, 1915	35
October, 1914	12	October, 1915	40
November, 1914	13	November, 1915	41
December, 1914	16	December, 1915	44
January, 1915	18	January, 1916	45
February, 1915	22	February, 1916	47
March, 1915	24	March, 1916	48
April, 1915	24	April, 1916	49
May, 1915	26	May, 1916	55
June, 1915	32	June, 1916	59
July, 1915	32½	July, 1916	61
August, 1915	34	August, 1916	60

The increase in food prices during the first year of war was thus approximately 34 per cent. (of which

* Reichsanzeiger, 28th July, 1916.

10 per cent. occurred in the first month); during the second year the increase was 19 per cent. (from 134 to 160 if prices before the war be represented by 100). These figures are based on the assumption that there had been no changes in the standard of living, i.e. that the same quantities of the same commodities were being consumed throughout the period.

COMPARISON WITH A YEAR AGO.

On 1st August, 1916, the prices of granulated sugar and potatoes were about 50 per cent. higher than a year earlier. The advances recorded in the price of meat during the year ranged from 16 per cent. for ribs of beef (British) to 33 per cent. for breasts of mutton (frozen), and averaged about 2½d. per lb. Milk and eggs were dearer than a year ago by 20 per cent.; and the average advance in the prices of the other articles ranged from 10 to 18 per cent., except as regards bread and flour, which showed only a small increase in price.

COMPARISON WITH JULY, 1914.

In the following Table is given a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st August, 1916, in relation to the normal prices of July, 1914:

Article.	Percentage Increase from July, 1914, to 1st August, 1916.		
	Large Towns (populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.
Beef, British—			
Ribs	61	59	60
Thin Flank	89	72	80
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs	83	76	79
Thin Flank	104	92	98
Mutton, British—			
Breast	56	54	55
Legs	91	69	80
Mutton, Frozen—			
Breast	87	79	83
Legs	121	110	115
Bacon (streaky)	41	36	38
Fish	97	65	81
Flour (households)	44	51	48
Bread	47	41	44
Tea	51	50	50
Sugar (granulated)	163	157	160
Milk	38	29	34
Butter—			
Fresh	34	34	34
Salt	33	35	34
Cheese	41	44	42
Margarine	19	16	17
Eggs (fresh)	53	52	53
Potatoes	91	81	86
ALL ABOVE ARTICLES (WEIGHTED PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	62	57	60

The widely varying percentage increases recorded for meat are equivalent to about 6d. per lb. for the better cuts—ribs and legs—and 5d. per lb. for the inferior cuts. Fish and potatoes averaged about 80 per cent. dearer than in July, 1914, and showed much variation in different places. Granulated sugar remained at 5½d. per lb., as compared with 2d. per lb. in July, 1914, but 1½d. of the increase is due to additional taxation. The average price of tea has increased 50 per cent., or 9½d. per lb., 7d. of which is owing to increased duty. The average prices of bread, flour, cheese, eggs and bacon were about 40 to 50 per cent. above those of July, 1914. Milk and butter were 34 per cent. and margarine was 17 per cent. dearer.

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 may be put at 60 per cent., which is reduced to 54 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, 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,

taking food, rent, clothing, fuel and light and miscellaneous expenditure into consideration, between July, 1914, and the present time, is between 40 and 45 per cent., disregarding increased taxation and assuming that the standard of living has not been modified in view of war conditions.

BERLIN AND VIENNA.

No particulars regarding the movement of retail prices of food in Berlin and Vienna can be published this month as the figures had not been received at the time of going to press.

ENGLISH AND GERMAN FOOD PRODUCTION.

A MEMORANDUM* just issued by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries examines the extent and the causes of the remarkable development of German agriculture during the last forty years, and comparisons are instituted throughout with the agricultural development in this country during the same period. The subject is considered under six main headings: (1) Increase of food production in Germany; (2) Statistics of the average farm of this country and of Germany; (3) The organisation of German agriculture; (4) German economic policy; (5) Improvement in the technical methods of the German farmer; and (6) "Some lessons." The appendices include a translation of a valuable survey, by the president of the German Agricultural Council, of the general conditions and the progress of German agriculture since the accession of the present Emperor.

Since the 'eighties there has been a marked increase in food production in Germany. The yield per acre of the crops in England and Wales has been practically stationary, but in Germany the average production per acre of rye, wheat, oats and barley grew from 10.24 cwt. for the years 1879-83 to 17.86 cwt. for the years 1909-13, and for potatoes for the same periods the figures were 3.05 and 5.46 tons respectively. Between 1883 and 1912 cattle in Germany increased in number by 27.7 per cent., pigs by 137.7 per cent., horses and goats each by about 28 per cent.; only in the case of sheep was there a decrease (69.8 per cent.). A comparison of meat and milk production in Britain and in Germany serves to emphasise the progress made in the latter country. The production of beef, mutton, pork, poultry and eggs per 100 acres of cultivated area in Great Britain in 1908 was 3.66 tons and that of milk 17.4 tons; while for Germany, on the average of the two years 1912 and 1913, the figures were 4.27 and 28.1 tons respectively. The German farmer who produces, moreover, about 2½ tons of sugar, succeeds in feeding from 70 to 75 persons per 100 acres, while the British farmer feeds only 45 to 50 persons. It is noteworthy that, in spite of the rapid growth of the population (from 48 millions in 1888 to 67 millions in 1913), the percentage of the total food supply grown within the country has not substantially altered in recent years. And this level is maintained although the German consumption of meat is now almost as great as the British, while their consumption of cereals and potatoes is greater.

About 93 per cent. of the land in Germany is owned by its cultivators, as compared with 11 per cent. in England and Wales. In Germany 48 per cent. of the cultivated area consists of holdings of under 50 acres, whereas for England and Wales the corresponding percentage is only sixteen. Sixty per cent. of the land in England and Wales is divided into holdings of between 50 and 300 acres, whereas less than 30 per cent. of the land in Germany is occupied by holdings of from 50 to 250 acres. The outstanding differences in the utilisation of the soil are the larger proportion of cultivated land in this country (73 as against 61.5 per cent.) and the much larger area under timber in Germany (26.3 as against 5.1 per cent.).

As regards the cultivated area, the average German 100-acre farm has 32 acres under grass and clover, the English farm 69 acres; the German grows 46 acres of corn and 10.4 acres of potatoes, the Englishman 19.5 and 1.6 acres respectively. Sugar beet, which is practically not grown in England, is very important in Germany, occupying over one-third of the total area under roots.

The average number of persons wholly or partly occupied in agriculture in Germany is 18.3 per 100 acres; in Britain, 5.8: excluding those only partly occupied the figures are 12.2 and 4.6. There is a very striking difference in the proportion of women permanently engaged in agriculture in the two countries; in Germany six times as many women are engaged per 100 acres as in Britain. On holdings under 12½ acres in Germany women do the bulk of the work; of 8 million women employed in agriculture, 4½ millions work on such holdings, and only 2½ millions of men. Owing to the facilities for winter employment afforded in Germany by forestry (over 35 million acres are under timber), by the production of beet sugar, starch and dried potato products, as well as by brewing and distilling, the German farmer has an advantage over the British farmer in the number of temporary workers whom he can obtain at busy seasons. He has also been able to draw upon great reserves of foreign labour.*

German agriculture has passed through a period of severe depression, principally due to the immense increase in agricultural production in transoceanic lands and to the attendant cheapening of freights, which reached its lowest point in the early 'nineties. A comprehensive agricultural policy was then framed and far-reaching measures taken, especially by the State in Prussia, to organise and promote agricultural interests. The organisation of farmers was effected by the statutory creation in the Prussian provinces, of chambers of agriculture, which compulsorily included all farmers (from whom they were empowered to levy contributions), and which were given the entire charge of all matters affecting the interests of agriculture and forestry in their respective districts.

Existing facilities for mortgage credit were further developed, and co-operative banking was systematically promoted by numerous agencies and by the creation of a State bank, which has been endowed with a total capital of 3½ million pounds. The credit systems evolved are well calculated to encourage efficient farming. Other forms of co-operative effort were also promoted, with the result that over two million farmers are now co-operatively organised in 27,000 rural co-operative societies. Increased attention has been devoted to agricultural education.

The Memorandum notes the stimulus exercised by the German military system on the young agriculturist: one direct result of the good school education fostered under the regulations affecting military service is, that many more young agriculturists are well qualified by their previous education to benefit by the training provided by agricultural colleges. Large farmers are much better educated than the same class in England and Wales, where almost the only posts open to students from agricultural colleges are in connection with teaching. Between 1888 and 1911 the number of pupils at Prussian agricultural colleges increased from 1,994 to 4,109, while the number of agricultural winter schools increased from 58 to 212, and of pupils from 1,666 to 9,357. Up to 1910 some 65,000 persons had been trained in agriculture at Prussian universities or colleges. Besides the general agricultural schools there were in 1911 114 special schools, including 70 farriery, 15 dairy and 14 gardening schools; while 1,354 short courses provided for adult farmers were attended by 36,000 pupils.

The agricultural policy of the Empire since 1900 has definitely aimed at a large increase of food from German soil, and the principal value of the tariff policy was the sense of security which it created in the farmer. But while the different economic policies

* A recent (July, 1916) German statement placed the number of foreign migratory agricultural labourers at 800,000 in a normal year, and added that in the harvest months it exceeded 1½ millions.

* "The Recent Development of German Agriculture." Cd. 8305. Price 4d.

have led to an increase of food production in one country and to a decline of food production in the other, it must not be assumed that the adoption of the German policy in Britain would have led to similar results. The German policy succeeded because it supplied the energy required to set carefully devised machinery in motion. Farmers were also stimulated by the general rise which has taken place since the end of last century in world prices for agricultural products. But the Memorandum states that two fundamental factors have been responsible for the extension of arable farming: security for capital and sufficiency of labour. The chief immediate cause of the greater productivity in Germany, however, has been the increase in the use of artificial manures. Between 1890 and 1910 the consumption of nitrogenous manures rose from 1.6 to 6 million metric tons; that of potash increased tenfold, and that of basic slag threefold. The well-organised system of technical education and the educative efforts of such agencies as the chambers of agriculture and the co-operative societies were the main causes of this great application of artificial manures. The Memorandum observes that, as regards the practice of husbandry, it is only in respect of the use of manures that the British farmer lags behind.

LABOUR IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVER-SEA AND IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

AUSTRALIA.

Retail Food Prices in April.—During April, the latest month for which figures are available, the index numbers of retail food prices for the 30 principal towns in the Australian Commonwealth show a fall amounting to 3.0 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 30.6 per cent. as compared with 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 30 towns.

GERMANY.

National Wages Agreement in the Building Trade.—The *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* of 5th May reports that, as the outcome of negotiations conducted by the Imperial Ministry of the Interior, an agreement has at last been reached as regards wage rates in the building trades. Representative committees of the National Federation of Master Builders on the one hand and of the three leading Unions in the building trade on the other agreed to recommend the following scale of wages for acceptance by their respective organisations:—(1) The general wages tariff accepted for the whole Empire on 27th May, 1913, and the various local rates based thereon, to continue in force until 31st March, 1917, and, if the war be not over by 31st December, 1916, to be extended until 31st March, 1918; (2) A war bonus to be granted on the following scale:—

Population of Town or other Inhabited Centre.	Additional rate per hour (War Bonus)		
	Up to June 30, 1916.	From July 1, 1916.	From Sept. 1, 1916.
5,000 or over:—	Pfennige.	Pfennige.	Pfennige.
(a) Where daily hours of labour exceed 9	5	8	10
(b) Where daily hours of labour are 9 or less	6	9	11
Less than 5,000	4	6	7

Thus the minimum hourly bonus equals about ½d. and the maximum about 1½d.

War bonuses to piece-workers are to be on the same basis, taking into account the number of hours worked per day.

Compulsory Establishment of Municipal Labour Exchanges.—On 14th June the Federal Council, in virtue

of powers conferred upon it by the Emergency Laws enacted at the outbreak of war, issued an Order, to come into force from the same date, under which the central authorities of the various States of the Empire, or bodies designated by these authorities, may require municipalities (or unions of municipalities) to establish and maintain public labour exchanges. They may also require municipalities (or unions of the same) to make contributions towards the cost of similar exchanges established by other municipalities (or unions). The States are also empowered to issue regulations in regard to the establishment and working of such exchanges.

RUSSIA.

Extension of Women's Labour in Factories.—The *Journal* of the Central Committee for War Industries of Petrograd, in its issue for 20th June (N.S.), discussing the great increase of women's labour in factories and works in Russia since the war, states that in the early days of the mobilisation the engagement of women to fill the places of skilled men was resorted to only by way of experiment; but work at the various machines was found to be so simple that in a short time it was possible to fill up the cadres of trained women-workers. The first women fitters were employed in the autumn of 1914 at a well-known private works in Petrograd. Then women began to be employed at lathes in Government workshops, and men taken from drilling, planing, milling and other machines were more and more frequently replaced by women without any complaints being heard from the employers as to reduced productivity of labour. At the time of reporting from four to five times as many women were being employed in factories and workshops in Petrograd as before the war, the total number being estimated to exceed 50,000.

ITALY.

Supply of Agricultural Labour: New Decree.—H.M. Ambassador at Rome, in a despatch dated 2nd June, 1916, reports that a Royal Decree was published in the Official Gazette of 1st June introducing certain measures calculated to ensure the harvesting of crops, providing such can be undertaken without interfering with military plans.

The objects particularly aimed at are (1) to provide men who are acquainted with the use of agricultural machinery where such are required; (2) to provide harvesters for districts which normally import paid workers, but which cannot obtain these from the neighbourhood this year on account of war conditions; (3) to provide supervisors to direct the work of the small home agriculturists and proprietors who cultivate their ground with the assistance of peasant labour; (4) to provide agricultural workers in large agricultural undertakings during the busiest harvest periods.

Applications for men accustomed to agricultural machinery and for harvesters are to be addressed to the mayors of the districts concerned, who, after examination, will forward them to the military authorities. The latter will then provide the men required, so far as possible.

Where it can be arranged, 15 days' leave will be given to peasant farmers or small proprietors who may require to go to their homes for harvesting purposes, if they are unfit for actual war service and if they are the only male members of their families available between the ages of 16 and 60.

NORWAY.*

Employment in May and June.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of May and June in certain Trade Unions making returns to the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries, comparative figures being added for the previous month and for the corresponding months of 1915:—

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries.

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	30th June, 1916.	31st May, 1916.	30th June, 1915.	30th June, 1916.	31st May, 1916.	30th June, 1915.
Bricklayers and Masons (Christiania) ...	754	768	578	...	0·7	...
Carpenters, &c. ...	1,639	1,655	1,241	...	...	5·6
Painters (Christiania) ...	391	392	407	...	...	1·2
Metal Workers ...	8,873	9,122	8,322	0·6	1·3	1·9
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	937	968	772	0·3	0·3	1·9
Printers ...	1,937	1,925	1,867	0·9	1·4	1·3
Bookbinders (Christiania) ...	679	675	633	0·6	1·6	1·1
Cabinet Makers ...	557	503	589	...	...	0·8
Bakers (Christiania) ...	457	460	433	1·9	3·3	3·9
TOTAL ...	16,224	16,468	14,842	0·5	0·1	1·5

SPAIN.

Strikes of Railway and Other Workers.—H.M. Ambassador at Madrid and H.M. Consul at Barcelona, in dispatches dated 5th July to 10th August, report a series of strikes which began with a stoppage on the railways at midnight on 12th July. This movement had its origin in the alleged failure of certain railway companies to grant a promised increase of 2½d. per day to employees receiving less than £16 per annum in money wages. The strike movement spread to other centres and other trades, particularly to Barcelona, where all the factories were closed, and the steelworkers, textile workers, seamen and firemen were on strike, as well as the railwaymen. At Bilbao there was a general strike of smelters and ironworkers. At Huelva a strike of seamen occurred. A strike was also reported at Salamanca.

On 13th July martial law was proclaimed in Madrid and in all provinces affected by strikes.

The railway strike came to an end on 19th July, the points at issue being referred, by mutual agreement, to arbitration by the Government Department of Labour (Institute of Social Reforms). The strikes of textile workers and seamen at Barcelona also terminated, no change being made in conditions of employment.

H.M. Ambassador considers that the underlying cause of these disputes was the enormous increase in the cost of living. Owing to the high prices of coal and other fuel, the cost of production and of transport in all trades has risen so greatly that it has been found impossible to increase wages.

UNITED STATES.*

Employment in May.—Returns furnished to the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics by representative manufacturers enable comparisons to be made as to the volume of employment in nearly 500 establishments—(a) between May, 1916, and April, 1916, and (b) between May, 1916, and May, 1915.

(a) Comparison of May, 1916, with April, 1916.

Industry.	Number of Establishments Reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Earnings.†		
		April, 1916.	May, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	April, 1916.	May, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
Iron and steel ...	101	140,139	145,102	+ 3·5	1,064,503	1,152,954	+ 9·2
Car building and repairing ...	38	42,020	42,761	+ 1·8	282,356	293,386	+ 3·9
Cotton manufacturing ...	55	54,620	54,771	+ 0·3	103,357	108,025	+ 4·5
Cotton finishing ...	15	11,490	11,130	- 3·1	27,939	29,760	+ 6·5
Hosiery & underwear ...	55	28,853	29,121	+ 0·9	56,550	58,037	+ 2·6
Woolen ...	44	37,384	37,814	+ 1·2	92,239	98,201	+ 6·5
Silk ...	47	20,253	19,980	- 1·3	93,322	93,216	- 0·1
Men's ready-made clothing ...	35	16,654	16,541	- 0·7	45,183	43,538	- 3·6
Boots and shoes ...	66	54,506	53,515	- 1·8	142,088	145,006	+ 2·1
Cigar manufacturing ...	62	20,939	20,373	- 2·7	44,780	44,929	+ 0·3

It appears that five of the industries show an increase in the number of persons employed and five a reduction. The greatest increase is 3·5 per cent. for the iron and steel industry, and the greatest reduction 3·1 per cent.

* Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, July, 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.

in the cotton finishing industry. With the exception of silk and men's ready-made clothing, all the industries return larger sums paid in wages in May than in April, the greatest increase (9·2 per cent.) being shown in the iron and steel industry.

(b) Comparison of May, 1916, with May, 1915.

Industry.	Number of Establishments Reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Earnings.*		
		May, 1915.	May, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	May, 1915.	May, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
Iron and steel ...	102	118,545	156,126	+ 31·7	744,210	1,259,129	+ 69·2
Car building and repairing ...	39	38,214	48,457	+ 26·8	224,465	328,589	+ 46·4
Cotton manufacturing ...	55	55,668	54,778	- 1·6	97,876	108,646	+ 11·0
Cotton finishing ...	14	10,281	10,467	+ 1·8	23,794	28,100	+ 18·1
Hosiery & underwear ...	53	25,414	27,914	+ 9·8	46,534	57,444	+ 23·4
Woolen ...	44	36,894	41,401	+ 12·2	76,681	104,288	+ 36·0
Silk ...	44	17,392	19,129	+ 10·0	72,585	89,497	+ 23·3
Men's ready-made clothing ...	38	15,308	16,606	+ 8·5	35,849	43,664	+ 21·8
Boots and shoes ...	66	48,225	59,234	+ 22·8	106,251	159,418	+ 50·0
Cigar manufacturing ...	69	11,728	10,799	- 7·9	22,728	23,675	+ 4·2

The number of workpeople in May, 1916, was greater than in May, 1915, in eight of the industries covered by the returns. The greatest increase shown (viz. 31·7 per cent.) is in the iron and steel industry. More wages were paid to workpeople in all the industries in May, 1916, than in May, 1915. The greatest increase in this respect was 69·2 per cent. reported for the iron and steel industry.

In addition to the data summarised above, 94 plants in the iron and steel industry reported an increase of 4·5 per cent. in the number of workpeople actually working on the last full day of the pay period reported for in May, 1916, as compared with the corresponding date in the preceding month, and 87 reported an increase of 32·9 per cent. on May, 1915.

Retail Food Prices in April.—The index number representing the level of retail food prices in the United States as a whole increased by 2 per cent. between 15th March and 15th April, and on the latter date was 10 per cent. higher than on 15th April, 1915, and 13 per cent. higher than on 15th April, 1914.

As compared with March, 14 articles out of the 26 taken were dearer, and 3 were cheaper. The greatest relative rises were in the case of onions and sugar. Eggs, cheese and potatoes fell slightly in price.

As compared with the corresponding date of 1915, 19 articles increased in price, the greatest relative rises being shown by potatoes, onions, beans and sugar. Flour, maize meal and prunes only were cheaper.

Operations of Federal Labour Exchanges in May.—The following data relate to the operations during May and the two preceding months of the Labour Exchanges established by the Division of Information of the Bureau of Immigration:

Month.	No. of Applicants for Employment.	No. of Persons for whom Situations were Found.	Percentage of Applicants Placed.
March, 1916 ...	19,484	7,030	36·08
April, 1916 ...	13,498	7,653	56·70
May, 1916 ...	17,614	11,453	65·02

New York State.

Employment and Wages in New York State in June.—Measured by the total amount of wages paid, activity in the factories of New York State was greater in June than in any other month of the previous two years. The total number of workpeople was greater than in May and only slightly less than in April, which holds the record for the two years.

The total number of workpeople employed was 16 per cent. greater than in June, 1915, and 13 per cent. greater than in June, 1914. The corresponding percentages for increases in total wages were 31 and 30 respectively. As in the preceding months of the past year, the total amount of wages continues to increase faster than the total number of workpeople.

* 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.

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

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good during July, and showed some improvement on the whole compared with a month ago. There was an increase of 2,353, or 0·4 per cent., in the number of workpeople employed compared with the previous month, and of 6,546, or 1·2 per cent., as compared with July, 1915.

Of the 539,554 workpeople included in the returns, 265,606, or 49·2 per cent. of the total, were employed at pits working twelve days* during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while a further 236,763, or 43·9 per cent., were employed at pits working eleven but less than twelve days.

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in July, 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 July, 1916, on a	Month ago.	Year ago.
		July 22nd, 1916.	June 24th, 1916.	July 24th, 1915.			
ENGLAND AND WALES.							
Northumberland ...	44,453	5·48	5·43	5·46	+ 0·05	+ 0·02	
Durham ...	92,170	5·53	5·60	5·42	- 0·07	+ 0·11	
Cumberland ...	6,490	5·84	5·57	5·80	+ 0·27	+ 0·04	
South Yorkshire ...	61,535	5·82	5·81	5·74	+ 0·01	+ 0·08	
West Yorkshire ...	25,375	5·78	5·75	5·53	+ 0·03	+ 0·25	
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	49,271	5·70	5·64	5·50	+ 0·16	+ 0·20	
Derbyshire ...	35,585	5·88	5·43	5·75	+ 0·45	+ 0·13	
Nottingham and Leicester ...	34,759	5·70	5·56	5·44	+ 0·14	+ 0·26	
Staffordshire ...	28,372	5·88	5·76	5·75	+ 0·12	+ 0·13	
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,646	5·83	5·82	5·78	+ 0·01	+ 0·05	
Gloucester and Somerset ...	6,212	5·33	5·66	5·97	- 0·33	- 0·64	
North Wales ...	7,970	5·95	5·81	5·88	+ 0·14	+ 0·07	
South Wales and Mon. ...	91,914	5·93	5·50	5·08*	+ 0·43	+ 2·85	
ENGLAND AND WALES.							
	492,552	5·74	5·60	5·12†	+ 0·14	+ 0·62	
SCOTLAND.							
West Scotland ...	19,826	5·46	5·47	4·44†	- 0·01	+ 1·02	
The Lothians ...	2,343	5·46	5·56	4·85†	- 0·10	+ 0·61	
Fife ...	24,828	5·51	5·56	3·55†	- 0·05	+ 1·96	
SCOTLAND							
	47,002	5·48	5·52	4·00†	- 0·04	+ 1·48	
UNITED KINGDOM							
	539,554	5·71	5·59	5·02	+ 0·12	+ 0·69	

Compared with the previous month employment showed a decline in Durham and in Gloucester and Somerset. In Scotland, also, employment showed a slight decline, which was accounted for by holidays. In every other district there was an improvement, which was most marked in Cumberland, Derbyshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in every district except Gloucester and Somerset; in South Wales and Monmouth the comparison with last year was affected by a dispute, and in Scotland by holidays.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in July, 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 July, 1916, on a	Month ago.	Year ago.
		22nd July, 1916.	24th June, 1916.	24th July, 1915.			
Anthracite ...	5,529	5·99	5·63	5·28	+ 0·36	+ 2·71	
Coking ...	29,171	5·60	5·78	5·48	- 0·18	+ 0·12	
Gas ...	36,734	5·61	5·51	5·43	+ 0·10	+ 0·18	
House ...	59,356	5·66	5·54	5·35	+ 0·12	+ 0·31	
Steam ...	189,142	5·78	5·56	5·58	+ 0·22	+ 1·20	
Mixed ...	219,622	5·70	5·61	5·23	+ 0·09	+ 0·47	
ALL DESCRIPTIONS ...	539,554	5·71	5·59	5·02	+ 0·12	+ 0·69	

Compared with a month ago employment showed an improvement at pits producing all classes of coal, ex-

* 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.

† These averages were affected by the strike in South Wales.

‡ These averages were reduced on account of holidays.

cept coking pits, which showed a decline. The improvement was most marked at anthracite and at steam coal pits. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement at all coal pits.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during July amounted to 3,574,000 tons, an increase of 70,000 tons on a month ago, but a decrease of 158,000 tons on a year ago.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

At iron mines employment was very good, better even than in June; at shale mines it was good, but showed some decline from the very high level of June owing to holidays. At tin mines it continued quiet, but lead miners were busy.

At quarries employment was, with some exceptions, fairly good.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods named below, relating to the same mines or works in each case, show 13,312 workpeople employed in July, 1916; this is 39 less than in June, and 450 (or 3·3 per cent.) less than a year ago.

The returns are summarised by districts in the following Table:

Districts.	Workpeople employed in July, 1916.	Average number of days worked per week by Mines in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in July, 1916, on a	Month ago.	Year ago.
		22nd July, 1916.	24th June, 1916.	24th July, 1915.			
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
Cleveland ...	5,563	5·84	5·63	5·60	+ 0·21	+ 0·24	
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,630	5·93	5·92	5·83	+ 0·01	+ 0·10	
Scotland ...	758	5·97	5·99	4·40	- 0·02	+ 1·57	
Other Districts ...	2,361	5·96	5·96	5·68	...	+ 0·28	
ALL DISTRICTS ...	13,312	5·90	5·81	5·63	+ 0·09	+ 0·27	

The weekly average number of days* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5·90, compared with 5·81 in the previous month and 5·63 a year ago. Compared with both a month ago and a year ago there was an improvement of about a quarter of a day per week in Cleveland, the principal district. The great increase (1½ days per week) in Scotland compared with a year ago is due to the holidays which were taken in 1915 but were not taken this year.

Shale.—The returns received show 3,138 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 22nd July, 1916, at mines which worked on the average 5·75 days per week, compared with 3,148 workpeople in June, 1916, at mines which worked 5·98 days, and with 3,235 workpeople in July, 1915, at mines which worked 5·66 days per week. The decline is due to holidays.

Tin.—In Cornwall employment continued quiet generally, and was adversely affected by the high cost of fuel and by the shortage of labour.

Lead.—In North Wales lead miners were fully employed. In Weardale and at Darley Dale (Matlock) employment continued good.

QUARRYING.

Slate.—In North Wales employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago. At Delabole (Cornwall) only three-quarter time was worked.

Granite.—In Leicestershire the macadam quarries were well employed. In the Cornwall and South Devon district employment continued dull. In Aberdeenshire employment was worse than in the previous month, owing to lack of labour and of material.

Limestone.—In the Cleveland and South Durham district and in Weardale employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. At Buxton it was fair; in the Plymouth district it was moderate.

* See note * in previous column.

Other Stone.—The Bakewell chert quarries continued well employed. At the Clee Hill road material (basalt) quarries employment continued good. At the Rowsley building and grindstone quarries employment continued moderate, but was slightly better than a year ago; some short time was worked on account of quarrymen assisting at the hay harvest. Employment at freestone quarries on the Tyne was fair. The depression at the Forfarshire sandstone quarries continued.

Sett-making.—Employment at Dalbeattie was practically at a standstill; in the Clee Hill district it was very quiet; in Leicestershire it showed a little improvement, and was fairly good.

China Clay.—In the St. Austell district employment was good, and better than in the previous month or a year ago; in the Shaugh and Lee Moor district it was fair, and showed little change.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. There was still much difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies of iron ore, limestone and coke. There was a shortage of workpeople, especially of general labourers.

Returns received show that 277 furnaces were in blast at the end of July, 1916, compared with 274 in the previous month and 264 a year ago. During the month three furnaces were relit—one each in Cumberland, Lancashire and Lanarkshire. None was damped down or blown out.

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in July, 1916, on	
	July, 1916.	June, 1916.	July, 1915.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Cleveland ...	70	70	66	...	+ 4
Cumberland and Lancs ...	33	31	27	+ 2	+ 6
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	11	11	11	...	...
Derby and Nottingham ...	27	27	28	...	- 1
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton ...	28	28	28	...	...
Staffs and Worcester ...	30	30	32	...	- 2
S. Wales and Monmouth ...	11	11	9	...	+ 2
Other districts ...	5	5	5	...	...
ENGLAND AND WALES ...					
	215	213	206	+ 2	+ 9
SCOTLAND ...					
	62	61	58	+ 1	+ 4
TOTAL ...					
	277	274	264	+ 3	+ 13

The imports of iron ore during July amounted to 748,000 tons, an increase of 102,000 tons on a month ago and of 145,000 tons on a year ago.

The exports of pig iron totalled 70,000 tons during July, compared with 77,000 tons a month ago and 78,000 tons a year ago. Of the July, 1916, exports, 53,000 tons were sent to France.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very good, and showed a further improvement.

Compared with a month ago the number of workpeople employed showed a marked increase in Cleveland, and some increase in the Leeds, Bradford, &c., district, but a decrease in the Northumberland and Durham district; the aggregate number of shifts worked showed a decrease in Northumberland and Durham, but a considerable increase in the Cleveland district and some increase in Scotland. In the other districts there was little change. As regards departments there was an improvement at crucible furnaces, but a decline at bessemer converters and at puddling forges. Other departments showed little change.

Compared with a year ago the number of workpeople employed and the aggregate number of shifts worked showed a decline in the Leeds and Bradford district, but an improvement in every other district and in all departments. The improvement was most marked in the Cleveland district and in Scotland, and chiefly affected open hearth melting furnaces and crucible furnaces.

According to returns relating to 114,241 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 22nd July, 1916, was 660,970, showing an increase of 3,648 (or 0.6 per cent.) on a month ago, and of 60,609 (or 10.1 per cent.) on a year ago.

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate number of Shifts worked.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	11,097	+ 0.7	+ 10.6	65,847	+ 0.6	+ 12.1
Crucible Furnaces ...	623	+ 1.8	+ 20.7	3,668	+ 3.4	+ 24.1
Bessemer Converters ...	1,544	+ 0.5	+ 5.0	8,383	- 2.6	+ 7.8
Puddling Forges ...	7,023	- 2.0	+ 5.1	36,242	- 2.3	+ 7.0
Rolling Mills ...	31,692	+ 0.9	+ 7.0	171,376	- 0.3	+ 8.2
Forging and Pressing ...	5,405	- 2.1	+ 4.8	30,995	- 0.4	+ 6.0
Founding ...	17,471	- 0.3	+ 8.7	112,900	- 0.3	+ 6.7
Other Departments ...	15,643	- 1.5	+ 5.2	90,609	- 1.5	+ 5.8
Mechanics, Labourers ...	23,543	+ 5.0	+ 18.1	140,950	+ 4.9	+ 19.5
TOTAL ...	114,241	+ 0.8	+ 9.3	660,970	+ 0.6	+ 10.1
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland & Durham	12,208	- 2.1	+ 2.2	69,664	- 2.1	+ 2.0
Cleveland ...	10,570	+ 7.5	+ 16.3	61,693	+ 7.1	+ 18.1
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	28,588	- 0.3	+ 9.6	175,080	- 0.3	+ 7.3
Leeds, Bradford, &c. ...	8,832	+ 1.5	+ 5.5	21,404	+ 0.5	+ 4.4
Cumberland, Lancashire, & Cheshire	8,337	+ 0.7	+ 1.7	46,882	- 0.3	+ 3.3
Staffordshire ...	9,479	+ 0.4	+ 3.5	52,277	- 0.2	+ 3.3
Other Midland Counties ...	5,733	+ 0.2	+ 7.5	31,984	- 0.1	+ 7.4
Wales and Monmouth ...	13,096	+ 0.5	+ 5.6	72,899	+ 0.1	+ 8.1
TOTAL, England & Wales ...	91,843	+ 0.7	+ 6.5	531,793	+ 0.4	+ 6.7
Scotland ...	22,398	+ 1.1	+ 22.7	129,177	+ 1.4	+ 26.7
TOTAL ...	114,241	+ 0.8	+ 9.3	660,970	+ 0.6	+ 10.1

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during July, 1916, amounted to 79,000 tons, about 1,000 tons more than in the previous month, but 56,000 tons less than in July, 1915.

The exports (excluding pig iron, black plates, tin plates and galvanised sheets) amounted to 160,000 tons in July, 1916, compared with 171,000 tons a month ago and 193,000 tons a year ago.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

GREAT activity continued in these trades, and a large amount of overtime was again worked. Trade Unions with 259,846 members (mostly in skilled occupations), reported 0.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of July, compared with 0.3 per cent. in each of the previous five months, and with 0.6 per cent. in July, 1915.

The number of workpeople (skilled and unskilled) in these trades insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was 953,451, of whom 0.4 per cent. were reported as unemployed at the end of July, the same percentage as in May and June.

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1916, on a	
		28th July, 1916.	30th June, 1916.	30th July, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	102,727	0.9	0.9	1.2	...	- 0.3
Northern Counties ...	92,237	0.3	0.2	0.3	+ 0.1	...
North-Western ...	181,993	0.6	0.5	0.6	+ 0.1	...
Yorkshire ...	119,536	0.2	0.2	0.3	...	- 0.1
East Midlands ...	59,365	0.4	0.4	0.3	...	+ 0.1
West Midlands ...	119,633	0.5	0.5	0.4	...	+ 0.1
Eastern and S.E. Counties ...	65,261	0.4	0.3	0.4	+ 0.1	...
South-Western ...	39,200	0.3	0.3	0.6	...	- 0.3
Wales ...	17,347	0.1	0.2	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.3
Scotland ...	136,407	0.2	0.2	0.3	...	- 0.1
Ireland ...	19,775	1.4	1.4	3.1	...	+ 1.7
UNITED KINGDOM ...	953,451	0.4	0.4	0.5	...	- 0.1

The general state of employment as described above applied, with few exceptions, to all districts and to all occupations. At certain towns, however, employment with ironmoulders was only fair; ironmoulders generally are in many towns somewhat less busy than other branches of the engineering trades. Some branches of the textile machinery trades are slack,

especially in Lancashire, where a good deal of short time was worked in this branch.

In the Leeds district, on the other hand, there was an improvement in the textile machinery trade.

The usual July holidays were postponed in the West of Scotland district.

The imports of machinery during July, 1916, were valued at £684,000, compared with £874,000 in June, and £897,000 a year ago.

The exports (British and Irish) were valued at £1,761,000, compared with £1,772,000 in the previous month and £1,715,000 a year ago.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

THESE trades continued to work at high pressure, with much overtime.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and shipwrights, with 72,976 members, reported 0.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of July, the same percentage as in May and June, compared with 0.4 per cent. in July, 1915.

The percentages unemployed among the 231,994 workpeople in the shipbuilding industry who are insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act are shown in the following Table:—

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1916, compared with a	
		28th July, 1916.	30th June, 1916.	30th July, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	10,139	0.9	1.1	1.4	- 0.2	- 0.5
Northern Counties ...	51,128	0.1	0.1	0.3	...	- 0.2
North-Western ...	35,896	0.1	0.1	0.3	...	- 0.2
Yorkshire ...	5,762	0.3	0.2	0.6	+ 0.1	- 0.3
East Midlands ...	1,540	0.6	0.3	0.9	+ 0.3	- 0.3
West Midlands ...	435	0.7	0.5	0.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
Eastern and S.E. Counties ...	7,134	0.2	0.1	0.8	+ 0.1	- 0.6
South-Western ...	22,068	0.3	0.4	0.9	- 0.1	- 0.6
Wales ...	11,028	0.1	0.1	0.8	...	- 0.7
Scotland ...	69,751	0.1	0.1	0.6	...	- 0.5
Ireland ...	17,113	1.0	1.5	3.6	- 0.5	- 2.6
UNITED KINGDOM ...	231,994	0.2	0.3	0.8	- 0.1	- 0.6

The only noticeable variations as compared with the preceding month, or exceptions to the general state of employment as described above, were as follows:—

On the Clyde there was not the same demand for platers as formerly, though this section of the trade remained well employed. Riveters and caulkers were still in good demand, though the difficulty in meeting the demand was not so great as it has been. The usual July holiday in this district was postponed.

An improvement in employment was reported at Dundee. At Aberdeen employment with shipwrights was reported as fair and not so good as a month ago, though overtime was worked on repairs for the Admiralty. At Belfast employment was good in some branches, but dull in others. On repair work at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool it remained only fair with shipbuilders, but improved to good with joiners.

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 July, 1916, at the works covered by the returns, together with the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 24,700 workpeople.

Works.	Number of Works open.			Number of Mills in operation.		
	At end of July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ...	75	+ 1	...	377	+ 4	- 31
Steel Sheet ...	12	...	+ 1	72	+ 1	- 6
TOTAL ...	87	+ 1	+ 1	449	+ 5	- 37

TINPLATE.

The number of mills working at the end of July was 4 more than in the previous month, but 31 less than a year ago. The position as to the supply of labour was somewhat easier than in the previous month, but an increased difficulty in obtaining sufficient steel bars caused irregular running at some of the works; shortage of sulphuric acid was also a serious handicap. Other materials were, however, reported as being rather more plentiful.

The exports of tinned plates and tinned sheets showed a large increase during July compared with a month ago, but a decrease compared with a year ago. Compared with a month ago the chief increases were to Australia (nearly 7,000 tons) and to France (nearly 3,500 tons); on the other hand, there were marked decreases in the quantity sent to Norway, Russia and the British East Indies. Compared with a year ago, Australia and France took largely increased consignments, while there were decreases to the British East Indies, China and Japan, and the Netherlands.

	July, 1916.	June, 1916.	July, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in July, 1916, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
To United States ...	108	35	83	+ 73	+ 25
„ British East Indies ...	1,832	2,721	4,343	- 880	- 2,511
„ France ...	8,882	5,514	6,376	+ 3,368	+ 2,506
„ Netherlands ...	2,482	1,040	3,637	+ 1,442	- 1,155
„ Russia ...	37	1,039	40	- 1,002	- 641
„ Norway ...	...	3,655	641	- 3,655	- 3
„ Portugal ...	2,001	1,082	1,513	+ 919	+ 488
„ Italy ...	1,803	1,373	1,438	+ 430	+ 305
„ China and Japan ...	2,938	2,408	4,456	+ 530	- 1,518
„ Australia ...	8,614	1,866	5,950	+ 6,748	+ 2,664
„ Canada ...	23	130	236	- 107	- 213
„ Argentina ...	691	1,097	1,409	- 406	- 718
„ Other Countries ...	8,763	8,391	9,346	+ 372	- 583
TOTAL ...	38,174	30,351	39,528	+ 7,823	- 1,354
Black Plates for Tinning.					
TOTAL ...	11,244	11,814	5,110	+ 2,430	+ 9,134

STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

In this branch of the trade the number of mills in operation at the end of July was one more than in June, but six less than a year ago. There was little change in the condition of this trade, and most of the work on galvanised sheets was to Government order. The scarcity of labour was mainly in the lower grade occupations; there was a marked shortage of boy labour.

The imports of crude zinc during July, 1916, amounted to 4,884 tons, compared with 4,561 tons a month ago and 4,117 tons a year ago.

The exports of galvanised sheets totalled 10,400 tons, or 500 tons less than a month ago and 20,800 tons less than a year ago.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

Most of these trades continued very busy during July, and much overtime was worked, especially by brassworkers, sheet metal workers and makers of cutlery. The ironplate trade was quiet and showed a decline. Trade Unions with 38,036 members reported 0.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of July, compared with 0.3 per cent. both in June and a year ago.

Brasswork and Bedsteads.—Brassworkers continued very busy during July. More than half of the workpeople were still working overtime, but not quite to the same extent as in June. With bedstead workers at Birmingham employment remained fair, and was about the same as a year ago.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—Employment continued good with makers of nuts, bolts, rivets and spikes at Blackheath and Halesowen, and with makers of nuts and bolts at Birmingham, Smethwick, Darlaston and on the Tyne. At Birmingham the wire nail and shoe rivet trade was very busy.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, &c.—All branches of the cutlery trade at Sheffield continued working at

high pressure; the demand for labour far exceeded the supply. Edge-tool makers at Wednesbury described employment as slack, and worse than in June; in the hoe trade it was fairly good. At Walsall employment was fair with saddle and harness furniture makers, but slack with bit and stirrup makers. At Redditch the needle, fish-hook and fishing tackle trades were well employed, especially on the cheaper classes of needles and fish hooks.

Tubes.—Employment at all the principal centres continued good. A shortage of skilled labour was reported. Brass and copper tube makers at Birmingham were very well employed.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, &c.—At Cradley employment was good with chain, anchor and cable makers; with block makers it was very good, and better than in the previous month or a year ago. With anchor-smiths it was good on the Wear and fair on the Tyne. At Walsall motor chain makers were fairly well employed, and with case hame and cart gear makers employment was fair; in neither case was employment so good as a year ago. On axles and springs at Wednesbury it was good, and at West Bromwich and Redditch makers of springs and small steel parts reported it as very good. Some spring fitters and vicemen at Sheffield were on short time. Anvil and vice makers continued well employed.

Sheet Metal Workers.—The brazing and sheet metal working trades continued active generally, and at certain towns much overtime was worked. At Birmingham employment was very fair; at Grimsby and Aberdeen it was fair; at Wolverhampton it was quiet, and worse than in the previous month or a year ago. In the ironplate trade employment in the Lye district and at Bilston, Dudley and Wolverhampton was slack, and at Birmingham quiet; there was a decline in all these districts.

Wire.—At Glasgow employment was fairly good with wire workers, and very good with wire weavers. At Norwich wire weavers were fully employed. Wire drawers at Halifax were very well employed; at Warrington, Sheffield and Manchester employment was good; at Ambergate it was fairly good. Wire rope makers on the Tyne and Wear continued well employed.

Locks, Hollow-ware, &c.—Employment with lock and latch makers at Wolverhampton and Willenhall was still good, but showed a slight decline on the previous month. At Wolverhampton employment was fairly good with tin and enamel hollow-ware makers, fair with cast-iron hollow-ware tanners and turners, and good with makers of galvanised tanks and hollow-ware. At West Bromwich it was fair with hollow-ware makers. Elsewhere in the Midland towns galvanised hollow-ware makers reported employment as slack generally, and much worse than a year ago; the majority of the workpeople were only working five days a week. With makers of builders' ironmongery at Wolverhampton employment was quiet, and worse than in the previous month or a year ago.

Stoves, Grates, &c.—In the Sheffield district employment was slack; at Rotherham and Thornaby moderate; at Leeds fairly good; and at Luton full time is now being worked. At Falkirk employment continued moderate.

Jewellery, Plated Ware, &c.—In London and at Birmingham and Sheffield employment in these trades continued good. At Birmingham there was a slight decline on the previous month.

Farriers.—Employment was good generally, and a good deal of overtime was worked on Government orders.

COTTON TRADE.

In the spinning section employment was good and better than a year ago, but owing to the scarcity of labour a number of spindles were idle during the month. In the weaving section there was some slackness.

Returns from firms employing 150,644 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 2.8

per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.5 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 5.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	19,086	+ 0.4	- 4.8	20,625	+ 2.6	+ 7.4
Spinning	32,399	+ 0.3	- 2.9	38,123	+ 2.5	+ 10.0
Weaving	72,972	- 1.2	- 5.1	81,707	+ 3.3	+ 3.3
Other	13,893	- 0.5	- 2.0	19,265	+ 1.1	+ 6.1
Not specified	12,494	- 1.2	- 7.3	15,357	+ 1.2	+ 3.2
TOTAL	150,644	- 0.6	- 4.5	175,082	+ 2.8	+ 5.5

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Ashton	6,167	- 0.8	- 8.7	7,313	+ 4.4	+ 6.0
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	11,665	- 0.3	- 2.6	12,673	+ 8.7	+ 8.0
Oldham	14,745	+ 0.5	- 2.2	19,513	+ 2.7	+ 8.3
Bolton and Leigh	23,653	+ 0.3	- 1.6	24,133	+ 0.9	+ 10.3
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden	13,303	- 0.7	- 5.3	15,485	+ 3.4	+ 4.4
Manchester	9,487	- 1.6	- 7.5	10,044	+ 5.9	+ 4.5
Preston and Chorley	10,618	- 0.2	- 6.5	11,985	+ 8.5	+ 8.6
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	26,233	- 2.3	- 3.6	31,497	+ 5.3	+ 4.5
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	18,510	+ 0.2	- 4.1	24,684	- 2.6	+ 0.5
Other Lancashire Towns	5,661	- 0.6	- 13.1	5,457	- 0.9	- 2.7
Yorkshire Towns	5,992	- 0.1	- 0.4	6,335	+ 0.4	+ 7.0
Other Districts	5,610	- 0.1	- 9.5	5,903	- 2.4	+ 2.9
TOTAL	150,644	- 0.6	- 4.5	175,082	+ 2.8	+ 5.5

In the Oldham district employment in the spinning section continued good and was better than a year ago, though slightly affected during the month by the firemen's dispute; owing mainly to shortage of labour about 12 per cent. of the spindles were idle during July. In the weaving section also employment continued good, but looms were standing empty in some cases for lack of weavers.

In the Bolton district employment was good with card-room workers and fair with spinners and weavers. There was still a serious shortage of labour, especially male, but there was also a shortage of women and girls, as in many cases female workers have left the mills and taken up work in munition factories.

In the Blackburn, Preston, and Darwen districts employment in the weaving section continued slack; in Blackburn an average number of 16 mills were closed each week during July, affecting about 3,700 workpeople; in Preston 6,000 looms employing about 2,000 workers were on short time. In the Burnley district employment was reported as fairly good.

The imports of raw cotton during July, 1916, amounted to 1,485,000 centals, or 72,000 centals less than in June and 91,000 centals more than a year ago.

The exports of cotton yarn during July, 1916, totalled 14,681,000 lb., compared with 17,964,000 lb. a month ago and 13,052,000 lb. a year ago. The quantity of cotton piece goods exported during July, 1916, was nearly 471,000,000 yards, compared with 500,832,000 yards a month ago and 538,617,000 yards a year ago.

COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

Description of Cotton.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	July, 1916.	June, 1916.	July, 1915.
	Month ago.	Year ago.	
American	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Brazilian	197,414	198,543	249,411
East Indian	2,612	4,707	5,205
Egyptian	3,375	5,308	8,797
Miscellaneous	13,536	18,839	19,496
	8,376	8,936	10,523
TOTAL	225,313	236,333	293,432
			- 11,020
			- 68,119

PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

The average daily price of "middling American" cotton at Liverpool during July, 1916, was 8.04d. per lb., a decrease of 0.28d. (or 3.4 per cent.) on the previous month, but an increase of 2.84d. (or 54.6 per cent.) on a year ago.

As regards "good fair Egyptian" cotton, there was only a slight increase (0.05 per cent.) on a month ago, but on a year ago the increase was very marked, and amounted to 4.48d. per lb. (or 63.7 per cent.). The average price for July, 1916, was higher than that for any month since October, 1910, when it was 11.60d.

	July, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
		MIDDLING AMERICAN: Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Monthly average of Daily Quotations	8.04	- 0.28	+ 2.84
Highest price on any one day	8.19	- 0.30	+ 2.85
Lowest " " "	7.95	- 0.21	+ 2.87
GOOD FAIR EGYPTIAN: Monthly average of Daily Quotations	11.51	+ 0.05	+ 4.48
Highest price on any one day	11.65	- 0.03	+ 4.45
Lowest " " "	11.42	+ 0.14	+ 4.47

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

MUCH activity prevailed, but employment was affected in all the principal districts by the insufficient supply of labour.

Returns from firms employing 19,480 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with both a month ago and a year ago; the corresponding earnings showed increases of 1.6 per cent. and 8.9 per cent. respectively. About 14 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime during the month.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Wool Sorting	507	- 3.8	- 2.5	627	- 2.6	+ 1.5
Spinning	4,923	- 0.0	+ 0.4	5,545	+ 2.6	+ 13.2
Weaving	7,443	- 0.6	- 2.5	7,930	+ 1.2	+ 6.5
Other Departments	5,131	- 0.3	+ 2.4	6,648	+ 1.3	+ 8.8
Not specified	1,416	- 0.5	- 3.2	1,746	+ 2.2	+ 7.6
TOTAL	19,480	- 0.5	- 0.5	23,496	+ 1.6	+ 8.9

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Huddersfield District ...	2,162	+ 0.4	- 1.2	3,215	+ 1.0	+ 18.6
Leeds District	2,023	- 1.5	- 7.5	2,680	- 0.6	+ 1.5
Dewsbury & Batley District	2,125	- 0.4	- 3.3	2,942	+ 5.5	+ 7.7
Other Parts of West Riding	2,364	- 0.4	- 1.5	3,013	+ 2.2	+ 7.1
TOTAL, WEST RIDING ...	8,674	- 0.5	- 3.3	11,860	+ 2.0	+ 8.7
Scotland	4,496	- 0.0	- 0.4	4,889	+ 3.8	+ 8.2
Other Districts	6,310	- 0.8	+ 3.4	6,747	- 0.6	+ 9.6
TOTAL	19,480	- 0.5	- 0.5	23,496	+ 1.6	+ 8.9

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley districts employment continued very good, but looms were standing for want of sufficient labour. In the heavy woollen district it was also very brisk. In the Leeds district the demand for khaki has fallen off, but this factor is compensated by a fair ordinary trade demand and by the requirements for hospital uniforms. In certain departments the withdrawal of men for the forces is causing some difficulty, but is being met to some extent by the employment of labourers to work under the direction of trained men. In the Rochdale district manufacturers were very busy on Government orders, and great difficulty was experienced in maintaining

the output of flannels required owing to the shortage of workers.

In Scotland employment continued good.

WORSTED TRADE.

In this trade employment continued very good, the supply of labour being unequal to the demand.

Returns from firms employing 29,395 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed practically no change in the number employed and an increase 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 2.3 per cent. in the number employed but an increase of 10.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 8 per cent. of the workers were on overtime during the month.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.†
Wool Sorting and Combing	2,222*	+ 0.3	- 3.8	2,974*	+ 3.0	+ 8.5
Spinning	14,001	- 0.2	- 1.4	11,292	+ 1.3	+ 12.8
Weaving	7,548	+ 0.7	- 3.9	8,837	+ 3.1	+ 8.5
Other Departments	3,533	+ 0.3	+ 1.6	4,713	+ 2.0	+ 11.7
Not specified	2,088	- 4.1	- 6.4	2,151	- 1.3	+ 8.0
TOTAL	29,395*	- 0.1	- 2.3	29,967*	+ 1.9	+ 10.5

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.†
Bradford District	13,027	- 0.3	- 2.4	13,433	+ 3.3	+ 13.9
Keighley District	5,629	+ 0.2	- 4.5	5,610	+ 0.9	+ 2.2
Halifax District	2,392	- 0.2	- 3.9	2,244	+ 1.8	+ 10.5
Huddersfield District	3,215	+ 1.1	- 3.0	3,586	- 0.2	+ 7.5
Other Parts of West Riding	2,133	- 1.1	+ 6.3	2,127	+ 0.4	+ 21.4
TOTAL, WEST RIDING ...	26,396	- 0.1	- 2.4	27,000	+ 2.0	+ 10.7
Other Districts	2,999	- 0.5	- 0.8	2,967	+ 1.5	+ 9.4
TOTAL	29,395*	- 0.1	- 2.3	29,967*	+ 1.9	+ 10.5

In the Bradford district employment continued very good, especially in the spinning section; the dispute which affected woolcombers in June terminated at the beginning of July. In the Huddersfield district there was some difficulty in getting yarns, but employment generally was good at this centre and in the Keighley and Halifax districts.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF WOOL.

The imports of wool (sheep's or lambs') amounted to 34,411,000 lb., a decrease of 11,694,000 lb. on a month ago and of 19,755,000 lb. on a year ago.

The exports of tops and of woollen and worsted yarn during July, 1916, amounted to 3,659,000 lb., compared with 4,028,000 lb. a month ago and 2,874,000 lb. a year ago. Exports of woollen tissues in July totalled 12,285,000 yards, as against 12,510,000 yards a month ago and 7,198,000 yards a year ago. The corresponding figures for worsted tissues were 4,821,000 yards; 5,249,000 yards and 5,148,000 yards respectively.

PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.

Compared with June, 1916, the average price of Lincoln hoggs-wool showed no change; 40's crossbred tops dropped 1/2d. per lb., and 60's super Botany tops increased 1 1/2d. per lb. Compared with July, 1915, Lincoln hoggs and 40's crossbred tops both increased by 1/2d. per lb., and the increase in the case of 60's super Botany tops was 10 1/2d. (or nearly 24 per cent.).

	July, 1916.	June, 1916.	July, 1915.
AVERAGE PRICES:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hoggs	19	19	18 1/2
40's Crossbred tops	26 1/2	26 1/2	25 1/2
60's Super Botany tops	53 1/2	52	43 1/2
COURSE OF PRICES:			
Lincoln Hoggs	19	19	18 1/2
40's Crossbred tops	26 1/2, 26	27, 26 1/2	27, 24 1/2
60's Super Botany tops	53, 54	51, 53	44, 42 1/2

* Excluding firms affected by the woolcombers' dispute in June.
† The comparison with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in Ireland continued quiet, but was better than a year ago; much short time was worked. In Scotland employment continued fairly good generally.

Returns from firms employing 39,173 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July, 1916, showed a decrease of 0·7 per cent. in the number employed but 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 0·7 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 13·3 per cent. in wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	5,838	- 0·5	+ 0·7	3,911	- 1·3	+ 14·3
Spinning ...	11,726	- 0·7	+ 0·1	6,889	- 0·3	+ 13·5
Weaving ...	12,623	- 0·9	+ 1·6	9,721	- 0·0	+ 14·3
Other ...	6,292	- 0·8	- 1·7	6,236	- 0·1	+ 10·0
Not specified...	2,694	- 0·1	-	2,028	+ 7·9	+ 15·8
TOTAL ...	39,173	- 0·7	- 0·7	28,785	+ 0·2	+ 13·3
DISTRICTS.						
Belfast ...	16,764	- 1·4	+ 1·3	11,871	- 1·9	+ 18·0
Other places in Ireland ...	11,808	- 0·2	+ 1·1	8,002	+ 1·7	+ 18·7
TOTAL, IRELAND ...	28,572	- 0·9	+ 1·2	19,873	- 0·5	+ 18·3
Fifeshire ...	5,226	- 1·1	- 8·5	4,025	- 0·3	+ 2·2
Other places in Scotland ...	4,844	+ 1·3	- 3·2	4,449	+ 4·5	+ 3·3
TOTAL, SCOTLAND ...	10,070	+ 0·1	- 6·0	8,474	+ 2·2	+ 2·7
England ...	531	- 4·2	+ 5·6	438	- 2·7	+ 20·7
UNITED KINGDOM ...	39,173	- 0·7	- 0·7	28,785	+ 0·2	+ 13·3

In the Belfast district a number of mills continued to work short time. Flax roughers and yarn spinners and power loom yarn dressers reported employment as fair. Power loom tenters stated that there was an improvement on a month ago. At Dunfermline the mills were busy; the foreign trade was bad, but home orders for the cheaper classes of coloured goods were fairly brisk. At Barnsley there was little change.

The imports of flax (dressed and undressed) during July, 1916, amounted to 18,800 tons, compared with 19,000 tons a month ago and 8,000 tons a year ago.

The exports of linen yarn during July, 1916, totalled 943,000 lb., compared with 1,462,000 lb. a month ago and 519,000 lb. a year ago. The figures for linen piece goods were 12,711,000 yards in July, 1916; 14,176,000 yards in June, 1916, and 11,879,000 yards in July, 1915.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, but showed a slight decline on a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 13,266 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July, 1916, showed an increase of 0·1 per cent. in the numbers 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 a decrease of 0·4 per cent. in the number employed and of 1·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	3,052	- 0·7	+ 1·8	3,032	- 0·4	- 2·6
Spinning ...	3,634	- 0·2	- 1·7	3,453	+ 0·7	- 3·5
Weaving ...	4,665	- 0·2	- 1·0	5,096	+ 0·5	+ 0·1
Other ...	1,915	+ 2·5	- 0·1	2,622	+ 2·9	+ 2·3
TOTAL ...	13,266	+ 0·1	- 0·4	14,203	+ 0·8	- 1·0

In the Dundee district, in which 93 per cent. of the workpeople reported on were employed, workpeople continued well employed, and overtime was occasionally worked on Government contracts. At Forfar and Kirkcaldy employment was very good, and overtime was worked in the finishing section at Forfar.

The imports of jute during July, 1916, amounted to only 2,349 tons, a decrease of over 8,000 tons on a month ago and of 16,500 tons on a year ago.

The quantity of jute yarn exported during July, 1916, was 1,781,000 lb., compared with 2,381,100 lb. a month ago and 3,751,000 lb. a year ago.

LACE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was good, except in the levers section. It was on the whole above the level of a year ago, especially in the plain net section. Manufacturers were handicapped by the growing shortage of labour.

Returns from firms employing 8,027 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 0·8 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase 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 0·7 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 11·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Levers...	1,846	- 3·3	+ 4·1	2,263	- 3·2	+ 12·9
Curtain ...	2,018	- 0·4	- 10·4	2,551	+ 0·6	+ 1·8
Plain Net ...	3,057	+ 0·1	+ 4·3	3,387	+ 3·0	+ 21·1
Others...	1,106	+ 0·6	- 1·5	1,014	+ 0·2	+ 6·5
TOTAL ...	8,027	- 0·8	- 0·7	9,215	+ 0·4	+ 11·5
DISTRICTS.						
Nottingham City ...	2,728	- 1·6	- 1·5	2,751	- 1·1	+ 7·5
Long Eaton and other outlying Districts ...	1,113	- 3·1	+ 1·3	1,465	- 5·1	+ 8·4
Other English Districts ...	2,651	+ 1·1	+ 7·4	3,067	+ 4·1	+ 25·6
Scotland ...	1,535	- 0·6	- 12·0	1,932	+ 1·5	+ 1·3
TOTAL ...	8,027	- 0·8	- 0·7	9,215	+ 0·4	+ 11·5

At Nottingham much short and irregular time was worked in the levers section, but the effect of the slackness has been to some extent counteracted by the withdrawal of labour; the curtain section was well employed, and the plain net operatives continued very busy, in part owing to Government orders for mosquito nets. At Long Eaton employment was fairly good; not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. In the West of England employment in the plain net section was much above the level of a year ago. At Newmilns employment continued good, and overtime was reported affecting 25 per cent. of the operatives to the extent of three hours per day.

SILK TRADE.

In this trade employment continued fairly good. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in numbers employed in the Lancashire and West Riding district and in the Eastern Counties, but an increase in average earnings in all districts. A general shortage of male and female labour was reported.

Returns from firms employing 10,146 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease 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 1·6 per cent. in the number employed; but an increase of 7·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

CARPET TRADE.

In this trade employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago for those still remaining in the industry. The supply of labour was unequal to the demand.

Returns from firms employing 6,076 workpeople and paying £6,540 in wages in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 1·1 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase 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 13·4 per cent. in the number employed and of 3·6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Kidderminster district employment continued fair, although this is the slack season in the carpet trade; the output of military blankets was large. In the Halifax district employment continued good. In Glasgow and other parts of Scotland employment on the whole was good.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

EMPLOYMENT generally continued good, and was better than a year ago. The supply of male and female labour was unequal to the demand, and production was also affected by the high prices and scarcity of raw materials.

Returns from firms employing 25,298 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 0·5 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 2·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3·8 per cent. in the number employed and of 14·8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

TRADES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bleaching ...	2,790	- 0·9	- 3·2	3,489	+ 2·2	+ 2·9
Printing ...	721	- 1·5	+ 7·3	1,135	+ 0·1	+ 23·1
Dyeing ...	13,082	- 0·6	+ 5·3	24,328	+ 1·2	+ 13·7
Trimming, Finishing and other Departments ...	7,258	+ 0·1	+ 3·0	9,865	+ 4·9	+ 9·5
Not specified ...	1,447	- 1·0	+ 6·9	2,422	+ 0·2	+ 15·3
TOTAL ...	25,298	- 0·5	+ 3·8	41,239	+ 2·0	+ 14·8
DISTRICTS:						
Yorkshire ...	12,412	- 0·1	+ 5·2	23,240	+ 0·3	+ 17·3
Lancashire...	7,865	- 0·4	+ 3·9	11,470	+ 7·9	+ 12·8
Scotland ...	1,716	- 1·4	- 4·3	2,070	+ 2·7	+ 4·3
Ireland ...	755	- 2·1	- 1·3	668	- 2·1	+ 10·8
Other Districts ...	2,520	- 1·6	+ 4·0	3,801	- 3·1	+ 13·1
TOTAL ...	25,298	- 0·5	+ 3·8	41,239	+ 2·0	+ 14·8

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire continued fair, and was better than a year ago. At Basford employment was good in the lace and hosiery sections, and much overtime was reported. At Dundee employment continued fair.

Printing.—With machine calico printers in England employment was moderate. In Scotland it was good with machine printers and engravers.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers continued good, and was better than a year ago; a considerable amount of overtime affecting about 85 per cent. of the workpeople was reported, partly caused by the shortage of labour. 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 during the month.

Trimming, Finishing, &c.—At Leicester and Hincley employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago. At Basford an improvement was reported, and overtime was general. At Dundee calender workers continued busy.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing ...	1,237	- 0·7	+ 1·6	643	+ 0·2	+ 6·3
Spinning ...	2,571	- 1·0	- 1·2	2,608	- 3·1	+ 14·8
Weaving ...	3,863	- 0·7	- 4·9	3,244	- 0·2	+ 2·8
Other ...	1,065	+ 0·6	+ 5·2	1,550	- 3·8	+ 8·8
Not specified...	810	- 1·2	- 4·6	787	- 2·5	+ 1·8
TOTAL ...	10,146	- 0·6	- 1·6	8,832	- 1·9	+ 7·3
DISTRICTS.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	2,766	- 1·4	- 5·3	2,879	- 1·4	+ 9·8
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	2,630	+ 0·2	+ 3·5	2,230	- 3·1	+ 7·2
Eastern Counties ...	2,900	- 1·2	- 3·7	2,374	- 1·3	+ 1·4
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,850	+ 0·4	+ 0·5	1,349	- 1·9	+ 13·7
TOTAL ...	10,146	- 0·6	- 1·6	8,832	- 1·9	+ 7·3

At Macclesfield, Congleton and Leek employment continued good in the principal departments, with the exception of hand-loom weavers in factories, with whom it was slack; it was, on the whole, about the same as a year ago.

Employment in the Eastern Counties was good at Sudbury and fair at Halstead and Braintree. In the West Riding there was a decrease of 5 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with a year ago, but an increase in average earnings, chiefly in the spinning department. At Coventry makers of artificial silk reported employment as fairly good; with ribbon workers it was fair.

HOSIERY TRADE.

DURING July employment continued good and was better than a year ago. Skilled male and female labour was in much demand.

Returns from firms employing 18,104 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed an increase of 0·3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3·4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 13 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime during the month.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester ...	6,853	- 0·0	+ 0·2	7,641	+ 1·0	+ 7·2
Leicester Country District...	1,835	+ 0·4	- 3·9	1,807	+ 3·9	- 0·3
Notts and Derbyshire ...	5,122	+ 1·1	+ 4·4	4,783	+ 3·5	+ 9·6
Scotland ...	3,063	- 0·5	+ 7·8	2,986	+ 5·2	+ 16·8
Other Districts ...	1,231	+ 0·9	+ 22·6	991	- 1·8	+ 26·9
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	18,104	+ 0·3	+ 3·4	18,208	+ 2·5	+ 9·4

At Leicester employment continued very good; the cotton hose department was slacker, but operatives engaged on Army and Navy contracts were fully employed, and skilled male and female labour was in much demand. At Hincley employment on shirts and pants was fairly good, but it was not quite so good as last month in other departments; at Loughborough the operatives were busy in nearly all branches.

In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment continued good with power-frame workers, and was better than a year ago; about 25 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of 8 to 10 hours per week. With hand-frame workers employment was fairly good. In Scotland employment continued good, and was above the level of a year ago.

* The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

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* The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

MUCH activity continued in this trade, and labour was in great demand. The Russian Boot Contract employed a large number of the available operatives in most of the principal districts; it caused a certain amount of dislocation in some departments, owing to the extra time taken in cutting and closing the uppers.

Returns from firms employing 60,434 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed practically no change in the number employed and an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 3.4 per cent. in wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	1,950	+ 1.3	- 2.8	2,904	- 1.1	+ 4.0
Manchester	11,859	+ 0.1	- 3.3	17,256	+ 1.0	+ 0.5
Leicester	2,284	- 0.5	- 4.3	2,972	+ 1.6	+ 2.1
Leicester Country District						
Northampton	8,687	+ 0.9	- 1.0	12,439	+ 3.5	+ 10.1
Northampton Country District	8,192	- 0.1	- 4.5	10,523	- 1.2	- 1.8
Kettering	3,536	- 1.0	- 7.4	5,094	+ 1.8	- 0.2
Stafford and District	2,685	+ 0.6	- 2.0	3,270	+ 2.5	- 3.2
Norwich and District	3,616	- 1.0	- 0.9	3,977	+ 1.9	+ 9.6
Bristol and District	1,736	- 3.1	+ 2.4	2,001	- 6.7	+ 6.2
Kingswood	2,154	- 0.5	- 1.6	2,734	- 0.6	+ 4.3
Leeds and District	2,248	- 2.5	- 1.6	2,741	- 1.4	+ 1.8
Manchester and District	3,752	+ 1.7	+ 11.2	4,499	+ 11.7	+ 14.1
Birmingham and District	902	- 1.3	- 2.7	1,011	+ 1.2	+ 9.7
Other parts of England and Wales	3,415	- 0.7	+ 4.4	3,702	+ 3.6	+ 5.3
ENGLAND AND WALES	57,014	- 0.1	- 1.6	75,123	+ 1.5	+ 3.5
SCOTLAND	2,856	- 0.7	- 2.6	3,690	- 0.8	+ 0.1
IRELAND	564	- 0.2	+ 4.1	537	+ 11.2	+ 12.8
UNITED KINGDOM	60,434	- 0.1	- 1.6	79,350	+ 1.5	+ 3.4

The exports (British and Irish) of boots and shoes of leather during July, 1916, amounted to 128,000 dozen pairs, compared with 140,800 dozen pairs a month ago and 86,700 dozen pairs a year ago.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, with overtime in certain districts. It was quiet, however, with short time, in some branches of the saddlery and harness trades at Walsall and Birmingham. With curriers at Birmingham short time was worked during the first part of the month, but employment afterwards improved to good.

Trade Unions with 3,808 members reported 2.2 per cent. as unemployed at the end of July, compared with 1.5 per cent. at the end of June and 1.1 per cent. a year ago. Most of the workpeople returned as unemployed were saddlers at Walsall.

The imports of raw hides (wet and dry) totalled 140,400 cwts., compared with 121,100 cwts. in June, 1916, and 180,400 cwts. a year ago.

The exports (British and Irish) of leather during July, 1916, were 17,900 cwts., compared with 18,600 cwts. a month ago and 11,100 cwts. a year ago. The exports of leather manufactures were valued at £145,000 in July, 1916, compared with £157,000 in June, 1916, and £148,900 in July, 1915.

TAILORING TRADE.

BESPOKE.

London.—There was a seasonal decline in employment as compared with a month ago, but little change as compared with a year ago. Returns from firms paying £9,251 in wages (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 6.3 per cent. in wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as fair at Manchester and Belfast, fairly good at Edinburgh, and quiet at Liverpool.

READY-MADE.

Employment continued fairly good in this branch, but was much less busy than a year ago. The supply of male cutters and female machinists was not equal to the demand.

About 12 per cent. of the workers were on short time during the month, and about 12 per cent. worked overtime; in July, 1915, about 20 per cent. worked more than the normal hours.

Returns from firms employing 32,141 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.0 per cent. in wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 13.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 13.6 per cent. in wages paid.

District.	Indoor Workpeople.					
	Number Employed.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Leeds	7,916	- 1.3	- 16.9	7,755	+ 2.1	- 13.7
Manchester	3,256	- 9.4	- 12.5	3,413	+ 2.1	- 11.8
Other places in Yorkshire, Lancs and Cheshire	4,258	- 0.3	- 17.3	3,381	- 2.0	- 16.1
Bristol	1,516	+ 1.6	- 20.8	1,209	- 2.0	- 21.7
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	3,338	+ 1.2	- 14.3	3,021	- 3.0	- 8.6
South Midland and Eastern Counties	3,806	- 0.4	- 3.6	3,247	- 0.6	- 9.5
London	4,121	- 1.1	- 16.3	4,950	- 0.4	- 21.5
Glasgow	794*	- 6.7	- 2.9	780	- 7.8	+ 5.1
Belfast	3,136	- 3.7	- 8.5	2,373	- 9.4	- 4.0
Rest of United Kingdom						
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	32,141	- 1.9	- 13.9	30,629	- 1.0	- 13.6

The total amount of wages paid to outworkers by the above firms showed a decrease of 5 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 37 per cent. compared with a year ago.

At Leeds employment on the whole was fair, but not so brisk as a year ago; about 14 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime during the month. At Manchester employment continued moderate.

At Hebden Bridge and Wigan employment continued good; at Huddersfield it continued fair on Government work; at Liverpool it was moderate. At Bristol employment showed little change compared with a month ago, but showed a decline of about 21 per cent. in numbers and wages as compared with a year ago. At Stroud employment was reported as good.

At Walsall and Tamworth employment was fairly good; at Norwich, Colchester and Plymouth it was fair; at Glasgow it was affected by the annual holidays.

In London employment continued fairly good; compared with a year ago there was a decline of 16 per cent. in the number of indoor workpeople and of 22 per cent. in earnings.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued fair in this trade; compared with July, 1915, there was a decline in numbers in all the principal districts except London, but with few exceptions there was an increase in average earnings.

The supply of labour in many cases was unequal to the demand, the shortage being most marked in London and Manchester.

Returns from firms employing 16,733 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of

* Excluding firms affected by holidays.

0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 15 per cent. of the operatives worked short time during the month, and about 10 per cent. were on overtime.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
London	4,627	+ 0.6	+ 5.9	4,520	+ 3.2	+ 13.8
Manchester	2,524	- 0.3	- 11.4	2,249	+ 11.4	- 11.6
Rest of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,691	- 1.1	- 3.7	1,206	+ 0.7	+ 1.4
S.W. Counties	1,707	+ 1.8	- 4.6	1,110	- 2.2	- 10.0
Rest of England and Wales	1,489	- 1.4	- 11.0	1,179	- 12.6	- 8.0
Glasgow	831*	- 2.0	- 12.9	701	- 2.0	- 6.3
Londonderry	1,915	- 0.3	- 3.5	1,136	- 1.5	- 1.1
Belfast	1,093	- 4.7	- 2.0	751	- 8.2	- 2.1
Rest of Ireland	856	- 1.0	- 4.0	511	- 3.9	- 3.4
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	16,733	- 0.8	- 3.7	13,393	+ 0.5	- 0.4

In London employment continued fairly good, and was above the level of a year ago; about 17 per cent. of the workpeople were on overtime during the month; in Manchester it was better than a month ago, but not so brisk as a year ago. In the South Western Counties employment was reported as moderate at Bideford and fairly good at Barnstaple. At Glasgow employment was affected by the annual holidays. In Ireland generally employment was moderate and not so good as a month ago; a good deal of short time was again worked in the Londonderry district.

HAT TRADE.

Silk.—Employment in this branch continued bad in London and in the provinces, and showed little change compared with a year ago; all the operatives were on short time.

Felt.—In this branch employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. At Denton employment was fairly good; about 25 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, while about 10 per cent. worked overtime; the short time was partly due to shortage of labour, which restricted output in the earlier stages of manufacture in some cases. At Stockport employment continued good, and was above the level of a year ago. In Warwickshire it was also good, and about the same as in July, 1915.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

DURING July employment in London with dressmakers in retail firms was on the whole fair, but showed a seasonal decline. Returns from firms chiefly in the West End, employing 2,027 dressmakers, in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 6.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

With court and private dressmakers employment was very slack and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 567 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 9.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 10.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

With milliners in the West End employment was moderate; it was somewhat affected by holidays.

MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and millinery trades, returns from firms in London employing 4,122 workpeople on their premises (in addition

* Excluding firms affected by holidays.

to outworkers) in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 7.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 15.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. The supply of labour was not quite equal to the demand.

At Manchester, returns from firms employing 4,636 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July in the costume, blouse, mantle, &c., trades showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good and machinists were still in demand.

At Glasgow employment was fairly good, but not so good as a month ago. Returns from firms employing 1,849 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 5.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. The supply of machinists and finishers was insufficient.

CORSET TRADE.

Employment continued good at most of the principal centres, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms (mainly in England) employing 6,678 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 22nd July showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 6.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

PRIVATE building work remained quiet, and many men, especially plasterers and masons, were still working in non-building occupations. Men remaining in the building trade, 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 0.9, the same percentage as in June, compared with 1.7 a year ago. For plasterers the percentage was as high as 2.8, but for painters, plumbers, navvies and labourers it was 0.8 or less.

Occupations.	Number Insured at end of July, 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of July.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Carpenters	108,782	1.2	...	- 1.2
Bricklayers	48,424	1.3	+ 0.3	- 1.1
Masons	27,491	1.4	- 0.2	- 1.2
Plasterers	13,904	2.8	+ 0.5	- 0.3
Painters	86,823	0.8	+ 0.1	- 1.0
Plumbers	28,669	0.6	- 0.1	- 0.9
Other skilled occupations	31,886	0.6	- 0.2	- 0.9
Navvies	96,465	0.4	...	- 0.4
Labourers	198,221	0.7	...	- 0.5
ALL OCCUPATIONS	640,668	0.9	...	- 0.8

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 0.8 or less in all divisions, with the exception of London, where it was 1.9, and of Ireland, where it was 3.3. For every occupation the highest percentage unemployed was in Ireland, and the next highest was in London. The percentage for plasterers was as high as 7.1 in Ireland and 4.6 in London, while for masons the corresponding figures were 6.6 and 4.0 respectively. Apart from these two occupations the percentage unemployed seldom exceeded 0.7 in any occupation in any division.

Compared with a month ago the percentage unemployed showed a slight increase with bricklayers in most districts, and a slight decrease with masons, other occupations showing little general change. In five districts the general percentage unemployed remained stationary; in five other districts there was an increase of 0.1 per cent.; while in Ireland there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent.

As compared with a year ago the percentage unemployed showed, with few exceptions, a decrease in every occupation in every district.

Districts.	Number Insured.	Per-cent- age Un- em- ply'd.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Number Insured.	Per-cent- age Un- em- ply'd.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
		Mnth ago.	Year ago.	Mnth ago.	Year ago.		Mnth ago.	Year ago.			
Carpenters.											
London	21,091	3.0	-0.1	-1.6		9,206	3.0	+1.0	-2.5		
Northern Counties ...	5,082	0.1	-0.1	-0.8		2,361	0.5	+0.3	-0.5		
North-Western ...	12,362	0.7	+0.1	-1.1		5,749	0.5	...	-1.0		
Yorkshire ...	8,380	0.6	+0.2	-0.5		4,142	0.3	+0.2	+0.6		
East Midlands ...	5,127	0.4	-0.3	-0.7		3,494	0.7	+0.3	+0.1		
West Midlands ...	5,533	0.5	+0.2	-0.2		3,458	0.2	+0.1	-0.3		
Eastern & S.E. Counties ...	14,992	1.0	+0.1	-0.7		9,433	1.3	+0.1	-1.6		
South-Western ...	14,135	0.7	+0.1	-1.2		4,213	0.9	+0.1	-0.9		
Wales ...	4,971	0.9	+0.2	-0.8		1,415	0.6	+0.1	-0.9		
Scotland ...	9,683	0.2	...	-1.0		1,583	0.1	-0.1	-1.0		
Ireland ...	5,426	3.5	-1.1	-5.6		1,370	5.2	+0.7	-1.2		
Masons.											
London	1,945	4.0	+0.3	-2.1		3,002	4.6	+2.2	...		
Northern Counties ...	1,387	0.1	-0.1	-0.6		590	0.1	-0.3	-0.4		
North-Western ...	2,617	1.0	-0.4	-2.0		1,501	2.6	-0.9	+0.9		
Yorkshire ...	3,387	0.4	-0.1	-1.1		1,462	0.3	...	-0.3		
East Midlands ...	666	1.4	...	-0.9		327	1.2	-0.6	-3.0		
West Midlands ...	585	0.5	-0.2	-1.6		674	1.6	+0.6	+0.6		
Eastern & S.E. Counties ...	767	0.8	-0.4	-2.6		1,096	3.6	+1.3	-2.4		
South-Western ...	4,992	1.2	-0.1	-1.1		1,598	2.7	-0.2	-0.2		
Wales ...	3,880	0.8	-0.2	-1.0		1,107	1.2	+0.5	-0.6		
Scotland ...	4,967	0.8	...	-1.0		1,412	0.8	-0.3	-0.7		
Ireland ...	1,771	6.6	-2.1	...		1,135	7.1	+0.1	+1.8		
Painters.											
London	25,504	1.5	+0.2	-1.8		6,520	1.2	-0.3	-2.3		
Northern Counties ...	2,924	...	-0.1	-0.2		1,470	...	-0.1	-0.4		
North-Western ...	10,553	0.3	...	-0.3		4,022	0.5	+0.1	-0.7		
Yorkshire ...	5,656	0.3	+0.1	-0.8		2,517	0.6	+0.3	-0.2		
East Midlands ...	3,342	0.1	-0.1	-0.7		1,115	0.3	+0.1	-0.8		
West Midlands ...	5,779	0.3	+0.2	-0.1		1,797	0.1	-0.2	-0.5		
Eastern & S.E. Counties ...	12,464	0.8	+0.1	-1.4		2,863	0.5	+0.2	-1.0		
South-Western ...	8,555	0.5	...	-0.6		2,361	0.2	-0.1	-0.5		
Wales ...	2,513	0.2	...	-0.4		807	0.4	-0.2	-0.6		
Scotland ...	6,315	0.2	+0.1	-0.8		4,132	0.0	-0.1	-0.6		
Ireland ...	3,218	2.0	+0.8	-1.6		1,090	2.9	-1.3	-1.3		
Plumbers.											
London	10,514	1.2	-0.3	-2.3		10,514	1.4	...	-0.7		
Northern Counties ...	2,924	...	-0.1	-0.2		1,470	...	-0.1	-0.4		
North-Western ...	10,553	0.3	...	-0.3		4,022	0.5	+0.1	-0.7		
Yorkshire ...	5,656	0.3	+0.1	-0.8		2,517	0.6	+0.3	-0.2		
East Midlands ...	3,342	0.1	-0.1	-0.7		1,115	0.3	+0.1	-0.8		
West Midlands ...	5,779	0.3	+0.2	-0.1		1,797	0.1	-0.2	-0.5		
Eastern & S.E. Counties ...	12,464	0.8	+0.1	-1.4		2,863	0.5	+0.2	-1.0		
South-Western ...	8,555	0.5	...	-0.6		2,361	0.2	-0.1	-0.5		
Wales ...	2,513	0.2	...	-0.4		807	0.4	-0.2	-0.6		
Scotland ...	6,315	0.2	+0.1	-0.8		4,132	0.0	-0.1	-0.6		
Ireland ...	3,218	2.0	+0.8	-1.6		1,090	2.9	-1.3	-1.3		
Navvies.											
London	7,065	1.3	-0.4	-2.2		10,514	1.4	...	-0.7		
Northern Counties ...	2,108	0.1	...	-0.7		5,679	0.2	+0.1	...		
North-Western ...	4,274	0.7	+0.3	-0.5		12,355	0.3	...	-0.1		
Yorkshire ...	2,432	0.2	+0.1	-0.4		12,014	0.1	...	-0.4		
East Midlands ...	1,232	0.1	-0.5	-0.7		4,683	0.3	-0.1	-0.4		
West Midlands ...	2,477	0.2	-0.1	-0.4		8,968	0.1	...	-0.3		
Eastern & S.E. Counties ...	2,383	0.5	-0.1	-0.4		8,938	0.4	-0.2	-0.1		
South-Western ...	2,113	0.3	-1.5	-1.1		7,145	0.7	+0.5	-0.7		
Wales ...	1,126	0.2	+0.1	-0.5		10,255	0.1	-0.1	-0.3		
Scotland ...	5,090	0.2	+0.1	-0.1		13,341	0.1	...	-0.1		
Ireland ...	986	3.1	-1.2	-0.6		4,573	1.7	-0.2	-3.3		
Other Skilled Workers.											
London	43,585	1.6	+0.2	-0.9		129,032	1.9	+0.1	-1.5		
Northern Counties ...	8,483	0.1	...	-0.2		30,634	0.2	+0.1	-0.3		
North-Western ...	23,162	0.5	...	...		76,595	0.5	...	-0.4		
Yorkshire ...	16,327	0.3	...	-0.2		56,297	0.3	+0.1	-0.5		
East Midlands ...	8,951	0.3	...	-0.1		28,937	0.4	...	-0.4		
West Midlands ...	13,806	0.3	...	-0.7		45,107	0.3	+0.1	-0.2		
Eastern & S.E. Counties ...	26,003	0.4	...	-0.6		78,944	0.8	+0.1	-0.8		
South-Western ...	23,372	0.5	-0.1	-0.6		68,884	0.7	...	-0.3		
Wales ...	10,858	0.3	...	-0.3		36,932	0.4	...	-0.6		
Scotland ...	14,241	0.2	...	-0.2		60,764	0.2	...	-0.6		
Ireland ...	9,173	2.9	-0.1	-1.3		28,742	3.3	-0.3	-2.1		
Labourers.											
London	43,585	1.6	+0.2	-0.9		129,032	1.9	+0.1	-1.5		
Northern Counties ...	8,483	0.1	...	-0.2		30,634	0.2	+0.1	-0.3		
North-Western ...	23,162	0.5	...	...		76,595	0.5	...	-0.4		
Yorkshire ...	16,327	0.3	...	-0.2		56,297	0.3	+0.1	-0.5		
East Midlands ...	8,951	0.3	...	-0.1		28,937	0.4	...	-0.4		
West Midlands ...	13,806	0.3	...	-0.7		45,107	0.3	+0.1	-0.2		
Eastern & S.E. Counties ...	26,003	0.4	...	-0.6		78,944	0.8	+0.1	-0.8		
South-Western ...	23,372	0.5	-0.1	-0.6		68,884	0.7	...	-0.3		
Wales ...	10,858	0.3	...	-0.3		36,932	0.4	...	-0.6		
Scotland ...	14,241	0.2	...	-0.2		60,764	0.2	...	-0.6		
Ireland ...	9,173	2.9	-0.1	-1.3		28,742	3.3	-0.3	-2.1		
All Occupations.											
London	43,585	1.6	+0.2	-0.9		129,032	1.9	+0.1	-1.5		
Northern Counties ...	8,483	0.1	...	-0.2		30,634	0.2	+0.1	-0.3		
North-Western ...	23,162	0.5	...	...		76,595	0.5	...	-0.4		
Yorkshire ...	16,327	0.3	...	-0.2		56,297	0.3	+0.1	-0.5		
East Midlands ...	8,951	0.3	...	-0.1		28,937	0.4	...	-0.4		
West Midlands ...	13,806	0.3	...	-0.7		45,107	0.3	+0.1	-0.2		
Eastern & S.E. Counties ...	26,003	0.4	...	-0.6		78,944	0.8	+0.1	-0.8		
South-Western ...	23,372	0.5	-0.1	-0.6		68,884	0.7	...	-0.3		
Wales ...	10,858	0.3	...	-0.3		36,932	0.4	...	-0.6		
Scotland ...	14,241	0.2	...	-0.2		60,764	0.2	...	-0.6		
Ireland ...	9,173	2.9	-0.1	-1.3		28,742	3.3	-0.3	-2.1		

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

MILL SAWING AND MACHINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally. Overtime was reported at Bristol, at Liverpool, on the Tyne and Wear, and in the Glasgow district.

The percentage unemployed at the end of July among workpeople engaged in saw-milling and insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was 0.6, compared with 0.6 in the previous month and 1.1 in July, 1915.

FURNISHING.

In the furnishing trades generally employment showed, on the whole, a slight improvement, and was decidedly better than a year ago.

With cabinet-makers and upholsterers employment

continued fairly good on the whole. Overtime was reported by cabinet makers on the Tyne, and at Glasgow, Dublin, Nottingham and Barnstaple.

COACH BUILDING.

Employment was again good, and about the same as a year ago. Overtime, partly on Government orders, was worked in London, Bristol, Glasgow, and other centres; and both overtime and short time were again reported at Saltley (Birmingham) and at Coventry.

COOPERS.

Employment was very good generally. Overtime, due in some cases to a shortage of labour, was reported at Gateshead, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Edinburgh and Alloa.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Brushmaking.—Employment continued good generally; it was very good at Leeds. Overtime was reported in London, and at Leeds, Lincoln, Plymouth, Edinburgh and Belfast.

Other Trades.—Employment was fairly good in all districts with wheelwrights and smiths. It was good generally with packing-case makers, except at Liverpool and at Belfast, where short time was worked.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK TRADE.

For the workpeople remaining in the trade, whose number had decreased largely since July, 1915, employment was, on the whole, fairly good, showing little change on the previous month except in the southern and south-western counties and in Wales, where there was a decline.

Employment continued moderate in the Tees and Hartlepoons district. For those still employed in the trade it was fairly good at Peterborough and Nottingham and in the Stourbridge district, and fair in South Staffordshire.

Returns from firms employing 5,746 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July, 1916, showed a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed

and of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 16.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 7.6 per cent. in the wages paid.

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire	2,579	- 2.1	+ 0.7	£ 4,206	- 0.7	+ 13.1
Midland and Eastern Counties	1,587	- 0.3	- 27.7	2,160	+ 0.1	- 19.2
S. and S.W. Counties and Wales	818	- 3.5	- 28.6	1,358	- 13.4	- 26.1
Scotland	538	- 0.2	- 15.3	801	+ 1.3	- 5.5
Other Districts	224	- 3.4	- 40.4	314	- 3.1	- 35.3
TOTAL	5,746	- 1.7	- 16.9	8,839	- 2.6	- 7.6

CEMENT TRADE.

Employment continued good, and much overtime was worked. There was again a general shortage of male labour, especially of labourers and quarrymen.

Returns from firms employing 6,553 workpeople in the week ended 24th July, 1916, showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good on the whole, but not so good as a month ago. Both short time and overtime were reported, and there was a continued scarcity of male labour.

Returns from firms employing 16,514 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease in the number employed of 1.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Districts.	Workpeople paid Wages in the week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
MACHINE-MADE PAPER AND MILLED BOARDS:		Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties	4,778	- 1.1	- 0.2
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland	1,084	- 1.8	- 3.6
Southern Counties	5,606	- 0.3	- 4.5
Scotland	4,357	- 1.5	- 5.7
TOTAL MACHINE-MADE PAPER, &c.	15,825	- 1.0	- 3.5
Hand-made Paper	689	- 0.6	+ 5.4
TOTAL	16,514	- 1.0	- 3.2

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 3,501 members had 0.2 per cent. unemployed, the same percentage as in May and June; in July, 1915, the percentage was 0.7.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment continued fairly good in July, the supply of labour (especially of machine minders) remaining inadequate in many cases owing to enlistments, notwithstanding a continued contraction of business.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 44,366 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of June was 1.7, compared with 1.8 a month ago and 2.2 a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		July, 1916.	June, 1916.	July, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago, the improvement being very marked in the china section. It was again fair with makers of tiles and sanitary ware. There was a continued scarcity of male labour of all kinds, especially of biscuit and glost placers, ovenmen and kilnmen. Female labour continued to be introduced where possible.

Returns from firms employing 16,454 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July, 1916, showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and 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 2.5 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 6.6 per cent. in the wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
China Manufacture	2,937	+ 0.4	+ 16.1	4,434	- 3.6	+ 29.9		
Earthenware Manufacture	10,543	- 0.4	- 1.9	11,683	- 0.6	+ 4.0		
Other Branches (including unspecified)	2,974	- 1.5	- 17.4	3,185	+ 0.6	- 7.7		
TOTAL	16,454	- 0.5	- 2.5	19,312	- 1.1	+ 6.6		
DISTRICTS.								
Potteries	12,291	- 0.4	- 3.4	13,394	- 0.1	+ 3.4		
Other Districts	4,163	- 0.9	+ 0.4	5,918	- 3.2	+ 14.8		
TOTAL	16,454	- 0.5	- 2.5	19,312	- 1.1	+ 6.6		

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, any short time worked being due to stoppage for repairs or to the shortage of certain classes of labour. In many cases overtime was worked.

Returns from firms employing 9,702 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and 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 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 10.7 per cent. in the wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Glass Bottle	6,856	- 1.4	+ 0.9	12,104	- 0.6	+ 12.1		
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,885	- 0.4	+ 2.1	2,661	+ 0.5	+ 13.7		
Other Branches	961	- 1.4	- 13.7	1,371	+ 2.9	- 4.7		
TOTAL	9,702	- 1.2	- 0.5	16,136	- 0.2	+ 10.7		
DISTRICTS.								
North of England	879	- 1.1	- 3.3	1,506	+ 12.6	+ 11.1		
Yorkshire	4,699	- 2.3	- 2.7	8,101	- 2.6	+ 7.4		
Lancashire	1,240	- 2.4	+ 11.4	1,869	+ 1.5	+ 21.7		
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	979	+ 1.7	- 5.4	1,332	- 1.5	- 2.6		
Scotland	712	- 0.4	- 14.1	1,074	+ 1.6	- 1.0		
Other parts of the United Kingdom	1,193	+ 1.6	+ 14.8	2,254	- 0.1	+ 33.0		
TOTAL	9,702	- 1.2	- 0.5	16,136	- 0.2	+ 10.7		

The glass bottle trade remained very active throughout, and continued to benefit from the absence of foreign competition; there was a general shortage of labour. With flint glass makers and cutters in the Midlands employment continued good, but with cutters at Edinburgh it was reported as slack. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it was fair. At St. Helens it was good with sheet and plate glass workers; with sheet glass flatteners it was reported as only moderate.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good. The jam and fruit preserving trades were very busy owing to the season; other branches showed no marked change.

Returns from firms employing 56,403 workpeople in the week ended 22nd July showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the previous month. As compared with July of last year there was a decline of 3.6 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Trade.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Sugar Refining, &c.	4,796	+ 0.0	+ 4.8	8,160	- 2.6	+ 10.6		
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	27,255	- 2.3	- 9.1	30,445	+ 1.6	- 4.1		
Biscuits, Cakes, &c.	8,283	+ 4.8	+ 0.0	8,167	+ 5.0	- 2.5		
Jams, Marmalade, &c.	8,832	+ 25.5	- 4.0	8,659	+ 26.2	+ 8.0		
Bacon and Preserved Meats	6,382	+ 2.0	+ 12.4	7,301	+ 3.9	+ 20.9		
Pickles, Sauces, &c.	855	- 1.0	+ 8.6	808	- 1.0	+ 15.1		
TOTAL	56,403	+ 3.0	- 3.6	63,540	+ 4.5	+ 2.1		

Some firms in the cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery trades reported a reduction in demand, and some consequent slackness in employment; nevertheless on the whole more overtime than short time was worked in this branch.

The biscuit trade was good on the whole, and much better than in the previous month; some firms were busy on orders for Army canteens: on the other hand, one firm reported the cake trade as very dull.

Much overtime was worked in the jam trade, except in Scotland, where the shortage and high price of fruit and of sugar made firms less busy than is usual at this season. In the bacon trade employment was good in Wiltshire, but in the Midlands and in Ireland it was affected by the short supply of pigs; the preserved provision trade continued busy on Government orders. The bacon and preserved meat trade as a whole showed a marked improvement on July of last year.

There was a general complaint of shortage of male labour.

AGRICULTURE.*

ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE weather during the first half of July was wet and cold, but later on became warm and sunny. The hay harvest was protracted in consequence, and at the end of the month a considerable quantity remained to be cut. Labour was still everywhere deficient, but owing largely to the assistance of women and of soldiers, and the use of machinery, the scarcity of labour for hay-making has not been felt so badly as was feared. Turnip-hoeing, however, has been much neglected in many parts of the country. In Yorkshire help has been rendered by Irish migratory labourers.

SCOTLAND.

Owing to the wet weather in the first fortnight of the month, the cutting of the hay crop in Scotland was delayed considerably. When the weather conditions improved, progress became unusually rapid. The shortage of competent labour, both permanent and casual, continued, and much difficulty was experienced in overtaking the work, especially in weeding. In some parts women and boys have given much help, and soldiers have been assisting in certain districts. In the Lothians Irish migratory labourers were scarce, while in south Ayrshire they were said to be asking high wages.

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

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, except at certain ports on the East Coast, where it was slack.

LONDON AND TILBURY.

London.—Employment continued fair, showing on the whole a slight improvement on the previous month, but was not so good as a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended 29th July was 17,105, an increase of 0.9 per cent. on a month ago, and a decrease of 8.5 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.	Total.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.			
Week ended July 1st	7,139	3,332	10,471	7,003	17,474	16,963
" " " 8th	7,027	3,164	10,191	6,773	16,963	16,379
" " " 15th	7,375	2,782	10,157	6,976	17,133	17,133
" " " 22nd	7,241	3,418	10,659	6,798	17,457	17,457
" " " 29th	7,040	2,885	9,925	6,573	16,498	16,498
Average for 5 weeks ended 29th July, 1916.	7,165	3,116	10,281	6,824	17,105	17,105
Average for June, 1916.	6,940	2,790	9,730	7,229	16,959	16,959
" " July, 1915.	7,738	3,237	10,975	7,716	18,691	18,691

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

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	16,782	12	17,693	22	16,866
2	17,299	13	17,472	23	17,111
3	17,304	14	17,174	24	16,879
4	17,423	15	16,973	25	17,017
5	16,973	16	17,653	26	16,617
6	16,386	17	17,753	27	16,017
7	16,395	18	17,601	28	15,345
8	16,464	19	17,642	29	15,600
9	17,019	20	17,224	30	15,600
10	17,019	21	17,224	31	15,600
11	17,019	21	17,224		

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during July was 2,127, compared with 2,002 a month ago and 2,042 during July, 1915.

OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—On the Tyne employment was good on imported cargoes of grain, ironstone and wood pulp; it was quiet on exported cargoes. It was fair generally at Blyth, but not so good as a month ago. Coal trimmers and teamers were fairly well employed on the Tyne and Wear, and at Blyth. Employment continued fairly good at Hartlepool, and good at Middlesbrough. It was slack generally, and worse than a year ago, at Hull, Grimsby, Goole, Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Lynn. It improved at Ipswich.

South and West Coasts.—Employment was fair and slightly better than a month ago at Plymouth; it was good at Dartmouth, Hayle, Penryn, and Falmouth. Employment was good, with a further improvement on a month ago, at Bristol and Gloucester, much overtime being worked at Bristol. At Cardiff, Barry and Newport dock labourers continued well employed generally, and coal trimmers were very busy. At Swansea employment was very good. At Liverpool employment was fairly good on the whole, with a decline at the South End docks on both a month ago and a year ago. At the North End overtime was general.

SCOTTISH AND IRISH PORTS.

Employment was good at Leith, and fair at Dundee. There was a further improvement at Glasgow, where overtime was reported, and employment was good at Ayr and Troon. It was fair at Belfast, but not so good as a year ago; fair at Cork, dull at Limerick and Waterford.

* Sundays are omitted.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT again showed, on the whole, an improvement; it continued good generally, except at certain ports on the East Coast.

East Coast.—At Hartlepool employment was good generally. At Hull and Grimsby it continued good with fishermen and fish dock labourers; with fish curers it continued moderate at Hull, and was very fair at Grimsby. Very little fishing was done at Great Yarmouth, most of the men having found other work. Employment continued moderate at Lowestoft and slack at Brightlingsea.

South Coast.—Employment off the coasts of Devon and Cornwall was good on the whole. Fish curers, packers and carters continued fairly well employed.

Scotland.—Employment continued steady at Arbroath, and was fair at Montrose; there was a decline at Dundee. A general improvement occurred at Aberdeen. There was a slight improvement at Peterhead. It was good with fishermen at Fraserburgh, and fair with fish dock labourers and curers.

The total quantity of fish landed in July, 1916, was 1,185,212 cwts., as compared with 745,580 cwts. a year ago and with 2,653,137 cwts. in July, 1913; while the total value amounted to £1,038,788 in July, 1916, as compared with £869,164 a year ago and with £1,558,724 in July, 1913.

Fish (other than shell):	Quantity.		Value.	
	July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on July, 1915.	July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on July, 1915.
England and Wales	511,845	+ 79,881	616,758	+ 32,505
Scotland	616,511	+ 375,261	352,649	+ 146,762
Ireland	56,856	- 18,510	39,336	- 10,439
TOTAL	1,185,212	+ 439,632	1,008,743	+ 168,828
Shell Fish	—	—	30,045	+ 796
TOTAL VALUE	1,185,212	+ 439,632	1,038,788	+ 169,624

SEAMEN.

THE supply of seamen and firemen for mercantile ships during July was not quite equal to the demand. From South Shields it was reported that the supply of seamen and firemen was again in excess of the demand; on the other hand, some shortage of seamen was reported from North Shields, Southampton, Bristol, Avonmouth, Penarth, Liverpool, and London, except at Dock Street.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Seven months ended		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1916.
		Month ago.	Year ago.	July, 1915.	July, 1916.	
ENGLAND AND WALES:						
East Coast—						
Tyne Ports	2,097	+ 372	- 234	12,525	11,701	- 824
Sunderland	275	+ 85	- 51	2,059	1,582	- 477
Middlesbrough	436	+ 46	+ 32	1,598	2,565	+ 967
Hull	1,240	+ 262	- 53	8,785	7,687	- 1,098
Grimsby	58	+ 1	+ 37	361	262	- 99
Bristol Channel—						
Bristol	1,146	+ 297	- 1,107	9,158	6,726	- 2,432
Newport, Mon.	842	+ 185	- 80	7,151	6,098	- 1,053
Cardiff	5,098	+ 735	- 115	33,547	30,347	- 3,200
Swansea	331	+ 167	+ 81	2,364	1,955	- 769
Other Ports—						
Liverpool	10,432	- 2,563	- 3,706	91,516	75,639	- 15,877
London	7,965	+ 581	- 1,300	56,696	49,413	- 7,283
Southampton	890	- 423	- 554	9,387	6,251	- 3,136
SCOTLAND:						
Leith	614	+ 323	+ 232	2,273	3,169	+ 896
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	42	+ 5	- 75	543	281	- 262
Glasgow	2,766	- 398	- 631	21,035	18,726	- 2,309
IRELAND:						
Belfast	401	+ 322	+ 95	3,144	1,189	- 1,955
TOTAL	34,663	- 363	- 7,376	262,142	223,231	- 38,911

* 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 JULY.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of new disputes in July was 31, as compared with 37 in the previous month and 40 in July, 1915. In these new disputes 21,236 workpeople were directly and 4,094 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before July and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 34,520 workpeople involved in trade disputes in July, 1916, as compared with 33,823 in the previous month, and 209,261 in July, 1915.

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

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	2	47	...	47
Coal Mining	5	3,793	836	4,629
Engineering	5	566	44	610
Shipbuilding	5	10,629	44	10,673
Other Metal	1	10	39	49
Textile	5	889	3,118	4,007
Transport	4	5,141	...	5,141
Miscellaneous	4	161	57	218
TOTAL, JULY, 1916	31	21,236	4,094	25,330
TOTAL, JUNE, 1916	37	21,296	244	21,540
TOTAL, JULY, 1915	40	202,095	1,989	204,084

Causes.—Of the 31 new disputes, 20 arose on demands for advances in wages, 1 against a proposed reduction in wages, 3 on other wages questions, 1 on a question affecting hours of labour, 2 on details of working

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

Occupations and Locality.†	Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡				
BUILDING:— Painters—Birkenhead	600	...	1st May	66	For advance in wages of 2½d. per hour and other alterations in working rules.	Advance in wages of 1½d. per hour granted, with certain other alterations in working rules.
COAL MINING:— Miners, mechanics, cokemen, &c.—Bishop Auckland	1,500§	...	12th July	5	Dissatisfaction with wages earned.	"Score prices" advanced so as to bring earnings above minimum wage.
Underground and surface workers.—Cardiff (near)	1,870	...	17th July	6	For discharge of certain officials.	Work resumed unconditionally.
ENGINEERING:— Shuttle-makers.—Blackburn, Radcliffe, Todmorden, etc.	400§	...	10th July	6	For advance in wages and for retention of system whereby weekly earnings were not allowed to exceed a fixed maximum.	Agreement arrived at involving advance in wages and suspension of the system of limiting earnings.
SHIPBUILDING:— Shipyard workers—Birkenhead	10,500||	...	3rd July	4||	Men's refusal to recognise alteration of dinner hour from 1 to 2 p.m. to 12 to 1 p.m.	Arbitrator decided that dinner hour be from 12 to 1 p.m.
TEXTILE:— Enginemakers, firemen, oilers, greasers, cardroom operatives, spinners, weavers, &c.—Oldham	180	1,190	13th July	8	For advance in wages from various weekly rates to uniform hourly rates, and adoption of uniform working week of 60 hours.	Uniform hourly rates and weekly hours conceded.
Boys in flax spinning room, &c., and other workpeople—Belfast	85	1,018	3rd July	6	For advance in wages.	Advance granted to all classes of workpeople.
Firemen, engineers, textile engravers, printers, labourers, &c.—Manchester (near)	16	660	29th June	13	For advance in wages.	Modified advance granted.
Hosiery dyers, scourers, trimmers, &c.—Leicester	350	900	1st July	4	For advance in wages of 20 per cent.	Modified advance granted.
TRANSPORT:— Dock workers.—Manchester, Liverpool, Runcorn, &c.	5,000	...	14th July	3	For advance in wages of 4s. per week to regular hands, and of 4d. per hour to casual labourers.	Increased war allowance granted of 2s. 8d. per week to regular hands, and of 4d. per hour to casual labourers.

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—23 disputes, involving about 1,400 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, etc.) 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.

§ Estimated number.

|| The men were absent from work on the afternoons only of each day of the dispute.

arrangements, and 4 on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 20 new disputes, directly involving 20,557 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, directly involving 1,213 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes 6 were settled in favour of the workpeople, 8 in favour of the employers, and 12 were compromised. In the case of 2 other disputes work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The number of working days lost in July by disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 111,900. In addition, 6,100 working days were lost owing to disputes which began before July and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total aggregate duration in July of all disputes, new and old, was 118,000 days, as compared with 265,600 in the previous month and 1,385,900 in July, 1915.

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

Groups of Trades.	Jan. to July, 1915.			Jan. to July, 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... ..	31	10,102	88,900	56	6,023	157,100
Coal Mining	33	232,861	1,423,800	37	26,873	134,000
Other Mining and Quarrying	2	103	3,100	5	541	13,400
Engineering	65	19,831	191,900	41	16,217	133,900
Shipbuilding	32	3,555	27,900	11	11,569	28,100
Other Metal	29	10,041	48,100	17	2,036	7,300
Textile	48	26,718	219,300	43	49,983	1,000,800
Clothing... ..	26	3,405	15,200	20	6,012	29,000
Transport	56	17,408	109,100	35	25,580	118,400
Other Trades	92	19,656	207,000	78	16,373	340,100
TOTAL	414	343,680	2,333,700	343	161,777	1,962,100

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

The increases in rates of wages (including war bonuses) reported to the Department as taking effect in July affected about 340,000 workpeople, and resulted in a total increase of nearly £55,000 per week.

The industries which accounted for the largest numbers of workpeople affected were building (68,000), coal mining (55,000), transport (over 50,000 dock labourers, &c.), and engineering and ship repairing (40,000). Important changes were also arranged during July (ante-dated to take effect from 2nd June) affecting the dyeing and kindred trades.

Changes in January-July.—The total number of workpeople affected by the changes in wages which have been reported to the Department as taking place during the seven months ended 31st July, 1916, was nearly 2,360,000, of whom practically all have received

a net increase. The net effect of all these changes was an increase of over £303,000 per week.

The extent to which the different groups of trades have contributed to these totals is shown below:—

Group of Trades.	No. of Workpeople affected.	Amount of Net Increase per week.
Building	154,000	23,300
Coal Mining	832,000	138,500
Iron and Other Mining	21,000	5,500
Quarrying	6,000	1,100
Pig Iron Manufacture	24,000	5,500
Iron and Steel Manufacture	75,000	19,800
Engineering and Shipbuilding	169,000	13,300
Other Metal	59,000	10,800
Textile	675,000	49,000
Clothing	62,000	5,400
Transport	108,000	17,400
Printing, Paper, &c.	22,000	2,000
Glass, Brick, Pottery, Chemical, &c.	53,000	3,400
Other Trades	38,000	4,600
Local Authority Services	38,000	3,900
TOTAL	2,356,000	303,500

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JULY, 1916.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Particulars of Change.
Changes in Rates of Wages.				
YORKSHIRE:				
Barnsley	1 July	Bricklayers and masons	Increase of ½d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.).
Bradford	1 July	Painters	Increase of ½d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.).
Colne Valley	1 July	Painters	Increase of 1d. per hour (8d. to 9d.).
Leeds	1 July	Carpenters and joiners	Increase of ¾d. per hour (10¼d. to 10¾d.).
Sheffield	1 July	Carpenters and joiners	War bonus equal to 3s. per week.
Wakefield	24 July	Plasterers	War bonus of 6d. per day.
Wakefield	1 July	Bricklayers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.).
LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE:				
Birkenhead	17 July	Painters†	Increase of 1½d. per hour (9½d. to 11d.).
Burnley	17 July	Painters and paperhangers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (9½d. to 9¾d.).
Burnley	17 July	Carpenters and joiners	Increase of 1d. per hour (9d. to 10d.).
...	...	1 July	Plumbers	Increase of 1d. per hour substituted for war bonus of ¾d. per hour, granted in March, making rate 10d. per hour.
Rossendale Valley	1 July	Labourers and navvies	Increase of ½d. per hour (6½d. to 7d.).
MIDLAND AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES:				
Bath	1 July	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, and plumbers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (8¾d. to 9d.).
...	...	1 July	Plasterers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.).
...	...	1 July	Painters	Increase of ½d. per hour (7¾d. to 8d.).
...	...	1 July	Labourers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.).
...	...	1 July	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, and plasterers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (10¼d. to 11d.).
Bristol	1 July	Painters	Increase of ¾d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.).
...	...	1 July	General labourers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.).
...	...	1 July	Scaffolders and engine-drivers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.).
...	...	1 July	Stone sawyers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (8¼d. to 9d.).
Hinckley	1 July	Bricklayers	Increase of ¾d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.).
...	...	15 July	Bricklayers	Increase of 1d. per hour (11½d. to 1s. 0½d.).
...	...	18 July	Masons	Increase of 1d. per hour (banker hands, 11½d. to 1s. 0½d., fixers, 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1¼d.).
...	...	31 July	Carpenters and joiners	Increase of 1d. per hour (11½d. to 1s. 0½d.).
...	...	17 July	Sawyers and woodworking machinists	Increase of 1d. per hour.
...	...	29 July	Plumbers employed by master builders§	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. to 1s. 1d.).||
...	...	15 July	Plasterers	Increase of 1d. per hour (11½d. to 1s. 0½d.).
...	...	22 July	Painters employed by master builders|| ... ..	Increase to a rate of 10d. per hour for skilled men.||
London	17 July	Smiths and fitters	Increase of 1d. per hour (smiths, 9½d. to 10½d., fitters, 10¼d. to 11¼d.).
...	...	29 July	Crane and engine drivers, crane signalmen, &c.	Increase of 1d. per hour (rates after change, 9d. to 11¼d. per hour, according to occupation).
...	...	17 July	Labourers, &c.	Increase of 1d. per hour (labourers, 8d. to 9d., scaffolders and timbermen, 8¼d. to 9¾d.).
...	...	1st full pay after 14 July	Electrical wiremen and fitters, labourers and assistants	Increase of ¾d. per hour to wiremen and fitters (11¼d. to 11¾d.), with <i>pro rata</i> increases to labourers and assistants.
SCOTLAND:				
Clydesdale District	1 July	Joiners	Increase of 1d. per hour (10d. to 11d.).
...	...	1 July	Masons	Increase of 1d. per hour (hewers, 9½d. to 10½d., builders, 10d. to 11d.).
Dundee	1 July	Bricklayers	Increase of 1d. per hour (10¼d. to 11¼d.).
Falkirk	1 July	Joiners	Increase of ¾d. per hour (10d. to 10½d.).
...	...	1st day after 1 July	Masons	Increase of ¾d. per hour (10¼d. to 11d.).
Glasgow	1 July	Glaziers	Increase of 1d. per hour (10d. to 11d.).
...	...	1 July	Carpenters and joiners	Increase of ¾d. per hour (11d. to 11½d.).
Paisley	1 July	Masons	Increase of ¾d. per hour (10¼d. to 11d.).
IRELAND:				
...	...	22 July	Slaters and tilers	War bonus of ¾d. per hour. (Rate after change: summer, 9d. per hour, plus ¾d. bonus¶).
...	...	1 July	Plumbers	War bonus of ¾d. per hour. (Rate after change: summer, 9½d. per hour, plus ¾d. bonus¶).
...	...	1st pay day in July	Sheet metal workers	Increase of ¾d. per hour. (Rate after change: 10d.; ¾d. less if 52 or 54 hours per week worked).
Dublin	1 July	Woodcutting machinists	Increase of 1d. per hour (to include any increases given since September, 1915).
...	...	22 July	Mechanical and heating engineers	War bonus of ¾d. per hour. Rate after change: 9d. per hour, plus ¾d. bonus¶.
...	...	22 July	Glaziers and lead sash makers... ..	War bonus of 4d. per day.
...	...	22 July	Labourers	Increase of 1d. per hour substituted for war bonus of 6d. per day granted in 1915, making summer rate for hodmen 6¼d. per hour, and for groundmen 6d. per hour.¶

* Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police, and Government employees. † In accordance with the terms of a decision of the Northern Centre Conciliation Board, this increase was to take effect from the first pay-day after 1st July, but it is stated that in the majority of cases the bonus was previously being paid. ‡ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." § For men employed by master painters and decorators an increase of ¾d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.) in the minimum rate has been arranged, to take effect from 12th August. ¶ For men working shorter hours in winter, the rates are ¾d. per hour higher.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Particulars of Change.
Changes in Rates of Wages (continued).				
Coal Mining...	Northumberland ...	8 July	Hewers, other underground workers, and surface workers (except those given below). Deputies Mechanics Enginemmen	Increase, under sliding scale, of 22 per cent., making wages 112 per cent. above the standard of 1879. Increase of 1s. 1d. per day (9s. 3d. to 10s. 4d.). Increase of 1s. 1d. per day (8s. 1d. to 9s. 2d.). Increase of 1s. 1d. per day (8s. 10d. to 9s. 11d. for winding enginemmen, 8s. 3d. to 9s. 4d. for others).
		31 July and 7 Aug.	Firemen	Increase of 22 per cent., making wages 112 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	Forest of Dean ...	8 and 10 July	Hewers, other underground workers, and surface workers (including enginemmen and mechanics)	Increase of 10 per cent., making wages 70 per cent. above the standard of 1888.*
Iron Mining...	Cleveland ...	24 July	Ironstone miners	Increase of 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making wages 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the standard.
Quarrying ...	W. and S. Durham ...	24 July	Limestone quarrymen	Increase of 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making wages 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the standard.
		1 July	Blastfurnacemen	Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making wages 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Pig Iron Manufacture	North Staffs ...	1st making-up day in July	Blastfurnacemen	Increase, under sliding scale, of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making wages 67 per cent. above the standard of 1899.
	South Wales and Mon. ...	1 July	Blastfurnacemen	Increase of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making wages 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the standard of 1895.
Iron and Steel	Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	31 July	Iron puddlers Iron and steel millmen	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton (13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.). Increase, under sliding scale, of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent.
	Consett, Jarrow and Newburn	8 July	Iron and steel workers and mechanics ...	Increase of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making wages 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the standard of 1895.
	South Wales and Mon. ...	1 July	Iron puddlers Iron millmen	Increase, under sliding scale, of 9d. per ton, making wages 16s. 8d. per ton, plus bonus of 1d. per heat. Increase, under sliding scale, of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making wages 75 per cent. above the standard of 1897.
W. Scotland ...	31 July	Iron puddlers Iron millmen	Increase, under sliding scale, of 9d. per ton, making wages 16s. 8d. per ton, plus bonus of 1d. per heat. Increase, under sliding scale, of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making wages 75 per cent. above the standard of 1897.	
Steel and Tinplate Manufacture	South Wales and Mon. ...	8 July	Steel workers and tinplate makers	Increase of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in addition to war advance given in 1915, making a total advance of 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to workpeople earning up to 30s. per week, of 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to those earning from 30s. 1d. to 30s., of 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to those earning from 30s. 1d. to 40s., and of 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to those earning 40s. 1d. and upwards.
Engineering ...	Huddersfield District (including Brighouse)	1st pay day in July	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemmen, patternmakers, brass finishers, ironmoulders, coremakers, electrical workers, &c.	Increase of 1s. per week.
	Otley ...	1 July	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemmen, patternmakers, ironmoulders, coremakers, dressers, brass finishers, enginemmen, crane-men, smiths' strikers, labourers, &c.	Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week to time-workers.
	Chester ...	1st full pay after 12 July	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemmen, patternmakers, and electrical workers	Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week to time-workers.
	Manchester, Ashton, Stockport, Newton-le-Willows and Warrington Districts	1st full pay after 12 July	Labourers in engineering shops and foundries, platers' helpers, drillers, slingers, crane drivers, &c.	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers.
	Wigan ...	1st full pay after 17 July	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemmen, patternmakers, brass finishers and smiths' strikers	Increase of 1s. per week.
	Bristol ...	1 July	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemmen, patternmakers and ironmoulders (general shops)	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers.
	Coventry ...	1st full pay after 12 July	Semi-skilled and unskilled workers	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers.
	Nottingham ...	1st pay day in July	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemmen, boiler-makers, patternmakers, ironmoulders, coremakers, dressers, brassmoulders and finishers, smiths' strikers, enginemmen, crane-men, &c.	Increase of 2s. per week on time rates, and of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on piece rates.
	Cardiff and District ...	1st full pay in July	Ironmoulders, coremakers, dressers, patternmakers and labourers	War wage advance of 8d. per day, granted in 1915, increased to 1s. 2d. per day.
	Newport (Mon.) ...	1st full pay after 12 July	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemmen and patternmakers	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers.
	Aberdeen ...	1 July	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemmen and smiths' strikers	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers.
	Ship-repairing	Kilmarnock ...	1st full pay after 18 July	Labourers in engineering shops and foundries, crane-men, testers, &c.	Increase of 2s. per week to men rated under 26s., and of 3s. per week to semi-skilled workers.
Mersey ...		1 July	Ship painters	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week (43s. to 46s.).
Bristol and Avonmouth		1 July	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemmen, patternmakers, ironmoulders, coppersmiths, electrical workers, plumbers, labourers, etc. Fitters, turners, smiths, coppersmiths and patternmakers	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to time-workers. War wage advance of 6d. per day.
Cardiff, Newport, Barry, and Penarth		1st full pay in July	Ironmoulders, patternmakers, metal dressers, ship joiners, ship plumbers and platers' helpers General yard labourers, smiths' hammer-men, ship painters, chippers, stage makers, and other classes of semi-skilled and unskilled workpeople	War wage advance of 8d. per day, granted in 1915, increased to 1s. 2d. per day. War wage advance of 4d. per day, granted in 1915, increased to 10d. per day.
Brass ...	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall and district	1 July	Brassworkers	Increase, as war wages, of 2s. per week to men earning 38s. 6d. or over per week (including war bonus granted in 1915), and of 3s., 4s., or 5s. to those earning less than 38s. 6d.
Woollen and Worsted	Leeds and District ...	†	Warp dressers and twistlers	Increase, as war wage, of 3s. per week to men over 21 years of age, of 1s. per week to all workpeople under 21, and of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to pieceworkers.
Linen ...	North of Ireland ...	10 July	Flax dressers, roughers, preparers, spinners, dofers, weavers and other workpeople (except mechanics)	Increase of 2s. per week to men over 18, and of 1s. per week to youths, women and girls, with an equivalent advance on piece rates.
Lace ...	Nottingham ...	1st pay day after 15 July	Lace makers: Plain net section	Bonus of 10 per cent. on mosquito and bobbin nets, Brussels or Extra Twist, and Mock Brussels, and of 5 or 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on other goods.†
		1st pay day after 22 July	Curtain section	Bonus of 2s. 6d. per week, granted in 1915, increased to 3s. 6d.
Carpet ...	Kidderminster ...	8 July	Carpet weavers	Increase, as war wages, of 10 per cent., and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour extra for weavers when working without a creeler.

* At some of the collieries wages are 75 per cent. above standard. † Of this increase, which was arranged on 2nd August, 2s. per week to men over 21, 1s. per week to all workers under 21, and 5 per cent. to pieceworkers, was dated back to the first pay-day after 2nd June, and the remainder to the first pay-day after 5th July. ‡ This bonus cancels the bonus of about 5 per cent. given in December, 1915, on mosquito and bobbin nets.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Particulars of Change.
Changes in Rates of Wages (continued).				
Textile dyeing, &c.	Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire (certain firms)	*	All operatives in the bleaching, dyeing, printing and kindred trades:— Timeworkers	War grants, made in 1915, of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour to men 18 and over, and of $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per hour to other workpeople, increased to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1d. respectively. Advance of 10 per cent.†
	Yorkshire (certain other firms)	*	Pieceworkers All operatives in the dyeing, etc., trades:— Timeworkers	War advances, granted in 1915, of 8s. per week to men 18 and over, and of 2s. per week to other workpeople raised to 7s. and 4s. 8d. respectively. Equivalent advances to those for timeworkers. Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour on time rates. Increase of 2s. per week to all male workers over 18 years of age.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture	Leicester ...	1 July	Pieceworkers	Equivalent advances to those for timeworkers.
	Dundee ...	22 July	Hosiery dyers and scourers Calender, &c., workers	Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour on time rates. Increase of 2s. per week to all male workers over 18 years of age.
	Kingswood and District	21 July	Boot and shoe operatives	War bonus granted in Jan., 1916, increased from 2s. per week to 3s. 6d. per week for all male day-workers over 21 years of age, and from 1s. per week to 2s. per week for all male day-workers between 18 and 21 years of age.
	Northampton County District Liverpool and Birkenhead	27 July 14 July	Boot and shoe operatives Dock labourers	War bonus of 10 per cent., granted in 1915, increased to 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for all day-workers 18 years of age and over. War bonus of 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to piece-workers on civil work. Increase of 1s. in day and night rates and a proportionate increase in hourly rates.
Dock, Labour, etc.	Manchester ...	17 July	Ship canal employees, including dock labourers Dock labourers	War bonus granted in 1915 increased by 2s. 8d. per week to regular hands, and by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour to casual hands. War bonus granted in 1915 doubled, making total daily bonus 1s. 6d. for a full day worked; 1s. 2d. for more than four, and up to seven, hours' work; and 8d. for a minimum period of four hours.
	London ...	17 July	Stevedores	War bonus granted in 1915 doubled, making total bonus (a), for timeworkers, 2s. per day, if more than five hours worked, 1s. if more than two but not more than five hours worked, 6d. if not more than two hours worked; and (b) for piece-workers, 6d. per standard on deals, boards, battens, &c., and 2d. per ton on all other goods. War bonus of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., granted in 1915, increased to 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
Carting ...	Bristol Channel Ports ...	24 July	Coal trimmers	War bonus of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., granted in 1915, increased to 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
	Chorley ...	10 July	Carters	Increase of 2s. per week.
	Rosendale District ...	1 July	Carters Compositors and machinemmen (book and jobbing) Compositors (morning and evening news)	Increase of 2s. per week. Increase of 6d. per week (38s. to 38s. 6d.).
Printing and Allied Trades	Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	1st full pay in July	Compositors (morning and evening news)	Increase of 6d. per week (morning news 45s. 6d. to 46s., evening news 38s. 6d. to 39s.).
	Yorkshire ...	Pay day in week ending 8 July	Linotype and monotype operators Assistants in machine, linotype, stereotype and publishing departments	Increase of 6d. per week. Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week to workpeople receiving under 30s. (those receiving 26s. and less than 27s. to be raised to 30s.), of 2s. to those receiving 30s. and less than 35s., and of 1s. 6d. to those receiving 35s. and above.
Brick, etc. ...	Sheffield and Rotherham	1st pay in July	Compositors, machinemmen, linotype and monotype operators, bookbinders and machine rulers and lithographers	War bonus of 1s. per week granted in February, 1916, increased to 2s. per week.
	Accrington and District	1 July	Compositors and machinemmen (book, jobbing, weekly news)	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week (34s. to 36s. 6d.).
Linoleum ...	Stourbridge and District	July	Fire brick and retort makers	Increase of 5 per cent., conditional on full time being worked.
	Kirkcaldy ...	31 July	Linoleum workers	Increase on time rates of 2s. per week to men and of 1s. per week to women and youths, and of 5 per cent. on piece rates. Increase of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour substituted for war advance of 2s. 6d. per week, granted in 1915.
Furnishing ...	Sheffield ...	1 July	Cabinet makers, carvers, upholsterers, machinists, and french polishers Cabinet and chair makers	War bonus of 1d. per hour. Rate after change, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour, plus 1d. bonus.
	London (West End) ...	29 July	Machinists	War bonus of 1d. per hour. Rates after change, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1s. per hour, plus 1d. bonus. Increase of 1d. per hour (9d. to 10d.).
Baking and Confectionery	Dublin ...	24 July	Cabinet makers, upholsterers† and wood-cutting machinists French polishers (female)	Increase of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour.
	Glasgow ...	1 July	Bakers (bread and pastry)	Increase of 4s. per week all round for regular bread and pastry workers, and of 6d. per day for jobbers; and minimum rate for pastry bakers raised from 37s. to 44s.
Local Authority Service	London ...	18 July	Employees of Port of London Authority ...	War bonus granted in 1915 doubled, making total bonus 6s. per week for permanent dock labourers, 1s. per day or 6d. per half-day for casual dock labourers, and 4s. or 6s. per week for other classes of workpeople.
Changes in Hours of Labour.				
Building ...	Birkenhead ...	17 July	Painters§	Rearrangement of hours, resulting in an average reduction of $\frac{1}{4}$ hour per week. Summer hours after change, 46 $\frac{1}{4}$ per week.
Furnishing ...	Dublin ...	24 July	Upholsterers§	Decrease of 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours per week (52 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 50).

* These increases were arranged in the latter part of July, but were antedated to take effect from 2nd June. † To be calculated on earnings, exclusive of previous war grants of 3s. to men and 2s. to other workpeople. ‡ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."
§ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

SLIDING SCALE CHANGES IN WAGES.

As a result of the periodical ascertainments of selling prices, particulars of which are given in the following Table, the wages of coal miners in Northumberland were raised by 22 per cent. on the standard of 1879. Blastfurnacemen's wages were raised by 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in Cleveland, but in Cumberland no change was made. Iron puddlers had their wages raised by 3d. per ton, and iron and steel millmen by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., in the North of England. In the Midlands and in the West of Scotland the increase for puddlers amounted to 9d. per ton and that for millmen to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Further particulars of these changes will be found in the detailed Table on the two previous pages, except as regards the change for iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, which takes effect in August, and will be summarised in the September GAZETTE.

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.)				
Durham ...	Apl.—June	15 4	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Northumberland ...	Mar.—May	16 7	2 8	4 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
PIG IRON.				
Cleveland ...	Apl.—June	81 6	8 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cumberland ...	Apl.—June	115 0	—	26 0
West of Scotland ...	May—July	No transactions	—	—
MANUFACTURED IRON.				
North of England ...	May—June	237 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 0	77 10
(Bars, plates, bars and angles)				
Midlands ...	May—June	273 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
(Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, &c.)				
West of Scotland ...	May—June	252 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
(Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods.)				

* Stated to the nearest farthing.

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 July, 1916, was 56, of which 22 were due to lead poisoning, 1 to mercurial poisoning, 16 to anthrax, and 17 to toxic jaundice. Four deaths due to lead poisoning, 2 to anthrax, and 5 to toxic jaundice were also reported. In addition, 7 cases of lead poisoning (2 of which were fatal) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

During the seven months ended July, 1916, the total number of cases of poisoning, of anthrax, and of toxic jaundice reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 344, compared with 259 during the corresponding period of 1915. The number of deaths in 1916 was 41, as compared with 20 in 1915. In addition, 45 cases of lead poisoning (including 9 deaths) among house painters and plumbers, came to the knowledge of the Home Office during the first seven months of 1916, compared with 68 cases (including 22 deaths) during the corresponding period of 1915.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Cases.			Deaths.		
	Month of July, 1916.	Seven Months ended July, 1916.	July, 1915.	Month of July, 1916.	Seven Months ended July, 1916.	July, 1915.
Lead Poisoning.						
AMONG OPERATIVES ENGAGED IN—						
Smelting of Metals ...	2	19	27	1	2	1
Brass Works ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	—	5	12	—	—	—
Printing ...	1	5	18	—	—	3
File Cutting ...	—	5	1	1	2	—
Tinning of Metals ...	1	3	2	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	2	15	21	1	1	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	1	8	6	—	—	—
Potters ...	1	16	12	—	4	2
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Vitreous Enamelling ...	—	1	5	—	—	1
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	2	35	39	—	—	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	5	15	8	—	—	—
Coach and Car Painting... ..	2	18	25	—	—	4
Shipbuilding ...	2	15	7	1	2	1
Paint used in other Industries ...	1	11	8	—	—	2
Other Industries ...	2	31	27	—	2	—
TOTAL IN FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS	22	205	219	4	13	14
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	7	45	68	2	9	22
Other Forms of Poisoning.						
MERCURIAL POISONING—						
Barometer and Thermometer Making ...	—	1	2	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	1	11	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	12	3	—	—	—
PHOSPHORUS POISONING ...	—	1	3	—	—	1
ARSENIC POISONING—						
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL "OTHER FORMS OF POISONING"	1	13	6	—	—	1
Anthrax.						
Wool ...	10	47	17	2	7	1
Handling of Horsehair ...	—	5	1	—	2	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ...	5	15	14	—	3	3
Other Industries ...	1	2	2	—	—	1
TOTAL ANTHRAX†	16	69	34	2	12	5
TOXIC JAUNDICE‡	17	57	—	5	16	—
TOTAL REPORTED UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT	56	314	259	11	41	20
GRAND TOTAL	63	389	327	13	50	42

* The person affected in the Pottery industry was a female.
† In addition one case in a dock labourer was reported.
‡ The requirement to report toxic jaundice dates from January 1st, 1916.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

CASES REPORTED IN JULY, 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 July, 1916, was 246, a decrease of 1 on a month ago, but an increase of 30 on a year ago. The mean number for July during the five years 1911-15 was 252, the maximum being 318, and the minimum 216.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during July, 1916, numbered 29, compared with 35 in June, 1916, and 36 in July, 1915.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 114, an increase of 16 on a month ago, and of 30 on a year ago. There were 3 fatal accidents at quarries, compared with 8 a month ago, and 7 a year ago.

The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshops Act in July was 99, a decrease of 5 on June, 1916, but an increase of 12 on July, 1915.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen during July, 1916, was 82, a decrease of 71 on a month ago and of 130 on a year ago.

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

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in July, 1916, on a	
	July, 1916.	June, 1916.	July, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
RAILWAY SERVICE—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	5	7	-4	-6
Engine Drivers	—	2	1	-2	-3
Firemen	2	2	5	—	—
Guards (Passenger)	—	—	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men	5	8	3	-3	+2
Porters	5	4	1	+1	+4
Shunters	2	7	2	-5	—
Mechanics	5	—	2	+5	+3
Labourers	—	2	4	-2	-4
Miscellaneous	6	4	11	+2	-5
Contractors' Servants	3	1	—	+2	+3
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	29	35	36	-6	-7
MINES—					
Underground	96	93	75	+3	+21
Surface	18	5	9	+13	+9
TOTAL, MINES	114	98	84	+16	+30
Quarries over 20 feet deep					
	3	8	7	-5	-4
TEXTILE AND WORKSHOPS—					
Textile—					
Cotton	2	5	3	-3	-1
Wool and Worsted	2	3	2	-1	-
Other Textiles	3	—	—	+3	+3
Non-Textile					
Extraction of Metals	3	2	1	+1	+2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	7	11	6	-4	+1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	1	3	—	-2	+1
Ship and Boat Building	9	12	7	-3	+2
Gas	—	1	1	-1	-1
Wood	5	3	4	+2	+1
Clay, Stone, &c.	1	2	6	-1	-5
Chemicals	7	12	6	-5	+1
Laundries	—	1	1	—	-1
Food	3	3	3	—	—
Drink	—	—	6	—	-6
Paper, Printing, &c.	3	—	3	+3	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	26	22	23	+4	+3
TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	72	79	72	-7	—
ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	12	13	9	-1	+3
Warehouses	3	2	3	+1	—
Buildings to which Act applies	12	10	3	+2	+9
TOTAL UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.	27	25	15	+2	+12
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894					
	1	2	2	-1	-1
TOTAL, EXCLUDING SEAMEN.	246	247	216	-1	+30
SEAMEN—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	15	3	4	+12	+11
Steam	65	109	150	-44	-85
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	1	15	4	-14	-3
Steam	1	26	54	-25	-53
TOTAL, SEAMEN	82	153	212	-71	-130
TOTAL, INCLUDING SEAMEN.	328	400	428	-72	-100

PRICES OF WHEAT, FLOUR AND BREAD.

I.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Supplies.

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

	Quantity imported during July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with		
		July, 1915.	July, 1914.	July, 1913.
WHEAT.				
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
From Russia	—	61,100	636,600	346,000
United States	5,050,100	+2,633,700	+3,092,688	+2,564,403
British East Indies	191,200	-3,564,200	-2,437,400	-3,101,100
Australia	423,700	+423,700	-1,335,248	-830,951
Canada	2,716,100	+321,000	-631,100	-390,700
Argentine Republic	188,800	-686,800	-603,800	-620,500
Other Countries	19,000	-1,900	-63,600	-204,900
TOTAL	8,588,900	-885,600	-2,615,000	-2,929,551

WHEAT MEAL AND FLOUR.				
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
From United States	396,232	-148,381	+135,528	+157,397
Canada	315,000	-18,000	-11,377	-20,157
Other Countries	65,100	+28,900	-105,590	-116,200
TOTAL	776,332	-137,481	+18,561	+21,040

Imports in eleven months (September, 1915-July, 1916).—The imports of wheat and wheat meal and flour during the first eleven months of the current cereal year—September, 1915, to July, 1916—are shown below, together with the increase or decrease compared with the corresponding period of the three preceding cereal years:—

	Quantity imported during September, 1915 to July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in period September, 1915, to July, 1916, on quantity imported in corresponding months of		
		1914-1915	1913-1914	1912-1913
WHEAT.	93,862,720	+5,396,990	+4,481,458	-9,568,552

WHEAT.				
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
From—				
Russia	523,700	-33,727	-8,876,800	-6,627,400
United States	61,039,200	+22,332,358	+34,202,182	+32,585,034
British East Indies	2,862,500	-9,017,200	-6,549,100	-16,809,800
Australia	2,274,720	+977,620	-1,373,635	-6,785,686
Canada	23,969,800	+39,359	+2,511,671	+4,825,700
Argentine Republic	3,169,800	-8,734,300	-3,625,160	-15,018,200
Other Countries	83,000	-167,100	-1,807,700	-1,736,500
TOTAL	93,862,720	+5,396,990	+4,481,458	-9,568,552

WHEAT MEAL AND FLOUR.				
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
From—				
United States	5,162,132	-1,876,094	-84,906	-20,983
Canada	3,915,925	+1,113,737	+173,623	+328,561
Other Countries	311,108	+8,226	-1,326,395	-1,391,123
TOTAL	9,389,225	-770,683	-1,232,678	-1,083,545

The imports of wheat from the United States during the first eleven months of the current season show a very marked increase on the receipts for any of the three previous seasons. During the current season the total imports from the United States and Canada have amounted to nearly 85 million cwts.; from all other countries combined the imports were therefore rather less than 9 million cwts., and of this quantity the Argentine Republic, British East Indies and Australia accounted for over 8 million cwts. The grand total receipts in 1915-16 show some increase on the figures for the corresponding period of 1914-15 and 1913-14, but a decrease of about 9½ million cwts. on the 1912-13 figures, this being due to greatly diminished imports from British East Indies, Argentine Republic, Russia and Australia.

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 forty-eight weeks of the current

cereal year, together with the increase compared with the corresponding weeks of 1914-15, 1913-14, and 1912-13.

	Quantity delivered, 1916-16.	Increase compared with corresponding period in		
		1914-15.	1913-14.	1912-13.
Forty-four weeks ended July 1st	Quarters. 3,341,470	Quarters. 233,159	Quarters. 786,291	Quarters. 1,188,377
Four weeks ended July 29th	107,595	67,524	56,078	46,975
TOTAL	3,449,065	300,683	842,369	1,235,352

Prices.

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

	July, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
		June, 1916.	July, 1915.
WHEAT:—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Imported: Average declared value per 480 lb. ...	52 2	-2 10	-2 9
Imported: Spot price at Liverpool per 480 lb. ...			
No. 1 Northern Manitoba: Average price ...	54 6	+4 5	-1 4†
No. 2 Hard Winter: Average price ...	53 5	+5 1*	-1 11
Australian: Average price ...	58 2	+2 3	!
British: Gazette average price per 480 lb. (England & Wales)	49 3	-0 11	-3 0
English white wheat per 504 lb. (London) ...	54 1	+4 8	-4 2
WHEAT MEAL AND FLOUR:—			
Imported: Average declared value per cwt. ...	16 4	-0 1	-0 7
Flour: Town Households No. 1, London (ex mill, less usual discount), average price per 280 lb.	43 11	+1 8	+1 5

The "spot" price of wheat at Liverpool steadily rose during July; thus No. 1 Northern Manitoba, which at the beginning of the month was just over 49s. per quarter, had risen to 54s. 6d. on the 15th and to 58s. 6d. on the 31st. On 12th August the price was 70s. Similarly, No. 2 Hard Winter increased from 47s. on the 1st to over 58s. on the 31st, and on 3rd August (the last date for which quotations have been given) to 60s. Australian wheat was also quoted at from 53s. 7d. to 55s. 2d. during the first week of July, and from 60s. 10d. to 62s. 5d. during the last week; on 12th August the price was 72s. The Gazette price of British wheat rose from 46s. 3d. at the beginning of July to 55s. 1d. per quarter at the beginning of August, and the returns for the week ended 12th August gave an average of 56s. 7d. The price of No. 1 Town Households flour in London (ex mill, less usual discount) was 40s. 6d. per sack of 280 lb. on 3rd July and 46s. 6d. on 31st July. Since this date the price has risen rapidly, and the quotation for 14th August was 54s. 6d., or 14s. more than at the

was sold, are utilised, but it will be understood that bread was also sold at both lower and higher prices. The prices are quoted per 4 lb., and in cases in which the loaf of 2 lb. or 4 lb. has been displaced by a loaf of smaller size the necessary allowance has been made in compiling the statistics.

The following Table shows the mean predominant price in different parts of the country at 1st August, 1916, as compared with 1st July, 1916, and 1st August, 1915:—

District.	Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb.		
	1st August, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.
London ...	d.	d.	d.
Northern Counties & Yorkshire	8	- 1/4	+ 1/4
Lancashire & Cheshire	8 1/2	-	+ 1/4
Midlands	8	-	+ 1/4
Eastern Counties	8	+ 3/4	+ 1/4
South Eastern Counties	8 1/2	+ 1/4	+ 1/4
South Western Counties & Wales	8	- 1/4	+ 1/4
Scotland	8 1/2	-	+ 1/4
GREAT BRITAIN	8 1/2	-	+ 1/4

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 1st August, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with		Last Change.*	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Amount per 4 lb.
London ...	d.	d.	d.	July, '16	- 1/4
Birmingham	8 & 8 1/2	+ 1/2	+ 3/4	June, '16	- 1/2
Bristol	7 1/2 & 8	...	...	June, '16	- 1
Cardiff	8	...	...	June, '16	- 1/2
Derby	8	...	...	June, '16	- 1/2
Hull	7 to 8	- 1/2	- 1/2	June, '16	- 1/4
Ipswich	8	...	...	June, '16	- 1/2
Leeds	8 1/2 to 9	+ 1/4	+ 1/4	July, '16	+ 1/2
Leicester	8	+ 1	+ 1	July, '16	+ 1/2
Liverpool	8 1/2	+ 1/2	+ 1/2	July, '16	+ 1/2
Manchester	8	+ 1/2	+ 1/2	June, '16	- 1/2
Middlesbrough	9	...	...	Jan., '16	+ 3/4
Norwich	8	+ 1/2	+ 1/2	June, '16	- 1/2
Nottingham	7 to 8	...	...	June, '16	- 1/2
Portsmouth	8	...	...	June, '16	- 1
Southampton	8 1/2	+ 1/2	+ 1/2	July, '16	+ 1/2
Stoke-on-Trent	7 1/2	...	...	June, '16	- 1/2
Wolverhampton	8	+ 1/2	+ 1/2	June, '16	- 1/2
Aberdeen	8 1/2 & 9	...	...	May, '16	+ 1
Dundee	8 1/2	...	...	Jan., '16	+ 1/2
Edinburgh	8 1/2	...	...	June, '16	- 1/2
Glasgow	8 1/2	...	...	Feb., '16	+ 1/4
Belfast	8 1/2	- 1/2	+ 1/2	July, '16	- 1/2
Dublin	8 1/2	...	...	June, '16	- 1/2

The predominant price of bread in London at 1st August was 8d. per 4 lb., but much bread was being sold at 8 1/2d., and 7 1/2d. was also a frequent price. By 11th August 8d. and 8 1/2d. were the predominant prices, and on 14th August an advance to 9d. was made in many cases. It will be recalled that on 1st February and 1st March of the present year the predominant prices in London were 9d. and 9 1/2d.

Later inquiries as to the price of bread in the provinces showed that increases, usually of 1/4d. per 4 lb., had occurred between 1st and 11th August in about one-half of the places covered by the returns. This would bring the average price of bread up to 8 1/2d. per 4 lb. at 11th August. This price compares with an average of 8 1/2d. at the beginning of each month from February to June, 1916, except on 1st March, when 9d. was the price.

A number of increases are reported as having taken place on 14th August, in a few cases the second advance within a fortnight. On the other hand, in some places the prices of 14th August remained the same as on the 1st of the month.

* Entries in this column are exclusive of changes applying for a short time only, unless previous columns are affected by such changes. In some places there was a fall early in July shortly followed by a reversion to the former price.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN JULY.*

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

THE total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Labour Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the four weeks ended 28th July, 1916, was 9,587, as compared with 10,674 during the five weeks ended 30th June, 1916, and with 31,179 during the five weeks ended 30th July, 1915. Of the total of 9,587 claims, 6,250 (or 65 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 3,337 (or 35 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 four weeks was 2,400, 2,645, 2,394 and 2,148, the average being 2,397 as compared with 2,135 in the five preceding weeks and with 6,236 in July, 1915.

The total amount of unemployment benefit paid direct for the four weeks ended 28th July, 1916, was £1,168, and through associations during the four weeks ended 22nd July, 1916, £601.

Districts.	Average Weekly No. of Claims Made.			Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid.		
	July, 1916.	June, 1916.	July, 1915.	July, 1916.†	June, 1916.†	July, 1915.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
London ...	1,025	920	2,001	153	110	319
South-Eastern ...	178	143	676	42	34	152
South-Western ...	213	177	535	30	35	108
West Midlands ...	52	72	135	11	13	22
East Midlands ...	60	84	274	13	14	48
Yorkshire ...	124	97	403	24	21	70
North-Western ...	261	217	699	37	44	149
Northern ...	47	42	246	3	4	45
Scotland ...	97	77	485	17	22	120
Wales ...	30	26	179	8	5	32
Ireland ...	310	280	803	104	208	327
UNITED KINGDOM	2,397	2,135	6,236	442	510	1,392

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

FIVE WEEKS ENDED 14TH JULY, 1916.

THE total number of workpeople remaining on the Registers† of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges (379 in number) on 14th July was 126,719, as compared with 126,947 on the 9th June, 1916, and 99,773 on 16th July, 1915. These comprise workers in professional, commercial, 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 472,800 workpeople (men 140,455, women 268,955, boys 29,097, and girls 34,293), as compared with 423,578 in the previous four weeks, and 389,820 in the five weeks ended 16th July, 1915.

The number of vacancies filled was 154,116, a daily average of 5,137, as compared with 5,298 in the previous four weeks, and with 4,286 in the five weeks ended 16th July, 1915.

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
On Register at beginning of period	31,451	82,062	5,454	7,980	126,947
Registrations during period	115,533	191,458	24,950	26,833	358,774
Individuals registered	109,070	187,177	23,653	26,296	346,196
Re-registrations	6,463	4,281	1,297	537	12,578
On Register at end of period	33,315	78,641	6,254	8,509	126,719
Vacancies notified during period	85,899	81,145	15,173	13,553	195,770
Vacancies filled during period	62,544	68,529	12,193	10,850	154,116
Applicants placed in other districts.	19,196	17,278	1,930	1,907	40,311

* The percentages unemployed in the insured trades will be found on page 272.

† 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 12 per cent. were known to be in employment, and a further 16 per cent. were reported never to have been in employment.

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 Registers 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.
Insured Trades—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Building, Construction of Works and Sawmilling	77.0	97.1	34.9	104.4
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Construction of Vehicles	72.7	104.7	50.0	120.5
Uninsured Trades—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Textiles	50.9	43.5	37.9	32.2
Dress	33.9	78.1	21.9	22.1
Transport	73.3	91.3	37.3	23.8
Agriculture	43.2	61.1	33.8	25.3
Paper, Prints, &c.	53.4	65.9	26.7	27.4
Chemicals, Explosives, &c.	96.6	96.9	40.5	16.0
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging	51.9	85.7	45.8	51.5
Commercial and Clerical	64.6	81.6	14.4	21.6
Domestic	50.4	67.3	25.1	22.8
General Labourers	78.7	—	26.7	—
TOTAL	72.8	84.4	42.6	25.1

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

District or Department.	Insured Trades.			Uninsured Trades.		
	5 weeks ended 14 July, 1916.	4 weeks ended 9 June, 1916.	5 weeks ended 16 July, 1915.	5 weeks ended 14 July, 1916.	4 weeks ended 9 June, 1916.	5 weeks ended 16 July, 1915.
	REGISTRATIONS.	VACANCIES FILLED.	VACANCIES FILLED.	VACANCIES FILLED.	VACANCIES FILLED.	VACANCIES FILLED.
London ...	534	476	726	2,729	2,964	2,159
South-Eastern ...	174	179	242	733	740	556
South-Western ...	190	208	299	522	542	415
West Midlands ...	286	266	245	754	769	629
East Midlands ...	115	132	155	494	434	297
Yorkshire ...	241	218	241	713	698	595
North-Western ...	372	366	445	1,323	1,347	1,062
Northern ...	118	117	196	546	547	388
Scotland ...	224	260	260	933	1,022	795
Wales ...	133	166	221	348	353	266
Ireland ...	132	221	133	345	314	266
Men ...	2,083	2,181	2,940	1,769	1,779	2,041
Women ...	345	342	119	6,087	6,408	3,947
Boys ...	79	75	66	752	711	598
Girls ...	12	11	8	882	862	792
TOTAL	2,519	2,600	3,133	9,440	9,760	7,378
Men ...	302	505	264	969	1,046	872
South-Eastern ...	127	153	118	272	238	217
South-Western ...	95	132	183	213	216	187
West Midlands ...	299	260	167	253	270	217
East Midlands ...	160	162	84	124	128	114
Yorkshire ...	174	205	173	204	197	214
North-Western ...	290	291	154	406	402	381
Northern ...	157	140	123	99	118	104
Scotland ...	415	410	147	286	313	258
Wales ...	33	115	151	131	114	72
Ireland ...	25	30	22	43	53	64
Men ...	1,861	1,408	1,437	784	781	906
Women ...	688	706	98	1,596	1,693	1,155
Boys ...	67	64	51	339	333	307
Girls ...	21	25	5	341	343	332
TOTAL	2,137	2,263	1,586	3,000	3,095	2,700

INSURED TRADES.*

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 72,140 (men 59,271, women 10,202, boys 2,314, and girls 353). The total number of workpeople on the Register was 91,576 (men 71,783, women 16,549, boys 2,741, and girls 503). These figures exclude 3,428 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed during the period, and represent separate individuals.

Of the registrations among men, 49.6 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 40.0 per cent. in engineering, and 7.5 per cent. in shipbuilding.

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register at 14th July was 20,499, as compared with 19,404 on 9th June, 1916, and 24,709 on 16th July, 1915.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period

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

was 75,916, a daily average of 2,531, as compared with 2,605 in the previous four weeks, and 1,983 in the five weeks ended 16th July, 1915. The number of vacancies filled was 64,126, a daily average of 2,138, as compared with 2,203 in the previous four weeks, and 1,586 in the five weeks ended 16th July, 1915.

Building and construction of works account for 44.9 per cent. of the total vacancies notified for men, and 44.9 per cent. of the total vacancies filled by men, the corresponding figures for engineering and shipbuilding being 43.6 and 7.1 per cent. of the vacancies notified, and 45.6 and 7.5 per cent. of the vacancies filled.

UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations.—The number of registrations during the period was 274,056 (men 49,799, women 176,975, boys 21,339, and girls 25,943). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 381,224 (men 68,672, women 252,406, boys 26,356, and girls 33,790). These figures exclude 9,150 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate individuals.

Among men 25.3 per cent. of the total registrations were in the transport, etc., trades, and 33.0 per cent. as general labourers, while of the women registered 21.0 per cent. were in domestic offices or services and 37.2 per cent. in explosives, etc. Commercial and clerical occupations accounted for 7.8 per cent. of the registrations among men and 5.3 per cent. among women.

The number of workpeople on the Register at 14th July was 106,220 (men 19,725, women 72,439, boys 5,705, and girls 8,351), as compared with 107,543 on 9th June, 1916, and 75,064 on 16th July, 1915.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 119,854, a daily average of 3,995, as compared with 4,105 in the previous four weeks, and 3,684 in the five weeks ended 16th July, 1915. The number of vacancies filled was 89,990, a daily average of 3,000, as compared with 3,095 in the preceding four weeks, and 2,700 in the five weeks ended 16th July, 1915.

Of the vacancies notified for men 26.1 per cent. were in the transport, etc., trades, and 22.8 per cent. as general labourers. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 28.8 per cent. and 27.0 per cent. Among women 28.1 per cent. of the vacancies notified were in domestic offices or services, 8.5 per cent. in the textile trades, and 26.2 per cent. in explosives, etc. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 24.2 per cent., 4.7 per cent., and 32.5 per cent.

Of the vacancies filled, 6,357 (men 2,905, women 2,267, boys 985, and girls 200) were known to be for less than a week's employment, while of the 20,390 vacancies filled by boys and girls, 4,917 (boys 2,154 and girls 2,763), or 24 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 720, and the number of casual jobs found for them was 3,934 (3,769 for dock labourers and 165 for cloth porters at Manchester), a daily average of 126, compared with 127 in the preceding four weeks and 193 in the five weeks ended 16th July, 1915. During the period there were also 2,861 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House system for dock labourers at Liverpool.

UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

There was a large demand for colliers and for labourers and navvies of all kinds. The shortage of textile workers, and of fitters, turners and other workers in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, continued. There was also a considerable unsatisfied demand for domestic servants. Local shortages were reported of quarrymen, chemical workers and agricultural workers.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES—FIVE WEEKS ENDED 14th JULY, 1916.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Five Weeks ended 14th July, 1916.

A.—INSURED TRADES.

Table with columns for Occupation Groups, Registrations (On Register at Beginning, Registrations during Period, On Register at End, Filled during Period), and Vacancies (Filled during Period). Sub-sections include Adults and Juveniles.

* 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 and Vehicle Trades.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

Table with columns for Occupational Groups, Registrations (On Register at Beginning, Registrations during Period, On Register at End, Vacancies Filled during Period), and Vacancies Filled during Period. Sub-sections include Adults and Juveniles.

* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.

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 July, 1916, in the 35 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 151 per 10,000, a decrease of 2 per 10,000 on a month ago and of 18 per 10,000 on a year ago.

Compared with the previous month, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 3,760 (or 1.3 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers decreased by 1,330 (or 1.0 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 2,430 (or 1.6 per cent.). Every district—except Halifax and Huddersfield, Hull and Belfast, which showed no change, and Aberdeen and Galway, where there was an increase of 1 and 3 per 10,000 of population respectively—showed a decrease. The largest decreases were in Bradford, Dublin and Cork districts (5 per 10,000 of population).

Compared with July, 1915, the total number of paupers decreased by 30,865 (or 10.0 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers decreased by 10,123 (or 7.1 per cent.), and the number of outdoor by 20,742 (or 12.4 per cent.). There was an increase of 3 per 10,000 of population in Galway district, but every other district showed a decrease; the largest decreases were in the Stockton and Tees district (38) and Central Metropolitan district (31). Eleven districts showed a decrease of 20 and under 30 per 10,000, and 21 under 20 per 10,000.

Table showing Paupers on one day in July, 1916, with columns for In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a) Month ago, b) Year ago.

Table showing Paupers on one day in July, 1916, for Scotland and Ireland, with columns for In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a) Month ago, b) Year ago.

* 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.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

I.—IMPORTS IN JULY.

[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 July, 1916, was £68,877,450, showing an increase of £2,562,473 (or 3.9 per cent.) compared with July, 1915, and of £17,326,882 (or 33.6 per cent.) compared with July, 1914. Compared with July in both of the previous years there were increases in the import values of sugar, iron ore, timber and wood pulp for paper making, cotton, flax and hemp, linseed, petroleum, rubber, and many kinds of chemicals. Under most other headings of foodstuffs and raw materials there was an increase as compared with July, 1914, but a decrease as compared with July, 1915. Most kinds of manufactured articles showed a decrease as compared with both 1914 and 1915.

Table showing Value of Imports (less re-exports) in July, 1916, compared with July, 1915, and July, 1914, for various Groups.

(b) QUANTITIES.

Particulars regarding some of the principal articles are given in the following Table:—

Table showing Quantity imported (less quantity re-exported) during July, 1916, compared with July, 1915, and July, 1914, for various Principal Articles.

Compared with July, 1915, the imports of wheat showed a great increase from the United States and Canada, but a great decrease from India and the Argentine. The total imports were slightly less than in July, 1915, and 23 per cent. less than in July, 1914. Oats and maize also showed great decreases. Chilled and frozen meat showed a great decrease, especially frozen meat from the Argentine; bacon and hams also declined. Butter, cheese, eggs, potatoes, and most other non-dutiable articles of food, except margarine, showed considerable decreases. Sugar increased, but tea showed a decline of over 10 million pounds, or 28 per cent.

There was an increase in the quantity of iron ore imported. Timber, which showed a great decrease in 1915 over 1914, showed a further reduction in July, 1916. Cotton showed an increase over both 1914 and 1915. Wool showed a decline of nearly 20 million pounds on July, 1915, but a slight increase on July, 1914. Flax and hemp showed an increase over July in both years. Petroleum showed a decrease of 22½ million gallons (or 41 per cent.) as compared with July, 1915, and of nearly 40 million gallons (or 55 per cent.) as compared with July, 1914. The decrease was principally in lamp, gas, and fuel oils; lubricating oils showed an actual increase. There was a great decrease in wood pulp owing to the cessation of imports of chemical pulp from Sweden.

Steel billets and bars (including tinplate bars) showed a great reduction on both 1914 and 1915; copper and lead also

* Re-exports exceeded imports in July, 1915.

showed a great decline on both years. Nearly all kinds of chemicals showed a decrease on July, 1915, though in many cases there was an increase on July, 1914. There was a decrease of over 50,000 cwt. (37 per cent.) in the imports of leather as compared with July, 1915, and a considerable decrease as compared with July, 1914.

II.—IMPORTS IN JANUARY—JULY, 1916.

During the seven months ended July, 1916, the total value of the imports (less re-exports) was £488,751,204, as compared with £443,713,322 during the seven months ended July, 1915, and with £368,147,985 during the seven months ended July, 1914.

III.—EXPORTS IN JULY.

(a) VALUES.

The value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom during July, 1916, amounted to £46,323,057, showing an increase of £11,601,546 (or 33.5 per cent.) over July, 1915, and of £1,917,677 (or 4.3 per cent.) over July, 1914. The figure for July, 1916, was slightly exceeded in May and June of this year, but with those exceptions was the largest since January, 1914.

Compared with July in both 1914 and 1915 there were great increases in the value of the exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof, woollen tissues, boots and shoes, and arms, ammunition and military and naval stores. Compared with July, 1915, there were also great increases in the value of the exports of coal and coke, and of cotton piece goods. Compared with July, 1914, there was a great reduction (47 per cent.) in the value of machinery, but a great increase (63 per cent.) in the exports of chemicals, &c.

Groups.	July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in July, 1916, compared with	
		July, 1915.	July, 1914.
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	2,789,933	+ 713,105	+ 73,531
Raw Materials and Articles mainly un-manufactured	5,853,685	+ 1,609,402	- 313,012
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	36,386,186	+ 9,319,028	+ 1,695,716
Miscellaneous ...	1,293,253	- 39,989	+ 461,442
TOTAL ...	46,323,057	+11,601,546	+ 1,917,677

(b) QUANTITIES.

Particulars regarding some of the principal articles are given in the following table:—

Principal Articles.	July, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in July, 1916, compared with	
		July, 1915.	July, 1914.
Coal and Metals and Metal Manufactures:			
Coal—Steam ... tons	2,406,046	+ 9,664	- 2,317,316
" Other sorts ... tons	898,071	- 244,664	- 948,018
Total of Coal—tons	3,304,117	- 235,000	- 3,295,364
Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof:—			
Pig Iron ... tons	69,999	- 8,371	- 4,618
Railroad Materials ... tons	7,938	- 43,038	- 48,343
Plates and Sheets (except galvanised and tinned) ... tons	50,702	+ 20,180	+ 31,665
Galvanised Sheets ... tons	10,382	- 20,752	- 48,241
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets ... tons	38,174	- 1,354	- 9,063
Tubes and Pipes and Fittings, wrought and cast ... tons	18,279	- 6,715	- 10,659
Steel Bars, Angles, Rods and Shapes or Sections ... tons	45,584	+ 6,010	+ 27,822
Other Iron and Steel Manufactures ... tons	52,200	+ 637	- 19,404
Total Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof } tons	293,258	- 53,403	- 80,841
Copper and Manufactures thereof ... tons	1,634	+ 199	- 2,268
Lead, Tin, Zinc and Manufactures thereof ... tons	3,933	- 1,567	- 1,894
Cutlery and Hardware ... tons	51,987	+ 9,448	- 33,792
Machinery ... tons	28,361	- 1,289	- 38,019
Textiles:—			
Wool, Sheep's or Lambs' ... lb.	275,200	- 604,300	- 4,652,700
Cotton Yarn ... lb.	14,680,500	+ 1,628,300	- 5,185,800
" Piece Goods ... yds.	470,996,200	- 67,621,200	- 157,773,900
Woollen Tissues ... yds.	12,285,400	+ 5,087,800	+ 1,220,000
Worsted Tissues ... yds.	4,821,200	- 326,800	- 2,724,400
Jute Piece Goods ... yds.	10,382,600	- 336,900	- 1,708,600
Linen Piece Goods ... yds.	12,711,100	+ 832,400	+ 1,297,000
Miscellaneous:—			
Tobacco and Snuff ... lb.	3,389,351	+ 175,207	+ 88,508
Boots and Shoes ... dozen pairs	152,919	+ 43,811	- 12,794
Chemical Manures ... tons	28,879	- 20,184	- 24,997
Painters' Colours ... cwt.	190,743	+ 24,560	- 11,063
Paper ... cwt.	208,473	- 50,499	- 66,890

Compared with July, 1915, there were increases of 5,087,800 yards (or 70.7 per cent.) in the quantity of woollen tissues exported. Other considerable increases were: Spirits (British

and Irish), 355,706 gallons, or 44.5 per cent.; worsted yarn, 738,500 lb., or 68.2 per cent.; boots and shoes, 43,811 dozen pairs, or 40.2 per cent.; and bags and sacks, 186,031 dozens, or 55.7 per cent. The other great increases in value, particularly under the heading of coal and coke, iron and steel and manufactures thereof, and cotton manufactures, were due almost entirely to the rise in prices, and not to increased quantities exported. Considerable reductions in quantity as compared with July, 1915, occurred in the cases of the following important articles of export: Wool, iron and steel rails, chairs and sleepers, galvanised iron and steel sheets, iron and steel pipes and fittings, steel girders, &c., cotton piece goods and soda compounds. The exports of cotton piece goods showed substantial increases to Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, the Dutch East Indies, Brazil and the Argentine, but reductions to France and Persia, as well as to China and India, the principal markets.

Increases in exports to France have partly neutralised a falling off in the exports to other countries; thus the increased export of linen yarn and of woollen tissues is almost entirely accounted for by the larger quantities going to France.

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

During the seven months ended July, 1916, the value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom amounted to £288,130,938, showing an increase of £69,786,539 compared with the corresponding period of 1915, but a decrease of £11,732,053 compared with the corresponding period of 1914. For the last three months, however, the exports have largely exceeded the exports in May—July, 1914, the total excess in these three months being £14,292,485, or 13.1 per cent.

V.—EXPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

During July, 1916, the total value of the re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise was £7,894,921, showing a reduction of £1,513,869 on July, 1915, but an increase of £69,005 on July, 1914.

During the seven months ended July, 1916, the total value was £62,016,022, showing an increase of £1,284,212 on the corresponding period of 1915, but a reduction of £5,086,310 on the corresponding period of 1914.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN JULY.

The total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of July, 1916, was 15, compared with 21 at the end of July, 1915, and with 15 at the end of July, 1913. The total number of persons who received employment relief during July was 470, as compared with 175 a year ago, an increase of 295 persons, and with 571 in July, 1913. The aggregate duration of employment relief was 11,261 days in July, 1916, compared with 3,029 days in July, 1915, and with 10,369 in July, 1913, and the average duration of employment for those employed was 26.0 days, compared with 17.3 days a year ago, and with 19.3 days in July, 1913. The total amount of wages paid in July, 1916, was £820, compared with £272 in July, 1915, and with £1,205 in July, 1913, and the average earnings were 34s. 11d., compared with 31s. 1d. a year ago, and 42s. 2d. in July, 1913.

Districts.	No. of Applicants given Employment Relief.		Aggregate Duration of Employment Relief.		Total Amount of Wages Paid.	
	July, 1916.	July, 1915.	July, 1916.	July, 1915.	July, 1916.	July, 1915.
London:					£	£
County
Outer	13	...	...	197	23
Total, London	13	...	...	197	23
Northern Counties	126
Lancs. and Cheshire	95	...	...	1,402	...
Yorkshire	8
Midlands	4	...	...	62	...
Eastern Counties
Southern Counties
Wales and Monmouth
ENGLAND AND WALES	112	...	...	1,661	157
Scotland	63	...	...	1,363	91
Ireland ...	437*	...	10,488	...	729	...
UNITED KINGDOM ...	470*	175	11,261	3,029	820	272

* Includes 38 women employed on piece-work.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

CLAIM WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF ACCIDENT: REASONABLE CAUSE FOR NOT MAKING CLAIM: RELEASE UNDER MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT: EXCEPTION OF CLAIM UNDER WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT: IS EXCEPTION A CLAIM?

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, that proceedings for the recovery of compensation are not maintainable unless the claim for compensation is made within six months from the occurrence of the accident; provided that the failure to make a claim within that time is not to be a bar to proceedings if it is found that the failure was occasioned by mistake, absence from the United Kingdom, or other reasonable cause.

By the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, it is provided that on the discharge of a seaman at the end of a voyage and the final settlement of his wages before a superintendent of the Board of Trade, the seaman must sign in the presence of the superintendent a release in a form approved of by the Board of all claims in respect of the voyage. On the back of the form in use there are specified certain claims, referred to in a note on the face, which may be excepted from the release.

A seaman was employed on a ship which was worked on the "thirds system." The master was entitled to two-thirds and the owner to one-third of the profits. In February, 1911, the seaman met with a serious accident in the course of his employment at sea in circumstances giving him a right to compensation. At the end of the voyage, when the crew were discharged in the United Kingdom, they were required to sign the usual release, which freed ship, owner and master from all claims in respect of the voyage. The injured man signed the form, but also signed a note that any claim arising under the Workmen's Compensation Act was excepted from the release.

Long after the period of six months had elapsed the seaman took proceedings against the master for compensation. Apparently a dispute had arisen as to whether the master or the owner was liable. At the hearing it was contended that the proceedings could not be maintained as no claim had been made within the prescribed time. For the claimant, on the other hand, it was contended that the signing of the exception to the release must be taken as equivalent to notice of a claim to both master and owner, and as the actual making of a claim against whichever party was liable. The judge, however, decided that no claim had been made by the claimant within the prescribed time; that his failure to make a claim was not occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause; and that the proceedings for compensation could not be maintained. The claimant appealed.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal. They held that the effect of the exception signed by the claimant was that, if he chose to make a claim the release he had signed would be no bar to his claim; but that the exception by itself could not be taken as a claim or notice of a claim against either the master or the owner. Thereon the case should be dealt with on the basis that no claim had been made against anyone. Further, the failure to make a claim within the time could not be said to have been occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause.—*Harper v. Harper*.—*Court of Appeal*.—13th and 14th July, 1916.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: SHORT PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT: SEASONAL VARIATION IN RATE OF WAGES: BASIS OF ASSESSMENT.

Where a workman is injured in circumstances entitling him to compensation under the Act, the maximum weekly payment which he can be awarded is a sum not exceeding 50 per cent. of his average weekly earnings during the previous twelve months if he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less period during which he has been in the employment of the same employer. Average weekly earnings are, however, to be computed in such manner as is best calculated to give the rate per week at which the workman was being remunerated; and where, by reason of the shortness of the time during which the workman has been in the employment of his employer, the casual nature of the employment, or the terms of the employment, it is impracticable at the date of the accident to compute the rate of remuneration, regard may be had to the average weekly amount which, during the twelve months previous to the accident, was being earned by a person in the same grade employed in the same work by the same employer, or if there is no such person so employed by a person in the same grade employed in the same class of employment in the same district.

A workman, employed as a scaffolder at 8½d. an hour, met with an accident, by which he was so injured as to be entitled to the maximum compensation. He had been employed for seven weeks in mid-winter, and during that period his average weekly earnings amounted to £1 7s. 8½d. The average weekly earnings of a scaffolder for a year in that neighbourhood amounted to £1 15s. 9½d., as longer hours were worked in summer than in winter.

On the hearing of a claim for compensation the question raised was as to the proper basis of computation. The judge

decided that it was impracticable to compute the rate of remuneration fairly by reference to seven weeks' work in the winter, as the average during a year was the dominant principle, and here the wages varied materially according to the season. He accordingly assessed the compensation at 17s. 11d. a week, and made an award for that amount. The employers appealed, contending that the compensation should not exceed 13s. 10½d. per week.

The Court of Appeal confirmed the award, and dismissed the appeal. They held that the Act does not leave it to the arbitrator merely to work out a simple average by the rules of arithmetic. That would be his duty if the employment had lasted twelve months, but when the term served was less than twelve months he had to compute the average earnings in such manner as was best calculated to give the real rate at which the workman was being paid. If the employment had not, in his judgment, lasted long enough to give the true average he must take other things into consideration. Here the judge had decided that the time served was not long enough to give the true rate. That was a decision of fact at which he was entitled to arrive if there was any evidence to support it. There certainly was such evidence and the Court could not interfere. Having come to that conclusion, the judge was entitled to take other relevant matters into account in computing the compensation. He had done so, and had acted entirely within his powers.—*Cox v. George Trollope & Sons*.—*Court of Appeal*.—19th July, 1916.

WHO IS A WORKMAN?: CONTRACT OF SERVICE: AGREEMENT WITH FIRM: ACCIDENT WHILE WORKING FOR OTHER FIRM: JOBBING GRINDERS.

No person is entitled to compensation under the Act unless he is a "workman" within the definition of that term in the Act. By that definition "workman," subject to certain exceptions, includes every person who has entered into or works under a contract of service with an employer.

In 1900 a firm of cutlers advertised for a competent jobbing grinder. A man answered the advertisement, saw one of the firm, and was accepted. He agreed to buy the tools of the jobbing grinder who preceded him, and was allotted two troughs at 10s. 6d. a week rent. He did on the firm's premises all the work they provided for him, and was paid according to a settled price list. The firm supplied all the apparatus for working the troughs, as well as the troughs themselves, and agreed to keep them in repair and working order. So long as the grinder did a reasonable amount of work he chose his own hours of work, but might be dismissed for not turning out a reasonable amount. For the first two or three years the firm supplied him with enough work to keep him fully employed; but after that time the amount of work fell off, and he obtained the manager's permission to take in work for other firms provided it did not interfere with his regular work. Whilst he was doing work for one of these other firms he was injured by accident. He claimed compensation from the firm with whom he had made the agreement and whose plant he was using.

The judge held that that firm had such control over the claimant that he worked for them as his employers under a contract of service, and that as he was working for another firm with their express consent when he was injured, they were liable as his employers. An award of compensation was therefore made. The firm appealed.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, and set aside the award. They held that assuming, but not deciding, that the grinder was under a contract of service with the appellants, he was actually working for another firm when injured. In these circumstances the appellants could not be liable unless they had lent the man to the other firm. There was no evidence whatever of any such lending, and therefore the award could not be justified.—*Oates v. Thomas Turner & Co.*—*Court of Appeal*.—10th July, 1916.

INCAPACITY FROM INJURY: RECOVERY FROM PHYSICAL EFFECTS: INABILITY TO WORK THROUGH PARALYSIS OF WILL POWER.

Compensation for injury is payable under the Act only during incapacity from work. The amount of compensation must in no case exceed the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the average weekly amount which he is earning or is able to earn in some suitable employment or business after the accident. Weekly payments may be reviewed at any time at the request of either workman or employer.

A blacksmith's assistant met with an accident by which his back and one leg were injured, and he was wholly incapacitated for a time from working. His wages had been 26s. a week, and his employers paid him half that sum a week as compensation for two years. In the meanwhile he had been under treatment at two hospitals, the latter being a special hospital for the paralysed. His condition, however, did not improve, and he was unable to walk or even to stand. His arms were not affected, and he could get about in a bath chair. The employers then applied for a review, contending that the incapacity caused by the accident had come to an end. Medical evidence was given on each side at the

hearing of the application to the County Court judge. It was admitted that then the man was unable to work, but the judge thought he ought to try, and to encourage him to do so he reduced the weekly payments from 13s. to 10s. Later the employers made a second application for a review and reduction of the payments, and the workman made a cross application to increase the payments to their former figure of 13s. The applications were heard together, and medical witnesses called for the employers testified that there were no objective signs of paralysis, that the man's condition was wholly due to loss of will power, and that light work would be highly beneficial to him. The judge accepted this view and reduced the compensation to 1d. a week. No one suggested that the man was a malingerer. The workman appealed.

The Court of Appeal said that the first reduction by the judge to encourage the man to make an effort to work was wholly unjustifiable. In his second decision he had entirely overlooked the fact that loss of will power may be just as much the result of an accident as any visible injury. It did not matter, as far as the man's rights under the Act were concerned, whether the cause of his paralysis were physical or mental. The judge had been influenced by the idea that light work would have been beneficial to him, but it was hard to see what work a blacksmith could do who was unable to stand, and no evidence had been given that there was work open to him which he was able to do. In fact, the man was suffering from paralysis of his will power as a direct result of the accident; that paralysis rendered him incapable of working, and he was entitled to the maximum compensation allowed by the Act. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Stride v. Southampton Gas Co.—Court of Appeal.—24th July, 1916.*

(2) MISCELLANEOUS.

NOTICE TO WORKMEN TO WORK OVERTIME: ABSENCE OF EXPRESS AGREEMENT: LOCKING FACTORY GATES: "FALSE IMPRISONMENT."

A firm of linen manufacturers had a war contract with the French Government, and to enable them to execute the work quickly they obtained an order from the Home Secretary allowing them to extend the hours of work so that they should be from 6.0 A.M. to 6.30 P.M. A fortnight's notice of the extension was posted in the factory. The Trade Union to which the workmen belonged then wrote to the firm stating that as the workers had been refused an increase of wages to meet the increased cost of living they refused to work any overtime at the existing rate of wages. The firm in reply said that they were trying to get the wages raised, and that the overtime would not interfere with their claim to a higher rate. A number of workers then gave in their notices to leave, refusing to work the overtime. About 130 of them, however, went to work as usual on the first day upon which the factory was to continue working until 6.30 P.M., in accordance with the notice. At 6.0 P.M. these workers attempted to leave the factory, but they were unable to do so, as the gates were locked, and the employers refused to allow them to be unlocked until 6.30. Each of these workers then brought an action against the firm for damages for false imprisonment, claiming £10 each.

The County Court judge heard one case as a test case, and gave judgment for the plaintiff for 1s. damages and costs. The defendants appealed.

It was contended for the employers that as the plaintiff had seen the notice and knew that a change of hours would be enforced, and had gone to the factory and begun to work with that knowledge, he must be taken as having implicitly agreed to work till 6.30, and in that case the refusal to open the gates till 6.30 was no infringement of his rights and no false imprisonment. On the other hand, it was contended that the plaintiff had never agreed to work till 6.30, and that, therefore, there was no justification for forcibly shutting him up within the factory.

The King's Bench Division allowed the appeal, holding that there was an implied contract by the plaintiff to work till 6.30, and that there was no obligation on the defendants to unlock the gates before that hour; therefore there was no false imprisonment and no infringement of the plaintiff's rights.—*Burns v. Johnston, Allen & Co.—King's Bench Division in Ireland.—8th July, 1916.*

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

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

POWER LOOM TUNERS, HUDDERSFIELD.—A difference having arisen between the Fine Cloth Manufacturers' Association and the Huddersfield and District Woollen Manufacturers and Spinners' Association, on the one hand, and the Huddersfield Power Loom Tuners' Society on the other, in connection with an application for an advance of wages, the difference was, at the joint request of the parties, referred to Sir George Askwith for decision. Sir George issued his award on 6th July, giving a war grant of 2s. per week for a full week's work, with a proportionate reduction for time lost through a workman's default, but not otherwise varying previous agreements and awards relating to the parties.

COAL MINERS, HIRWAIN.—A difficulty having arisen concerning the supply of coal to the workmen at Tower Colliery, Hirwain, the parties referred the matter to the decision of Sir George Askwith, who determined that coal from the colliery shall be supplied to the quantity of one load per month upon written order signed by the workman at a price of 8s. per ton for large coal, ex the railway wagon, together with charge for haulage. The allowance is to last for the duration of the war only, when former conditions being thus reverted to, the matter can be raised at the Conciliation Board for definite settlement.

ELECTRICAL WIREMEN AND FITTERS, & C., LONDON.—Differences having arisen between the London Electrical Masters' Association and the Electrical Trades Union, the matter was referred to the decision of the Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B. The claim of the Union was for (a) an advance of wages of 2d. per hour and (b) an increase of the country allowance to men sent to work out of the London area from 10s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. per week. In his award of 14th July the arbitrator decided (a) that the existing rate of electrical wiremen should be raised from 11½d. to 11¾d. per hour, with pro rata advances to electricians' labourers and assistants, and (b) that, having regard to the varying nature of the cases, the present rule as to country allowance should stand, but that consideration should be given to exceptional cases as and when they arise on terms not less liberal than the present.

SHUTTLE MAKERS, LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.—Differences having arisen between the Shuttle Manufacturers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Shuttle Makers in connection with a proposed revision of the wages list, the men ceased work in support of their application. A conference of the parties was arranged under the chairmanship of an officer of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department on 11th July, when a provisional agreement was arrived at between the parties, on the basis of which the men shortly afterwards resumed work.

COAL TRIMMERS, SOUTH WALES PORTS.—Difficulties having arisen in connection with the coal trimming rates at South Wales ports, after a preliminary inquiry Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., was appointed to preside as neutral chairman of a conference of the various parties concerned. Conferences were held on 13th and 20th July, as a result of which terms of settlement were arrived at, which *inter alia* provided for the setting up of a South Wales Central Trimming Board and local Trimming Boards at the several ports to deal with difficulties arising as regards particular vessels; for the definite formulation in writing of all rules governing the rates at the several ports, and providing that the printed tariffs now in existence shall form the basis of the rates, a war bonus to be paid in addition.

ENGINEERS, BRISTOL CHANNEL PORTS.—A difference having arisen between the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the Engineers and Shipbuilding Employers' Association (Cardiff, Newport, Barry and Penarth districts) in connection with a circular issued by the Union (without any previous conference with the Employers' Association) to their members employed at the Bristol Channel ports, instructing such members to refrain from executing any work taken adrift for repair by ships' engineers, or to work on or for any ship when the engineers are doing any work usually done by shore hands, Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed to determine the matter. The arbitrator issued his award on the 15th July, deciding that the above circular should be superseded by the following rule: "In the event of a dispute arising in connection with any work done by ships' engineers, the matter to be reported to the management or to a representative thereof, who will endeavour to deal with the case to the satisfaction of all concerned; failing which the delegate of the Society and the technical adviser of the Employers' Association be called in to determine the dispute; but no stoppage of work shall take place."

IRONFOUNDERS, EDGAR ALLEN & Co., LTD., SHEFFIELD.—A question arose as to the employment of members of the Friendly Society of Ironfounders at the new foundry of the firm, the Employers' Association contending that the rules of the Society as to working piece-work by the members of the Society tend to restrict production or employment at the foundry. The matter was referred under the provisions of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, to arbitration. Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 31st July, finding that the rules of the Society as to piece-work, which the Society seek to enforce in the said classes of work at the foundry in question, tend to restrict production, and having regard to the work now in hand and in contemplation, work by piece will not tend to restrict employment; further, that the piece-work system in the foundry in question shall be observed as from the date of the award. This award is confined to the determination of the question raised under Section 4 (3) of the Act of 1915.

DYERS, YORKSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, CHESHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE.—Applications for advances of wages were made to the Yorkshire Dyers' Federation and to the Employers' Federation of Printers, Dyers and Finishers of Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire by a number of allied unions on behalf of the workpeople engaged in the dyeing industry. Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to determine the applications, and issued his awards on the 22nd July. In the Yorkshire case the arbitrator awarded a war wage advance of 4s. per week to men over 18 years of age, and 2s. 8d.

per week to youths under that age, and also to women and girls, with the usual equivalent advance to pieceworkers. In the other case the arbitrator awarded advances to day workers and pieceworkers in substitution for the war grant previously arranged between the parties; the arbitrator further awarded that no alteration in overtime rates or reduction in working hours should be made.

DYERS, HUDDERSFIELD.—Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator in the difference between the Huddersfield Woollen Manufacturers and Spinners' Association and the Fine Cloth Manufacturers' Association on the one hand and the National Society of Dyers and Finishers and others, and issued his award on 31st July, giving a war wage advance to adult male workers of 4s. per week, and a pro rata increase to other workers on time-work and equivalent increases on piece-rates.

DYERS, MIDDLETON.—Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., heard the parties in a difference between three firms at Middleton and the National Society of Dyers and Finishers in respect of an application for an advance of wages. The arbitrator issued his award on 31st July, giving a war wage advance of 8d. per day to male workers of 18 years of age and upwards, and a pro rata increase to other workers for each full day worked.

WAREHOUSEMEN, BRADFORD.—A difference having arisen between the Bradford Merchants' Association and the Bradford Commission Makers-up and Packers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Stuff and Woollen Warehousemen in connection with an application for an advance of wages, Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on 22nd July, determining the schedule of wages to be paid and fixing payment for overtime at the rate of time and a quarter. The advances are to be regarded as war wages.

EMPLOYEES OF CAMELL, LAIRD & Co., LTD., BIRKENHEAD.—A difference having arisen between the firm and their employees engaged on new work respecting a proposed alteration in the midday meal hours, Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to decide the matter. The arbitrator issued his award on the 22nd July, deciding that the dinner hour for all employees, both on new and on repair work, should be from 12 to 1 P.M. The arbitrator further decided against a claim by the men arising from the dispute.

EMPLOYEES OF CHARLES TAYLOR, LTD., BIRMINGHAM.—A difference having arisen between the firm and certain of their employees in connection with an application for a war bonus of 25 per cent. made by the latter, Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to determine the matter. The arbitrator issued his award on 22nd July, granting a war bonus to time-workers only of 3s. per week, which shall be merged in whole or in part, as the case may be, in any general advance in wages which may be given to workers in the machine tool making trade or kindred trades in which these workers shall participate.

ASHMEN, MIDLAND ELECTRIC CORPORATION FOR POWER DISTRIBUTION, LTD.—Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference between the firm and the National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics, Motormen and Electrical Workers arising out of a claim for an advance of wages, issued his award on 31st July, giving a war wage advance of 1s. per week.

EMPLOYEES OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE MOND GAS (POWER AND HEATING CO., DUDLEY).—A difference having arisen between the firm and the National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics, Motormen and Electrical Workers in respect of claims made by the latter on behalf of their members, Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on 31st July, deciding that the Union had not established their claims.

NAVVIERS, DUDLEY PORT.—Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen in connection with an application for a war bonus made by the navvies employed by Mr. W. W. Ellis, a contractor to the South Staffordshire Mond Gas (Power and Heating) Co. The workers concerned were being paid 7d. per hour, and claimed in addition a war bonus of 1d. per hour. The arbitrator issued his award on the 19th July, granting the men a bonus of ¼d. per hour.

WIRE ROPE WORKERS, LIVERPOOL.—A difference having arisen between two firms of wire rope manufacturers at Liverpool and the National Warehouse and General Workers' Union in connection with an application for an advance of wages, the matter was referred to Mr. Charles Doughty, who issued his award on 14th July. The award increases the time rate of the adult men, but makes no alteration of piece rates, and also increases the war bonus, which is dependent on good time-keeping.

MOULDERS, R. & A. MAIN, LTD., LONDON, N.—Mr. Charles Doughty, having been appointed to act as arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between Messrs. R. & A. Main, Ltd., Edmonton, and the National Union of Stove, Grate, Fender and General Light Metal Workers, respecting an application for an advance of wages of 10 per cent. to the moulders working on piece rates, issued his award on 19th July, giving an extra war wage advance of 3s. 6d. a

week, such increase to merge in any general advance given as a result of the application now pending with the firm.

BRASSWORKERS, & C., H. H. MARTYN & Co., LTD., CHELTENHAM.—A difference having arisen between the firm and the National Brassworkers and Metal Mechanics in connection with an application for an advance of wages, Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed arbitrator to determine the matter, and issued his award on the 25th July, giving an advance of a halfpenny per hour and deciding that the present war bonus of 2s. per week paid for good time-keeping shall be changed into a war wage of 4d. per day, to be paid to each man working the full normal hours of each day.

RAILWAY WAGON MAKERS (CHARLES ROBERTS & Co., LTD.), HORBURY JUNCTION.—Mr. Charles Doughty, having been appointed to act as arbitrator to determine a difference arising between Messrs. Charles Roberts & Co., Ltd., and the Workers' Union, respecting an application for an increase of wages, heard the parties on 7th July, and issued his award, giving an increase of 1s. per week to men rated at 36s. a week or less and a further 5 per cent. (making 10 per cent. altogether) on all piece prices which existed before 4th August, 1914.

EMPLOYEES OF MESSRS. COCHRANE & Co., LTD., MIDDLESBROUGH.—Mr. Charles Doughty, having been appointed to act as arbitrator to determine differences that had arisen between the above firm and certain sections of their men in regard to applications for advances of wages, issued his award on 5th July, giving various increases to the men concerned.

PLASTERERS AND CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, PETER BROTHERHOOD, LTD., PETERBOROUGH.—Mr. Charles Doughty, the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference that had arisen between the firm and the plasterers and carpenters and joiners in their employ, in connection with an application for an advance of wages and payment for overtime, issued his award on 31st July, fixing the rate at 8½d. per hour, and overtime at time and a quarter.

BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES (WILLIAM EVANS), LEICESTER.—Differences having arisen between Messrs. William Evans (members of the Leicester Boot Manufacturers' Association) and the Independent National Union of Boot and Shoe Women Workers, as to the piecework prices to be paid for closing the uppers in connection with an order for the Russian army boot, the matter was referred to the arbitration of Mr. E. Forbes Lankester, K.C. Prices had been agreed upon by a committee of the Leicester Boot and Shoe Trade Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, which represents the Leicester Boot Manufacturers' Association and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives. The independent union claimed higher prices in respect of all the processes except one.

The arbitrator found that there are no recognised or prevalent prices in the district for such work other than those agreed for the particular boots in question, and that such prices are, in fact, reasonable and proper.

CARTERS, BRADFORD CORPORATION.—Mr. E. Forbes Lankester, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference that had arisen between the Corporation of Bradford and the carters in their employ (represented by the United Carters' Association of England) regarding claims for an increase of 3s. in their war bonus, and also that men employed for three months be regarded as regularly employed by the Corporation and be entitled to all the consequent privileges, issued his award on the 24th July, refusing the first claim and granting the other. The Corporation have, since the present difference arose, increased the war bonus of the men concerned from 3s. to 4s. per week.

BRICKLAYERS' LABOURERS, PALMER'S SHIPBUILDING AND IRON CO., LTD., JARROW.—Mr. E. Forbes Lankester, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference between the firm and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, acting for the bricklayers' labourers in the firm's employ, issued his award on 24th July, giving the men an advance of ¼d. per hour, making the rate 8d. per hour.

BRICKLAYERS, SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH & Co., LTD., OPENSHAW.—The bricklayers employed by the firm at their works at Openshaw applied to be paid 11d. per hour, being the recognised rate in the building trade of the district. The men are paid in accordance with an agreement which was to hold good till 31st March, 1916. Mr. E. Forbes Lankester, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to determine the matter, issued his award on 5th July, giving the men a war bonus of 2s. a week; when employed in new constructional work the men are to be paid the recognised rate of 11d. per hour.

DOCK LABOURERS AND LIGHTERMEN, SHARPNESS.—Differences having arisen between the timber stevedores and lighter owners in the docks at Sharpness and the men employed by them, Mr. E. Forbes Lankester, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to determine the matter. The men were paid day wages of 7s. 6d. per day and war bonus of 6d., making 8s. in all, but claimed 10s. a day without bonus. The arbitrator issued his award on 17th July, deciding that the rate shall be 8s. 3d. a day, plus a war bonus of 1s. a day, the award to remain in operation till March 25 of any one year, subject to either side giving notice to terminate the same on or before the last day of December of the previous year.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE, KINGSWOOD.—Mr. T. Smith was appointed umpire to determine an application for an increased

war bonus to day workers made by the operatives on the Board of Arbitration for the Kingswood and District Boot and Shoe Trade, and issued his award on the 24th July, granting an increase from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per week to all male day workers over 21 years of age, and from 1s. to 2s. per week to those between the ages of 18 and 21 years.

FILE MAKERS, SHEFFIELD.—Sir William Robinson, the arbitrator appointed to decide the rate of wages to be paid to workers in the file trade in Sheffield for work done on Whit Monday and Tuesday, issued his award on the 24th July, deciding that all workers, including women workers, should be paid at the rate of time and a half (excluding one company who had entered into a special agreement), the payment only to apply to this year.

LABOURERS, VICKERS, LTD., PRESTON.—Sir William Robinson, the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference that had arisen between the firm and the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers in connection with a claim by the Union that the rates for labourers should not be reduced from 26s. 6d. to 24s., but increased by 5s. per week, issued his award on 24th July, deciding that the rate be 26s. 6d. for labourers employed on constructional building work and 24s. per week for those employed on production work (being the work incidental to the ordinary business of the firm), which is the Preston District rate at present. No order was made as to the claim for an advance of 5s. per week, pending the settlement of negotiations now in progress for the district.

POWER STATION WORKERS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., LTD., CARVILLE AND DUNSTON-ON-TYNE.—Sir William Robinson, having been appointed to act as arbitrator to determine a difference between the above firm and the National Union of Gas and General Workers relative to an application for an advance of wages of 5s. per week, made on behalf of various sections of the employees, issued his award on 12th July, giving a war wage advance of 1s. per week, conditional upon good weekly time-keeping.

LIMESTONE QUARRYMEN, SIR HEDWORTH WILLIAMSON'S FULWELL LIME WORKS, LTD., SUNDERLAND.—Application for an advance of wages of 10 per cent. having been made by the quarrymen employed by the above firm, the matter was referred to the arbitration of Sir William Robinson. The arbitrator issued his award on 7th July, deciding that the claim had not been established.

PITMEN, DORMAN, LONG & CO., LTD., MIDDLESBROUGH.—On 24th May joint application was made by the Steel Ingot Makers' Association and the British Steel Smelters' Association for the appointment of an arbitrator to determine an application for an advance of wages made by the Unions on behalf of the pitmen working the small moulds at the Britannia Works of Messrs. Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough. Sir William Robinson was appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on 7th July, increasing the rate.

LABOURERS, HARDY PATENT PICK CO., LTD., SHEFFIELD.—A difference having arisen between the firm and the Workers' Union in connection with an application by the latter for increased overtime rates for labourers and semi-skilled workers in the firm's employ, Sir William Robinson was appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on 24th July, fixing the overtime rates in the engineering section of the firm at time and a quarter for the first two hours, with time and a half thereafter until starting time next day, and on Saturday between noon and midnight, and time and three-quarters between Saturday midnight and starting time Monday morning. No claim for overtime can be made until the full standard hours of the week have been worked, except for work done between the usual time of ceasing work on Saturday and the usual time of starting on Monday.

ENGINEERS, THE HUMBER GRAVING DOCK AND ENGINEERING CO., LTD., IMMINGHAM.—Mr. Ernest Page, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, and the Smiths and Strikers' Society and the Humber Graving Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd., in connection with certain alterations made by the company with regard to 24 hours' shifts at the works at Immingham. It was agreed by the parties that the arbitrator should revise the rules lately made by the company, and he issued his award on 12th July, embodying a revised set of rules for regulating the work.

PACKERS, STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES.—By agreement between the operatives generally represented by the National Amalgamated Society of Male and Female Pottery Workers and the employers, the war bonus was increased in May, 1916, by 2½ per cent., making a total bonus of 10 per cent. The National Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers, acting for certain packers, refused to accept this advance, and the matter was reported to the Board of Trade, and Mr. Ernest Page, K.C., was appointed arbitrator. The arbitrator issued his award on the 19th July, deciding that the whole of the men concerned shall be paid the additional 2½ per cent., making a total war bonus of 10 per cent. on the wages of each.

ROLLTURNERS, THE EBBW VALE STEEL, IRON AND COAL CO., LTD.—An application for an advance of wages and reduction of working hours made by the British Rollturners' Trade Society on behalf of ten rollturners in the employ of Messrs. The Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal Co., Ltd., was referred to arbitration. Mr. Ernest Page, the arbitrator appointed, issued his award

on the 12th July, deciding that the wages of the men in question be increased by 2s. per week as from the 29th May last, and that there shall be no alteration of hours worked or war bonus paid.

PLUMBERS AND FITTERS, NORTH-EAST COAST.—A number of differences as to demarcation of work having arisen on the North-East Coast between the United Operative Plumbers and Domestic Engineers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, a demarcation court was set up to determine the differences, consisting of Mr. Walter Dodd (chairman), Mr. Isaac D. Hebron and Mr. William Paterson. The court heard representatives of the unions and of the firms, and issued their awards on 24th July, determining the matters in dispute.

DRILLERS, GUEST, KEEN & NETTLEFOLD, LTD., DOWLAIS.—The Workers' Union reported a difference with the firm in connection with an innovation made by the firm at their Dowlais Works in dealing with heavy rails after the drillers had finished with them, the men claiming that they should be given assistance, as formerly, in handling the heavy rails, and that increased rates for drilling should be given. Mr. Walter Dodd was appointed arbitrator, and met the parties on the 13th July, when it was settled that certain rates should be revised and assistance given to the drillers when working on rails over eleven hundred pounds in weight.

FEMALE EMPLOYEES, DICK, KERR & CO., LTD., PRESTON.—The National Federation of Women Workers made a claim for the reinstatement of one of their members who had been discharged from the firm's Preston works. Mr. Walter Dodd, the arbitrator appointed to determine the matter, issued his award on the 19th July, deciding that the claim had not been established.

PAINTERS, EARLESTOWN.—Mr. F. N. Keen was appointed arbitrator to determine a difference between the Earlestown and District Master Painters' Association and the National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators with respect to an application for an advance of wages. At the time of the hearing a strike was proceeding in connection with the matter. The arbitrator issued his award on 31st July, deciding, upon condition that the strike is forthwith discontinued, that the standard wage should be 9d. per hour, to be temporarily increased by the following sums, which shall cease at the termination of the war:—½d. per hour from first full pay after 12th August, 1916; a further ¼d. per hour after 12th December, 1916, and also after 12th April, 1917, if the war still continue.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS AND ENGINEERS, SIMPSON, STRICKLAND & CO., LTD., AND PHILIP & SON, LTD., DARTMOUTH.—Mr. F. N. Keen, the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference that had arisen between these two firms and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners respecting an application for an advance of wages, issued his award on 25th July, embodying an offer made by the firms, and accepted by the Union, that the rate should be advanced to 8½d. per hour.

Mr. Keen was also appointed to decide between the firms and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in connection with an application for an advance of wages. The arbitrator issued his award in this case on the same day, granting to the men concerned a war bonus of 3d. for every weekday on which the workman works the full ordinary working hours, such bonus not to be reckoned in calculating overtime payments.

LABOURERS, MUSGRAVE & CO., LTD., BELFAST.—A difference having arisen between the firm and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour with respect to an application by the Union for an advance of wages and revision of overtime rates for unskilled and semi-skilled labourers employed by the firm, Mr. F. N. Keen was appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on the 24th July, deciding that the minimum rate for able-bodied adult male labourers shall be 22s. 6d. per week; deciding the war bonus to be paid to the various grades of employees, and fixing the overtime rates for weekdays at time and a quarter for the first two hours, and time and a half thereafter; Sundays and recognised general holidays double time.

LABOURERS (UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED), LAURENCE SCOTT & CO., LTD., NORWICH.—A difference having arisen between the firm and the National Union of General Workers with respect to an application for an advance of wages made by the Union on behalf of the unskilled and semi-skilled labourers in the firm's employ, Mr. F. N. Keen was appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on the 21st July, fixing the minimum rate and war bonuses to be paid.

EMPLOYEES OF MESSRS. KYNOCH, LTD., KYNOCHTOWN.—Applications for advances of wages and alterations of working conditions having been made to the firm by the National Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers and by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, the differences were referred to Mr. H. Courthope-Munroe, K.C., who issued his award on 27th July, deciding the matters in dispute.

WALLET MAKERS, OLDAKER & CO., LONDON.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Oldaker and Company and the London Saddle and Harness Makers' Trade Protection Society as to the amount to be paid for making a certain pattern of wallet, the matter was referred to the decision of Mr. H. Courthope-Munroe, K.C., who issued his award on 14th July, determining the price to be paid.

CUT NAIL MAKERS, LEEDS.—For some time past a 10 per cent. war bonus has been paid by manufacturers of cut nails in

various districts to the members of the United Cut Nail Makers' Protection Society. The society made application to Messrs. J. & J. Ingham & Co., Ltd., of Leeds, for a similar bonus. A difference having arisen on the subject, Mr. W. A. Willis was appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on the 24th July, granting the claim of the Society.

EMPLOYEES OF MESSRS. JOSEPH COOK, SONS & CO., LTD., WASHINGTON STATION.—Mr. W. A. Willis having been appointed arbitrator to determine a difference that had arisen between Messrs. Joseph Cook, Sons & Co., Ltd., and their employees in connection with applications for an advance of wages, issued his award on the 11th July, granting an additional war bonus of 5 per cent. to all employees (excepting masons and brickworkers), payment of the advance to be dependent on good time-keeping.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, WM. BEARDMORE & CO., LTD., DALMUIR.—Sir Thomas Munro, the arbiter appointed to determine a difference that had arisen between Messrs. Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., and the Electrical Trades Union on a proposal by the firm that the premium bonus system should be introduced in respect of the electricians in the engineering shop and shipyard of the firm's establishment at Dalmeir, issued his award on the 24th July, deciding in favour of the introduction of this system.

FURNACEMEN, &C., UNITED ALKALI CO., LTD., IRVINE.—A difference having arisen between the firm and the Workers' Union in respect of a claim by the latter for an advance of wages to their members employed at the company's works at Irvine, Mr. Condie Sandeman, K.C., was appointed arbiter, and issued his award on 17th July, giving varying advances to some of the men and finding that others are not entitled to any increase.

BLACKSMITHS AND HAMMERMEN, LANARKSHIRE COLLIERIES.—A dispute, which arose from an application for an advance of wages of 1s. per day made by the Associated Blacksmiths and Ironworkers' Society to the Lanarkshire Coalmasters' Association, was referred to arbitration. Sheriff A. J. Louttit Lang, the arbiter appointed, issued his award on the 10th July, deciding that from and after the first pay-day in June, 1916, the men concerned should be paid a special bonus of 6d. per day in addition to the bonus of 3d. per day presently paid.

WEIGHING MACHINE MAKERS, GLASGOW AND DISTRICT.—A difference having arisen between the Amalgamated Society of Scale Beam and Weighing Machine Makers and certain machine-making firms in Glasgow with reference to the adjustment of working rules proposed by the Society, Sheriff A. J. Louttit Laing was appointed arbiter to decide the matter. The arbiter issued his award on the 18th July, deferring the questions of the employment of non-union labour and the reference of disputes to shop delegates until after the conclusion of peace, and formulating a set of rules to regulate the wages and conditions of employment between the members of the Society and the firms concerned.

ELECTRICIANS, EDINBURGH.—On 27th June, joint application was made by the Edinburgh branches of the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland and the Electrical Trades Union for the appointment of an arbiter to determine an application of the Union for an advance of wages of 2d. per hour. Professor Richard Lodge, the arbiter appointed, issued his decision on 13th July, awarding an increase of ¾d. per hour for the six months from 16th June, 1916, and a further increase of ¾d. per hour from 16th December, 1916, provided that there is no decline in the interval in the general cost of living.

BAKERS, WISHAW.—Professor Richard Lodge was appointed arbiter to determine a dispute between the Co-operative Societies of Wishaw, Newmains, Cleland and Overtown, and the Operative Bakers of Scotland National Federal Union, which arose in an attempt to adjust a memorandum of agreement to date from 30th June, 1916, till 30th June, 1917. At the hearing one item of difference was withdrawn, and the arbiter issued his award on the 29th July, deciding the other points in dispute.

SOAP AND CANDLE WORKERS, OGSTON & TENNANT, LTD., RENFREW.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Ogston & Tennant, Ltd., and the unskilled men employed at the firm's St. Rollox Soap and Candle Works, Renfrew, as to the rate of wages and pay for overtime, the matter was referred to Professor Richard Lodge as arbiter. Professor Lodge issued his award on 13th July, increasing the current rate of wages by 2s. a week and continuing the present overtime rates.

LABOURERS, R. B. TENNENT, LTD., COATBRIDGE.—A claim was made by the British Steel Smelters Mill, Iron, Tinplate and Kindred Trades Association for a minimum wage of 6d. per hour for their members employed by the firm as labourers. Mr. James Macdonald, the arbiter appointed to determine the matter, issued his award on 29th July, deciding that the Union had failed to establish their claim.

SHIPWRIGHTS, &C., MENZIES & CO., LTD., LEITH.—The shipwrights, engineers and ironworkers in the firm's employ made claims for special rates of wages for work in connection with the dredger *Venezia*. The matter was reported as a difference, and Mr. James Macdonald was appointed arbitrator to determine the matter. The arbitrator issued his award on 21st July, giving the men concerned an extra payment of 1½d. per hour (or 5d. per hour to riveters' squads), such payments to be retrospective and to be included in calculating overtime.

EMPLOYEES OF THE KAMES GUNPOWDER CO., KYLES OF BUTE.—Mr. James Macdonald, the arbitrator appointed to determine a difference in connection with an application for an advance of wages and improved working conditions made by the Workers' Union on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, issued his award on the 19th July, determining the matters in dispute.

WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS.—The Board of Trade have referred to the Special Arbitration Tribunal, constituted under Sections 6 and 8 of the Munitions of War (Amendment) Act, 1916 (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1916, p. 153), claims made by the National Federation of Women Workers on behalf of their members employed by (1) Messrs. Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., Pembrey; (2) Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; (3) Messrs. Sutcliffe, Speakman & Co., Ltd., Leigh; and (4) Messrs. Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., Linlithgow.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION SCHEME.—Representatives of the two sides of the Furness Railway Conciliation Boards having referred to the Board of Trade the nomination of an independent chairman of those boards, Sir Thomas R. Ratcliffe-Ellis has been nominated to act in that capacity.

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 July:—

ENGINEERS, &C., GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY (ISSUED 4TH JULY).—Application for an advance of wages was made by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Amalgamated Society of Toolmakers, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, and the Associated Blacksmiths and Ironworkers' Society on behalf of their members employed in the Great Eastern Railway Company's shops. Following a finding of the Committee on Production in the case of shopmen employed by the Midland Railway, the company gave a further advance in April, 1916, making a total advance since the commencement of the war of 4s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates. The claim made by the Unions was that the company should follow the advances given in the general engineering trade of the district, i.e. that they should increase the advances already given by 3s. on time rates and 7½ per cent. on piece rates. The finding of the Committee is that the claim of the Unions has not been established.

PLATE AND MACHINE MOULDERS, MANCHESTER (ISSUED 4TH JULY).—The Amalgamated Moulders' Union applied to the Manchester District Engineering Trades Employers' Association in March for an advance of wages to plate, machine and loose pattern moulders and for the establishment of a standard time rate of wages of 42s. per week. An agreement was arrived at between the parties as to an advance of wages, but not as to the claim for the standard rate. The case was, thereupon, referred to the Committee, who decided that the claim for the payment of a standard time rate had not been established.

ENGINEERS, BRIGHOUSE (ISSUED 6TH JULY).—The Amalgamated Society of Engineers applied to firms in Brighouse for an advance of wages and alteration of the conditions of employment of apprentices. The Committee decided that (1) the men covered by the application who are now receiving less than 40s. per week should receive an advance of 1s. per week, and (2) that no alteration be now made in the conditions of employment of apprentices.

ENGINEERING TRADES (UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS), ROCHE DALE (ISSUED 6TH JULY).—On 3rd July the Committee heard the claim for an adjustment of overtime conditions made to the Rochdale Engineering and Machine Makers Employers' Association by the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers, and decided that the following terms should be adopted in settlement thereof: (1) Overtime on weekdays to be paid at the rate of time and a quarter for the first two hours and time and a half for subsequent hours. (2) Time worked on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday to be paid at time and a half. As regards computing the time to be paid for at overtime rates, the Committee are of opinion that the arrangements in force and agreed upon between the employers and the skilled men should be applied to the unskilled and semi-skilled men.

SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS, ENGINEERING TRADE, HALIFAX (ISSUED 6TH JULY).—An agreement made at Central Conference on 11th February was accepted by the Halifax District Engineering Employers' Association and the Workers' Union, viz. that the starting rates of labourers promoted to machines should be not less than two shillings above their labourers' rates, and that thereafter their rates should be fixed in accordance with their ability as workmen. The Committee heard the claim by the Union to include other classes of labour, and decided that the Union had failed to establish their claim.

NAVYIES AND GENERAL LABOURERS, &C., CAMMELL, LAIRD & CO., LTD., BIRKENHEAD (ISSUED 6TH JULY).—A claim for a

minimum wage of 7½d. per hour for navvies and general labourers and 8d. per hour for bricklayers' labourers, plus 1d. per hour "blackwork" allowances, made to the firm by the Navvies, Builders' Labourers and General Labourers' Union was referred under the Munitions of War Acts to the Committee on Production for decision. The finding of the Committee is that the wages of the navvies and general labourers should be advanced ¼d. per hour and that the claim as regards the bricklayers' labourers has not been established.

PLATERS' HELPERS, FITTERS' LABOURERS AND GENERAL LABOURERS, CAMELL, LAIRD & Co., LTD., BIRKENHEAD (ISSUED 6TH JULY).—Application for an advance of wages made to the firm by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour on behalf of their members employed as platers' helpers, fitters' labourers, and general labourers was referred to the Committee under the Munitions of War Acts, who decided that the claim had not been established, the men in question having received in 1915 advances of wages of 4s. per week under arrangements which covered the employees of the establishment generally.

SHOPMEN, LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY Co. (ISSUED 7TH JULY).—Applications for advances of wages were made by the Railway Shops Organisation Committee of Craft Unions (representing 28 craft unions) and the National Union of Railwaymen on behalf of the men employed in the shops of the above-mentioned company. The Committee awarded an advance of 1s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates, the men having received in 1915 advances of 3s. per week and 7½ per cent.

SHOPMEN, HULL AND BARNSELY RAILWAY Co. (ISSUED 7TH JULY).—The Committee awarded an advance of 1s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates to the men employed in the shops of the Hull and Barnsley Railway Co.

JOINERS, FALKIRK IRON Co., LTD., FALKIRK (ISSUED 10TH JULY).—A claim was made by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners that the Company (members of the National Light Castings Ironfounders' Federation) should pay to the joiners in their employ the rate of wages and overtime rates agreed upon by the Union and the local Master Builders' Association. The finding of the Committee is that the claim has not been established.

LONDON SMALL ARMS COMPANY (ISSUED 10TH JULY).—The National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers claimed that certain of their members employed by the firm in connection with tool-making should be paid mechanics' rates of wages. The contention of the firm is that the men in question are engaged as filers and paid accordingly, at rates varying with their ability, and that it has not been the practice to treat the work in question as skilled work. The finding of the Committee is that the claim of the Union has not been established.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN ADMIRALTY DOCKYARDS AT HOME (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—Application for an advance of wages was made by eight Unions on behalf of their members employed in the Royal Dockyards. Representatives of the Admiralty and the Unions were heard on 16th June by the Committee, whose finding is that a war wage advance of 3s. per week should be given to all adult male employees (exclusive of clerical staff) and 1s. per week to apprentices and boys, the increases to come into force on and from Sunday, 23rd July.

ENGINEERING TRADES (SEMI-SKILLED AND UNSKILLED LABOURERS), OTLEY (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—The Workers' Union made application to the Otley Engineering Employers' Association for a minimum wage of 30s. per week for shop labourers and 32s. per week for foundry labourers and an advance of 5s. per week for semi-skilled men in shops and foundries. In settlement of the several claims the Committee granted a war wage advance of 2s. per week to the men concerned. The advance is intended to apply to time workers only.

ENGINEERS, OTLEY (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—The Committee similarly awarded a war wage advance of 2s. per week to time workers only in respect of an application for an advance of wages made by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers to the Otley Engineering Employers' Association.

BLACKSMITHS AND HAMMERMEN, ABERDEEN (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—In May the Associated Blacksmiths and Ironworkers' Society on behalf of their members employed as smiths and hammermen applied to the Aberdeen Iron Trade Association for an advance of wages of 1d. per hour. The matter was referred to the Committee, who decided that a war wage advance of 3s. per week should be paid in respect of time workers only.

HAMMERMEN (SHIPYARD), ABERDEEN (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—A similar application was made by the Society on behalf of the hammermen employed in the shipbuilding yards, and the Committee gave a similar advance, viz. a war wage advance of 3s. per week to time workers only.

ENGINEERS, ABERDEEN (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—The Committee similarly awarded a war wage advance of 3s. per week to time workers only in respect of an application for an advance of wages made by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers to the Aberdeen Iron Trade Association.

ENGINEERING TRADES (UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED MEN), MANCHESTER (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—An application for an advance of wages and revision of overtime rates was made to

the Manchester District Engineering Trades Employers' Association by the National Union of Gas and General Workers, the Workers' Union, and the British Labour Amalgamation. No settlement having been arrived at between the parties the difference was referred to the Committee, who decided that a war wage advance of 3s. per week be paid to the men concerned who were employed on time work. The Committee made no change in the existing overtime rates.

(1) **IRONFOUNDERS, PATTERNMAKERS, AND METAL DRESSERS, (2) PLATERS' HELPERS, (3) PLUMBERS, (4) JOINERS, CARDIFF, & Co. (ISSUED 12TH JULY).**—Application for an advance of wages was made on behalf of the above-mentioned workpeople by their respective Societies to the Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers' Association (Cardiff, Newport, Barry and Penarth districts) and the Cardiff and District Master Ironfounders' Association. In accordance with previous findings of the Committee, all the above have received a war wage advance of 8d. per day. In regard to the present claim, the Committee's finding is that the war wage advance shall be increased to 1s. 2d. per day, payable in the same manner as the advance previously given. The application by the ironfounders, patternmakers and metal dressers also included a claim that the starting time should be 7 A.M. instead of 6 A.M. The Committee find that the claim for alteration in the starting time has not been established.

SMITHS' HAMMERMEN, CARDIFF, & Co. (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—The Smiths' Hammermen's Society made application to the employers for an advance of wages. The men had received during 1915 an aggregate advance of 8d. per day. The Committee's present finding is that the war wage advance shall be increased to 10d. per day, such advance to be in addition to the advance of wages of 2s. per week given in February, 1915.

ENGINEERS, CARDIFF, & Co. (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—The Amalgamated Society of Engineers made application to the employers for an advance of wages and for the payment of 2s. 6d. per hour for Sunday work on behalf of fitters, turners, copper-smiths, smiths and patternmakers. The men concerned received an advance of wages of 8d. per day in April, 1915, following the grant of that amount to various other trades in the district under a finding of the Committee. In the present instance the Committee find that the men concerned shall receive a war wage advance of 6d. per day, payable in the same manner as the advances given in April, 1915, and that the claim for 2s. 6d. per hour for Sunday work has not been established.

BRASSMOULDERS, KILMARNOCK (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—Application for an advance of wages of 1d. per hour was made by the Scottish Brassmoulders' Union to the Kilmarnock District Engineering Employers' Association. The finding of the Committee is that the time rates of the men concerned shall be advanced ¾d. per hour, or 3s. per week (according to the practice of payment followed in the various shops), to be regarded as war wages and to be paid for time work only.

ENGINEERS, CHESTER (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—An application for an advance of wages made by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers to the Chester Engineering Employers' Association was referred to the Committee for decision. A war wage advance, for time work only, of 2s. per week was granted to the men concerned.

ENGINEERS, BRISTOL (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—The Amalgamated Society of Engineers made application for an advance of wages on behalf of their members at Bristol. The finding of the Committee is that the men concerned shall receive a war wage advance of 3s. per week, such advance to be paid to time workers only.

ENGINEERING TRADES (UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED MEN), COVENTRY (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—A war wage advance of 3s. per week to time workers only was awarded to the men concerned in an application made by the Workers' Union to the Coventry and District Engineering Employers' Association.

LABOURERS, ENGINEERING TRADES, BARROW-IN-FURNESS (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—An application for an advance of wages was made on behalf of their members employed by Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, the National Union of General Workers, and the Workers' Union respectively. A war wage advance of 3s. per week to time workers only was granted.

MESSRS. STOTHERT AND PITT, LTD., BATH (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—The Amalgamated Society of Gas, Municipal and General Workers applied for an advance of wages on behalf of their members in the firm's employ. The finding of the Committee is that the men concerned should receive a war wage advance of 2s. per week, to be paid to time workers only.

MOULDERS AND COREMAKERS, WOLVERHAMPTON (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—In the autumn of 1915, in response to an application for an advance of wages, the employers made an offer to the Ironfounders' Society to discontinue the war bonus of 3s. per week, and in place thereof to raise the district rate to 39s. per week, thus bringing the rate into line with that for other skilled workers in the engineering establishments in the district. The offer was made on the understanding that the rate of 39s. per week should remain undisturbed until March 31, 1917, and was accepted by the Society on the further understanding that any advance conceded to the other trades should apply to moulders and coremakers. Application by the Society for a further advance made in May, 1916, was

referred to the Committee, who decided that in view of the understanding previously arrived at between the parties a special advance to moulders and coremakers cannot be granted.

ENGINEERS, NEWPORT (MON.) (ISSUED 12TH JULY).—An application for an advance of wages made by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers on behalf of their members in the Newport District was referred to the Committee, who decided that a war wage advance of 3s. per week for time workers only should be granted to the men concerned.

PATTERNMAKERS, ABERDEEN (ISSUED 13TH JULY).—An application for an advance of wages made to the Aberdeen Iron Trade Association by the United Patternmakers' Association was referred to the Committee, who decided that (1) the war bonus of 3s. per week now being paid should be converted into an advance of wages and (2) that, in addition, the time rates of the men concerned should be advanced 3s. per week, the advance to be regarded as war wages.

ENGINEERING TRADE (SEMI-SKILLED AND UNSKILLED LABOURERS), KILMARNOCK (ISSUED 13TH JULY).—The Workers' Union applied to the Kilmarnock District Engineering Employers' Association for an advance of wages of 2s. per week to men rated under 26s. per week and an advance of 3s. per week to semi-skilled workers. The application was referred to the Committee, who awarded the advances claimed by the Union.

ENGINEERS, MESSRS. CLEMENT TALBOT, LTD., LONDON (ISSUED 13TH JULY).—A difference which arose in connection with an application made by several Unions that the firm should pay a "minimum rate" of 43s. per week to Engineers, &c., was referred to the Committee for decision. The firm work a week of 52 hours on the "one break system" and pay an hourly rate of 9½d. per hour. The claim of the Unions is that the "minimum rate" of the district is 43s. per week (i.e. 9½d. per hour for a 53 hours week) and that the firm should pay this rate irrespective of the difference in hours. In the London district there is not uniformity in the number of hours worked, and some firms pay on a weekly and some on an hourly basis. The agreements between the Employers' Association and the Unions do not expressly refer to minimum rates whether per week or per hour. The question of securing greater uniformity in hours was the subject of discussion between the parties prior to the outbreak of war. The Committee's finding is that the claim is not one which should be granted at the present time.

CHEMICAL WORKERS, MESSRS. R. & J. GARROWAY, GLASGOW (ISSUED 13TH JULY).—An application for an advance of wages and alteration of overtime rates made to the firm by the Workers' Union was referred to the Committee, who find that the claim for a general advance of wages has not been established. In the case of men whose present wages for a normal week do not exceed 30s., the Committee award an increase of 2s. per week. The increase is not applicable to men who have entered the service of the firm since 1st January, 1916. The Committee award no change in overtime payments.

FEMALE EMPLOYEES, GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY Co. (ISSUED 13TH JULY).—The National Union of Railwaymen made application to the company that the female employees should receive the "war bonus" of 5s. per week at present being paid to the company's male servants. In August, 1915, the company arranged with the Union to grant considerable increases to women, and it was agreed that the pay of women employed in new grades should, for the duration of the war, be in each case the minimum pay of the grade. The Committee find that the claim for the payment of the "war bonus" to the women employees has not been established.

STERLING METALS, LTD., COVENTRY (ISSUED 14TH JULY).—Complaints made against the firm of Sterling Metals, Ltd., by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders, viz.: (1) That one of their members was "victimised," having been dismissed without good cause; (2) that piecework prices have been reduced, and (3) that the men are improperly charged for defective castings, were referred to the Committee for decision under the Munitions of War Acts. The finding of the Committee in regard to these points is as follows: (1) The Society have not shown that he was dismissed without good cause, (2) the complaint is not well founded, (3) the complaint has not been established.

AEROPLANE OPERATIVES, LONDON DISTRICT (ISSUED 17TH JULY).—An application was made by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners and other Trade Unions to certain firms engaged in the manufacture of aircraft in the London district that the firms should pay to woodworkers and general wood-cutting machinists (including sawyers) a minimum rate of 11½d. per hour, and to spindle hands a minimum rate of 1s. per hour, these being the rates claimed by the Unions for men engaged in the building trade. The application was not acceded to by the employers, and the matter was referred to the Committee for settlement. The Committee are unable to accept the contention that firms engaged upon aircraft manufacture should necessarily pay rates of wages that may be agreed upon for the building trades, where many of the conditions of employment are dissimilar. The Committee's finding is that the Unions have not established their claim.

WOOD-CUTTING MACHINISTS, VICKERS, LTD. (ISSUED 17TH JULY).—An application made by the Amalgamated Society of Wood-cutting Machinists that Vickers, Ltd., should pay to wood-cutting machinists in their employment the rates of

wages (11½d., 1s., and 1s. 1d. per hour, claimed by the Union as the prevailing district rates in the building trade in the London district), was referred to the Committee for decision. It has been the practice of the firm to pay to wood-cutting machinists rates of wages varying with the ability and proficiency of the operative, and on behalf of the employers it is claimed that the wages must continue to be so regulated. The finding of the Committee is that the Union's claim has not been established.

AEROPLANE OPERATIVES, GLASGOW (ISSUED 17TH JULY).—A claim by the Joint Wood-working Trades Aircraft Committee (Glasgow District) that "a rate of wages be definitely fixed for all woodworkers in the aircraft industry in the Glasgow district, and such rate we claim ought to be the highest wage paid to any wood-working trade in the district, namely, 11½d. per hour, which is the present rate paid to the joinery trade in the district. Such fixed rate of wages to constantly maintain the position of the highest rate for this district, irrespective of other trade advances," was made to Messrs. Wylie & Lockhead, Ltd., Glasgow. The application was not acceded to by the firm, and the difference was referred to the Committee for settlement. In view of the dissimilarity of the conditions of employment in the aircraft industry with the building and other trades, the finding of the Committee is that the claim advanced by the operatives has not been established.

JOINERS AND WOOD-CUTTING MACHINISTS, MESSRS. SAGE & Co., LTD., PETERBOROUGH (ISSUED 17TH JULY).—Applications for advances of wages made to Sage & Co., Ltd., by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners and the Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists were referred to the Committee for decision. It is admitted by the Unions that the rates paid by the firm, apart from the "war bonus," are more favourable than those paid in town generally. The finding of the Committee is that the claims for advances of wages have not been established.

CITY OF MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS (ISSUED 18TH JULY).—The Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers made application to the Corporation of Manchester for the payment of a war bonus of 5s. per week to various grades of employees. The application was referred to the Committee, whose finding is that the scale of bonus to male employees shall be increased to 2s. per week in the case of the employees between 18 and 21 years of age, and to 4s. per week in the case of employees aged 21 years and upwards in receipt of 38s. per week or less; employees receiving over 38s. and under 42s. to be paid a bonus sufficient to raise the normal weekly wages to 42s. The Committee award no addition to the bonus now being paid to female employees.

ROLL TURNERS, LLANELLY (ISSUED 19TH JULY).—In May, 1916, at a joint meeting of representatives of employers and workpeople, an agreement was come to whereby advances of wages were given as follows: 2s. per week to men rated up to 35s. per week, 1s. 6d. over 35s. and under 40s., and 1s. to those rated at 40s. and upwards, such advances to remain in force for 12 months or prior termination of the war, but in the event of any abnormal increase in the cost of living the men to have the right to approach the employers to review the position. The roll turners declined to accept the conditions proposed and the employers' offer was withdrawn, and the difference was referred to the Committee for determination. The Committee's finding is that the wages of the men should be advanced in accordance with the above scale; no order is made as to the period during which the advance shall continue.

LABOURERS, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADE, EAST OF SCOTLAND (ISSUED 19TH JULY).—An application made to the East of Scotland Association of Engineers and Ironfounders by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour and the Navvies, Builders' Labourers and General Labourers Union for a minimum wage of 7d. per hour to labourers was referred to the Committee for decision. The Committee's finding is (1) that the claim for a minimum rate of 7d. per hour has not been established, (2) that the men concerned shall receive a war wage advance for time work only of 3s. per week.

MESSRS. NOBEL'S EXPLOSIVES Co., LTD., PEMBREY (ISSUED 19TH JULY).—The Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union made a claim on the firm for certain advances of wages and alteration of working conditions on behalf of their members on 17th May. Failing agreement the matter was referred to the Committee, whose finding is that the claim advanced had not been established.

IRONFOUNDERS, BRISTOL (ISSUED 21ST JULY).—An application for an advance of wages made to the West of England Engineering Trades Employers' Association by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders was referred to the Committee, whose finding is that the men concerned shall receive a war wage advance of 3s. per week. The advance to be paid to time workers only.

LABOURERS, & Co., MESSRS. FRANCIS MORTON & Co., LTD., GARSTON (ISSUED 24TH JULY).—A war wage advance of 3s. per week to time workers only was awarded by the Committee in respect of an application for an advance of wages made by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour on behalf of foundry and fitting shop labourers and certain grades of semi-skilled workers in the employ of Francis Morton & Co., Ltd. The Committee award no advance to boys; it was intimated by the firm at the hearing that a proportionate advance would be given to boys.

APPRENTICES, R. & W. HAWTHORN, LESLIE & Co., LTD., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (ISSUED 24TH JULY).—The apprentices in the employ of R. & W. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Ltd., made application for an advance of wages which was referred to the Committee for settlement. The Committee are of opinion and they so award that an alteration in the rates of payment of the apprentices, many of whom are indentured, cannot properly be made. The employers have conceded a "war bonus," and the Committee are of opinion that the firm should favourably consider an increase in this "war bonus" in connection with any readjustment of wages in the engineering trade of the district generally.

SHIP PAINTERS, LIVERPOOL (ISSUED 24TH JULY).—An application for an advance of wages and alteration of working rules was made on behalf of the ship painters at Liverpool. Following a preliminary hearing before the Committee on Production, joint conferences were held, when agreement was reached in respect of all differences except on three points, viz. rate of wages, overtime, and duration of agreement. The Committee confirm the settlement effected by the parties at the joint conferences, and decide (1) that a war wage advance of 3s. per week be given, (2) overtime shall be paid at a flat rate of 1s. 5d. per hour, except on Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas Day and Bank Holidays, when the rate shall be double time from midnight to midnight on those days, (3) the rules to remain unaltered for 12 months and continue subject to three months' notice from either side.

BLASTFURNACEMEN, SOUTH WALES (ISSUED 24TH JULY).—Negotiations were in progress when the war broke out between the Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal Co., Ltd., and Messrs. Guest, Keen & Nettlefold, Ltd., and the blastfurnacemen with reference to the termination of the agreement for the regulation by a sliding scale of the wages of workmen employed by these firms, but were not proceeded with. The present difference arose out of a claim by the National Federation of Blastfurnacemen that the blastfurnacemen should secede from the agreement and that their wages should in future be regulated by a new sliding scale based upon the selling price of pig-iron. The Committee decide that the wages of these men should continue to be dealt with on the same basis as the wages of the employees of the establishments generally. This decision is without prejudice to any negotiations which may take place after the war, when the conditions of the industry are less abnormal.

BOILERMAKERS, MESSRS. ROBERT HEATH & SONS, LTD., MESSRS. KERR, STUART & Co., LTD., AND MESSRS. CAUSTON & RICHMOND, LTD., STOKE-ON-TRENT (ISSUED 27TH JULY).—This finding is in respect of an application made to these firms by the Boiler-makers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society for an advance of wages. The Committee decide that the men concerned shall receive a war wage advance of 2s. per week on time rates and 5 per cent. on piece rates.

SHELTON IRON, STEEL AND COAL CO., LTD., AND MESSRS. ROBERT HEATH & SONS, LTD. (ISSUED 27TH JULY).—Applications made to these firms by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Steam Engine Makers' Society, Electrical Trades Union, and the Friendly Society of Ironfounders for the payment by the firms (who are mainly manufacturers of iron and steel) of the district rate of wages and the observance of the working conditions applicable to the members of the Unions by agreement with the North Staffordshire Engineering Employers' Association were referred to the Committee for decision. The Committee's finding is (1) that the claim has not been established, (2) that the time rates of wages of the men concerned shall be advanced 1s. per week in the case of the Shelton Co., and 2s. per week in the case of Messrs. Heath, such advances to be regarded as war wage advances to time workers only.

STEAM ENGINE-DRIVERS, & Co., MESSRS. EASTON, GIBB & SON, LTD., ROSYTH (ISSUED 27TH JULY).—The Navvies, Builders' Labourers and General Labourers' Union made claims on behalf of various classes of workpeople employed by Easton, Gibb & Son, Ltd., at Rosyth. During the course of the negotiations the men received some concessions. The other points in the Union's claims were referred under the Munitions of War Acts to the Committee for decision, whose finding is that the claims advanced have not been established.

ELECTRIC CRANEMEN, MESSRS. EASTON, GIBB & SON, LTD. (ISSUED 27TH JULY).—A claim having been made by the Workers' Union that the electric cranes employed by the firm at Rosyth should be put on the same basis as the steam derrick men, the matter was referred to the Committee, who decided that the claim had not been established.

ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, CARDIFF, & Co. (ISSUED 27TH JULY).—An application for an advance of wages made by the National Amalgamated Labourers' Union and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union on behalf of semi-skilled and unskilled labourers not included in the findings of the Committee of the 12th July, 1916, applicable to the Engineers and Shipbuilders Employers' Association (Cardiff, Newport, Barry and Penarth Districts) was referred to the Committee for decision. The finding of the Committee is that the present war wage advance of 4d. per day shall be increased to 10d. per day.

IRONFOUNDERS, OTLEY (ISSUED 28TH JULY).—The Friendly Society of Ironfounders made an application for an advance of wages of 6s. per week to the Otley Engineering Employers' Association, which was referred to the Committee for decision. A war wage advance of 2s. per week to the men concerned is given by the Committee's finding to time workers only.

NATIONAL INSURANCE (UNEMPLOYMENT) 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 application for a decision as to whether contributions are payable or not in respect of the following class of persons:—

362. Workmen engaged in the erection of automatic telephone switchboards and in the preparation of material for the same.

363. Workmen employed in the metal testing department of steel works, and engaged in sawing, slotting, turning and trepanning steel.

364. Moulders, coremakers, casters, smelters, pourers, crucible men, and all other classes of workmen and labourers employed in all classes of foundries which are working in aluminium, or in brass, bronze, gunmetal or other alloys.

365x. Smiths, forgers, hammermen, olivermen, axle forgers, furnacemen, gas producermen, and all other classes of workmen and labourers employed in forging establishments.

366x. All classes of workmen and labourers employed in tinplate works.

367x. Axe makers, edge tool makers, knife and scissors forgers, handle makers, saw smiths, hardeners, polishers, razor makers, cutlers, engravers, scythe makers, and all other classes of workmen and labourers engaged in connection with the manufacture of cutlery or edge tools.

368x. Blenders, brimstone grinders, charcoal grinders, granulators, incorporators, reelers, sizers, sifters, labourers, and all other classes of workmen employed in gunpowder factories.

369x. Block maker, dry mixer, masticator, roller, vulcaniser, dough maker, solution maker, and all other classes of workmen and labourers engaged in the manufacture of rubber.

370x. Annealers, blockers, capmakers, envelope drawers, lead coremakers, fillers, pressworkers, wad cutters, and all other classes of workmen and labourers employed in cartridge factories.

371x. Blackers, bronzers, buffers, burnishers, grinders, fitters-up, polishers, testers, and all other classes of workmen and labourers engaged in connection with the manufacture of stoves, grates and ranges.

372x. Backers, bolters-down, furnacemen, roughers, catchers, shinglers, coppers, tilters, heaters, and all other classes of workmen and labourers employed in rolling mills.

373x. Banksmen, bunkermen, breakers, calciners, chargers, furnacemen, gantrymen, kilnmen, ladlemen, ruckers, teasers, and all other classes of workmen and labourers employed at blast furnaces.

374x. Acidmen, detoluator men, nitrator men, sulphonor men, granulators, packers, drying house men, laboratory men, and all other classes of workmen and labourers employed in the manufacture of picric acid, T.N.T., and similar substances.

375x. Nitrator men, refrigerator men, separator tower men, wash-house men, acidmen, mixing house men, incorporators, acetone recovery men, dryers, blenders, pressmen, magazine men, and all other classes of workmen and labourers employed in the manufacture of cordite, guncotton, and similar substances.

376x. Workmen engaged in wire weaving by hand or machine, wire drawing, annealing, cleaning and finishing.

377x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of fireclay, sewer pipes, gully traps, junctions, and other sewerage connections made from fireclay or stoneware.

378x. Workmen, including warehousemen, engaged in connection with the manufacture of roofing felts and bitumastic paints.

379x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture and distribution of coal gas, including the laying of mains and fixing of meters.

380x. Fat refiners, fat mixers, caustic hands, melters, panmen, cutters, millmen, perfumers, stampers, stovers, trimmers, and all other classes of workmen and labourers engaged in the manufacture of soap.

381x. Fatty acid workers, glycerine workers, oil refiners, paraffin wax refiners, stearine makers, acidifiers, pressmen, wick preparers, and all other classes of workmen and labourers engaged in the manufacture of candles, nightlights, and tapers.

382x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of sparking plugs.

383x. Workers engaged in the weaving of elastic boot webs, garter and brace webs, and rigid webs.

384x. Workers engaged in the sorting and recovery of waste rubber.

385x. Workmen described as (a) armature winders; (b) commutator makers; (c) linesmen engaged in the maintenance of overhead systems for the transmission of electrical power.

386x. Workmen employed in printing works, either in the foundry or photo engraving departments.

387x. Workmen engaged in pianoforte construction.

388x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of coke and the recovery of by-products.

389x. Workmen engaged in ropemaking for purposes of war.

390x. Workmen engaged in making horseshoes and shoeing horses.

391x. Workmen engaged in the extraction of potash from waste products by solution.

392x. Workmen engaged in printing, stamping and cutting cartons for use in packing soap.

393x. Workmen engaged in filling, labelling and packing perfumes in bottles.

394x. Coopers and their assistants engaged in the manufacture of wooden casks and barrels.

395x. Workmen, including outworkers, engaged in covering tennis balls, cutting and sewing covers, &c., and in the making of cricket balls.

396x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of washers of asbestos, paper, felt, leather, and other non-metallic materials.

397x. Workmen engaged in engraving and polishing of brass name plates and memorial tablets, and in setting up lead pattern letters on backgrounds.

398x. Workmen engaged in the repair of leather trunks, harness, &c.

399x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of invalid foods supplied to Army contractors for use in canteens.

400x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of brushes and brooms for Army use.

401x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of coffee essence and other culinary essences.

402x. Workmen engaged in the preparation of emulsions used in the manufacture of photographic dry plates.

403x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of—

(a) Wooden boxes such as are used for show cases, small switch boxes, razor cases, &c.

(b) Fancy boxes covered with leather, velvet, cloth, &c.

(c) Wood end boxes for packing food stuffs, &c.

(d) Cigar boxes.

404x. All classes of workmen and labourers engaged in—

(a) Currying leather.

(b) Dressing light leathers.

(c) Manufacture of chamois and oil dress leathers.

(d) Manufacture of parchment and vellum.

(e) Dressing of furs.

(f) Fellmongering.

405x. All classes of workmen engaged in the manufacture of wooden bobbins for use in the textile trades.

406x. Warehousemen employed by colour merchants and engaged in packing and delivery of dry colours.

407x. Workmen engaged in manufacture of plumbago and clay crucibles.

408x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of grinding wheels.

409x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes made partly from rubber or leather and partly from cloth, canvas, felt or other material.

410x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of cocoa matting in 50 or 75 yard lengths to be used for covering the decks of ships.

411x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of waterproof clothing, including motor coats, oilskins, dress preservers, &c.

412x. Processmen engaged in the manufacture of nitric acid, sulphuric acid, glauber salts, salt cake and similar chemical products.

413x. All workmen engaged in the preparation, packing and dispatch of medicinal tinctures, syrups, ointments, tablets, extracts and similar pharmaceutical goods.

414x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of buttons partly of metal.

415x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of electrical accumulators and batteries.

416x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of dusters, towels, &c., under War Office and Admiralty contracts.

417x. Workmen engaged in cleaning watches and clocks.

418x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of leather board from leather waste.

419x. Workmen engaged in lime burning.

420x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of metal polishes.

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. 364x.

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:—

1551. Workmen employed in fitting together and assembling parts of blowpipes, regulators and metal cutters for oxy-acetylene welding.

1552. All classes of workpeople engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of twist drills, reamers, cutters, metal slitting saws, taps, dies, tube expanders or ratchet braces. (Application 356.)

This decision must be taken as modifying any decision with which it is in conflict.

1553. Workmen engaged in making iron or steel piston rings.

1554x. Sewing machinists and hand needlewomen employed in the making of shirts, haversacks, gas masks, kit-bags, waterbottle covers for military purposes.

1555x. Workmen employed in ironmongers' shops, and engaged wholly or mainly in the repair of locks, keys, saucepans, kettles and similar metal utensils.

1556x. Workmen employed as solder makers and engaged in melting, mixing and pouring of scrap white metals.

1557. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of canopies for perambulators. (Application 361.)

1558x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in cutting and sewing cotton bandoliers ordered by the Director of Army Contracts.

1560x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of iron and steel tubes and fittings.

1561x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture or repair of portable cans, small tanks, aluminium boxes and gauges.

1562x. Workmen engaged in sawmilling or machine wood-work for colliery purposes.

1563. Workmen engaged in rolling to special shape, finishing and screwing streamline wires for aeroplanes.

1564x. Workmen engaged in the repair (including cleaning) of gas cookers, gas fires, gas boilers and gas radiators, and in the repair of gas fittings.

1565x. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of bolts, nuts and rivets.

1566x. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of military equipment, tents, projectile slings, lanyards, grenade buckets and tarpaulins for military use.

1567x. All workmen engaged in the manufacture of domestic tanks, cisterns and hot water cylinders, metal cattle troughs, &c.

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

1559. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of buffalo hide pickers.

This decision supersedes decision No. A1043 (*Board of Trade Labour Gazette* for October, 1912).

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 do not begin to be payable until 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.

SUGAR CONFECTIONERY AND FOOD PRESERVING TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

VARIATION OF MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES FOR FEMALE WORKERS.*

The Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Great Britain) have issued a notice dated 14th August, 1916, stating that they have varied the minimum rates of wages for female workers (which were fixed on 7th June, 1915, and made obligatory by order of the Board of Trade on 8th December, 1915), as follows:—

For female workers of 18 years of age and upwards, from 3d. to 3½d. per hour.

For female workers as above with less than 12 months' experience in the trade, from 11s. to 12s. per week of 52 hours.

For female workers of 17 years of age, from 11s. to 11s. 6d. per week of 52 hours.

Further particulars regarding the above-mentioned variations of minimum rates may be obtained from the Secretary of the Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Sergeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS. JULY, 1916.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.†
Tregaron (Cardigan)	Dr. J. T. Lloyd, Llys-Einion, Tregaron	Surgery, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Gainsborough (Lincs)	Dr. J. A. W. Hackett, 7, Spring Gardens, Gainsborough	8, Caskgate Street, Gainsborough. Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Faringdon (Berks)	Dr. A. C. Dornford, Gloucester House, Faringdon	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Birmingham, North (Warwick)	Dr. B. C. R. Aldren, 42, Bristol Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Boatmen's Hall, Bridge Street, Birmingham. Tuesday, 10-11 a.m.

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated, the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1916, pages 114-115.

† Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING JULY.

[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.

Railway Accidents. General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1915. [Cd. 8301: price 2½d.]

School Attendance and Employment in Agriculture. Return of children excused from school for employment in agriculture on 31st May, 1916. Board of Education. [Cd. 8302: price ½d.]

The Recent Development of German Agriculture. T. H. Middleton, C.B. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 8305: price 4d.]

Departmental Committee on the Settlement and Employment of Sailors and Soldiers on the Land. Final Report. Part II. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 8277: price 4d.]

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1914. Part C—Trade Unions. [H.C. 139, III: price 3½d.]

Aliens (Naturalisation). Return of all aliens to whom Certificates of Naturalisation have been issued during 1915. Home Office. [H.C. 88: price 5½d.]

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PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. To be purchased, either directly or through any bookseller, from WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; or HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE (Scottish Branch), 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. PONSObY, LTD., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Agencies, in the British Colonies and Dependencies, the United States of America, the Continent of Europe and Abroad of T. FISHER UNWIN, London, W.C. Printed by CASSELL & Co., LTD., La Belle Sauvage, E.C.—Price 1d.—August, 1916.