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## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

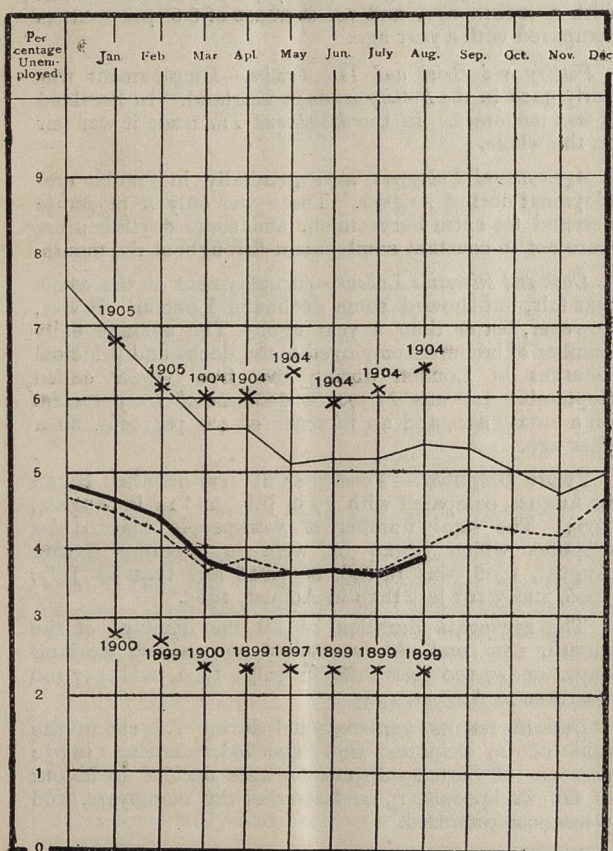


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve=1906. — Thin Curve=1905.  
- - - - Dotted Curve=Mean of 1896-1905.

X The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN AUGUST.

[Based on 7,785 returns, viz.: 3,671 from Employers and their Associations; 3,597 from Trade Unions; 394 from Local Correspondents; and 123 from other sources.]

As is not unusual, employment during August was, on the whole, not quite so good as in July. There was a slight decline in the engineering and boot and shoe trades: on the other hand, the building trades and the tinplate industry showed some recovery. A considerable number of workpeople—mostly coal miners—received advances in their rates of wages.

As compared with a year ago all the principal industries except the boot and shoe trade showed an improvement, which was particularly marked in the case of shipbuilding.

In the 272 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 596,010, making Returns, 22,528 (or 3·8 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of August, 1906, compared with 3·6 per cent. at the end of July, and 5·4 per cent. at the end of August, 1905.

*Building Trades.*—Employment continued dull, but was on the whole better than a month ago and a year ago.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in this industry continued fairly good. It was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

*Iron Mining.*—Employment continued good, and was somewhat better than a year ago.

*Pig Iron Industry.*—Employment in this industry during August continued good, and showed little change as compared with July. It was better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing about 24,500 workpeople showed that 337 furnaces were in blast at the end of August, as compared with 338 in July, and 324 a year ago.

*Iron and Steel Works.*—Employment at iron and steel works in August was slightly better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago. The volume of employment at 203 works from which Returns were received was 0·7 per cent. greater in the week ended August 25th, 1906, than in the week ended July 21st, 1906, and 5·4 per cent. greater than a year ago.

*Tinplate and Sheet Manufacture.*—Employment during August showed an improvement as compared with July. As compared with a year ago little change was shown. According to Returns received, 417 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of August, 1906, as compared with 402 in the previous month, and 418 a year ago.

*Engineering Trades.*—Employment continued good, but showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August, 1906, was 2·8 as compared with 2·5 at the end of July, and 4·8 per cent. at the end of August, 1905.

*Shipbuilding Trades.*—Employment continued good in the principal shipbuilding centres, and was much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 5·6, as compared with 5·7 at the end of July, and 13·2 at the end of August, 1905.

*Cotton Trade.*—Employment continued very good, and was rather better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 138,629 workpeople in the week ended August 25th, showed an increase of 0·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 2·6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.



**Woolen Trade.**—Employment in this industry remained good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 22,944 workpeople in the week ended August 25th, showed increases in the wages paid of 1.5 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment was fairly good but again showed a decline compared with the previous month. It continued better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 43,872 workpeople in the week ended August 25th showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Flax (Linen) Trade.**—Employment in this industry continued fairly good, and was slightly better than a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,023 workpeople on pay-day in the week ended August 25th showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 5.5 per cent. as compared with August, 1905.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment in this trade continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,017 workpeople on pay-day in the week ended August 25th, 1906, showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.8 per cent. as compared with August, 1905.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment in this trade showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,893 workpeople showed increases in the amount of wages paid of 1.4 per cent. as compared with July, and of 5.1 per cent. as compared with August, 1905.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment in this trade continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 9,755 workpeople in the week ended August 25th, 1906, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with July, and an increase of 12.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment continued good on the whole and was better than a year ago. Firms employing 16,811 workpeople in the week ended August 25th showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal decline in London, but was slightly better than a year ago; in the Provinces it was slack. In the *ready-made* branch employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

**Hat Trades.**—Employment during August in the *Silk Hat* branch was slack and worse than a year ago; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was on the whole fairly good and better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of August in the *Silk Hat* trade was 15.1, compared with 13.6 at the end of July, and 14.2 a year ago. The corresponding percentages for the *Felt Hat* trade were 2.3, 3.0 and 3.4.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment in the boot and shoe trade was slack, and showed a further slight decline as compared with July; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,868 workpeople in the week ended August 25th showed a decrease in the amount of wages paid of 1.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment continued fairly good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. Of 4,499 members of Trade Unions, 4.9 per cent. were unemployed, as compared with 5.2 per cent. a month ago, and 6.8 per cent. in August, 1905.

**Paper-making Trades.**—Employment remained good in these trades, and was better than a year ago.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment was slack on the whole, but better than a year ago. With letterpress printers it was worse than a month ago. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 5.5, as compared with 3.5 in July, and 6.1 in August, 1905. In the bookbinding trades the percentages were 4.7 for August, 5.4 for July, and 6.9 for August, 1905.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment was fair on the whole, an improvement being shown in the furnishing trades, and a decline in the coach building trade as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago employment showed a general improvement. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 4.2, as compared with 4.4 in July, 1906, and 5.0 in August, 1905.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment was moderate, and showed a decline on the previous month. It was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,003 workpeople showed a decline in the wages paid on pay-day in the week ended 25th August of 2.7 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment was fairly good in the *Pottery* trade in England. In Scotland it was moderate. In the *Brick and Tile* trade it was fair on the whole.

**Agricultural Labourers** were generally in regular employment during August. There was only a moderate demand for extra harvestmen, and some day labourers were not in constant employment throughout the month.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment on the whole was fair, but showed some decline in London. It was, however, better than a year ago. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended September 1st was 11,772, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. on a month ago, and an increase of 4.0 per cent. on a year ago.

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty-eight new disputes began in August, compared with 27 in July, and 12 in August, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during August, 1906, was 14,096, or 7,826 less than in July, 1906, and 3,191 less than in August, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 109,100 working days, or 49,100 less than in July, 1906, and 237,100 less than in August, 1905.

Definite results were reported during August in the case of 29 disputes, new and old, affecting 10,832 persons. Of these 29 disputes, 7 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 15 in favour of the employers, and 7 were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The principal changes in rates of wages reported in August were increases affecting 150,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and 110,000 in Durham. The total number of workpeople affected by all changes reported was 295,600, and the net effect was an increase of £10,350 per week, 285,700 workpeople having received advances amounting to about £10,750 per week, and 9,900 having sustained decreases amounting to nearly £400 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 79,000 workpeople, the net result being an increase of about £2,910 per week. During August, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was 247,500, and the net result a decrease of over £950 per week.

Seven changes, affecting 267,300 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards or by mediation; seven changes, affecting about 7,600 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining changes, affecting nearly 20,700 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives. In six cases, affecting 1,400 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

## THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE Thirty-ninth Annual Congress of the Trade Unions of the United Kingdom was held in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on Monday, 3rd September, and five following days. The Congress was presided over by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, Mr. D. C. Cummings, General Secretary of the Boiler Makers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society. The standing orders of Congress provide that it shall consist only of representatives of Trade Unions who are actually working at their trades at the time of their appointment, or are permanent paid officials of the Unions they represent. Trade Unions may send one delegate for every 2,000 members or fraction thereof, but many of the larger Unions do not send the full number of delegates to which they are entitled. Voting on important questions is by card, on the principle of one vote for every 1,000 members represented. The analysis into groups of trades given below shows the composition of the Congress, and the trade groups represented are compared with the corresponding figures for the Congress of 1905:—

Groups of Trades.	1905.			1906.		
	No. of Organisations	No. of Delegates	No. of Members	No. of Organisations	No. of Delegates	No. of Members
Building ... ..	8	23	157,594	9	23	133,950
Mining and Quarrying ...	13	98	447,453	12	100	442,431
Engineering ... ..	14	24	127,234	17	31	182,317
Shipbuilding (including Boiler Making)	3	21	69,400	4	23	70,525
Other Metal Trades... ..	20	37	58,531	19	36	61,003
Textile Trades ... ..	12	91	157,276	13	93	163,568
Clothing ... ..	8	23	50,140	8	25	55,506
Transport (Land and Sea)...	16	41	131,576	15	48	137,092
Chemical, Gas and General Labourers ... ..	9	24	62,220	8	23	62,371
Printing, Bookbinding, &c....	12	20	51,078	12	21	52,714
Pottery and Glass ... ..	6	8	8,149	7	8	6,335
Woodworking and Furnishing Trades, &c.	7	9	28,814	8	11	29,324
Baking and Cigar Making...	2	4	6,991	2	4	7,000
Enginemen ... ..	9	15	23,535	12	15	25,048
Post Office Employees ...	4	7	45,749	4	7	50,032
Miscellaneous... ..	11	13	43,673	15	21	54,795
Total ... ..	154	458	1,469,514	165	489	1,484,101

The number of organisations accounted for in the above statement is 165, but allowing for the number of distinct societies included in Federations and also sending delegates of their own, members of about 226 separate Trade Unions attended Congress as delegates this year out of a total of about 1,148 Unions in existence. The membership represented, however, comprised nearly 80 per cent. of the total membership of all Trade Unions. The number of organisations represented this year was 11 more than in 1905, and the total membership was greater by 14,587. The building trades group showed a falling off in membership owing to the absence of the Stonemasons' Society, but the net increase was fairly distributed over a considerable number of trades.

Among the principal industrial subjects on which the Congress passed resolutions were:—Restriction of the hours of labour to eight per day for miners and workpeople generally; amendment of the law in relation to Trade Unions and industrial disputes; amendment of the Mines Regulation Act, the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Shop Clubs Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, and the Truck Act; certificates of competency for persons in charge of steam engines and boilers; nationalisation of mines, railways, and canals; abolition of systematic overtime; compulsory State insurance; improved housing of working classes; old age pensions; the wages and general conditions of labour of Government and municipal employees; representation of Trade Unions at Board of Trade and coroners' inquiries; prohibition of importation of alien labour in case of strikes; the use of a Trade Union label on manufactured articles; cheap travelling fares for workpeople; prevention of evictions of workpeople by employers in cases of strikes; and danger of employment of foreigners in British mines.

A resolution in favour of compulsory arbitration in trade disputes was rejected by a majority of 397,000

votes: the majority against at the previous Congress was 92,000.

Delegates, representing the National Federation of Labour of the United States, the Co-operative Union, the General Federation of Trade Unions, and the Labour Party, attended the Congress and delivered addresses. Two British delegates were elected to attend the Annual Conference of the American Federation of Labour to be held at Minneapolis in November next.

The voting by Congress for members of the Parliamentary Committee for the ensuing year resulted in the election of representatives of the following organisations:—Northern Counties Weavers, Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders, Cotton Spinners, Amalgamated Engineers, Railway Servants, London Compositors, Shipwrights, Gas Workers and General Labourers, Miners' Federation, Boot and Shoe Operatives, Amalgamated Brassworkers, and Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners. Mr. W. C. Steadman, M.P. (Barge Builders Society), was elected Secretary to the Committee. Mr. A. H. Gill, M.P. (Bolton Cotton Spinners), was appointed by the Committee as its Chairman for the ensuing year. It was decided that the next annual Congress should be held at Bath.

The balance-sheet presented by the auditors showed an income for the past year of £4,822 3s. 4d. (including a balance of £1,787 10s. 6d. from the previous year), and an expenditure of £1,421 3s. 2d., leaving a balance of £2,401 os. 2d.

## FEEDING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

THE Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to consider the "Education (Provision of Meals) Bill" and the "Education (Provision of Meals) [Scotland] Bill" have recently presented their Report, which has been published as a Parliamentary Paper.\*

The Committee point out that the question of providing meals for children in elementary schools has already been the subject of investigation by three Royal Commissions or Inter-Departmental Committees during the last few years. These are:—

The Royal Commission on Physical Training, Scotland.

The Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration.†

The Inter-Departmental Committee on Medical Inspection and Feeding of Children.‡

The Reports of these bodies were unanimous in recommending the provision of meals to school children, as far as possible by voluntary agencies. The present Report endorses that opinion, but draws attention to certain disadvantages of the voluntary system: such as the inevitable precariousness of financial support under that system; the possibility of abuse and of overlapping with official relief; the undue burden thrown on a few charitably disposed persons; and the absence of machinery for making inquiry into the circumstances of the parents, and of compelling them, when they are able to afford it, to attend to the proper feeding of their children themselves.

The committee point out that one great objection which has been made to the feeding of children at public expense, viz., the weakening of parental responsibility, applies in some measure to voluntary effort, and is, in fact, to some extent accentuated under the voluntary system, by the absence already referred to of power to make stringent inquiries into the circumstances of parents, and to enforce their responsibility.

The Committee, therefore, while anxious to use voluntary agencies as much as possible, and entirely opposed to throwing the whole burden of the provision of meals for school children on public funds, recommend that local education authorities should be empowered "to organise and direct the provision" of such meals, where they consider it desirable; and to establish committees to deal with such "school canteens," similar to the committees which administer the *caisses des écoles* in

\* No. 288. Wyman & Sons: Price 2s. 4d.  
† Report published as Cd. 2,175: Price 1s. 2d.  
‡ Report published as Cd. 2,779: Price 1s. 3d.



Paris.\* Such committees should include representatives of the Education Authorities concerned, of the voluntary subscribers, and possibly also of the Board of Guardians and of the local branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The head teacher, the school attendance officer, and the relieving officer, should work in association with such committees.

In order to insure, as far as possible, that the cost of the meals should be borne by the parents, payment for the meals should be made prior to the meal, wherever possible. Meals should on no account be refused by reason of the child's inability to pay; but the cost should be recovered from the parents through the machinery proposed to be adopted for the purpose: and, in the event of its being found that the parents are unable to bear the cost, the cost should be charged to the Guardians. Parents able to support their children but neglecting to do so should be prosecuted by the Board of Guardians, or by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; not by the Education Authority. On the other hand, the Committee recommend that the general administration of the Acts should be in the hands of the Education Authority rather than of the Guardians; on the ground that the Education Authority, through the managers and officers of the schools—who might be assisted by voluntary helpers—are in closer touch with the needs of the children, and in order that the stigma of pauperism should not attach to the child.

The Committee recommend that Local Authorities should have power to levy a rate towards meeting the cost of the actual food (*i.e.*, in addition to providing the necessary accommodation and officials, the cost of which should be permitted to be defrayed from loans), but only under stringent regulations, *viz.* :—

- (i.) In "extreme and exceptional cases," where it can be shown that neither the parents' resources nor local voluntary funds are sufficient to cover the cost; and
- (ii.) After obtaining the consent of the Board of Education as to the necessity for such expenditure.
- (iii.) The rate to be limited to a maximum of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the  $\mathcal{L}$ .

The Committee also recommend that, so far as possible, meals should not be served in rooms used for teaching purposes, and that the teachers should not be required to take any part in dispensing the meals.

### CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

THE Third Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics† contains particulars as to methods of Conciliation and Arbitration in industrial disputes in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy, France, and certain States of the American Union. The information relates only to official methods of conciliation, &c., as voluntary Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration scarcely exist in foreign countries.‡

The following is a summary of the more important deductions to be drawn from these particulars :—

In Germany the law requires Industrial Courts to be formed in all towns of over 20,000 inhabitants; and elsewhere they may be formed at the option of the Government or on the requisition of a sufficient number of employers or workpeople. In any given town the members of the Industrial Court are elected in equal numbers by employers and employees voting in separate bodies. The Courts discharge several functions: they act primarily as Courts of Summary Jurisdiction for the settlement of individual claims arising out of the labour contract, where the amount in dispute does not exceed  $\mathcal{L}5$ ; they also act as committees of reference, in which capacity

\* See the Report on the Feeding of School Children in Foreign Cities (Cd. 2,926: Wyman & Sons, Ltd.: price 4½d.) A review of this Report appeared in THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1906.  
† Cd. 3,120. Wyman and Sons, Ltd.: price 1s. 6d.  
‡ For particulars of the working of voluntary boards in the United Kingdom, see the "Report on Strikes and Lock-outs, and on Conciliation and Arbitration Boards" (Cd. 3,065: price 8d.). A notice of this Report appeared in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1906: pp. 232-3.

they prepare "opinions" upon any technical questions which may be referred to them by the authorities; and finally they act as formal Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration in collective disputes, *i.e.*, in cases of actual or impending strike or lock-out. When acting in the last-named capacity the Industrial Court must consist of a president and four or more representatives of the employers and of the workpeople in equal numbers: such representatives need not be members of the Court, and they must not be in any way concerned in the dispute at issue. The Court may be set in motion on the application of either side to a dispute, or it may act on its own initiative. Where but one side applies the Court endeavours to persuade the other to join in the application. In the event of conciliation being effected the agreement is signed by the Board and by representatives of the parties, and is published. In the event of failure, the Board embodies its conclusions as to the terms upon which it considers the parties ought to agree in the form of a "decision," and calls upon the disputants to declare their acceptance or rejection within a certain time; and in any case the decision is published. There were 411 Industrial Courts in Germany at the end of 1905. During the last five years these Courts acting as Conciliation Boards were able to settle 51 per cent. of the disputes referred to them, the extremes being a maximum of 86 per cent. (1905) and a minimum of 27 per cent. (1902).

In France the distinguishing feature of the system is the prominent place given, as in some States of America, to the Justice of the Peace. The local magistrate constitutes committees *ad hoc* on the petition of either of the disputing parties, or he may take the initiative himself. Where attempts at conciliation fail, the magistrate invites the disputants to accept arbitration, to which end each side names an arbitrator, or one is chosen jointly. If the first arbitrators cannot agree, others may be called in. There is no compulsion at any stage of the proceedings; but applications to set the law in motion, refusals to assent, reports of conciliation committees, and decisions of arbitrators, must be made public. The cost of procedure falls either on the communes or on the departments. Where the law is put in operation it is almost invariably on the requisition of the workpeople, or on the initiative of the Justice of the Peace himself. In a considerable percentage of cases the offer of mediation is refused (34 per cent. of the total for 1901-5), for the most part by the employers. Where conciliation committees are formed by consent of both sides, however, a successful issue appears to be reached in a large proportion of cases (over 60 per cent. of the cases of actual reference in 1901-1905).

In Belgium the functions of conciliation and arbitration are exercised through local Councils of Industry and Labour, which are established by Government on its own initiative, or on the request of the Communal Councils. Each Council is divided into as many sections as there are distinct industries of sufficient importance in the locality concerned. A section must consist of from 6 to 12 members, representing the employers and workpeople in equal numbers, and they choose their own president and secretary. As in Germany, the Councils are thus communal institutions, and the communes bear the cost of their proceedings. The jurisdiction of the Belgian Courts is not a wide one, and in practice comparatively few cases come before them for adjudication.

In Holland, the Chambers of Labour are the official Boards of Conciliation. A law of May 2nd, 1897, provides for the establishment of such Chambers where necessary and practicable. The number of Chambers in existence at the beginning of 1899 was 30. At the beginning of the following year the number had increased to 60, and at the beginning of 1904 to 90. They are composed of representatives of employers and workpeople in equal numbers. Their objects are to collect information on questions affecting labour; to advise Government Departments or local authorities on subjects relating to the interests of labour; to give advice

and frame agreements and regulations at the request of the parties interested, and to prevent and adjust disputes in regard to questions affecting labour; and, if necessity should arise, to bring about the reference of such disputes to arbitration between the parties. When a dispute appears imminent, or has actually broken out, the Chamber may intervene at the request of either or both of the parties concerned, or of a local government authority. On receipt of an application for intervention, the executive committee of the Chamber endeavours to arrange a settlement, failing which, the matter must be referred to the Chamber as a whole. If the Chamber considers it possible that intervention may lead to a settlement, it must appoint a Council of Conciliation. This Council must consist of a chairman (who may, or may not, be a member of the Chamber, and who has no vote except in special cases), and of members selected from representatives of the Chamber, employers and workpeople being in equal numbers. The conclusions arrived at after investigation and deliberation by the Council, and the means of settlement which it recommends, are to be notified in writing to the parties concerned. The Council is at liberty to publish its conclusions, in whole or in part. During the six years 1899-1904 there were 32 cases of successful, and 24 of unsuccessful, intervention by Chambers of Labour. In nine further cases, offers of intervention by the Chambers were declined, seven times by both employers and workpeople, and twice by employers only. Besides acting as Conciliation Boards, the Chambers of Labour are engaged in settling differences as to terms of employment, in negotiating general agreements for entire trades, and in furnishing advice or information at the request of either employers or workpeople. In 1899 the Chambers of Labour took part in 13 cases of negotiations concerning terms of employment. In 1903, that number had increased to 73, the total number of such cases during the five years 1899-1903 being 242.

Italy has kept close to the old French institution of the "Conseils des Prudhommes," which France itself has found unsuited to the adjustment of industrial disputes. The Italian Courts of *Probi Viri* are established by Royal Decree for given districts, the members being chosen in equal numbers by the employers and workpeople voting in separate bodies, while the president is appointed by the Government. A Court has separate sections for conciliation and for arbitration. Where conciliation fails the case goes forward to the Arbitration Court, where, in the event of its jurisdiction being accepted by both parties, a binding decision is given. No great number of these Courts appears to have been formed, and their interventions in disputes have been few (43 during the seven years 1897-1903); though, on the other hand, they have, almost without exception, intervened successfully.

In the United States industrial conciliation is regulated by the laws of the separate States, save in so far as concerns disputes occurring in inter-State undertakings, such as railways. In these cases the President of the Inter-State Commerce Commission and the Federal Commissioner of Labour are required, on the petition of either party, to endeavour to mediate. No power of independent initiative is reserved by the Government. The machinery of conciliation and arbitration which has been created by the special laws of the different States may be grouped under four heads:—

- (1.) Local arbitration without Standing Tribunals;
- (2.) Standing District or County Boards elected by employers and workpeople;
- (3.) Conciliation and arbitration by the mediation of the State Commissioner of Labour; and
- (4.) Central State Boards or Commissions.

In the first and most rudimentary form of conciliation it is usual for disputing parties to seek the summary decision of a local Judge or Justice of the Peace; or, where formal arbitration is preferred, the judge or justice appoints a committee of two or four persons, with himself as president, to adjudicate upon the evidence tendered, the costs being borne by the

parties equally. Disputing parties may, however, choose their own arbitrators. The tribunals of the second class are appointed for a year by licence of the local Civil Court on the petition of either employers or workpeople, or of both together, the two sides having equal representation, and choosing an umpire jointly. A tribunal may act either as a plenary body or through a committee of its members, and in the case of disagreement the umpire may be given a deciding vote. Three of the American States still use the services of their Commissioner of Labour in the cause of industrial peace, though others have discarded this system of conciliation. This official is required, on the petition of either employers or workpeople concerned in a dispute, to proceed at once to the place and "diligently seek to mediate" between the contending parties. Should his personal mediation prove futile, he endeavours to induce the parties to accept arbitration, and on refusal he requires a statement from the refusing party, giving reasons, which statement is made public.

The fourth method, *viz.*, conciliation and arbitration by the State Boards, is now the commonest. It has been adopted by no fewer than 17 States, though most of these States had previously tried one or more of the other methods. As a rule such a Board consists of three members, and the term of office varies from one to four years. The functions of the Board are three—(i.) mediation or conciliation in the case of strikes or lock-outs; (ii.) arbitration; and (iii.) investigation for the purpose of publishing a report as to the causes of a dispute and the responsibility for it. A Board may intervene on its own initiative; and it is obliged to intervene on the request of either or both of the disputing parties. The State laws on the subject vary in many details: as a rule the findings of a Board are binding only when it acts on joint requisition, but in several States (including Missouri) they are also binding when only one side has appealed to the Board, unless the other side should lodge an objection within a fixed time. In most of the States the Boards intervene far oftener on their own initiative than by invitation. Thus of 63 cases of intervention in New York State in 1902-4, 50 were on the initiative of the Conciliation Board. In Ohio the Board took the initiative in 51 out of 57 cases of intervention during the three years 1901-3. In Indiana during 1902-4 the State Labour Commission took the initiative in 18 out of a total of 21 interventions. Considering that these Conciliation Boards offer their services so often without invitation, the number of successful interventions is considerable, amounting, for example, to 36.5 per cent. in the case of New York. In Massachusetts, where cases of arbitration and conciliation are far more common than in the other States, the number of cases in which action was taken during the last three years (1903-5) was 444, of which 112 were cases of preliminary action only, and the remaining 332 cases of actual intervention. An interesting feature of the particulars for this State is the large proportion (43 per cent. during the last 3 years) of cases in which action was taken on the initiative of employers and workpeople jointly; the proportion of cases in which the Board itself took the initiative being also 43 per cent. Of the 332 cases of actual intervention during the period 1903-5, 222 (*i.e.*, 67 per cent.) were successful.

### RECENT CASE UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Anstey Boot and Shoe Operatives.

The boot and shoe operatives at Anstey, Leicestershire, having made an application for a minimum wage of 30s. per week for all adult male labour, and the employers having offered 26s. a week, the question was referred to two arbitrators nominated by the Anstey Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. The arbitrators being unable to agree, application was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire, and on August 24th, Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, was appointed accordingly.



## CONVICT LABOUR IN AMERICA.\*

FROM a Report on Convict Labour which has just been issued by the Federal Labour Department of the United States, it appears that in 1903-4 an investigation was in progress the primary object of which was to determine the number of convicts employed in productive labour in the United States, the industries in which they were at work, the systems under which their work was done, the value of their labour and the value of the product turned out by them, and the number of free labourers that would be required to perform the same amount of work.

The following Table shows the number of convicts in the Penal and Juvenile Reformatory Institutions investigated, distinguished (a) by sex, and (b) according to employment:—

Employment of Convicts.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Employed in Productive Labour ...	49,456	1,716	51,172
Employed in Prison Duties ...	15,257	3,416	21,493
Sick ...	2,541	233	2,774
Not employed ...	10,142	545	10,687
Total ...	80,426	5,610	86,036

There are six general systems under which convicts are employed in the United States:—

1. Lease System.—The State contracts with a lessee, who has almost complete control of the convict, and who pays a stipulated amount for the convict's labour. The State reserves the right of inspection.
2. Contract System.—The contractor pays the State so much per head for the services of the convict, supplies his own materials, and superintends the work. The State otherwise controls the convict.
3. Piece-Price System.—This differs from the Contract system only in that the State superintends the work and determines the speed at which convicts must work.
- 4, 5, 6. "Public account," "State-use," and "Public works and ways" systems.—These are all entirely under the control of the State.

Of 80 industries carried on in prisons and reformatories, the leading, so far as value of product is concerned, are:—

	£
Boots and Shoes ...	1,776,583
Farming ...	621,641
Clothing ...	559,945
Chairs, tables, &c. ...	494,105
Brooms and brushes ...	371,007

The next table shows the market value of goods produced by convicts and the value of product per convict, classified by systems of work:—

System of Work.	Institutions.	Market Value of Goods produced.	Average Value of Goods produced per Convict.
Lease ...	20	644,534	177
Contract ...	54	3,467,132	205
Piece-Price ...	30	674,885	174
Public Account ...	99	999,323	116
State Use ...	159	765,367	64
Public Works and Ways ...	166	601,433	98
Total ...	296	7,140,876	140

Manufacturers consider such competition unfair and ruinous, demoralising to markets and business stability, compelling reductions of prices below a fair margin of profit, and often even below the cost of production. In some cases the manufacture of certain grades of goods has been abandoned to the prisons.

An entirely fair comparison of the number of convicts and free labourers required to do the same work is almost impossible, as in some prisons the machinery and tools are antiquated and ineffective; in some prisons also little effort is made to work the convicts to their normal capacity or to the best advantage, and were their work to be done by employers of free labour changes would be made, thereby reducing the number of free labourers required.

\* Twentieth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour, U.S.A.

For this reason the number of free labourers shown in the following table as necessary to perform the work done by convicts is somewhat greater than the number of free labourers actually displaced. To perform the work of 51,172 convicts it was estimated that 32,801 free labourers would be required, i.e., roughly, three free labourers are equal to five convicts. This ratio differs in various industries. In those requiring a high degree of skill, the convict compares unfavourably with the free labourer.

The average wages per day of male and female free labourers performing work similar to that performed by convicts were respectively 1.31 $\frac{1}{4}$  dollars (5s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) and 82 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents. (3s. 5d.)

The following Table shows the value of the labour expended on goods produced by convicts, the number of convicts employed, and the number of free labourers that would have been required to perform the same work.

System of Work.	Value of Labour on Goods produced.	Number of Convicts employed.	Free Labourers necessary to perform same work.
Lease ...	£ 284,457	3,652	4,191
Contract ...	944,810	16,916	11,360
Piece-Price ...	178,909	3,886	2,040
Public Account ...	336,825	8,530	4,539
State Use ...	382,667	12,044	5,709
Public Works and Ways ...	356,713	6,144	4,962
Total ...	2,482,381	51,172	32,801

## TRADE UNIONS IN GERMANY IN 1905.

FROM an estimate published in the weekly journal\* of the Central Committee of the Social-Democratic Trade Unions of Germany, it appears that a remarkable increase has taken place in the membership of Trade Unions in the German Empire. The number of members rose from 1,466,625 in 1904 to 1,822,343 in 1905, an increase of 355,718, or nearly 25 per cent. during the year.

Each year since 1899, the earliest for which such statistics are available, has shown an increase in membership as compared with the preceding year, but the rate of increase in 1904-5 had not previously been approached. The total membership of Trade Unions in the German Empire in each of the years 1899-1905 was as follows:—

1899 ...	864,350	1903 ...	1,276,831
1900 ...	995,435	1904 ...	1,466,625
1901 ...	1,008,365	1905 ...	1,822,343
1902 ...	1,092,642		

The increase in membership from 1904 to 1905 in the various groups of trades was generally from about 20 to 30 per cent. In mining and quarrying, however, the increase amounted to 66 per cent., while, on the other hand, the increase in the clothing trades and in the transport, warehousing, and commerce group was only 12 per cent.

In 1905 members of Social Democratic Trade Unions (*Gewerkschaften*) numbered 1,372,539, or more than three-quarters of the total; the "Christian" Trade Unions had a membership of 265,032, while 117,097 persons were members of Hirsch-Duncker Trade Unions (*Gewerksvereine*). These three groups together, therefore, had 1,754,668 members, or over 96 per cent. of the total membership of all Trade Unions in Germany. Of this number 341,718 were employed in the building trades, 331,858 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 199,487 in mining and quarrying, and 160,562 in transport, warehousing and commerce.

Over 90 per cent. of Trade Union members in the building trades, and nearly 80 per cent. of those in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, belonged to Social-Democratic Trade Unions. A further 15 per cent. of Trade Union members in the latter group of

\* *Correspondenzblatt der Generalkommission der Gewerkschaften Deutschlands* (the organ of the Central Committee of Social Democratic Trade Unions of Germany.)

trades belonged to Hirsch-Duncker Trade Unions. Of Trade Union members employed in mining and quarrying, 63 per cent. belonged to Social-Democratic Trade Unions and 36 per cent. to Christian Trade Unions.

The Social-Democratic Trade Unions had a larger membership than either of the other large federations in every group of trades except the transport, from which the Christian and the Social-Democratic Trade Unions drew respectively 82,265 and 63,683 members.

Of the members of Social-Democratic Trade Unions, 23 per cent. were employed in the building trades and 19 per cent. in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, each other group of trades forming less than 10 per cent. of the total membership. Of the membership of the Christian Trade Unions 31 per cent. consisted of workpeople employed in the transport trades, and 27 per cent. of those employed in mining and quarrying. The building and metal trade membership of these Unions was comparatively small, amounting in each case to less than 10 per cent. of the total. Workpeople employed in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades accounted for 42 per cent. of the members of Hirsch-Duncker Trade Unions, while the building trades contributed only about 8 per cent. of the membership of this federation.

## CROFTER COLONIZATION.

THE Fifteenth Report has been issued of the Royal Commission appointed to carry out a scheme of colonization in the Dominion of Canada of crofters and cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland.\* The Report states that a settlement was established at Killarney in the south-west of Manitoba in 1888 and another at Saltcoats in Saskatchewan in 1889. The settlement at Killarney consisted of 30 families, or 183 persons; and that at Saltcoats of 49 families or 282 persons. At both settlements, however, many of the younger men belonging to the families were assisted to take up land for themselves. At Killarney the total number of farms included in the scheme was 56, and at Saltcoats 72.

Funds to the extent of £13,120, out of sums provided by Parliament, have been utilised in connection with the work. That amount was supplemented by £2,000, raised by private subscription prior to the constitution of the Commission. In the early years of the settlement at Killarney the sums advanced were not repaid in accordance with the agreements entered into by the settlers. Difficulties occurred, arising from inexperience on the part of the crofters, and their want of knowledge of agriculture, and of the climate of the country. Various other disturbing influences also tended to delay the satisfactory progress of the settlement. These difficulties, however, passed away, and the settlers became more contented and prosperous. The instalments were paid with greater regularity; and they have now repaid the entire balance remaining to their debit, of the sums originally advanced to them. In many cases they have purchased additional land in the ordinary way.

In the case of the Killarney settlement the Report states that the experiment has been fairly successful. The crofters assisted, and who (or whose representatives) are now upon the land, immensely improved their position and the future prospects of their families by going to Canada. Most of them had obtained a precarious livelihood in Scotland as fishermen or crofters, or both. They are now doing well, each being the owner of a farm.

The settlement at Saltcoats was not successful from the commencement. The settlers did not seem disposed to adapt themselves to the regular and routine work of agriculture; and most of them abandoned their land. Had they remained on their homesteads they might ultimately have achieved the same measure of success as those at Killarney. They preferred to give up the land, and to work for other people at weekly wages, rather than to persevere in their new life—with the

\* Cd. 3145. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price, 3d.

certainty of becoming the owners of their farms within a few years. It is stated, however, that the majority of the Saltcoats settlers have been able to make comfortable homes for themselves and their families in other parts of the country.

## ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS IN 1905.

THE General Report on Railway Accidents in the United Kingdom\* has been issued. All accidents to servants are reported which prevent a servant from being employed for five hours on any of the three days immediately succeeding the accident. The Report shows that, in the year 1905, 437 servants of railway companies and of contractors were killed, and that 14,335 were injured. Of the total killed, 419 were railway servants and 18 were contractors' servants; of the total injured, 14,209 were railway servants and 126 were contractors' servants.

In 1904 there were 581,664 persons in the employment of railway companies. On this basis, 1 railway servant in 1,388 was killed by accident in 1905 and 1 in 41 was injured. In accidents to trains 1 death occurred among every 755 railway servants exposed to danger. In other accidents connected with the movement of railway vehicles the proportion was 1 in 855, while in accidents not connected with the movement of railway vehicles, the proportion of killed was 1 out of 13,504 railway servants exposed to danger.

The following Table shows the number of casualties in the different grades of employment:—

Nature of Employment.	Number of Persons Killed or Injured in 1905.				Number of Persons employed in 1904
	By accidents connected with the movement of railway vehicles.		By other accidents on the Companies' premises.		
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Carmen and Vanguarders ...	2	12	...	390	22,914
Carriage Cleaners ...	4	21	...	165	6,193
Checkers ...	1	23	1	166	8,392
Clerks ...	3	16	1	58	65,093
Engine Cleaners ...	6	85	1	506	18,851
Engine Drivers ...	20	335	2	641	25,042
Firemen ...	20	474	...	800	23,242
Goods, Guards and Brakesmen ...	42	697	...	310	15,122
Passenger Guards ...	6	110	...	144	7,602
Inspectors ...	5	34	...	59	8,799
Labourers ...	37	129	7	1,366	55,001
Mechanics ...	13	42	3	548	84,433
Permanent Way Men ...	90	128	9	1,610	66,312
Porters ...	44	491	4	2,188	52,977
Shunters ...	31	588	...	183	11,856
Signalmen ...	7	31	...	178	27,971
Station Masters ...	...	18	...	38	8,518
Miscellaneous ...	58	559	4	1,030	72,847
Total of Railway Servants	387	3,773	34	10,435	581,664
Total of Contractors' Servants	12	27	6	99	Not stated.

The following statement, compiled from Tables given in the Report, shows the number of railway servants killed and injured respectively in each of the past 10 years:—

Year.	Accidents connected with the movement of Railway Vehicles.		Other Accidents on Railway Companies' Premises.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
1896	433	3,959	36	10,031	469	13,990
1897	492	4,104	47	10,180	539	14,284
1898	499	4,117	32	8,769	522	12,826
1899	607	4,582	48	10,869	555	15,391
1900	568	4,542	44	11,009	612	15,551
1901	491	4,214	48	10,393	539	14,607
1902	435	3,806	33	9,929	468	13,735
1903	432	3,759	38	10,431	470	14,190
1904	402	3,895	29	10,545	434	14,440
1905	387	3,773	32	10,435	419	14,209

\* Cd. 3140. Wyman and Sons, Ltd. price 8d.



### SUNDAY TRADING.

THE Joint Committee of the House of Commons and of the House of Lords, appointed "to inquire into the subject of Sunday Trading," have presented their Report.\*

The Committee point out that the question of the Sunday closing of shops was considered by the Select Committee of the House of Lords appointed to consider Lord Avebury's Sunday Closing Bill last year. They concur generally in the findings of that Committee; but, as the evidence brought before that Committee was almost exclusively in favour of compulsory closing, they called several witnesses on the other side, *i.e.*, in favour of the Sunday opening of shops; and also gave special attention to the question of what exemptions would be desirable in the event of new legislation; particularly in the case of persons engaged in the sale of refreshments, &c., and of persons employing no assistants outside their own family.

The principal Act relating to Sunday closing at present on the Statute Books is an Act of the year 1677; but it is almost a dead letter. It has not been enforced at all during the last twelve years in a majority of police districts; and has only been enforced with any vigour in Hull and in Swansea, Hull accounting for nearly 80 per cent. of the total number of prosecutions. The ineffectiveness of the Act is attributed to (a) change in public sentiment, and especially to (b) the smallness of the fines leviable.

Exemptions from the action of any proposed law are recommended by the Report in the case of the sale of—

- (i.) Sweets and other refreshments;
- (ii.) Newspapers, &c.;
- (iii.) Medicines;
- (iv.) Milk and cream.

The Report also recommends that the sale of bread, meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, and ice should be allowed during part of the day; and that the sale of tobacco, &c., should be allowed during the hours in which public houses are licensed to be open.

The Report deals specially with the case of (a) the Jewish community, and (b) Scotland. As regards the Jewish community, the Report recommends that certain areas mainly inhabited by Jews should be scheduled; and that any Jew in these areas who did not trade on Saturday should be allowed to trade until midday on Sunday. As regards Scotland, they suggest that, in view of the strength of public opinion in that country in favour of Sunday closing, local authorities in Scotland might be authorized to omit or vary any of the proposed exemptions.

The Report recommends, generally, that the principle of Sunday closing contained in the Act of 1677 should be maintained, and enforced by substantial penalties; but that certain exemptions, as mentioned above, should be allowed. It also recommends:—

"That every shop assistant should be secured by law one day's rest in seven, and that no such person should be subject to any penalty, if he object on conscientious grounds to Sunday employment;" and

"That any employer, making a contract for employment with an assistant in a shop, who places upon him any obligation to work on Sunday as a condition of employment, without provision for securing him one day's rest in seven, should be subject to a penalty."

### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

A RETURN relating to the operations of County Councils under certain sections of the "Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 and 1900," has recently been issued as a Parliamentary Paper.†

Part III. of the Housing Act of 1890 empowers local authorities to purchase, or to erect on land acquired by them, houses or cottages for the working classes. In the case of Rural District Councils, application for a certificate to adopt a housing scheme under this Part of the Act must first be made to the County Council, who decide, after holding a local enquiry, whether such a

certificate can be granted. Section 6 of the Act of 1900 authorises Parish Councils to call the attention of County Councils, by resolution, to the alleged neglect of Rural District Councils to apply for such a certificate in cases where the circumstances would warrant it. The present Return relates only to England and Wales, and only to such applications from Rural District Councils, or resolutions of Parish Councils.

No less than 45 of the 61 Councils consulted reported no operations under these sections of the Housing Acts. Only two Councils reported the receipt of resolutions from Parish Councils under the Act of 1900. Of these one was dismissed after enquiry, and the other is still under consideration.

Fifteen Councils reported the receipt of 27 applications from Rural District Councils. Of these 27 applications five were withdrawn, or were not proceeded with; one is still under consideration; and 11 were refused, on the ground that a housing scheme was unnecessary or imprudent, or that it would unduly burden the rates. Only nine applications were granted, including one granted in part. It will thus be seen that the applications actually granted amount to only a third of those received, and number only about one in every two years, for the whole of England and Wales.

### PAUPERISM IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

A RETURN\* recently issued by the Local Government Board, relating to the condition of pauperism in England and Wales in the middle of last winter, shows that the increase in the pauper population, which had continued with but slight intermission since the spring of 1901, first received a check towards the close of 1905, with the result that on the 1st January, 1906, the pauper roll showed a net decrease of some 5,000 persons as compared with the 1st January preceding. The aggregate number receiving relief (926,741 persons) was still, however, higher by about 125,000 persons than on the 1st January, 1901. On the basis of the estimated population at the middle of each year, 1 in every 37 persons had poor relief at the beginning of the present year as compared with 1 in 40 in 1901.

The decline in pauperism which is thus shown at the beginning of 1906—and which, as appears from the brief monthly statements issued by the Local Government Board, has since that date continued to operate in reducing the pauper roll—appears to follow on the improved conditions in the principal industries. In fact the present return shows that the large industrial towns and urban districts, which principally contributed to the increase of pauperism during the period from 1901 to 1905, also account for the decline in the present year. The following extract from the return illustrates this:—

#### Pauperism on January 1st in Urban and Rural Districts.

Unions.	1901.		1905.		1906.	
	No. of Paupers	Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.	No. of Paupers	Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.	No. of Paupers	Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
(i.) Unions wholly urban:—						
(a) London Unions (31) ...	123,520	27.4	148,013	31.8	148,629	31.7
(b) Other Unions (59) ...	175,539	21.9	221,591	25.9	216,066	24.9
(ii.) Unions partly urban and partly rural:—						
(a) Unions of whose population 75 per cent. or upwards was in 1901 comprised in urban districts (92) ...	184,057	20.6	226,893	23.7	219,114	22.5
(b) Other Unions (350) ...	275,599	29.2	291,376	30.1	297,540	30.6
(iii.) Unions wholly rural (114) ...	42,632	32.2	44,394	33.3	45,392	34.0
<b>England and Wales</b> ...	<b>801,347</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>932,267</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>926,741</b>	<b>27.1</b>

It will be noticed from this Table that pauperism in the more rural districts showed a tendency towards further increase at the beginning of 1906, while urban pauperism on the whole, except in London, had fallen.

In London and the neighbouring urban unions, however, where the decline in employment, particularly in the building trade, so largely represented in the

\* Pauperism on 1st January, 1906. H.C. 272, 1906. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 6d.

Metropolitan district, had been very marked, pauperism showed less tendency to decrease. From a Table given in the return under review, it appears that for an aggregate of poor law unions, approximating to Greater London, with a population of about seven millions, the numbers on the relief lists rose from 159,225 persons in 1901, to 207,595 in 1905—an increase of 30 per cent.; while, at the beginning of 1906, 202,259 persons, or nearly 3 per cent. of the present population, were still in receipt of poor law assistance.

As might be expected, the decline in pauperism at the beginning of 1906 was due to the fact that fewer of the class of able-bodied persons were receiving out relief. This class, numbering altogether 74,003 adults, with children dependent on them to the number of 150,000, showed a decrease on the figures of a year previously amounting to about 9 per cent. As regards this class, the operations of the Distress Committees constituted under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, cannot, as is pointed out in the Return, have been without effect. On the 1st January—the same date as the pauper census—3,780 persons, with 11,543 dependents, were employed in the Provinces alone on work provided or obtained for them by these Committees.

### AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

INFORMATION respecting rates of wages agreed upon at the principal hiring fairs held in Scotland in the spring and summer months of this year has been received from a Correspondent who made special inquiries on behalf of the Department.

The report shows that there was little change in rates of wages as compared with 1905, although in a few districts, especially in the North-Eastern Counties, there was a downward tendency. Nowhere was there reported any serious scarcity of men, and the slackness in the towns, especially in the building trades, is stated to have increased the supply of farm servants. Almost everywhere women for all kinds of work were scarce, and their wages were firm, in some cases tending upwards.

In the Eastern Border Counties of Berwick, Roxburgh, and Selkirk fewer changes than usual took place, and farm servants remaining in their former places had their wages as a rule unchanged, while among those changing places an advance was quite exceptional. Women servants were specially scarce. Good men with women workers readily got the highest current rates, which ranged from 16s. to 18s. a week, free house and garden, with coal in some cases, and from 800 to 1,200 yards of potato drill—in certain cases less potatoes and more money. Women were quickly engaged at 10s. to 11s. a week, with £1 extra in harvest. Young lads were in demand, and got from £8 to £12 per half-year, and board and lodging. Unmarried men got £12 to £16 per half-year and board and lodging. Young men lodging with their parents on the farm got 15s. to 17s. a week.

Wages for shepherds in the Border Counties showed little or no change. The "pack" system is gradually disappearing, it being more common now to give experienced shepherds about £36 to £38 a year, with free house, cow's keep, and allowances of meal, potatoes and fuel, or more money and less perquisites.

In the Lothians former rates of wages were well maintained, ploughmen getting from 16s. to 18s. a week with the usual allowances; women, 8s. to 10s. with 2s. a week extra during potato lifting and harvest. In the Central Counties, where men and lads were rather more plentiful than usual, a slight fall was occasionally reported, but generally rates of wages were unchanged for men and women. Similar remarks apply to Lanarkshire.

In the counties of Ayr and Dumfries married ploughmen obtained up to 18s. and 20s., with free house; unmarried men, £12 to £17 for the half-year with board and lodging; byre women, £9 to £11; kitchen women, £6 to £10; and lads, £8 to £10. Women were in demand at wages tending upwards. In Kirkcudbright and Wigtown wages were firm, with in some cases a slight upward tendency.

In the counties of Perth and Forfar there were fewer changes in wages than at the corresponding fairs of 1905 and 1904. In the counties of Kincardine, Aberdeen, and Banff wages were unchanged for servants remaining in their former places, but a considerable number of men had to submit to a reduction of 10s. to 20s., or in some cases 30s. for the half-year. Common rates in these counties for ploughmen are £12 to £18 per half-year with board and lodging, or free house and allowance of milk, meal, and fuel. Lads get from £7 to £12, and women £8 to £12.

In the counties north of the Spey farm servants were plentiful, and wages showed a downward tendency. In Orkney men's wages were up to £14 and women up to £8 for the half-year with board and lodging.

### REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

In a Report issued by an Inter-Departmental Committee, it is stated that the number of Reformatory Schools in England and Wales, all of which are under private management, is 37: 28 for boys and 9 for girls. The number of Industrial Schools is 103, of which 20 were founded by Local Authorities and the remainder by private persons.† There are also 13 Truant Schools, *i.e.*, Industrial Schools in which children can be received for short periods of detention, and 19 Day Industrial Schools. The number of inmates in these schools in the year 1905 was as follows:—

Reformatory Schools ...	5,380
Industrial Schools:	
Ordinary ...	19,370
Truant ...	1,084
Day ...	3,305

The number of inmates under detention in Reformatory Schools showed a practically continuous increase from 1864 (the first year for which figures are available) to 1881, since which year the number has slowly decreased. In 1864 the number was 4,286; in 1881, 6,738; and in 1905, 5,380. The number of boys and girls in Industrial Schools in 1864 was 1,668, and in 1905, 20,454, the number being greatest in 1899, when it was 24,886.

The average number of inmates for the three triennial periods 1883-5, 1893-5, and 1903-5, is as follows:—

	Average number of inmates in the triennial periods:—		
	1883-5.	1893-5.	1903-5.
Reformatories ...	6,386	5,554	5,593
Industrial Schools			
(Ordinary and Truant)	19,471	24,578	21,298
Day Industrial Schools ...	2,094	3,242	3,378

In the last few years there has been a marked decline in the number of inmates, particularly in Industrial schools, where the numbers have fallen from 24,718 in 1900 to 20,454 in 1905.

The Report, in commenting upon this decline, attributes it in part to the reluctance of local authorities to commit children to such schools, owing to the increasing burden of the schools on the rates.

The expenses of the schools have risen considerably in recent years, in spite of the stationary or declining numbers of inmates, owing to increased payments for salaries, increased cost of food and clothing for the inmates, etc. Thus, in Industrial schools, the average expenditure per head for officers' salaries has risen from nearly £5 to nearly £6 between 1894 and 1903; and the average expenditure for food and clothing from £8 6s. 11d. to £9 7s. 11d. in the same period.

Owing to the demand for better and increased accommodation, the expenses for building and for structural alterations in recent years have also been heavy.

The expenses of the various schools are met partly from Treasury grants, partly from the rates, and partly from subscriptions, parents' payments, sales of articles produced, etc.: of these Treasury grants and rates are by far the most important.

\* Cd. 3134, Wyman & Sons, Ltd., price 7½d.  
† The Report draws attention to the fact that the expenses of Industrial Schools, established by Local Authorities, are estimated to be upwards of 30 per cent. higher than those under voluntary management.

\* Parliamentary Paper, No. 275. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 2s. 6d.  
† No. 285: Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.



## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN 1905.

The Home Office have just issued their Annual Report for 1905,\* on Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation and Employers' Liability Acts. The Acts contain no provision for the making of returns, so that the information relates only to cases brought before the Courts, or which otherwise came to the knowledge of the Home Office. Only about 27 per cent. of the claims in cases of fatal accident are brought before the Courts; and a large proportion even of these are withdrawn or settled out of Court. As regards cases of non-fatal injury, it is estimated that less than 1 per cent. of the total number become the subject of litigation.

Taking only the cases of accident settled in Court after a hearing, in England and Wales, it appears that the average amount of compensation awarded was nearly £190 in the case of fatal accidents; and, in the case of non-fatal accidents, £35, or a weekly allowance of 11s. 10d. for total incapacity, and 10s. 7d. for partial incapacity.

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, etc.)†

## Canada.

It is late in the year for the ordinary emigrant—other than female servants—to go to Canada, unless he goes to friends, or has enough money to live on during the winter. The printers' and plumbers' strikes at Winnipeg are still on. A strike of lithographic printers and transferers began at Montreal on the 9th August, and is still on: four firms and about 50 employees are affected. The Dominion Parliament has recently passed an Immigration Act consolidating and strengthening the provisions against the admission of undesirable immigrants. During July employment was very active throughout Canada. The Dominion "Labour Gazette" states that: "This was particularly the case among unskilled labour, owing to the unprecedented extent of railway construction operations in progress and the advent of the season of greatest activity in the agricultural industry, the crop yield giving every promise of being the heaviest in the history of the Dominion. In the mining, lumbering and manufacturing industries, also, the month was exceptionally busy in almost all branches and in all parts of the Dominion, while railway and steamboat employees reported one of the most active summer seasons on record, with earnings of companies very heavy. In the fishing industry conditions were fair on the Atlantic Coast, and the run of sockeye salmon had begun in British Columbia, creating a wide demand for men. Civic improvement work on an extensive scale was in progress at many points, and the amount of building promised to exceed largely that of any previous year."

## Commonwealth of Australia.

Money assistance to emigrants is given on certain conditions by New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. Reports from several places in New South Wales, as Wilcannia, Orange, Cooma, Tamworth, and Jerilderie show that there is practically no demand for more labour of any kind, except in one or two cases for female servants; at the Broken Hill Silver Mines the supply of miners and general labourers is excessive; at Newcastle and in the Maitland district the collieries are suffering from labour disputes; at Young, however, there is a good demand for farm and general labourers and pastoral hands, and a fair one for a few carpenters, joiners, bricklayers, stonemasons and blacksmiths. In Victoria there is no general demand for mechanics, but at Bendigo men in the building trades have been wanted. The Furniture Board has fixed 51s. per week of 48 hours as the lowest wage payable to furniture makers. There is a good demand in many parts of Victoria, such as the Goulburn Valley, for competent

farm labourers and female servants, but not much for miners. In South Australia there is no demand for more labour; the lowest wages payable to dress-makers or milliners of 5 years' experience have just been fixed by the Boards appointed under the Factories Act at 16s. per week of 48 hours. In certain parts of Queensland and Western Australia farm labourers and lads are wanted.

## New Zealand.

Reduced passages are given to female servants, who must have £5 on landing in the Colony. There is a good demand for them. Men in the building, engineering, clothing and boot trades, and in the saw-mills and on farms, have been generally busy, and in some places there has been a difficulty in procuring competent men.

## South Africa.

Cape Colony.—The labour market in Cape Colony is in a bad condition, and the Cape Government has issued a notice discouraging any immigration of artisans or other skilled workmen at the present time, as it can only add to the ranks of the unemployed. All such persons, therefore, are warned against going.

Natal.—There is a plentiful supply of labour at Durban, and at Maritzburg the supply exceeds the demand. The 5-guinea nominated passages have been suspended.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit, which is granted to those only who fulfil certain conditions. All persons are warned against going to the Transvaal at the present time in search of work. The building trades at Johannesburg are bad, and large numbers of masons, carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers, and others have left the country through inability to obtain employment. Owing to this exodus there is a large number of empty houses, which fact has the double effect of lowering rents and stopping further building operations. There is a similar scarcity of work in other trades, which causes much distress. There is some demand for female servants, who may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. There is no demand whatever for mechanics, miners, farm, or general labourers. Female servants may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society above-mentioned. Single men between 20 and 30 years of age, and not less than 5 ft. 6 in. in height, are wanted for the South African Constabulary, which serves in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony; candidates must apply, in writing, at the Recruiting Office, King's Yard, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 257 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom and foreign countries.]

## FRANCE.\*

Employment in July.—The building and allied trades on the whole continued fairly well employed during July. Metal workers were busy during the whole of the month. The textile trades showed no change in the Nord and Marne departments; in the Vosges and smaller centres of the Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres employment continued satisfactory; at the cotton centres of the Seine-Inférieure and at Roanne work was more plentiful. No change was reported in the silk manufacture at St. Etienne; in machine weaving in the department of Isère there was a slight revival, but at Lyons there was no difficulty in obtaining labour required for the weaving factories or for the smaller establishments. The clothing trades were slack, especially at Paris. With printers at Paris employment again declined. There was not quite so much unemployment among leather dressers in the

\* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).

Tarn department, but among coopers in the south there were more out of work. The coachbuilding trade at Paris had completely recovered. More vineyard workers in the south of France were unemployed than in June; in some districts vineyard and harvest work was already over. In the central part of France, woodcutters found employment in harvest work. Gardeners at Paris were satisfactorily employed.

In returns as to the state of employment during July received by the French Labour Department from 1,107 Trade Unions with 247,531 members, 7.4 per cent. of the members to whom the returns related were described as out of work, as compared with 8.5 per cent. in the preceding month and 9.6 in July, 1905. (As regards these figures see Note under "Labour Abroad" p. 266.) Returns from Miner's Unions in the Pas-de-Calais and Nord departments are not included in the foregoing figures.

Labour Disputes in July.—Ninety-two disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in July, as compared with 95 in the previous month, and 66 in July, 1905. In 83 of the new disputes 11,444 workpeople took part; in 89 of the June disputes 17,796 took part, while 10,651 participated in the disputes of July, 1905. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes took place were the textile (22 disputes), building (19), metal (13), and transport and warehousing (11). Out of 89 new and old disputes which came to an end in July, 17 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 30 in favour of the employers, while 42 were compromised.

## GERMANY.

Employment in July.—Employment generally continued favourable, and was about the same as in June; the increased demand for labour for harvest work and the holiday season rendered less labour available for industrial purposes. In most districts the building and allied trades were well employed; a decline was reported, however, at Berlin and Cologne. Coal miners were fully employed. In the metal and engineering, the electrical, and the chief branches of the textile trades, employment continued good. The printing trades and certain of the garment trades were passing through their slack season.

Strikes at Nuremberg.—A number of unskilled labourers (navvies) employed in the building trades of Nuremberg struck work on July 5th, demanding increased wages of 6½d. per hour instead of 4½d. The employers thereupon locked out all men employed, such as stonemasons, bricklayers, plasterers, etc. Stonemasons then demanded 7d. to 8d. per hour instead of 6½d., bricklayers 6½d. instead of 6d. and navvies 6½d. (afterwards 5½d.) instead of 4½d. before returning to work.

The men employed at a motor car works also struck on account of the alleged unjust dismissal of some of their number. About 1,750 men were on strike at the date of the report.

On August 27th, the railway carters struck, but this dispute came to an end on the 29th, the demand for increased pay being met by the establishment of a sliding scale commencing at £1 1s. per week for the first year, and from £1 3s. to £1 4s. afterwards. Six days' holiday on full pay were also granted to each carter.

## BELGIUM.

Employment in July.—According to reports made to the Belgian Labour Department, 140 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 31,222, stated that 413 of their members, or 1.3 per cent., were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 1.1 in the preceding month, and 2.2 in July, 1905. (As regards these figures, see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 266.) The figures do not include particulars relating to miners, home-workers, or agricultural labourers.

\* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).  
† Based on a despatch from H.M. Vice-Consul at Nuremberg to the Foreign Office, dated August 31st.  
‡ Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

## NORWAY.

Employment in July.—Of 14,227 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 144, or 1.0 per cent. were described as unemployed at the end of July (two bakers' Unions with 303 members, 152 of whom were on strike, not being included). For comparison, the figures for July, 1906, June, 1906, and July, 1905, are given for 107 Trade Unions, and it will be seen that the returns would indicate a slight improvement in July 1906, as compared with July, 1905.

Group of Trades.	No. of Unions making Returns.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
		July, 1906.	June, 1906.	July, 1905.	July, 1906.	June, 1906.	July, 1905.
Metal Workers & Moulders	40	6,184	6,053	5,291	0.7	0.7	1.2
Painters and Masons	3	464	435	330	2.2	2.1	0.6
Carpenters, &c. ...	9	898	906	676	2.3	4.3	1.2
Cabinet Makers ...	10	400	418	350	4.2	1.2	2.3
Woodpulp and Paper Makers	4	682	585	192	—	—	—
Boot and Shoe Makers	5	148	147	92	—	—	—
Tinned Goods ...	1	246	310	106	1.6	0.3	—
Printers ...	14	1,179	1,165	1,033	2.4	1.1	3.8
Bookbinders ...	3	246	248	202	3.7	1.2	7.9
Other Trades ...	18	889	858	777	0.4	0.7	1.2
Total ...	107	11,345	11,125	9,049	1.2	1.0	1.6

## SPAIN.

Strike of Miners at Bilbao.—On August 13th a partial strike of miners occurred at Bilbao, caused by disputes between workpeople and foremen, arising out of the discharge of some of the former. On the 19th a general strike was declared by the Miners' Union, demands being formulated for a 9-hours day, overtime to be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-half, and the conferring of legal capacity upon Trade Unions. The employers rejected the latter two demands, consenting to recognise only those Unions already possessing a legal status. Towards the end of August the number of strikers was estimated at 12,000. On August 25th the Minister of Marine visited Bilbao to attempt to bring about an agreement, but, although he induced the employers to state their willingness to grant pay at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for overtime and to recognise the Miners' Federation, his efforts did not result in the termination of the dispute. At the end of August the strike had spread to Santander. On September 10th it was stated that the strikes at Bilbao and Santander were practically over, the men agreeing to return to work on the old terms.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike of Tugboatmen in New York.—The crews of the tugboats conveying the freight cars of the principal railway companies entering New York struck on August 9th. The strikers, who numbered about 500, demanded increases in wages of 10 dollars per month (from £11 9s. 2d. to £13 10s. 10d.) in the case of first or licensed deckhands, and of 5 dollars for second deckhands (from £10 8s. 4d. to £11 9s. 2d.), oilers (£11 9s. 2d. to £12 10s.), and firemen (£10 8s. 4d. to £11 9s. 2d.). As a result of the strike from 3,000 to 6,000 loaded freight cars could not be moved. The railway companies offered a general increase of 5 dollars, but these terms were not accepted. The men employed by the New York Central Railroad Company returned to work on August 11th on consideration of a promised advance of 5 dollars per month and the introduction of a pension scheme. The employees of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company returned to work at an advance of 5 dollars per month, and those of the Erie Railroad Company at an increase of 3 dollars per month. An attempt at a second strike proved abortive, and 40 deckhands, stokers and firemen employed by the Long Island Railroad Company, who struck for higher wages on August 15th, returned to work the next day.

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.  
† Based on despatches from H.M. Consular Officers at Bilbao and Santander, received through the Foreign Office.  
‡ Based on a series of despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated August 10th to August 17th.

\* Cd. 3149: Wyman & Sons, Ltd.: Price 5d.

† Handbooks with maps on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.



REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT  
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES  
IN AUGUST.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 513 Returns—450 from Employers, 45 from Trade Unions, and 18 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued fairly good during August. It was better on the whole than a month ago and much better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,388 pits employing 587,132 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended August 25th, 1906, was 4.95 as compared with 4.99 in July, 1906, and 4.76 in August, 1905. Time lost by holidays amounted to an average of .40 days per week in August, 1906, .17 days per week in July, 1906, and .30 days per week in August, 1905. Making allowance for holidays, employment was better on the whole in August, 1906, than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

Of the 587,132 workpeople covered by the Returns, 411,449 (or 70.1 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended August 25th, and of these 129,199 (or 22.0 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified. This Table shows that compared with a year ago there was an increase in the number of days worked in sixteen districts, and a decrease in one district.

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in August, 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1906, as compared with	
		August 25th, 1906.*	July 21st, 1906.*	August 26th, 1905.*	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	41,437	5.25	5.31	5.15	- .06	+ .10
Durham ...	111,437	5.35	5.30	5.23	+ .05	+ .12
Cumberland ...	7,812	5.13	5.42	4.46	- .29	+ .67
South Yorkshire ...	61,964	5.29	5.40	5.03	- .11	+ .26
West Yorkshire ...	21,419	4.33	4.13	3.95	+ .20	+ .38
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	54,878	4.51	4.52	4.23	- .01	+ .28
Derbyshire ...	38,741	4.25	4.05	4.03	+ .20	+ .22
Nottingham and Leicester ...	30,215	4.22	3.86	3.73	+ .36	+ .49
Staffordshire ...	24,119	3.90	4.08	3.85	- .18	+ .05
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,854	4.03	3.89	4.18	+ .14	- .15
Gloucester and Somerset ...	7,763	4.16	4.06	4.01	+ .10	+ .15
North Wales ...	10,791	5.00	5.14	4.75	- .14	+ .25
South Wales and Mon. ...	115,458	5.18	5.69	5.13	- .51	+ .05
ENGLAND & WALES...	534,880	4.92	5.00	4.71	- .08	+ .21
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	24,171	5.20	4.58	5.06	+ .62	+ .14
The Lothians ...	6,249	5.45	5.29	5.28	+ .16	+ .17
Elife ...	21,651	5.43	5.05	5.31	+ .38	+ .12
SCOTLAND ...	52,071	5.33	4.86	5.19	+ .47	+ .14
IRELAND.						
IRELAND ...	181	5.35	4.53	5.15	+ .82	+ .20
United Kingdom ...	587,132	4.95	4.99	4.76	- .04	+ .19

The average number of days lost by holidays in August was greatest in Staffordshire and South Wales, where it amounted to three-quarters of a day per week. In Scotland the time lost by holidays was only .14 of a day per week, against .62 of a day per week in July.

In the Northern Counties employment continued good on the whole, but in West Yorkshire pits employing over half the men were still working less than 18 days during the four weeks, and in the Bolton and Wigan districts employment was reported as only moderate.

In the Midlands employment remained dull generally, two-thirds of the men working less than 18 days during the four weeks. In the Nottingham and Leicester district, however, there was a considerable improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago.

\* These periods were affected by holidays.

In Wales and Scotland employment was good, the changes shown in the days worked as compared with a month ago being largely due to local holidays.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. In pits employing 187,648 workpeople it was found impossible to state which class of coal predominated and they are entered in the Table under the term "Mixed."

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Aug., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1906, as compared with	
		Aug. 25th, 1906.*	July 21st, 1906.*	Aug. 26th, 1905.*	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.	
Anthracite ...	6,906	4.93	5.39	5.11	- .46	- .18	
Coking ...	36,614	5.16	5.43	5.33	+ .03	+ .13	
Gas ...	40,995	5.05	4.89	4.92	+ .16	+ .13	
House ...	78,718	4.33	4.19	4.00	+ .14	+ .33	
Manufacturing and Steam ...	242,251	5.13	5.31	4.98	- .18	+ .15	
Mixed ...	187,648	4.59	4.85	4.67	- .26	- .08	
All Descriptions ...	587,132	4.95	4.99	4.76	- .04	+ .19	

For each of the periods under review, manufacturing, steam, and coking pits worked a higher number of days than the general average, while pits producing house and mixed coal worked less than the general average.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in August, 1906, amounted to 5,201,530 tons, as compared with 5,239,932 tons in July, 1906, and 4,306,857 tons in August, 1905.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING  
AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 96 returns—76 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in iron mines, taking holidays into due account, continued good, and was somewhat better than a year ago. In shale mines employment continued fairly good, but was not so good as a year ago.

In tin and copper mines employment was good. It continued good in lead mines.

Employment continued fair on the whole in quarries, but it was rather slack in slate quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended August 25th, the average weekly number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.77, as compared with 5.73 a month ago and a year ago.

Time lost by holidays amounted to .015 of a day per week in August, 1906, .021 of a day in July, and .013 of a day in August, 1905.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Aug., 1906, at all Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
		August 25th, 1906.*	July 21st, 1906.*	August 26th, 1905.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,233	5.99	5.76	5.94	+ 0.23	+ 0.05
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,030	5.78	5.92	5.69	- 0.14	+ 0.09
Scotland...	938	5.37	4.77	5.36	+ 0.60	+ 0.01
Other Districts ...	2,864	5.33	5.05	5.32	- 0.33	+ 0.01
All Districts ...	16,065	5.77	5.73	5.73	+ 0.04	+ 0.04

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns, 88.5 per cent. were employed in mines working twenty-two or more days during the four weeks ended

\* These periods were affected by holidays.

August 25th, as compared with 93.1 per cent. a month ago, and 83.9 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,109 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended August 25th, as compared with 3,112 a month ago, and 3,084\* a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended August 25th was 5.60, as compared with 5.43 a month ago, and 5.81\* a year ago.

Time lost by holidays amounted to .007 of a day in August, 1906, .028 of a day in July, and .009 of a day in August, 1905.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment was good in Cornwall, and there was still a demand for skilled miners in the western part of the county.

Lead Mining.—Employment was good in Flintshire and Denbighshire, in Weardale, and at Darley Dale (Derbyshire).

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was slack, but slightly better than a month ago in the Festiniog district, and fair in the Carnarvon district. In the Ballachulish (Argyllshire) quarries employment continued quiet, and only five days a week were worked.

Granite.—Employment continued moderate on the whole in Aberdeenshire. In Leicestershire employment was rather worse than a month ago, when it was reported as fair. Employment was good generally in North Wales, and a further improvement was shown in Devonshire and Cornwall.

Limestone.—Employment continued good in Weardale and Cumberland, and was also good in Derbyshire. It was fair in South Durham, North Wales, and the Plymouth district. In the Somerset blue lias quarries employment continued dull.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good with much overtime in chert quarries in Derbyshire. It continued fair in the Gateshead district and in the Clee Hill road-material quarries, and moderate, though slightly better than a month ago, in the Rowsley grindstone and building stone quarries. In the Forest of Dean employment was fair; it was moderate at Portland, slack in the Bathstone quarries, and bad in pennant-stone quarries in the Bristol district. In the Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham district an improvement was shown on a month ago, when full time had generally been worked. In sandstone quarries in North Wales employment was fair. It continued bad in Forfarshire, with much short time.

Settling.—In Aberdeenshire employment continued fair. It continued good at Stoney Stanton, Airdrie, and Glasgow, and was good generally in North Wales. At Rowley Regis employment was moderate through want of stone, though rather better than a month ago. It was bad and worse than a month ago at Edinburgh.

China Clay.—Employment was good at St. Austell, but hindered somewhat through scarcity of water. It was fair at Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 113 Returns—108 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, 3 from Local Correspondents, and 1 other.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during August continued good, and showed little change as compared with the previous month. It was better than in August, 1905.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of August was 337, being one less than at end of July, 1906, but an increase of 13 as compared with August, 1905. During August three furnaces were re-lit, one each in Lancashire, Nottingham, and Worcestershire; one was damped down in Yorkshire; and three blown out, one each in Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, and Lincolnshire.

The number of workpeople employed at the works

\* Revised figures.

included in the Returns summarised in the following Table is estimated at 24,500.

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	88	88	84	...	+ 4
Cumberland & Lancs.	36	36	35	...	+ 1
S. and S.W. Yorks.	15	16	16	- 1	- 1
Derby & Nottingham	42	42	38	...	+ 4
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	27	28	27	- 1	...
Stafford & Worcester	33	32	32	+ 1	+ 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	16	16	14	...	+ 2
Other districts ...	7	7	6	...	+ 1
Returned from England & Wales	264	265	252	- 1	+ 12
Returned from Scotland ...	73	73	72	...	+ 1
Total furnaces included in returns	337	338	324	- 1	+ 13

The Imports of iron ore in August, 1906, amounted to 68,644 tons, or 85,563 tons less than in July, 1906, and 45,540 tons less than in August, 1905.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during August, 1906, amounted to 151,657 tons, as compared with 162,295 tons in July, 1906, and 88,213 tons in August, 1905.

TINPLATE WORKS AND SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 52 Returns—48 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during August showed an improvement as compared with July. As compared with a year ago there was little change.

At the works covered by the Returns, 365 tinplate mills were working at the end of August, as compared with 355 in July, and 365 a year ago; the number of sheet mills for the corresponding periods was 52, 47, and 53. At the 417 mills working about 21,000 workpeople were employed.

The following Table shows the number of tinplate and sheet mills working at each of the three periods:—

	August, 1906.		July, 1906.		August, 1905.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	70	365	70	355	75	365
Sheet Mills ...	9	52	8	47	10	53
Total ...	79	417	78	402	85	418

With one or two exceptions the figures as to tinplate and sheet mills relate to firms in the South Wales and Monmouthshire district only.

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, are given in the Table below:—

	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
				July, 1906.	August, 1905.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
To United States ...	Tons. 5,124	Tons. 4,536	Tons. 6,556	+ 588	- 1,432
„ Other Countries ...	Tons. 28,460	Tons. 25,050	Tons. 20,947	+ 3,410	+ 7,513
Total ...	33,584	29,586	27,503	+ 3,998	+ 6,081
Black Plates for Tinning.					
To United States ...	14	—	12	+ 14	+ 2
„ Other Countries ...	5,657	5,883	5,533	- 226	+ 124
Total ...	5,671	5,883	5,545	- 212	+ 126



## IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 222 Returns—203 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 8 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued brisk generally, and was slightly better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago.

The total volume of employment (*i.e.*, numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended August 25th, 1906, at the 203 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 0.7 per cent greater than during the week ended July 21st, 1906, and 5.4 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 525,000, as compared with 521,300 a month ago, and 498,000 a year ago.

Compared with a month ago there was a marked increase in the number of workpeople employed in the iron forging and steel making departments; while, on the other hand, a considerable decrease took place at puddling forges. The greatest proportionate increase occurred in the Cleveland District, and the greatest proportionate decrease in the Midland Counties other than Staffordshire. The number of workpeople employed was greater than a year ago in every department except iron forging, and in every district except "Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire towns."

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	In week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		In week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>IRON:</b>						
Puddling Forges ...	9,983	- 170	+ 174	5.00	+ 0.03	+ 0.08
Rolling Mills ...	4,124	+ 7	+ 22	5.02	+ 0.10	+ 0.03
Forging ...	441	+ 81	- 33	5.44	- 0.06	+ 0.10
Founding ...	2,116	- 99	+ 82	6.00	+ 0.05	+ 0.01
Other Departments ...	640	- 12	+ 53	5.50	...	+ 0.03
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,569	+ 82	+ 45	5.57	...	+ 0.02
<b>Total Iron ...</b>	<b>18,873</b>	<b>- 111</b>	<b>+ 349</b>	<b>5.21</b>	<b>+ 0.08</b>	<b>+ 0.08</b>
<b>STEEL:</b>						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,239	+ 141	+ 456	5.84	- 0.04	- 0.03
Crucible Furnaces	678	+ 133	+ 99	5.31	- 0.08	- 0.19
Bessemer Converters	2,144	+ 144	+ 145	5.07	- 0.03	- 0.16
Rolling Mills	15,425	+ 200	+ 222	5.46	+ 0.05	- 0.05
Forging and Pressing	2,802	+ 84	+ 170	5.57	- 0.02	- 0.06
Founding	8,434	- 52	+ 168	5.85	+ 0.01	- 0.03
Other Departments	6,018	- 5	+ 213	5.75	+ 0.05	+ 0.07
Mechanics, Labourers	9,123	- 110	+ 550	5.91	- 0.02	+ 0.03
<b>Total Steel ...</b>	<b>52,863</b>	<b>+ 835</b>	<b>+ 3,023</b>	<b>5.68</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>- 0.04</b>
<b>IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):</b>						
Rolling Mills	11,684	- 55	+ 718	5.26	- 0.02	+ 0.01
Forging and Pressing	747	+ 22	+ 117	5.57	- 0.08	+ 0.10
Founding	740	- 3	+ 55	5.94	...	+ 0.01
Other Departments	3,327	+ 50	+ 50	5.82	+ 0.02	+ 0.06
Mechanics, Labourers	6,507	- 6	+ 469	5.70	+ 0.04	+ 0.06
<b>Total Iron or Steel (not distinguished)</b>	<b>23,005</b>	<b>+ 8</b>	<b>+ 1,439</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>+ 0.01</b>	<b>+ 0.04</b>
<b>Total—All Iron and Steel Works</b>	<b>91,741</b>	<b>+ 432</b>	<b>+ 4,812</b>	<b>5.51</b>	<b>+ 0.01</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Districts.</b>						
Northumberland & Durham	12,231	- 133	+ 754	5.60	+ 0.02	+ 0.06
Cleveland	6,206	+ 140	+ 430	5.59	- 0.07	+ 0.16
Sheffield and Rotherham	18,883	+ 288	+ 1,361	5.68	+ 0.01	...
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,283	- 37	- 86	5.41	- 0.10	- 0.08
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	11,497	+ 182	+ 430	5.37	+ 0.02	+ 0.01
Staffordshire	10,143	+ 101	+ 600	5.45	+ 0.06	+ 0.02
Other Midland Counties	4,346	- 150	+ 86	5.36	- 0.11	- 0.09
Wales and Monmouth	9,664	+ 3	+ 324	5.66	+ 0.02	...
<b>Total England and Wales</b>	<b>77,253</b>	<b>+ 394</b>	<b>+ 3,958</b>	<b>5.55</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>+ 0.02</b>
Scotland	17,488	+ 38	+ 854	5.51	+ 0.06	- 0.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,741</b>	<b>+ 432</b>	<b>+ 4,812</b>	<b>5.54</b>	<b>+ 0.01</b>	<b>...</b>

The average number of shifts worked per man per week varied from 5.00 at puddling forges to 6.00 at iron foundries, and showed little change compared with either a month or a year ago, the greatest variation being an improvement on a year ago of 0.21 of a shift at iron foundries.

## ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 893 Returns—11 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 845 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 37 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good but showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago. It remained better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 153,574 members of Trade Unions show that 2.8 per cent. were unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 2.5 in July and 4.8 in August, 1905.

The percentages for the various districts are shown below:—

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Aug., 1906, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Aug., 1906, as compared with a	
		Aug., 1906.	July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		North-East Coast ...	15,319	4.7	4.2	7.3
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,230	2.5	2.2	4.5	+ 0.3	- 2.0
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	12,783	1.9	1.6	3.7	+ 0.3	- 1.8
West Riding Towns ...	12,509	3.2	2.7	4.6	+ 0.5	- 1.4
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,697	2.9	2.0	3.3	+ 0.9	- 0.4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,154	2.9	1.9	4.1	+ 1.0	- 1.2
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District	4,026	3.3	2.8	7.5	+ 0.5	- 4.2
London and Neighbouring District	11,918	2.6	2.3	4.5	+ 0.3	- 1.9
South Coast ...	3,872	1.8	1.9	6.1	- 0.1	- 4.3
South Wales and Bristol District	6,643	3.3	2.9	5.6	+ 0.4	- 2.3
Glasgow and District ...	15,015	4.1	3.7	7.9	+ 0.4	- 3.8
East of Scotland ...	3,813	3.4	3.7	6.4	- 0.3	- 3.0
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,407	4.8	5.2	5.3	- 0.4	- 0.5
Other Districts ...	5,613	2.2	2.6	2.8	- 0.4	- 0.6
<b>United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)</b>	<b>153,574</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>- 2.0</b>

This Table shows that in most of the districts there was a slight decline in employment as compared with a month ago, the change being greatest in the Birmingham and Hull districts. In all districts it was better than a year ago.

On the North-East Coast employment generally continued good, and overtime was worked in some establishments. At Hartlepool, however, it was bad. Iron foundries at Blaydon, Stockton, and Hartlepool reported a decline.

In Lancashire employment remained good generally, and most reports state that overtime was worked. With brassfounders at Liverpool employment was bad but improving, and engineers were not so well employed at Birkenhead.

Employment was good, on the whole, in Yorkshire, but engineers in the Sheffield and Grimsby districts reported a slight falling off, and workers in textile machine and tool shops at Leeds were not so fully employed. With pattern-makers at Sheffield and Hull employment was reported as quiet.

At Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry employment showed a slight decline. It was fairly good with general engineers and toolmakers, good with electrical engineers, very good in the motor industry, but only moderate in the cycle trade.

In the Nottingham, Leicester, and Derby district employment was, on the whole, well maintained. At Nottingham pattern-makers reported an improvement; while with iron foundries employment was bad, and some short time was worked in the cycle and tool branches.

In the Potteries employment continued good. Employment remained good in the Eastern Counties, and showed little change in the London district.

On the South Coast it was rather better than a month ago, except in the Plymouth district. A good deal of overtime was worked at Southampton.

Employment in South Wales continued fair on the whole. It improved with engineers but declined with

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

ironfounders. At Bristol, Gloucester and Swindon, employment was also fair, and about the same as a month ago.

In Scotland generally employment was good, and in the Glasgow district overtime or night shifts were worked in many cases. Pattern makers on the Clyde and at Edinburgh reported employment as improved, but at Falkirk as dull. It was fair with ironmoulders at the latter town, but five days a week only were worked.

At Belfast employment was moderate, but with pattern makers an improvement was reported. It continued dull at Dublin and Cork.

## SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 365 Returns—11 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 339 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in the principal shipbuilding centres, and was much better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,455 members had 3,232 (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 5.7 per cent. at the end of July, and 13.2 per cent. at the end of August, 1905.

Compared with a month ago, there was an improvement on the Clyde, and also at the Bristol Channel ports and at Belfast. On the North-East Coast and in the remaining five districts, however, the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed shows an increase as compared with the end of July.

Compared with a year ago, all the districts except the Humber showed considerable improvement.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Aug., 1906, as compared with a	
		Aug., 1906.	July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Tyne and Blyth ...	9,894	2.5	1.8	9.9
Wear ...	3,107	2.9	1.7	5.5	+ 1.2	- 2.6
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,257	7.3	5.4	11.3	+ 1.9	- 4.0
Humber ...	2,193	10.8	8.0	6.8	+ 2.8	+ 4.0
Thames and Medway ...	4,747	10.4	7.7	12.7	+ 2.7	- 2.3
South Coast ...	3,456	4.6	4.3	10.3	+ 0.3	- 5.7
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,555	8.1	18.1	39.9	- 10.0	- 31.8
Mersey ...	3,897	13.5	11.6	24.2	+ 1.9	- 10.7
Clyde ...	12,082	2.8	4.7	14.5	- 1.9	- 9.7
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,321	8.0	6.1	22.5	+ 1.9	- 14.5
Belfast ...	2,899	5.4	8.2	11.2	- 2.8	- 5.8
Other Districts ...	3,042	4.8	4.4	10.0	+ 0.4	- 5.2
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>57,455</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>- 7.6</b>

Employment on the Tyne and Wear remained good. On the Tees it was fairly good with shipwrights, and moderate on the whole with iron shipbuilders; at Middlesbrough and Stockton the shipyards were closed one week for the local races. On the Humber employment continued slack generally, and was worse than a year ago; with shipwrights at Beverley and Selby, however, it remained good. On the North-East Coast generally employment showed some decline compared with a month ago.

In the Thames and Medway district employment was slack, and worse than in July. On the South Coast it was fair on the whole. At the Bristol Channel ports employment was good with riveters and holders-up, but not with shipwrights, platers, and caulkers. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at these ports at the end of the month was much less than a month ago and very much less than a year ago, when industry was disorganised by a dispute. On the Mersey employment, though not good, was much better than a year ago.

Employment on the Clyde was very good. With iron shipbuilders it was better than a month ago, and numbers of riveters who had come from other districts experienced no difficulty in finding work. A scarcity of holders-up and rivet-heaters was reported. Employment with shipwrights, though still good, was reported to have slightly fallen off.

\* Exclusive of superannuated members. † Revised figure.

At Dundee and Aberdeen employment was good; at Leith it was dull; at Belfast and Barrow it was moderate; at Lowestoft and Dublin fair; at Yarmouth and Cork it was slack.

## MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 54 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 28 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued fair generally. Eighteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 15,161, had 2.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of August, the same percentage as at the end of July, and at the end of August, 1905.

Tubes.—In South Staffordshire employment was slack; at Birmingham it was moderate with cased tube makers, but good with other branches. In South Wales employment was good, with overtime in one department.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment continued fair with block, cable, side-welded and drolled chain makers; but remained slack with anchor smiths. It was quiet with crane chain makers. In the Tyne district employment was fair at Winlaton and good at Gateshead. At Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury and Sheffield employment was good with spring and axle makers; as also with anvil and vice makers at Dudley and Darlaston and railway iron workers at Wednesbury. At Walsall employment with buckle, cart gear, case hame and stirrup makers was fair, and showed an improvement on the previous month.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In London employment with tin and iron plate workers continued fair. With zinc workers it was fair, and showed an improvement on the previous month. Employment with sheet metal workers was good at Sheffield, Oldham and Manchester; fair at Leeds, on the Tyne, in the Lye, and at Glasgow, where, however, it was not so good as a month ago; moderate at Bilston and Dudley; slack at Wolverhampton; and bad at Hull. At Birmingham employment with iron plate workers was quiet, short time being worked; with tinplate workers it was moderate. With tinplate workers at Wolverhampton, Aberdeen and Dundee employment was good; at Edinburgh fair; at Bristol it was moderate; at Nottingham improving; and at Exeter quiet.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—With nut and bolt makers employment was good at Winlaton, Dudley, and Darlaston, and in South Wales. With nail and rivet makers at Birmingham it continued fair. At Blackheath it continued quiet with rivet makers and fair with wrought nail makers.

Wire.—Employment in this trade continued good generally. At Glasgow it remained dull with wire weavers.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment in the lock and latch trades continued bad, and short time was general. With makers of hollow-ware it was good. Employment with hollow-ware stampers was slack at Sheffield. At Birmingham with hollow-ware makers it continued moderate; and at West Bromwich quiet, with short time.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment in these trades continued fair at Glasgow and Falkirk. It was quiet in Essex and slack at Rotherham and Leeds, short time being worked at the latter place.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment at Bolton, Bury, Wigan, Manchester and Wolverhampton continued good. It was fair at Nottingham and Exeter. At Birmingham with brass workers it was moderate, but with bedstead makers it was bad, short time being general. At Doncaster and Hexthorpe it continued slack.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the Sheffield district employment continued slack with cutlers generally; with sawmakers it remained fair. In the file trades it continued good;



with toolmakers it was quiet. At Wednesbury it continued quiet in the edge tool trade and good with hoe makers. At Redditch employment in the needle trade continued good. At Birmingham it was moderate with file cutters and in the edge tool trade. At Wolverhampton it continued fair with filesmiths.

**Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.**—In London employment with goldsmiths and jewellers continued very fair. With silversmiths and electro-platers it was quiet, and not so good as a month ago. In Birmingham employment continued fair with electro-platers, britannia metal workers and jewellers. At Sheffield employment generally was slack. At Coventry employment with watchmakers continued quiet.

**Farriers.**—Employment was fair in England, and good in Scotland.

**COTTON TRADE.**

(Based on 520 Returns—436 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 75 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very good, and was rather better than a year ago.

The price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool was during August 49d. less than in July, and 26d. less than in August, 1905. The price of "good fair Egyptian" was 04d. less than in July, and 210d. more than in August, 1905.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended August 25th, was 138,629, an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with the last week in July, and of 1.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago and of 2.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Analysis by Departments and Districts.**

Compared with a month ago there was no marked change in employment in any department. There was a slight improvement in the weaving branch, and a somewhat slighter decline in the preparing and spinning branches. As compared with a year ago all branches showed some improvement. The district showing the greatest improvement in the number employed as compared with July was Burnley, Padiham, etc.; in the amount of wages paid, however, the largest increase (5.9 per cent.) was in the Oldham district. As compared with a year ago the greatest improvement took place in the Oldham district and in Yorkshire.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
Preparing ...	14,510	+ 0.2	13,026	+ 0.4
Spinning ...	25,796	+ 0.3	24,879	+ 0.2
Weaving ...	66,410	+ 0.9	61,605	+ 0.8
Other ...	11,465	+ 0.3	13,428	+ 1.2
Departments not specified	20,448	- 0.4	21,198	- 0.6
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>138,629</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>134,136</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>
<b>Districts.</b>				
Ashton District ...	8,361	+ 0.1	8,033	+ 3.8
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde ...	8,425	+ 0.8	7,966	+ 1.4
Oldham District ...	14,101	+ 1.2	15,292	+ 5.9
Bolton and Leigh ...	18,383	- 0.2	16,605	+ 0.2
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden ...	10,937	- 0.2	10,238	- 0.7
Manchester District ...	10,447	- 0.7	8,479	- 0.9
Preston and Chorley ...	13,115	- 0.1	11,777	- 2.5
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen ...	21,074	- 0.7	20,948	- 0.8
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson ...	18,622	+ 3.2	21,800	+ 3.9
Other Lancs. Towns ...	4,821	- 0.1	4,602	- 0.3
Yorkshire Towns ...	4,988	+ 0.6	4,848	- 4.1
Other Districts ...	5,458	+ 0.3	5,548	+ 1.4
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>138,629</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>134,136</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>

**Raw Cotton.**

**American Cotton.**—During the month of August the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.59d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5.99d., and the lowest 5.29d. The price for July was 6.08d., and for August, 1905, 5.85d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of September, the average price of "middling American" was 5.40d. per lb.

**Egyptian Cotton.**—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during August averaged 9.71d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9.13d., and the lowest 9.1d. The price for July was 9.75d. per lb., and for August, 1905, 7.61d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of September the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.20d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on September 7th, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 306,020 bales, as compared with 734,970 bales on September 8th, 1905.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns are given below:—

Description of Cotton.	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
				July, 1906.	August, 1905.
American ...	196,474	233,812	196,000	- 37,338	- 426
Brazilian ...	10,185	12,340	7,364	- 2,155	+ 2,821
East Indian ...	3,093	4,199	3,331	- 1,116	+ 2,18
Egyptian ...	12,040	13,644	20,174	- 1,604	- 8,134
Miscellaneous ...	4,302	7,411	4,013	- 3,141	+ 287
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>226,082</b>	<b>271,456</b>	<b>231,782</b>	<b>- 45,354</b>	<b>- 5,700</b>

**Exports of Cotton Goods.**

The following Table shows the quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the periods stated:—

Description.	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
				July, 1906.	August, 1905.
<b>Cotton Yarn and Twist—</b>					
Gray ...	14,337	14,236	14,516	+ 101	- 179
Bleached and Dyed ...	3,452	3,070	3,459	+ 382	+ 12
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>17,789</b>	<b>17,306</b>	<b>17,955</b>	<b>+ 483</b>	<b>- 166</b>
<b>Cotton Piece Goods—</b>					
Gray or Unbleached ...	205,695	224,084	216,223	- 18,389	- 6,528
Bleached ...	151,759	142,198	144,761	+ 9,541	+ 6,978
Printed ...	111,905	107,415	98,566	+ 4,490	+ 13,336
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ...	104,728	99,831	104,765	+ 4,927	—
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>574,097</b>	<b>573,528</b>	<b>560,313</b>	<b>+ 569</b>	<b>+ 13,779</b>

**WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.**

(Based on 391 Returns—381 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 2 from Employers' Associations, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Woollen trade continued good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. In the Worsted trade employment was fairly good, showing a decline compared with a month ago, and an improvement compared with a year ago.

**Woollen Trade.**

Employment in this industry remained good. It was better than a month ago, especially in the weaving departments, and also better than a year ago, especially in the spinning departments.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the week ended August 25th, 1906, was 29,947, a decrease of 0.2 per cent. as compared with the corresponding week in July, and an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 22,944 of these workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
Wool Sorting ...	403	+ 0.2	394	+ 0.5
Spinning ...	4,451	+ 1.0	3,895	+ 0.1
Weaving ...	9,113	- 0.1	7,625	+ 5.0
Other Departments ...	6,210	- 0.8	6,058	- 1.7
Unspecified ...	2,767	- 1.6	2,529	+ 1.6
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>22,944</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>20,501</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>
<b>Districts.</b>				
Huddersfield District ...	3,741	- 1.1	3,753	+ 1.7
Leeds District ...	2,787	- 0.1	2,514	+ 1.5
Dewsbury & Batley District ...	3,052	+ 1.0	3,035	+ 0.5
Other Parts of West Riding ...	1,899	- 0.1	1,743	+ 2.8
<b>Total West Riding</b> ...	<b>11,479</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>11,045</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>
Scotland ...	5,897	- 0.1	5,077	+ 3.7
Other Districts ...	5,568	+ 0.5	4,379	- 0.8
<b>Total Woollen</b> ...	<b>22,944</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>20,501</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>

Compared with a month ago, the number employed by these firms showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 1.5 per cent. Compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 0.6 per cent., and the amount of wages an increase of 0.7 per cent.

In Huddersfield employment, though good and better than a month ago, was not so good as in June, 1906, or August, 1905. Overtime was frequently worked in the Huddersfield and Leeds districts. In Dewsbury and Batley employment remained good. In Scotland it was good and better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**

Employment was fairly good, but again showed a decline compared with the previous month. It continued better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the week ended August 25th was 58,220, a decrease of 0.8 per cent. as compared with July and an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 43,872 of these workpeople have stated the wages paid in the three periods under review. Compared with July, 1906, the number employed by these firms showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent., and the amount of wages a decrease of 1.2 per cent. Compared with a year ago, there were increases of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
Wool Sorting & Combing ...	4,399	- 2.6	4,210	- 4.3
Spinning ...	22,914	- 0.3	12,387	- 0.4
Weaving ...	8,156	- 0.6	7,165	- 1.1
Other Departments ...	5,419	- 0.3	5,249	- 0.5
Unspecified ...	2,984	+ 0.3	2,345	+ 1.7
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>43,872</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>31,365</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>
<b>Districts.</b>				
Bradford District ...	21,142	- 0.4	14,269	- 0.8
Katley District ...	5,438	- 0.6	3,974	- 3.1
Halifax District ...	4,552	- 0.8	3,359	- 1.2
Huddersfield District ...	3,813	- 0.2	5,134	- 1.0
Other Parts of West Riding ...	3,843	- 0.1	2,651	+ 0.5
<b>Total West Riding</b> ...	<b>40,788</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>29,387</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>
Other Districts ...	3,084	- 2.9	1,978	- 1.9
<b>Total Worsted</b> ...	<b>43,872</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>31,365</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>

The decline in employment compared with a month ago affected all departments and all the principal districts. It was most marked in the wool sorting and combing departments. In the Bradford district 12.5 per cent. of the Trade Union wool sorters were reported to be unemployed, and many others working short time.

Compared with a year ago the weaving departments again showed a decline, while other departments showed an improvement.

**Prices of Raw Material.**

Prices again showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but were still higher than a year ago.

	Aug., 1906.	July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.
<b>Average Prices</b>	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hogs ...	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ...	17 1/2	13	16 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	27	27 1/2	26
<b>Course of Prices:</b>			
Lincoln Hogs ...	14 1/2	14 1/2 to 14 1/2	13 to 13 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ...	18 to 17 1/2	18 1/2 to 18	16 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	27 to 27 1/2	28 to 27	25 1/2 to 26 1/2

**Imports and Exports.**

The following Table shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and of woollen and worsted piece goods for the periods stated:—

	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
				July, 1906.	August, 1905.
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
<b>Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')</b>					
Imports (less Re-Exports)	5,690	16,906	2,570	- 11,216	+ 3,120
British Exports ...	2,646	1,608	4,186	+ 1,038	- 1,540
<b>British and Irish Manufactures Exported.</b>					
Woolen ...	208	226	135	- 18	+ 73
Worsted ...	4,234	4,980	3,561	- 696	+ 723
Alpaca and Mohair ...	1,483	1,699	1,195	- 216	+ 288
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>5,975</b>	<b>6,905</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>- 930</b>	<b>+ 1,084</b>
<b>Piece Goods:</b>					
Woolen ...	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Woolen ...	9,166	8,782	7,607	+ 384	+ 1,559
Worsted ...	9,046	10,030	10,093	- 984	- 1,047
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>18,212</b>	<b>18,812</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>- 600</b>	<b>+ 512</b>

**FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.**

(Based on 129 Returns—123 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good, and was slightly better than a month ago. It was also better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns was 51,786, an increase of 0.5 per cent. as compared with July, and of 1.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Returns were also obtained as to wages paid by firms employing 45,023 workpeople and paying £26,083 in wages during the week ending August 25th. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 5.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

These Returns are summarised in the following Table. It will be seen that as compared with a month ago all districts except Fifehire showed an improvement in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago Fifehire showed an increase of 8.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, and Belfast an increase of 7.6 per cent.



Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number employed on pay day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	5,845	+ 0'2	- 0'6	3,079	- 1'8	+ 3'7
Spinning ...	10,318	+ 0'4	+ 0'6	4,659	+ 1'0	+ 5'2
Weaving ...	16,419	+ 0'5	+ 4'0	10,091	+ 2'4	+ 8'1
Other ...	6,045	+ 0'1	+ 2'3	4,650	+ 1'3	+ 4'4
Departments not specified	6,396	+ 0'8	- 0'7	3,604	+ 1'5	+ 2'0
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>45,023</b>	<b>+ 0'4</b>	<b>+ 1'7</b>	<b>26,083</b>	<b>+ 1'3</b>	<b>+ 5'5</b>

Districts.	Number employed on pay day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Belfast ...	16,157	+ 0'8	+ 1'7	9,567	+ 2'5	+ 7'6
Other Places in Ireland ...	14,165	...	+ 1'9	7,201	+ 0'3	+ 3'5
Ireland ...	30,322	+ 0'4	+ 1'8	16,768	+ 1'5	+ 5'8
Fifeeshire ...	7,368	+ 0'2	+ 3'7	4,726	- 0'2	+ 8'2
Other Places in Scotland ...	5,649	+ 0'2	- 0'6	3,564	+ 1'9	+ 0'9
Scotland ...	13,017	+ 0'2	+ 1'8	8,290	+ 0'7	+ 4'9
United Kingdom* }	45,023	+ 0'4	+ 1'7	26,083	+ 1'3	+ 5'5

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following Table shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and manufactured goods for the periods stated:—

Description.	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
				July, 1906.	August, 1905.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	2,844	4,039	5,593	- 1,195	- 2,749
<b>Exports:</b>					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	13,345	14,099	12,823	- 753	+ 523
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	151,141	157,044	142,428	- 5,903	+ 8,713

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 44 Returns—40 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good, and was better than a year ago. The total number of workpeople employed on pay day in week ended 25th August by firms making Returns was 23,059, showing no change as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1'1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 19,017 workpeople supplied particulars of the wages paid, as well as of the numbers employed.

The following Table summarises these Returns, and shows that the improvement as compared with a year ago was greatest in the spinning department, where the increase in the amount of wages paid amounted to 8'1 per cent.:

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number employed on pay day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended August 25th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	4,262	+ 0'8	+ 0'2	2,728	- 1'1	+ 2'7
Spinning ...	5,220	- 0'5	+ 4'7	3,068	- 1'4	+ 8'1
Weaving ...	6,389	- 0'5	+ 0'6	4,365	- 2'1	+ 2'7
Other ...	1,910	+ 0'7	+ 4'3	1,877	- 4'5	+ 4'0
Departments not specified	1,236	+ 0'3	+ 1'3	883	- 0'2	- 1'1
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>19,017</b>	<b>- 0'0</b>	<b>+ 2'0</b>	<b>13,121</b>	<b>- 2'0</b>	<b>+ 3'8</b>

\* Including 7 Returns from England.

The number of workpeople employed by these firms was the same as a month ago, and showed an increase of 2'0 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 2'0 per cent. as compared with July, and an increase of 3'8 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and manufactured goods for the periods stated were as under:—

Description.	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
				July, 1906.	August, 1905.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Jute ... Tons	2,150	4,268	2,821	- 2,138	- 691
<b>Exports:</b>					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	41,129	37,516	24,804	+ 3,613	+ 16,325
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	112,047	181,340	121,742	- 69,293	- 9,695

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 66 Returns—62 from Employers and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this trade showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month, and was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 8,893 workpeople made Returns of wages paid on pay day in the week ended 25th August. From these Returns it appears that, compared with July, there was a decrease of 0'1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and an increase of 1'4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there were increases of 3'3 per cent. in the number employed, and 5'1 per cent. in the wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.		July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing ...	1,303	- 0'9	+ 1'5	541	...	- 5'4
Spinning ...	2,756	+ 1'5	+ 6'9	2,051	+ 1'6	+ 11'1
Weaving ...	3,612	- 0'8	+ 0'5	2,347	+ 1'9	+ 2'4
Other ...	1,222	- 0'7	+ 6'3	956	+ 0'6	+ 6'1
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8,893</b>	<b>- 0'1</b>	<b>+ 3'3</b>	<b>5,895</b>	<b>+ 1'4</b>	<b>+ 5'1</b>

Employment was reported as good at Manningham and Brighouse, and improved at Halifax. At Macclesfield and Leek it was slack, on the whole, short time being worked in some branches; but with silk dressers at Macclesfield employment was reported as good. At Congleton employment was better than a month ago. In Suffolk and Essex it was reported as fair; at Norwich the number employed continued to decline, but those in employment were on full time.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of raw and thrown silk, and of spun silk yarn, and the exports of thrown silk and yarn, and of silk broad-stuffs, are shown in the following Table for the periods stated:—

Description.	Aug., 1906.	July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
				July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Raw Silk ... lbs.	61,948	89,698	168,856	- 27,750	- 106,908
Thrown Silk ... lbs.	44,826	49,527	51,324	- 4,701	- 6,498
Spun Silk Yarn ... lbs.	23,936	26,179	23,780	- 2,243	+ 156
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Thrown Silk & Twist ... lbs.	357	951	483	- 594	- 126
Yarn ... yds.	84,263	87,202	57,085	- 2,939	+ 27,178
Silk Broad-stuffs ... yds.	695,810	653,070	709,843	+ 42,740	- 14,033

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 99 Returns—94 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good in this trade, and was much better than a year ago.

Returns were received from firms employing 9,755 workpeople, and paying £9,827 in wages on the pay-day in the week ended 25th August. These Returns show an increase of 0'1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, as compared with July, 1906, and an increase of 5'7 per cent. as compared with a year ago. In the amount of wages paid there was a decrease of 0'9 per cent. as compared with July, and an increase of 12'6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

In the levers and plain net branches employment continued good, but showed a slight falling off as compared with a month ago. In the curtain branch employment continued dull, but was better than a year ago. As compared with a year ago, there was a marked increase in the amount of wages paid in all English centres of the trade, amounting in the case of Long Eaton to nearly 20 per cent.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.		July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Levers ...	2,918	+ 0'3	+ 7'6	3,983	- 2'0	+ 18'0
Curtain ...	3,136	- 0'0	- 0'4	2,985	+ 1'5	+ 6'0
Plain Net ...	2,580	- 0'1	+ 11'6	1,989	- 2'8	+ 14'4
Others ...	1,121	+ 0'2	+ 6'2	870	+ 0'8	+ 9'6
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>+ 0'1</b>	<b>+ 5'7</b>	<b>9,827</b>	<b>- 0'9</b>	<b>+ 12'6</b>

Districts.	Number employed on pay day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Nottingham City ...	2,422	+ 0'6	+ 1'2	2,321	+ 0'7	+ 14'3
Long Eaton and other outlying districts ...	2,015	+ 0'2	+ 12'4	2,813	+ 1'3	+ 19'5
Other English districts ...	2,892	- 0'5	+ 7'9	4,453	- 4'3	+ 15'4
Scotland ...	2,406	+ 0'0	- 1'0	2,240	- 1'2	+ 1'1
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>+ 0'1</b>	<b>+ 5'7</b>	<b>9,827</b>	<b>- 0'9</b>	<b>+ 12'6</b>

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 99 Returns—96 from Employers, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 16,811 workpeople, and paying £12,088 in wages in the week ending 25th August, 1906, made Returns which are summarised in the Table below.

From these it appears that there was an increase of 0'6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1'3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3'5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5'3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment continued good, and in the Leicester country district it was much better than a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough it remained good in most departments. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment was fairly good on the whole, but some short time was reported at Nottingham. In

Scotland it was good, and generally better than a month ago and a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester ...	8,744	+ 0'1	+ 1'2	7,224	- 0'9	+ 2'7
Leicester Country District ...	2,379	+ 0'7	+ 8'3	1,889	+ 3'7	+ 8'9
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	2,071	+ 0'5	+ 2'7	1,667	+ 4'3	+ 9'0
Scotland ...	2,884	+ 3'0	+ 7'5	1,874	+ 5'5	+ 8'7
Other Parts of United Kingdom	733	- 2'7	+ 5'6	434	+ 0'2	+ 6'9
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>16,811</b>	<b>+ 0'6</b>	<b>+ 3'5</b>	<b>12,088</b>	<b>+ 1'3</b>	<b>+ 5'3</b>

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 14 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding continued moderate, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment continued fairly good, but showed a slight decline compared with a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as moderate at Macclesfield, fair at Leek.

Calico Printers.—Employment at New Mills was reported as exceptionally good, and considerably better than a year ago; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it was quiet. At Glasgow it continued good with calico printers; with printers' engravers and block printers it was fair.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—At Leicester employment was moderate, and much short time was reported. At Hinckley employment was fair, but showed a slight decline in the dyeing department. At Loughborough it was moderate and about the same as a year ago. Employment was reported as moderate with dyers at Nottingham; at Basford, Bulwell and Nottingham it was fairly good with bleachers, improved with hosiery trimmers, and generally better than a year ago.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment continued good. In Dundee it was fair, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 14 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 11 from Trade Unions.)

In the Silk hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 15'1, compared with 13'6 at the end of July, and 14'2 a year ago. In London employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago. In the Felt hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 2'3, compared with 3'0 at the end of July, and 3'4 a year ago. Compared with a year ago, employment at Denton and Stockport showed an improvement; in other districts little change was shown.

The following Table shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, exported in the periods stated:—

Description.	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1906, as compared with	
				July, 1906.	August, 1905.
Felt ...	46,993	35,893	40,431	+ 11,100	+ 6,562
Straw ...	45,310	64,422	48,021	- 19,106	- 2,705
Other Sorts ...	5,467	6,179	5,175	- 712	+ 292
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>97,770</b>	<b>106,494</b>	<b>93,627</b>	<b>- 8,718</b>	<b>+ 4,149</b>



**BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.**

(Based on 602 Returns—587 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 5 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the boot and shoe trade was slack, and showed a further slight decline as compared with July; it was worse than a year ago.

The number employed on pay day in the week ending 25th August by 587 firms making Returns was 72,478, a decrease of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 500 firms, employing 62,868 workpeople, stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. These Returns showed a net decrease in the amount of wages paid of 1.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, ten districts showed a decline and six an improvement, the increase in the amount of wages paid being greatest in the Bristol and Kingswood districts. Compared with a year ago, only two districts showed an improvement.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed on pay day in week ending 25th August, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ending 25th August, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with last full week of	
		July, 1906.	August, 1905.		July, 1906.	August, 1905.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London ... ..	2,849	- 2.3	+ 0.1	3,307	- 4.5	- 1.2
Leicester ... ..	12,524	- 1.8	- 2.3	11,813	- 4.5	- 6.7
Leicester Country District	3,514	+ 1.4	+ 1.7	3,219	- 0.3	+ 4.5
Northampton ... ..	8,591	- 0.6	- 0.5	8,188	- 0.7	- 2.2
Northampton Country District	8,437	- 1.0	+ 1.7	7,844	- 1.1	- 1.1
Kettering ... ..	3,323	- 0.8	- 0.2	3,344	- 1.3	- 2.7
Stafford & District ... ..	2,591	- 0.2	1.0	2,050	- 5.5	6.4
Norwich & District ... ..	3,778	- 1.7	- 0.2	3,061	- 2.8	- 4.0
Bristol & District ... ..	1,946	- 0.1	...	1,846	+ 3.9	- 1.9
Kingswood ... ..	1,954	+ 0.6	- 3.7	1,917	+ 4.5	- 8.6
Leeds & District ... ..	2,670	+ 1.9	- 5.2	2,491	+ 1.5	- 6.4
Manchester & District ... ..	2,359	- 0.5	+ 1.8	2,307	3.8	- 5.7
Birmingham & District ... ..	827	- 1.7	- 3.5	678	+ 2.9	+ 4.6
Other parts of England and Wales	2,739	- 1.2	- 1.3	2,294	+ 3.0	...
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>58,312</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>54,359</b>	<b>- 1.9</b>	<b>- 3.5</b>
<b>SCOTLAND ... ..</b>	<b>4,025</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>3,620</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>- 11.8</b>
<b>IRELAND ... ..</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>+ 3.4</b>	<b>+ 3.9</b>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM ... ..</b>	<b>62,868</b>	<b>- 0.7</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>58,403</b>	<b>- 1.7</b>	<b>- 4.0</b>

**Imports and Exports.**—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported, and re-exported for the periods stated:—

Imports	August, 1906.			July, 1906.			August, 1905.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
	Dozen pairs	Value	£	Dozen pairs	Value	£	Dozen pairs	Value	£	July, 1906.	August, 1905.
										+	-
Dozen pairs	17,231	16,638	16,775	16,775	16,775	16,775	16,775	16,775	16,775	+ 593	+ 456
Value	£ 64,795	£ 64,253	£ 48,711	£ 48,711	£ 48,711	£ 48,711	£ 48,711	£ 48,711	£ 48,711	+ 542	+ 16,084
Re-Exports	1,594	878	1,147	1,147	1,147	1,147	1,147	1,147	1,147	+ 716	+ 447
Value	£ 4,359	£ 2,896	£ 3,381	£ 3,381	£ 3,381	£ 3,381	£ 3,381	£ 3,381	£ 3,381	+ 1,403	+ 978
Exports (British and Irish)	69,164	73,356	74,535	74,535	74,535	74,535	74,535	74,535	74,535	- 4,192	- 5,371
Value	£ 174,657	£ 183,676	£ 184,910	£ 184,910	£ 184,910	£ 184,910	£ 184,910	£ 184,910	£ 184,910	- 9,019	- 10,253

**TAILORING TRADE.**

(Based on 119 Returns—90 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch during August showed the usual seasonal decline in London, but was slightly better than a year ago; in the Provinces it was slack. In the ready-made branch employment was fairly good and better than a year ago.

**Bespoke Branch.**

London.—Employment during August showed the usual seasonal decline as compared with a month ago; it was slightly better than a year ago.

Firms paying £8,608 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended August 25th showed a decrease of 25.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the four weeks ended July 28th, and an increase of 1.8 per cent. compared with the four weeks ended August 26th, 1905.

Other Centres.—Employment was generally slack, and showed a further decline as compared with a month ago.

**Ready-made Branch.**

London.—Employment continued fairly good. The Trade Union cutters reported it as fair on contract work, and normal on stock and shipping work.

Leeds.—Employment during the month was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. According to Returns received from firms employing over 9,000 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment was good with firms employing 43 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the Returns, moderate with firms employing 54 per cent., and bad with firms employing 3 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 70 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 19 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 11 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 70 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 26 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 4 per cent. as worse. The Jewish operatives reported employment as good.

Other Centres.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, and better than a year ago. Compared with a month ago, there was an improvement at Bristol and Glasgow, and a decline at Manchester.

**OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.**

(Based on 180 Returns—173 from Employers, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the dressmaking trades in London showed the usual seasonal slackness. There was a decline in retail dressmaking, and a slight improvement in Court dressmaking, as compared with a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades employment was fair generally. Employment in the shirt and collar trade was moderate on the whole. In the corset trade it was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 760 dressmakers in the week ended August 25th, showed a decrease of 49.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 19.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was reported as moderate. Court dressmakers, employing 483 workpeople, showed a decrease of 49.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was very quiet, and many establishments were closed. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms in London employing 3,126 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the week ended August 25th showed an increase in the number employed of 2.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5.1 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fair on the whole. Firms in the wholesale and retail millinery trade employing 987 workpeople showed an increase of 17.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago; the increase, as compared with a month ago, was entirely in the wholesale branch, the retail branch showing a decline, as is usual in August.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed an increase both in the demand for and the supply of dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was good. In the costume and skirt trade it was reported as moderate; firms employing 2,443 workpeople in the week ended August 25th showed a decrease of 5.5 per cent. in the number employed as compared with

month ago, and an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment with mantle makers was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 6,721 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,437 in wages during the week ended 25th August, showed no change on the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was moderate on the whole, but good at Glasgow.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,833 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 25th August showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 40 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the Returns reported employment as improved, firms employing 48 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 12 per cent. as worse.

**OTHER LEATHER TRADES.**

(Based on 45 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 27 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during August continued fairly good on the whole, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,499 had 4.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of August, compared with 5.2 per cent. in July, and 6.8 per cent. in August, 1905.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment continued to improve slightly during August, and was better than a year ago. In South Lancashire and at Bristol, Newcastle, and Leeds, and with curriers at Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee it was good; at Walsall, London, Hull, Sheffield and Dublin it was fair; at Wellingborough it continued to improve; at Doncaster it was worse than a month ago.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—Employment on the whole was quiet, though not so good as in July, but it was better than a year ago. At Walsall employment was fair, but short time was still being worked in some branches.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—Employment in the fancy leather trade continued fair. In the portmanteau trade it continued good, scarcely so brisk as last month, but better than a year ago.

The imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness are shown in the following Table for the periods stated:—

Description.	August, 1906.			July, 1906.			August, 1905.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	+	-
										+	-
<b>Imports:—</b>											
Hides and undressed skins—											
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	54,293	43,965	25,839	25,839	25,839	25,839	25,839	25,839	25,839	+ 10,328	+ 28,454
Ditto, wet	46,580	52,697	62,646	62,646	62,646	62,646	62,646	62,646	62,646	- 6,117	- 16,066
Total, hides, dry and wet	100,873	96,662	88,485	88,485	88,485	88,485	88,485	88,485	88,485	+ 4,211	+ 12,388
Goat skins	No. 1,659,587	No. 1,503,916	No. 1,542,354	No. 1,542,354	No. 1,542,354	No. 1,542,354	No. 1,542,354	No. 1,542,354	No. 1,542,354	+ 135,671	+ 97,233
Sheep skins	No. 1,767,822	No. 1,871,073	No. 1,322,614	No. 1,322,614	No. 1,322,614	No. 1,322,614	No. 1,322,614	No. 1,322,614	No. 1,322,614	- 103,251	+ 445,208
Leather*	cwts. 122,694	cwts. 105,690	cwts. 98,790	cwts. 98,790	cwts. 98,790	cwts. 98,790	cwts. 98,790	cwts. 98,790	cwts. 98,790	+ 17,004	+ 23,904
Exports:—											
Saddlery and harness (value)	£ 42,864	£ 46,325	£ 47,128	£ 47,128	£ 47,128	£ 47,128	£ 47,128	£ 47,128	£ 47,128	- £ 3,659	+ £ 1,736

**PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.**

(Based on 418 Returns—139 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 260 from Trade Unions, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trades continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the printing trades it

\* Includes hides, tanned, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, and goat and sheep skins tanned and dressed as leather.

was slack and worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. In the bookbinding trades it was quiet, but better than a month ago and a year ago.

**PAPER TRADES.**

Employment in these trades remained good, and was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 20,683 workpeople at the end of August showed that there was a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with July, and of 0.4 per cent. as compared with August, 1905. This decline is due, however, to a fire at a mill in the South of England.

Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in week ending 25th Aug., 1906, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Northern Counties ... ..	6,073	...	- 1.6
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	2,060	+ 1.0	+ 0.1
Southern Counties ... ..	5,989	- 3.9	- 3.0
Scotland ... ..	5,600	- 0.7	+ 3.0
<b>Total Machine-made Paper, &amp;c. ...</b>	<b>19,722</b>	<b>- 1.3</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>
Hand-made Paper ... ..	961	...	+ 3.1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>20,683</b>	<b>- 1.3</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 1,719 members had 3.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 1.9 per cent. in July, and 3.0 per cent. in August, 1905. In the hand-made trade, Trade Unions with 628 members had 4.6 per cent. unemployed, compared with 5.4 per cent. a month ago, and 7.6 per cent. a year ago.

**PRINTING TRADES.**

Employment was slack generally, and with letterpress printers worse than a month ago. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 40,719 members had 5.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of August, compared with 3.4 per cent. in July, and 6.3 per cent. in August, 1905. In the lithographic trade, Trade Unions with 6,554 members had 4.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of August, compared with 4.5 per cent. in July, and 4.7 in August, 1905.

The following Table shows by districts the percentage unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the Printing Trades:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1905, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Aug., 1906.	July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	19,196	6.4	3.9	6.6	+ 2.5	- 0.2
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,198	6.3	3.5	6.3	+ 2.8	...
Lanes. and Cheshire...	6,471	4.8	2.9	7.4	+ 1.9	- 2.6
East Midlands and Eastern Counties	2,365	4.4	3.1	6.0	+ 1.3	- 1.6
West Midlands ... ..	2,386	6.0	3.5	7.0	+ 2.5	- 1.0
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,724	3.6	1.5	4.4	+ 2.1	- 0.8
Scotland ... ..	5,474	3.6	3.0	2.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
Ireland ... ..	2,459	6.4	6.9	7.4	- 0.5	- 1.0
<b>United Kingdom ... ..</b>	<b>47,273</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>+ 2.0</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>

London.—Employment was slack with compositors, fair with machine managers, good with electrotypers and stereotypers. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 17,221 members had 6.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.7 per cent. in July, and 6.8 in August, 1905. With lithographic printers employment remained quiet.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers was slack generally, and worse than a month ago. At Edinburgh, Dundee and Derby, however, it was reported as fair, and at Aberdeen and Dublin as good. With lithographic printers employment was quiet generally, but fairly good at Manchester and Birmingham.

**BOOKBINDING TRADES.**

Employment was quiet generally, but better than a year ago. In London it was better than a month ago, though short time was still common. In Manchester employment was fair and better than a month ago. In



Edinburgh it was good. In Leeds and Bradford it was fair, but slightly worse than at the end of July.

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug. 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+ or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	3,653	5.2	6.6	7.2	- 1.4	- 2.0
Other Districts ...	3,325	4.2	4.1	6.5	+ 0.1	- 2.3
United Kingdom ...	6,978	4.7	5.4	6.9	- 0.7	- 2.2

### BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,820 Returns—110 from Employers and Employers' Associations received through the Trade Correspondent, 1,673 from Trade Unions, and 37 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull, but was on the whole better than a month ago and a year ago.

London.—In London employment was better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Returns received through the Trade Correspondent from 37 London employers show that in the last week of August 7,841 workpeople were paid wages, as compared with 7,035 a month ago, and 8,607 in August, 1905.

From Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners it appears that the percentage of unemployed in London at the end of August was 5.5, as compared with 7.8 a month ago, and 5.5 a year ago. With plumbers the percentage for August was 7.5, for July 14.3, and for a year ago 8.7—a considerable improvement being shown as compared with a month ago. With bricklayers a slight decline was shown, but with all other branches, particularly with builders' labourers, a marked improvement took place as compared with July.

The Provinces.—Returns received from 68 Employers' Associations in towns outside London show that in these towns employment was slack generally, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

The following information is based on Returns received from the General Secretaries of Trade Unions and from Trade Union reports:—

Employment with bricklayers and masons was dull, and showed a decline as compared with a month ago. With carpenters and joiners it was still slack, but better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage unemployed of Trade Union carpenters and joiners in the whole of the United Kingdom was 5.1, as compared with 5.3 a month ago and 6.5 a year ago; with plumbers the percentage was 7.5, as compared with 8.9 a month ago and a year ago. With slaters, plasterers and builders' labourers, there was a slight improvement as compared with a month ago; with painters little change was shown.

The following information is based on Returns from Branch Secretaries of Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents:—

Northern Counties.—Employment on the whole was quiet and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. With painters a slight falling off was reported. In the Wear district employment with plasterers continued bad.

Yorkshire.—Employment on the whole continued quiet. Some improvement was shown, however, at Sheffield, Rotherham, and Leeds.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment was reported as fair in most branches. With carpenters and joiners and painters it was slack.

Midlands and Eastern Counties.—In Derbyshire employment was quiet, and about the same as a month ago; in Nottingham and the Leicester district it improved except with bricklayers. In Norfolk a decline was reported, and employment continued generally slack throughout the Eastern Counties.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment with stonemasons in the Plymouth district improved somewhat; with painters a decline was shown. At Bristol it continued dull. There was a general improvement in the South Wales district.

Scotland.—There was an improvement with bricklayers at Greenock and Paisley, and with masons at Edinburgh and Dundee.

Ireland.—At Belfast, Dublin, and Cork employment was dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

### FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 171 Returns—5 from Employers' Associations, 135 from Trade Unions, and 31 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during August was on the whole fair, there being an improvement in the furnishing trades, but a decline in the coachbuilding trade. It was slightly better than a month ago, and also better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 4.2, as compared with 4.4 in July, 1906, and 5.0 in August, 1905.

#### Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists continued moderate on the whole. It was worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,397 reported 202 (or 4.6 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 4.3 per cent. at the end of July, 1906, and 5.2 per cent. at the end of August, 1905. Employment was reported as good at Birmingham and Edinburgh, and as dull in London, and at Nottingham, Bradford, and Dublin.

#### Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was on the whole fair, being better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 14,198 reported 770 (or 5.4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 6.3 per cent. at the end of July, 1906, and 6.5 per cent. at the end of August, 1905. With french-polishers in London employment, though improving, was still bad.

#### Coopers.

Employment with coopers was fairly good, there being a further improvement as compared with last month. It was about the same as a year ago.

#### Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachmakers was fairly good, though not so good as last month; and overtime was still being worked. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 8,872, reported 240 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 1.7 per cent. at the end of July, 1906, and 2.8 per cent. at the end of August, 1905.

#### Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment was reported as quiet on the whole, Trade Unions with a membership of 1,727 having 73 (or 4.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, 1906, as compared with 3.9 per cent. at the end of July, 1906, and 7.7 per cent. at the end of August, 1905.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was good generally, but dull at Belfast and Bristol; with basket-makers it was good generally.

### POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 30 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

In the Pottery trade employment during August continued fairly good in England, and moderate in Scotland. In the Brick and Tile trades employment was fair on the whole, and about the same as a month and a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—In Staffordshire employment was fairly good on the whole; with packers it was quiet. It was good at Bristol and in North Devon. At Swadlincote short time was worked. In Scotland it continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. With tobacco pipe makers in Glasgow it continued bad, and was worse than in July.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment continued good at Oldham and in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and in Wales. In the Tees and Plymouth districts and in South Staffordshire it was fair. At Nottingham it was slack, and not so good as a month ago. At Peterborough it continued quiet; in the Birmingham district it was bad.

### GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 91 Returns—63 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 17 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate, but was not so good as a month ago. It was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 10,003 workpeople, and paying £11,627 in wages during the week ended August 25th show that compared with a month ago there was a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.7 per cent. in the wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 5.2 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 6.6 per cent. in amount of wages.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended 25th Aug., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.		July, 1906.	Aug., 1905.
Glass Bottle ...	6,077	- 2.2	+ 8.8	£ 7,253	- 3.5	+ 9.1
Plate Glass ...	150	- 1.8	+ 5.3	175	- 4.4	+ 10.7
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles) ...	2,408	- 0.2	- 2.4	2,662	- 0.7	+ 0.6
Other Branches ...	1,358	- 0.7	+ 4.4	1,537	- 2.1	+ 5.3
Total ...	10,003	- 1.5	+ 5.2	11,627	- 2.7	+ 6.6
<b>Districts.</b>						
North of England ...	1,008	+ 0.7	...	£ 1,103	- 0.2	+ 4.5
Yorkshire ...	3,679	- 1.8	+ 12.7	4,451	- 0.2	+ 12.6
Lancashire ...	2,216	- 4.6	+ 0.3	2,471	- 8.1	- 0.9
Worcester and Warwick ...	2,017	+ 0.2	+ 2.6	2,383	- 2.3	+ 5.3
Scotland ...	775	+ 0.9	+ 2.0	944	+ 5.8	+ 7.8
Other parts of United Kingdom ...	278	+ 0.4	+ 3.3	275	- 2.1	+ 2.2
Total ...	10,003	- 1.5	+ 5.2	11,627	- 2.7	+ 6.6

The decrease in the numbers employed as compared with a month ago was confined to Yorkshire and Lancashire, the glass bottle trades in these counties being largely responsible for the decline. As regards the amount of wages paid, all the districts except Scotland showed a decline.

Compared with a year ago, there was an increase in all districts except the North of England in the numbers employed, while Lancashire was the only district which showed a decrease in the amount of wages paid.

Employment was good with sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens, with bottle makers at Bristol and Portobello, and with flint glass makers at Birmingham and Stourbridge. It was fairly good with glass blowers in London. With flint glass makers at Glasgow it was fair, as also with bottle makers at Dublin, plate glass bevellers at Birmingham, and flint glass cutters at Stourbridge. Employment was moderate with bottle makers in the North of England, and with flint glass cutters at Birmingham and pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear. It was bad with bottle makers in Yorkshire and Lancashire. At Glasgow it was dull with medical bottle makers, but with other bottle makers it was good.

### Imports and Exports of Glass.

Description.	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with	
				July, 1906.	August, 1905.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 103,726	cwts. 93,171	cwts. 122,453	+ 10,565	- 18,717
Plate ...	...	...	...	...	...
Flint, plain, cut or ornamented, &c.	39,073	40,259	31,291	- 1,196	+ 7,782
Manufactures, other sorts ...	76,150	71,437	72,465	+ 4,713	+ 3,685
Bottles ... gross	3,320	4,384	5,660	- 1,055	- 2,331
Total ...	120,044	122,666	124,303	- 2,622	- 4,259
<b>Exports:</b>					
Plate ...	cwts. 9,703	cwts. 10,986	cwts. 9,939	- 1,283	- 236
Flint ...	6,467	5,741	4,466	+ 726	+ 2,021
Manufactures, other sorts ...	31,350	43,031	25,587	- 11,681	+ 5,763
Bottles ... gross	65,622	60,965	47,790	+ 4,657	+ 17,832

### AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on 150 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

Agricultural labourers were generally in regular employment throughout August. In certain northern districts, however, rain caused slight loss of time to day labourers during the first part of the month. In the eastern and southern counties the harvest proceeded with little or no interruption from rain, and as most of the corn was cut by self-binding machines, there was only a moderate demand for extra men to assist at harvest. Owing to these circumstances, and to the small amount of hoeing required to be done, a number of day labourers were not in constant work.

Northern Counties.—Agricultural employment was slightly irregular in Cumberland on account of wet weather, which, to some extent, interrupted field work during the first three weeks of the month. In Westmorland employment was reported as regular. It was also regular, on the whole, in Yorkshire, but some day labourers lost time on account of wet weather. The extra demand for this class of labour caused by the harvest was fully met, and in some districts reductions in harvest wages were reported.

Midland Counties.—Rain caused a few day labourers to lose time in Cheshire and Derbyshire, but the harvest generally provided full employment. Regularity of employment was reported in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, where there was a fairly good demand for harvest men. Employment was generally regular in Staffordshire, though rain caused some slight interruption to outdoor work. Farm labourers were well employed throughout the month in Shropshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire, and the supply of extra men was generally sufficient. The fine weather enabled good progress to be made with the corn harvest in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, and most men were in full employment. Harvest work was rapidly pushed forward in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. The supply of extra labour for this work was generally plentiful, and in certain districts some of the day labourers were not able to find regular work throughout the month. Similar reports come from Bedfordshire.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was generally regular with farm labourers in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire. In Lincolnshire rain slightly interrupted outdoor employment in certain districts, but generally the weather was favourable for harvesting operations, and employment was regular. There was a fair demand for extra men in these three counties, but it was generally satisfied. Agricultural labourers in Norfolk and Suffolk were, for the most part, fully employed at harvesting. Farmers appear to have had no difficulty in getting a sufficient number of extra men for this work. The supply of harvestmen in Essex was more than sufficient for the demand, which was lessened by the full use made of self-binders.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Kent, but towards the end of the month there were more men seeking work than were needed. Regularity of employment was reported in Surrey, where, however, a surplus of extra labour, partly due to slackness in the building trades, was reported. In Sussex, the use of machinery for the harvest and the small amount of hoeing that was necessary lessened the demand for day labourers, some of whom were in irregular work. A few day labourers lost time in Hampshire towards the end of the month, when the harvest was finished. There was less demand than usual at harvest time for extra men in Berkshire and Wiltshire, on account of the extensive use made of machinery. The supply of men for permanent situations is said to be greater now than during the past few years. Employment was generally regular in Dorset and Somerset. The demand for day labourers, however, was curtailed somewhat by the short harvest and by scarcity of hoeing. Regularity of employment was reported in Herefordshire, with some scarcity of labour in certain districts. In Gloucestershire the harvest caused a demand for extra labour, and employment was good. Similar reports come from Devonshire and Cornwall. There was some scarcity of men for permanent situations in these three counties.



DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

Based on 132 Returns, 107 from Employers, 9 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fair, but showed some decline in London. It was, however, better than a year ago.

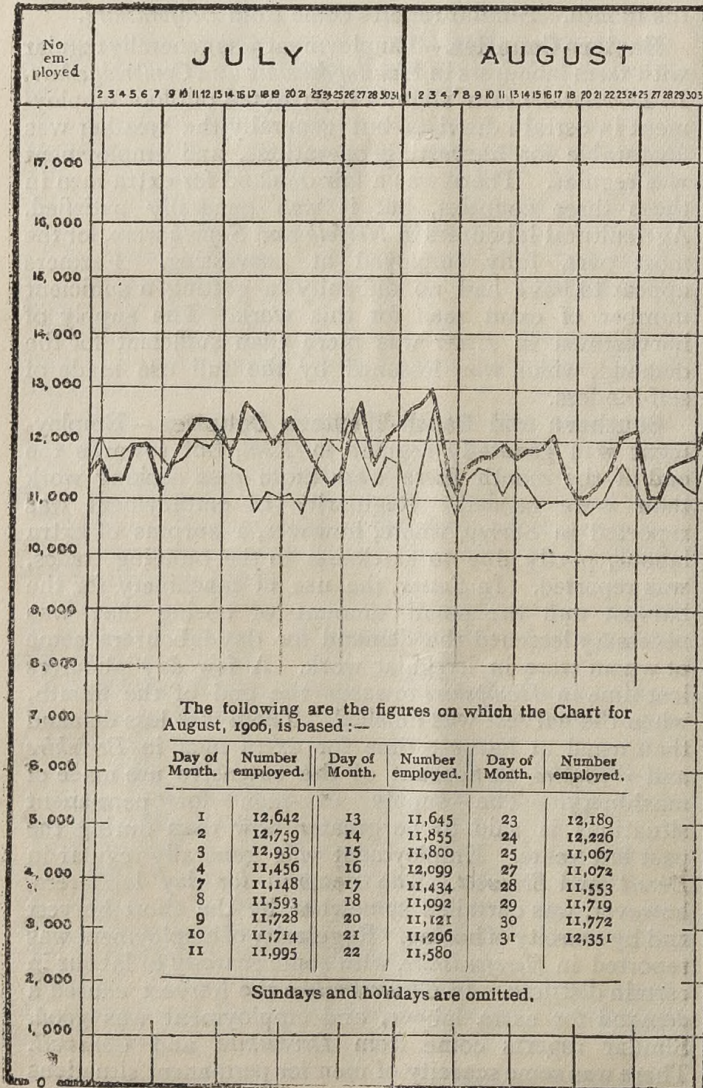
London.\*—Employment generally was fair, but not quite so good as in July, owing to the fact that wool sales took place in July, but not in August. Employment was, however, better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended September 1st was 11,772, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. on a month ago and an increase of 4.0 per cent. on a year ago, the net result being an increase of 2,879.

The daily numbers in August ranged from 11,067 on the 25th to 12,930 on the 3rd. During the corresponding period of 1905, the numbers ranged from 10,537† on the 2nd to 12,592† on the 4th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At 107 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Aug. 4th	4,809	2,377	7,186	5,160	12,346
" " 11th	4,423	1,855	6,278	5,357	11,635
" " 18th	4,497	1,909	6,406	5,248	11,654
" " 25th	4,209	2,037	6,246	5,334	11,580
" Sept. 1st	4,200	2,143	6,343	5,302	11,645
Average for 5 weeks ended Sept 1st	4,428	2,064	6,492	5,280	11,772
Average for July, 1906	4,928	1,894	6,822	5,086	11,908
Average for Aug., 1905	4,812†	1,731†	6,043†	5,281†	11,324†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 107 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of July and August, 1906. The corresponding curve for July and August, 1905, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1906, and the thin curve to 1905.]



The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,101 in August, as compared with 950 in July, an increase of 15.9 per cent.

In Liverpool employment at the North Docks was dull; at Southend it was fair during the early part of the month, but fell off later. With quay and railway carters employment was only moderate.

Other Ports.—Employment, on the whole, was fairly good. It was good at Grimsby, but only moderate at Hull and Goole. It was slack at Bristol. It improved at Cork and on the Clyde.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN AUGUST.

(Based on 27 Returns from the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during August 42,989\* seamen, of whom 5,039 (or 11.7 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. At seven ports there were decreases, and in ten there were increases in the number shipped as compared with a year ago.

During the eight completed months of 1906, 313,630\* seamen were shipped, of whom 41,747 (or 13.3 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with the corresponding period of 1905, the total number shipped shows an increase of 16,985. Increases were most marked at Liverpool, Glasgow, Cardiff, Hull, and Southampton.

Lascars, who are engaged in Asia, are not included in these figures.

Table showing number\* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom during the periods mentioned:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	August,			Eight months ended August,		
	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	3,075	3,062	- 13	22,707	22,908	+ 201
Sunderland ...	500	573	+ 73	3,690	3,496	- 194
Middlesbrough ...	350	338	- 12	2,470	2,254	- 216
Hull ...	1,050	1,235	+ 185	8,684	10,348	+ 1,664
Grimsby ...	98	123	+ 25	1,101	1,193	+ 92
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	642	614	- 28	4,617	5,212	+ 595
Newport, Mon. ...	714	1,043	+ 331	7,409	7,680	+ 271
Cardiff ...	4,215	4,692	+ 477	36,456	38,869	+ 2,413
Swansea ...	591	555	- 36	4,222	3,574	- 648
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	15,384	17,549	+ 2,165	109,703	116,892	+ 7,189
London ...	6,756	5,903	- 848	47,805	46,330†	- 1,475
Southampton ...	2,101	2,104	+ 3	15,067	16,660	+ 1,593
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leth ...	342	327	- 15	3,456	3,980	+ 524
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth ...	368	293	- 75	1,914	1,974	+ 60
Glasgow ...	3,758	4,324	+ 566	25,085	27,564	+ 2,479
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	78	82	+ 4	540	851	+ 311
Belfast ...	82	105	+ 23	1,769	1,739	- 30
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>40,110</b>	<b>42,989</b>	<b>+ 2,879</b>	<b>296,645</b>	<b>313,630</b>	<b>+ 16,985</b>

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 22 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed during August showed a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value, as compared with a year ago, as will be seen from the following Table:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Aug., 1906.	Aug., 1905.	Aug., 1906.	Aug., 1905.
	<b>Fish (other than Shell):</b>	<b>Cwts.</b>	<b>Cwts.</b>	<b>£</b>
England and Wales ...	1,208,861	884,065	611,875	561,363
Scotland ...	1,883,930	2,348,374	741,219	630,121
Ireland ...	43,530	42,821	17,537	18,285
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>3,136,321</b>	<b>3,275,260</b>	<b>1,370,631</b>	<b>1,209,769</b>
<b>Shell Fish ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>32,571</b>	<b>30,925</b>
<b>Total Value ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,403,202</b>	<b>1,240,694</b>

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

Employment at the principal ports continued good on the whole, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. At Harwich, however, fishing was very quiet, and off the South coast of Ireland it was retarded during the first half of the month by stormy weather. With fish dock labourers employment was moderate at Plymouth, and with fish curers it was moderate at Hull and Lowestoft, and bad at Macduff.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

THE following are among the more interesting legal cases reported in August, especially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers:—

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

WHAT IS A SCAFFOLDING? LADDERS.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, applies to employment on, in or about any building which exceeds 30 feet in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding.

A workman was employed to repair the chimney of a house which exceeded 30 feet in height. A ladder was placed against the house which enabled him to reach the roof, and then a second ladder lying on the sloping roof enabled him to reach the foot of the chimney. The workman was mounting the second ladder, dragging a third ladder with him, which he intended to place on the ridge of the roof in order to reach his work, when he slipped and fell to the ground. He was seriously injured, and took proceedings in the County Court for an award of compensation under the Act. The County Court Judge held that the two ladders in position did not constitute a scaffolding; that the third ladder might have been considered a scaffolding if it had been placed in position before the accident; and that the building was not being repaired by means of scaffolding. Therefore compensation was refused.

On appeal the Court of Appeal held that in view of the findings of fact, the decision of the County Court Judge was right in law. The workman's appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Hassett v. Ennis Poor Law Guardians, Court of Appeal in Ireland, reported August 11th, 1906.*

(2) Merchant Shipping Acts.

RIGHT OF SEAMAN TO REFUSE TO RUN WAR RISKS: WRONGFUL CONVICTION FOR REFUSING TO SAIL.

A crew signed articles in December, 1904, for a voyage not to exceed three years in duration to any ports within 75 deg. north and 60 deg. south latitude, commencing at Cardiff and proceeding to Hong Kong. The ship arrived with a cargo of coal at Hong Kong in February, 1905. The crew were then told they were to proceed to Sasebo, in Japan. Coal being contraband of war, the crew refused to go to a belligerent port. The master accordingly took them before the harbour-master, who was a magistrate. He committed them to prison for 70 days for impeding the navigation of the ship. They went to prison, and the ship was taken to Sasebo by a Chinese crew. After serving their imprisonment the seamen returned home, and brought an action against the owners of the ship to recover wages from the time they were left at Hong Kong till they arrived in England. The defendants contended that the plaintiffs were bound to go to Sasebo if required; and, further, that if they were not so bound, their service came to an end by their conviction by a regular court of justice.

The judge held that, coal being contraband, the plaintiffs were within their rights in refusing to proceed on the voyage to Sasebo, and that the magistrate had acted contrary to law in convicting the plaintiffs at Hong Kong; therefore his decision was no bar to the claim. Judgment was therefore given for the plaintiffs for wages down to the date of their arrival in this country.—*Caine and Others v. The Palace Shipping Co., Ltd., King's Bench Division, August 10th, 1906.*

SEAMEN COMPELLED TO RUN WAR RISKS: ALTERATION OF VOYAGE WITHOUT CONSENT OF SEAMEN.

In April, 1904, eight seamen signed articles at Cardiff for a voyage not to exceed two years in duration. The ship then sailed with a cargo of coal for Kiaochow, a German port in China. On reaching that port the cargo was not discharged, and the ship sailed for Vladivostok, arriving there on July 19th. Coal had been declared contraband of war before the voyage began. The coal having been delivered at Vladivostok, the crew were told that the ship had been chartered for two months to carry coal from Sakhalin to Vladivostok. At first the crew refused to sail, but on being promised 50 per cent. extra wages on account of the risk from mines and of capture they consented to continue the voyage. At the end of the two months the master entered into a fresh charter with the Russian Government to carry ammunition and food to Port Arthur, which was then closely blockaded by the Japanese. The crew were unwilling to proceed, but eventually did sail, asserting that the master had threatened that if they refused they would be put on board at the point of the bayonet by Russian soldiers. There was no British Consul at Vladivostok, and the men (according to their account) were compelled to accept the master's terms—namely, that they should be paid double wages, and in case of safe arrival that £500, and of non-arrival £250, should be divided amongst them. In November the ship sailed, but was disabled by a storm and towed into Manila. There, in April, 1905, the master was ordered by the Russian Government to take his cargo to Saigon, Port Arthur being then

in the hands of the Japanese. The ship arrived at Saigon in May, 1905, and remained there with the same cargo on board till January, 1906, when a number of explosions took place on board, and the ship was destroyed. All the kit and effects of the seamen were lost, and the crew were sent home as distressed seamen. After reaching home each of the seamen signed a release of all claims in respect of the voyage in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, though without prejudice to their claim in the action they were bringing. They brought an action against the owners of the ship, claiming damages for the extra risks they ran in being compelled to engage in the carriage of contraband when they had agreed only to a peaceful voyage; they also claimed extra wages from November, 1904, to January, 1906; their share of the bonus of £500; and damages for loss of their kit and effects. They contended that when they signed articles they had no knowledge that they would be required to proceed to any belligerent port, and that the defendants in breach of their agreement had altered the character of the voyage. The defendants contended that the plaintiffs were fully aware of the nature of the voyage before they signed, and denied that any sort of compulsion had been used to induce them to make fresh agreements. They also contended that they were no party to the agreement to run the blockade of Port Arthur, but that the agreement was made between the plaintiffs and the Russian Government behind the backs of the defendants. It was also contended that in law the plaintiffs could not succeed, as the releases signed by each of them were statutory releases which could not be without prejudice to other claims.

In evidence the master said that he discussed the terms of the charter for the Port Arthur voyage with the plaintiffs, and that the agreement was entirely between him, the crew, and the Russian Government.

In answer to questions put to them by the judge the jury found that:—(1) The defendants had altered the nature and character of the voyage without the consent of the plaintiffs; (2) the plaintiffs did not of their own free will agree to take the voyages between Sakhalin and Vladivostok; (3) the plaintiffs took the voyage to Port Arthur under the influence of threats and pressure, and not of their own free will; (4) the master in signing the charter-party was acting as the agent of the defendants. Damages were awarded in addition to the value of the lost kits. The judge over-ruled the contention of the defendants as to the effect of the release, and gave judgment for the eight plainiffs for a total amount of £1,158.—*Jones and Others v. The Simpson Steamship Co., Ltd., Swansea Assizes, August 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th, 1906.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on September 1st, 1906.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 224 Returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 120 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean of the prices per 4 lbs. of bread as returned in various districts:—

District.	Present Prices (1st Sept., 1906).			Price last quarter. (1st June, 1906).			Price a year ago. (1st Sept., 1905).		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
	ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire	7	4½	5-64	7	4½	5-78	7	5	5-78
Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4½	5-23	6	4½	5-19	6	4½	5-29
N. Mid. Counties...	5½	4	4-79	5½	4	4-73	5½	4½	4-75
W. do. do. ...	5½	4	5-04	5½	4	5-04	5½	4½	5-13
S. do. do. ...	5½	4	4-83	5½	4	4-84	6	4	4-96
Eastern Counties...	6	4½	5-25	6	4½	5-21	6	4½	5-40
London ...	5½	5	5-33	5½	5	5-35	5½	5	5-45
S.E. Counties ...	6	5	5-62	6	5	5-48	6	5	5-63
S.W. Counties, } Wales & Mon. }	5½	4½	5-02	5½	4½	5-02	5½	5	5-10
England and Wales ...	7	4	5-14	7	4	5-14	7	4	5-24
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>									
N. Counties ...	6	5	5-29	6	5	5-54	6½	5	5-77
Eastern Counties	6	4	5-33	6½	4	5-61	6½	4	5-69
Lanarkshire ...	5½	5	5-12	6	5	5-54	6	5½	5-65
Other Southern Counties ...	6	5	5-63	6	5½	5-69	6½	5½	5-93
Scotland ...	6	4	5-41	6½	4	5-68	6½	4	5-77
Great Britain ...	7	4	5-23	7	4	5-34	7	4	5-43

From the above Table it will be seen that the mean of the prices at September 1st charged by the Co-operative Societies making Returns was 1.1d. lower than the mean



of the prices at 1st June, 1906. As compared with a year ago, the mean price shows a decrease of 10d. per 4lbs. in England and Wales, and of 36d. in Scotland. The decrease in London was 12d. per 4 lbs.

Returns from Local Correspondents.

The Returns as to the price of bread\* per 4 lbs., as furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 26 large Provincial towns at the beginning of September.

As compared with a month ago, decreases of 3/4d. per 4 lbs. took place at Dundee and Edinburgh.

As compared with a year ago, decreases of 1d. took place at Middlesbro' and Dundee, and increases of 3/4d. at Gateshead and Newcastle-on-Tyne. In 5 towns (2 in England, 2 in Scotland, and 1 in Ireland) the price is now 1/2d. per 4 lbs. less than a year ago.

Table with columns: Place, Predominant Price at 1st Sept., 1906, of quality\* of bread most generally consumed by workpeople in each town, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a. Month ago. b. Year ago., Last Change. Date, Am't. per 4lbs.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, the average declared value of wheat and flour imports, and the market price of London flour (Town Households) for the periods stated:—

Table with columns: Month, British Wheat, Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales), Imports, Average Declared Value, Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1905, to August 31st, 1906, amounted to 94,558,222 cwts., or 10,566,808 cwts. less than in the corresponding period of 1904-5. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-August, 1905-6, amounted to 14,432,900 cwts., or 3,550,757 cwts. more than during September-August, 1904-5.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

Returns received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom for the second quarter of 1906, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £7,396,012; an increase of 9·2 per cent. on

\* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same in the different towns, the predominant prices quoted for the several towns are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable with those for a month and a year ago for the same towns. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices (not the average price of all bread sold) paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

the corresponding period of 1905, and of 30·7 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1901 (i.e., five years ago.)

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,746,746, an increase of 17·1 per cent. on the second quarter of 1905, and of 60·5 per cent. on that of 1901.

The following Table gives details for the three Societies:—

Table with columns: Names of Societies and Nature of Business, Sales (1906, 1905, 1901), Percentage increase in 1906 as compared with A year ago, Five years ago.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for August.

IMPORTS.—The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight; or when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

Table with columns: Month ended 31st August, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with 1905, 1904.

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.—The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

Table with columns: Month ended 31st August, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with 1905, 1904.

The re-exports of foreign and colonial produce amounted to £5,378,489 in August, 1904; £6,427,636 in August, 1905; and £6,924,140 in August, 1906.

\* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments. † In 1901 this department was carried on exclusively by the English Wholesale Society. ‡ No particulars are available for the Irish Agency. § Decrease. ¶ Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c. \*\* Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c. \*\*\* Coal, wood, oil seeds, hides and skins, &c. +++ Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office during August, 1906, was 60, consisting of 53 cases of lead poisoning and 7 of anthrax. Three deaths were reported, 1 due to lead poisoning, and 2 to anthrax. In addition to the above, 16 cases of lead poisoning (including 3 deaths) were reported during August among house painters and plumbers.

During the eight months ended August, 1906, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 484, as compared with 433 in the corresponding period of 1905. The total number of deaths during the same period was 36 in 1906, as compared with 22 in 1905. In addition there were 111 cases of lead poisoning (including 26 deaths) among house painters and plumbers, as compared with 89 (including 18 deaths) in 1905.

(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.)

Analysis by Industries.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases (Month of Aug., 1906, Eight Months ended August, 1906, 1905), Deaths (Month of Aug., 1906, Eight Months ended August, 1906, 1905).

Lead Poisoning.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases, Deaths.

Other Forms of Poisoning.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases, Deaths.

Anthrax.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases, Deaths.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901. (HOMEWORK).

A Return† has been issued as to the administration in each county and county borough during 1904, by the Local Authorities of the Homework provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1901, as shown by the reports of Medical Officers of Health sent to the Home Office under Section 132 of the Act.

\* Of the 8 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in August, 4 were females. † H.C. 211 of 1906. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price, 2d.

It is stated in an introductory note that the Return is defective in many respects, but that it is the first Return of the kind which Medical Officers of Health have been called upon to make, and it is possible that in many cases the nature of the information required has not been fully understood. With further experience and the explanations and improvements which it will be possible, as a result of this Return, to make in the Tables for the current year, much more accurate and complete results should be obtained in future.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN AUGUST.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during August, 1906, was 239, an increase of 35 as compared with July, and of 25 as compared with August, 1905.

The mean number for August in the years 1901-1905 was 217, the maximum year in this period being 1903, with 242 deaths, and the minimum year, 1902, with 195 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in August, 1906, was 53. The number reported for August in the years 1901-1905 ranged from 71 in 1905 to 160 in 1902, the mean of the five years being 117.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (August, 1906, July, 1906, August, 1905), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1906, as compared with a. Month ago. b. Year ago.

\* Now included under Factories.



TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Twenty-eight new disputes began in August, 1906, compared with 27 in July, 1906, and 12 in August, 1905. By the 28 disputes 6,271 workpeople were directly and 2,520 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before August, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 14,096 workpeople involved in trade disputes during August, 1906, compared with 21,922 in July, 1906, and 17,287 in August, 1905.

**New Disputes in August, 1906.**—In the following Table the new disputes in August are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	9	4,387	2,358	6,745
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	7	738	72	810
Cotton Weaving ... ..	4	381	16	397
Other Textile ... ..	3	241	74	315
Transport ... ..	3	280	...	280
Other Trades ... ..	2	244	...	244
<b>Total, August, 1906 ... ..</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6,271</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>8,791</b>
<b>Total, July, 1906 ... ..</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11,088</b>	<b>4,889</b>	<b>15,977</b>
<b>Total, August, 1905 ... ..</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4,089</b>	<b>8,605</b>	<b>7,594</b>

**Causes.**—Of the 28 new disputes, 12 arose on demands for increased wages and 4 on other wages questions, 5 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 3 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 4 on details of working arrangements.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in August in the case of 21 new disputes affecting 7,829 workpeople, and 8 old disputes, affecting 3,003 workpeople. Of these 29 new and old disputes, 7, involving 6,274 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 15, involving 3,771 persons, in favour of the employers;

and 7, involving 787 persons, were compromised. In the case of 1 other dispute, involving 38 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in August of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 61,600 working days. In addition, 47,500 working days were lost during August owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the duration in August of all disputes, new and old, was 109,100 working days, as compared with 158,200 in the previous month, and 346,200 in the corresponding month of 1905.

**Summary for the First Eight Months of 1905 and 1906.**—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the eight months January-August, 1905 and 1906, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January to August.					
	1905.			1906.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ... ..	21	6,243	368,000	11	767	38,300
Mining and Quarrying... ..	72	37,344	598,700	61	30,843	615,000
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding ... ..	45	10,348	365,900	73	15,921	227,900
Textile ... ..	38	11,006	98,600	79	61,393	667,700
Clothing ... ..	24	2,816	68,100	30	7,018	86,100
Transport ... ..	7	1,359	45,100	10	891	6,000
Other Trades ... ..	22	3,506	44,000	35	2,740	29,300
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>72,822</b>	<b>1,578,400</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>128,573</b>	<b>1,670,300</b>

**Principal Disputes.**—Particulars of the principal disputes which began or were settled during August are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress during August are not separately stated in this Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1906.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.‡				
<b>Coal Mining—</b>							
Miners ... ..	Abertillery ...	2,000	...	15 Aug.	4	Refusal to work with non-Unionists or with men in arrears with their contributions to the South Wales Miners' Federation	Men joined the Federation, or paid up their arrears.
Miners ... ..	Swansea ...	1,142	...	1 Aug.	7		
Miners ... ..	Nottingham ...	1,200	280	11 May	38	Refusal to work with non-Unionists	Non-Unionists joined Trade Unions.
<b>Cotton Spinning—</b>							
Spinners and Cardroom Operatives, Weavers, &c.	Wigan ...	256	853	16 July	10	For advance in wages... ..	Advance of 10 per cent. granted.

\* 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 exceeded 100 days.

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

**Dangerous Trades.**—Section 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, gave power to the Home Office to make special rules for any factory or workshop in which any "machinery or process or particular description of manual labour" was used which had been certified by the Secretary of State to be "dangerous or injurious to health or dangerous to life or limb, either generally or in the case of women, children, or any other class of persons," &c., &c. This power was replaced in the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, Section 79, by the power to make general regulations, under a different procedure, for "any manufacture, machinery, plant, process or description of manual labour used in factories or workshops" certified to be dangerous, &c.

A Return\* has been issued showing the action taken by the Home Office under these Sections of the Factory and Workshop Acts, indicating the various industries as to which inquiry has been made, the nature of the inquiry, and the action taken in each case.

**Return of Deaths of Seamen.**—A copy of a monthly Return showing names of seamen whose deaths have been reported to the Marine Department of the Board of Trade may be seen at any Free Library, Mercantile Marine Office, or Sailors' Home throughout the country.

\* Cd. 3,037, Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.\*

Wages.

**Changes reported in August.**—The net effect of all the changes reported in August was an increase of £10,363 per week, as compared with an increase of £2,907 per week in July, 1906, and a decrease of £966 per week in August, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 295,607, of whom 285,705 received advances amounting to £10,739 per week, and 9,902 sustained decreases amounting to £376 per week. The total number affected in July, 1906, was 79,188, and in August, 1905, 247,473.

Seven changes, affecting 267,300 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards or by mediation; seven changes, affecting 7,639 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining changes, affecting 20,668 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives. In six cases, affecting 14,111 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

**Summary for the Eight completed Months of 1906.**—The number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were reported to have been changed since 1st January was 887,525, as compared with 530,028 in the corresponding period of 1905. The changes arranged gave 866,571 workpeople a net increase of £40,900 per week, and 16,824 workpeople a net decrease of £838 per week, while the remaining 4,130 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by these reported changes, and the net result on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades	January—August.			
	1905.		1906.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building ... ..	4,606	- 448	2,982	- 160
Coal Mining ... ..	198,246	-13,566	314,488	+16,530
Iron Mining ... ..	7,092	+ 202	8,511	+ 648
Quarrying ... ..	8,348	- 551	4,090	- 59
Pig Iron Manufacture ... ..	14,694	+ 445	16,299	+ 938
Iron and Steel Manufacture ... ..	33,842	+ 131	32,465	+ 4,176
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	35,044	- 2,476	94,562	+ 5,343
Other Metal Trades ... ..	619	- 45	548	+ 30
Textile Trades ... ..	218,521	+ 9,834	385,459	+12,133
Other Trades ... ..	5,178	+ 103	2,961	+ 281
Employees of Local Authorities ... ..	3,838	+ 326	5,160	+ 196
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>530,028</b>	<b>- 6,045</b>	<b>887,525</b>	<b>+10,062</b>

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during August, 1906, affected 7,654 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 7,137 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour since 1st January last was 34,422, the net decrease in their working hours being 50,731 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in August.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages and hours of labour reported in August are given below. The details of the other changes reported are not separately stated in the Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES REPORTED IN AUGUST.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1906.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	
					In-crease.	De-crease. (Decreases in Italics.)
I.—RATES OF WAGES.						
Northumberland	6 & 13 Aug.	6 & 13 Aug.	Deputies ... ..	1,100	...	Advance of 1½d. per day (5s. 9d. to 5s. 10½d.).
			Mechanics ... ..	1,600	...	Advance of 1½d. per day (4s. 7d. to 4s. 8½d.).
			Enginemmen ... ..	700	...	Advance of 1½d. per day. Wages after change: Winding Enginemmen, 4s. 11½d.; Hauling and Pumping Enginemmen, 4s. 10½d.
Durham	6 & 13 Aug.	6 & 13 Aug.	Firemen ... ..	250	...	Advance of 3 per cent., making wages 17 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
			Underground Workers, Banksmen, Cokemen, Enginemmen, &c. Other Surface Workers ... ..	110,000	...	Advance of 2½ per cent., making wages 31½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Cumberland	1 July	1 July	Hewers and other Underground Workers	6,000	...	Advance of 2½ per cent., making wages 28½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
South Wales and Mon.	1 Sept.	1 Sept.	Miners, &c. ... ..	150,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages of Hewers 35 per cent. and of other underground workers 25 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
Pig Iron Manufacture	1 Aug.	1 Aug.	Blastfurnacemen and Labourers ... ..	3,500	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 37½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Northern Counties and Cleveland, N. Lancs., S. Yorks., Midlands and Lincs.	5 Aug.	5 Aug.	Steel Melters and Pitmen ... ..	1,907	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 20 per cent. above the standard of 1st January, 1899.
			Gas Produccermen and Charge Wheelers	639	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, Advance of 1½ per cent.
Workington	30 July	30 July	Steel Melters, Pitmen, Gas Produccermen, Steel Millmen, Enginemmen, &c.	1,718	...	Advance of 5 per cent.
Scotland	5 Aug.	5 Aug.	Steel Melters and Pitmen ... ..	1,181	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Leeds	3 Aug.	3 Aug.	Enginemmen, Boilermakers, Iron-founders, Pattermmakers, &c.	4,080	...	Advance of 1s. per week.
Lancashire	1st pay in Aug.	1st pay in Aug.	Cotton Weavers (Hard Waste Trade)	4,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent.
Oldham	Aug.	Aug.	Cotton Sheeting Weavers ... ..	1,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent.
II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.						
Bristol	14 July	14 July	Building Trade Operatives ... ..	4,780	...	Decrease of 1 hour per week (54 to 53) during the Summer period (35 weeks), and of 2 hours per week (45 to 43) during the Winter period.
Glasgow	1 July	1 July	Carpenters and Joiners ... ..	2,720	...	Re-arrangement of Winter working hours and extension of Winter period. Hours after change 48 for 4 weeks, 45 for 6½, and 42 for 4½ weeks.

\* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.



LABOUR BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

RETURNS were received from eighteen Bureaux, of which nine can be compared with similar Returns for a year ago. The remaining nine were either not established in August, 1905, or the figures are not available for that date.

(I.) Work done in August, 1906.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during (Aug. 1906, Aug. 1905), Situations offered by Employers during (Aug. 1906, Aug. 1905), Workpeople found Work during (Aug. 1906, Aug. 1905). Rows include Salvation Army, Coventry, Dudley, Glasgow, Ipswich, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Wigan, and Total of 9 Bureaux.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during August, 1906.

Table with columns: Capacity in which employed, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total. Rows include Engaged by Private Employers (Men), Engaged by Local Authorities (Men, Lads and Boys), Engaged by Salvation Army, and Total of 18 Bureaux.

(III.) Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 18 Bureaux at the end of August, 1906.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, Men (Building Trades, Engineering Trades, General Labourers, Messengers, Cartmen, &c., Other Occupations), Lads and Boys, Women and Girls. Rows include Salvation Army, Aberdeen, Birkenhead, Coventry, Croydon, Dudley, Glasgow, Ipswich, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northfleet, Nottingham, Reading, Salford, Sunderland, Wigan, York, and Total.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

DURING August 608 fresh applications (320 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by

8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 504 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 120 persons, of whom 71 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

The work done by the Bureaux during August is shown by the following Table:—

Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations. Summary by Bureaux table shows applications and situations for Central Bureau, Y.W.C.A., and other bureaux. Summary by Occupations table shows data for Superintendents, Forewomen, etc., Shop Assistants, Dressmakers, etc., Secretaries, Clerks, Typists, Apprentices and Learners, Domestic Servants, and Miscellaneous.

BERNE INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE.

HIS MAJESTY'S Government has accepted an invitation from the Swiss Government to participate in an International Conference upon certain industrial questions, which is to be held at Berne on the 17th of the present month.

The British Delegates and Plenipotentiaries will be Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, and Mr. Malcolm Delevingne, the principal of the Industrial Branch of the Home Office.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the five weeks ended September 1st, 1906, amounted to £4,919,509, an increase of £115,931 (or 2.4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

During the thirty-five weeks ended September 1st, 1906, the total amount was £35,543,361, an increase of £1,331,222 (or 3.9 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

Table comparing railway receipts for 5 weeks ended Sept. 1st, 1906 and 35 weeks ended Sept. 1st, 1905. Rows include English Lines (Midland, Gt. Central, Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, Lanes. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.), Scottish Lines (Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian), and Irish Lines (Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern).

PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.)

THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in August, 1906, corresponded to a rate of 210 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with July, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 1,591 (0.4 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 1. There was a decrease of 1,698 (1.1 per cent.) in the number of indoor paupers, while there was a decrease of 107 (0.1 per cent.) in the number of outdoor paupers.

Compared with August, 1905, the total number of paupers decreased by 11,091 (2.9 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 9. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 1,847 (1.1 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 9,244 (4.2 per cent.).

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of August, 1906. Columns: Selected Urban Districts, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of August, 1906, broken down by region: ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND. Rows list various districts and their respective pauper counts and rates.

\* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox 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.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS: ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

Model Bye-Laws issued by the Local Government Board.

Section 14 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, makes provision for certain factories and workshops in which more than 40 persons are employed in respect to means of escape in case of fire. Section 15 of the Act empowers district councils to make bye-laws providing for means of escape from fire in the case of any factory or workshop.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN AUGUST.

(Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

(1) REGISTERED. THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in August was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 15; under the Friendly Societies Act, 44 (including 18 branches of existing Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 2; in all 64.

Among the new Societies registered in August were the following:—

Trade Unions.—England.—2, viz., Golborne Conservative Labour Union, Golborne, Newton-le-Willows; Cinderhill Brickmakers' Society, Horse and Jockey Inn, Old Basford, Nottingham. Ireland.—1, viz., Ulster Operative Damask Weavers, Town Hall, Lurgan.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—12, viz., Co-op. Agric. Soc.: 1, viz., Burwarton and Dist. Agric. Trading Soc., Ltd., The Manor House, Cleobury Mortimer, Salop. Misc. Soc.: 11, viz., 4, Working Men's Clubs and 7 others. Scotland.—2, viz., Co-op. Agric. Soc.: 1, viz., Rowallan Co-op. Dairy Assoc., Ltd., 1, viz., Fenwick, Ayr. Misc. Soc.: 1 Working Men's Club, Ireland.—1, viz., Co-op. Agric. Soc.: Knocknagashel Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Knocknagashel, Abbeyfeale, Limerick.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—25, viz., Upper Edmonton and Dist. Working Men's Club and Inst., 258, Fore Street, Edmonton, N.; N. Shields Workmen's Social Club, 39, Union Street, N. Shields; Green Heath Progressive Working Men's Club and Inst., 20, Blewett Street, Green Heath, Hedgesford, Staffs.; Bordesley Labour Working Men's Club, 147, Arthur Street, Small Heath, Birmingham; Leeds Military Band and Musicians Inst., 26, Brunswick Terrace, Leeds; Liberty Working Men's Club Monk Bretton, 9, Church Street, Monk Bretton; Edward VII. Working Men's Club and Inst., 64, Robinson Street, Allerton Bywater; Rhydwn Working Men's Social Club, Regent House, Rhydwn, Anglesea; Wirral Permanent Friendly Dividing Soc., Westminster Hotel, Price Street, Birkenhead; Loyal Duke of Norfolk Old Fellows Friendly Soc., Reading Room, Greystoke, Cumberland; Blackpool 1906 Cycle Club, 76, Bank Hey Street, Blackpool; Nottinghamshire County Permanent Money Soc., 9, St. Peter's Gate, Nottingham; Foresters' Arms £2 ros. Loan Soc., 18, St. Ann's Street, Nottingham; Scotch Loan £10 Mutual Loan Soc., Scotch Loan Hotel, Bedford Road, Nottingham; National Money Soc., Wharton Chambers, 18, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; Southend Working Men's Social Club, 31, Sandhurst Road, Bedford; Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds (Hyde Branch) Working Men's Inst. and Social Club, 21, Russell Street, Hyde; Heanor Working Men's Athletic Club and Inst., Pavilion Athletic Grounds, Heanor, Derbyshire; Watermoor Social Working Men's Club, 9, Church Street, Cirencester; New Liberal Working Men's Club and Inst., 235, Cable Street, E.; Houndsfield Working Men's Club and Inst., Downham House, Hertford Road, Lower Edmonton; Mary Leigh Lowton Shepherd's Sick and Funeral Soc., Hare and Hounds Hotel, Lowton; St. Michaels Burial Aid Soc., St. Edward's School, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston; South Wales Hebrew Sick Benefit Dividing Soc., Talmud Tarah, Cardiff; Dowlais Juvenile Odd Fellows Soc., Committee Room, Odd Fellows Hall, Union Street, Dowlais. Ireland.—1, viz., Westland Row Burial Soc., 5, Lombard Street, Westland Row, Dublin.

\* Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.; Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or E. Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin. Price 2d.



## (2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in August of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions ... ..	...	1	3
Industrial and Provident Societies	2	3	20
Friendly Societies... ..	...	9	8
" " Branches ... ..	...	55	...
Building " " " " ... ..	...	4	...

**NOTE.**—In the above statement a Co-operative Society is entered under the heading (distribution, production, &c.) which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING AUGUST.

## 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 1905. [Cd. 3140: pp. 78: price 6d.]

*Merchant Shipping (Loss of Life).* Return showing the lives lost by wreck, drowning, or other accident, in British seagoing merchant ships registered in the United Kingdom during the years 1891 to 1905 inclusive. [Cd. 3139: pp. 2: price 3d.]

*Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.* Return of British and Foreign ships ordered to be provisionally detained as unsafe, 1st July, 1905, to 30th June, 1906. [Cd. 3138: pp. 13: price 2d.]

*Forty-second Annual Report on Alkali, &c., Works by the Chief Inspector for 1905.* [H.C. 289: pp. 158: price 8d.]

*Pauperism (England and Wales).* Half-yearly Statement for 1st January, 1906, of the number of paupers relieved. [H.C. 272: pp. xxii. + 41: price 6d.]

*Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Provision of Funds for Reformatory and Industrial Schools.* Vol. I. Report and Appendices. Committee to inquire into system by which funds are at present provided, and to report what, if any, changes in that system appear to be required. [Cd. 3143: pp. vi. + 47: price 7½d.]

*Education (Provision of Meals) Bill, 1906; and Education (Provision of Meals) Scotland, Bill, 1906.* Report from the House of Commons Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. [H.C. 288: pp. xlii. + 245: price 2s. 4d.]

*Annual Statement of Navigation and Shipping of the United Kingdom for the year 1905.* [Cd. 3093: pp. viii. + 376: price 3s. 1d.]

*Butter Trade.* Report from the Select Committee, with Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. [H.C. 245: pp. xl. + 459: price 4s.]

*Sunday Trading.* Report from the Joint Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. [H.C. 275: pp. xxvi. + 282: price 2s. 6d.]

*Life Assurance Companies.* Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords, with Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendix. [H.L. 194: pp. xii. + 79: price 9d.]

*Memorandum Explanatory of Recent and Forthcoming Changes in the Administration of H.M. Dockyards in the United Kingdom.* [Cd. 2861: pp. 4: price 3d.]

*Aliens Act, 1905.* Return of Alien Passengers brought to the United Kingdom from Ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ending 30th June, 1906: together with the number of Expulsion Orders made during that period. [Cd. 3077: pp. 7: price 1½d.]

*Report to the Local Government Board for Scotland on the Burden of the Existing Rates and General Financial Position of the Outer Hebrides.* [Cd. 3014: pp. lxvii. + 24: price 9d.]

*Allotments (Scotland).* Return of the Proceedings of Parish and County Councils in regard to, during year ended 15th May, 1906. [H.C. 258: pp. 5: price 1d.]

*Report from Standing Committee on Law, &c., on the Labourers (Ireland) Bill.* [H.C. 268: pp. 14: price 2d.]

*Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Ireland for the year ended March, 1906.* Proceedings under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, Housing of the Working Classes Act, &c.; statistics of pauperism and poor relief. [Cd. 3102: pp. xlii. + 587: price 2s. 7d.]

*Irish Fishing Boat Building.* Return of fishing boats built or purchased by the Congested Districts Board, and under loans from the Inspectors of Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture. [H.C. 252: pp. 15: price 2d.]

*Journal of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland.* July, 1906.

## BRITISH COLONIES.

*Colonial Office Annual Reports—No. 491.* *Gambia*, for 1905. Note on cotton growing under auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association. [Cd. 2684-37: pp. 34: price 2½d.]

*No. 488.* *Gold Coast*, for 1905. Notes on industries, cotton growing, wages, and cost of living, &c. [Cd. 2684: pp. 65: price 3½d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

*Canada.*—*The Labour Gazette*, August, 1906. Article on opportunities for Employment in Canada; statistics of Immigration and Colonization; agreement for arbitration between the Builder's Exchange and the Bricklayer's Union of Montreal.

*New South Wales.*—*The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records*, 1906. Vol. V. Part 2. Reports of 5 cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. ix. + 47 + xxii.]

*New Zealand.*—*Awards, Recommendations, &c., made under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.* 1st July, 1901, to December, 1904. Vols. III., IV. and V.

*Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act (1900).* Returns showing the number of members in each Industrial Union registered under the Act to 31st December, 1903 and 1904 respectively.

*Decisions of the Court of Arbitration under the "Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act (1900)."* 1902-1905. Vols I. to IV.

*Shops and Offices Act Amendment Bill.* Report from the Labour Bills Committee. 8th August, 1905.

*Journal of the Department of Labour.* June 11th, 1906. The Labour Market; Disputes under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act; Cases under the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act.

## FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

## United States.

*Twenty-fourth Annual Coal Report of the Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics, 1905.* Also the *Seventh Annual Report of the Illinois Free Employment Offices for the year ended 30th September, 1905.* [Springfield, Ill.: Illinois State Journal Co., State Printers: pp. 412 + 79.]

*Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour—Part II. of Annual Report for 1906. Trained and Supplemental Employees for Domestic Service.* [pp. 37.] Part III. *The Incorporation of Trade Unions.* [pp. 120.] [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

*Bulletin of the Bureau of the Labour of United States Department of the Commerce and Labour.* No. 64. May, 1906. Contains articles—"Conditions of Living Among the Poor," "Benefit Features of British Trade Unions."

*Twentieth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour.* (Department of Commerce and Labour) 1905. *Convict Labour.* [Washington, Government Printing Office: pp. 794.]

## France.

*Journal of the French Labour Department, July, 1906.* Contains article on State subventions to unemployed benefit funds, and text of law on weekly rest.

## Germany.

*Journal of the German Labour Department, August, 1906.* Contains article on Prussian miners' wages in first quarter of 1906, and statistics of workmen's insurance, 1885-1904.

## Austria.

*Statistical Yearbook of Department of Agriculture, 1905, Vol. II., Part I.* Contains statistics of mineral production during 1905. [Vienna, 1906: Verlag der K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 205.]

*Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, July, 1906.* Contains reports on strikes and lock-outs, and state of employment in Austria during June, 1906.

## Italy.

*Journal of the Italian Labour Department, July, 1906.* Contains articles on labour disputes in June, and unemployment insurance in Milan, July, 1905—May, 1906.

*List of Articles on Labour Questions in Italian and Foreign Reviews of 1905.* Italian Labour Department. [Rome, 1906: G. Bertero e C.: pp. vii. + 42: price 4d.]

*Report on Engagement and Discharge of Seamen.* Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. [Rome, 1906: Via della Guardiola, 22: price 3½d.]

## Belgium.

*Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, July 15th and July 31st, 1906.* Article on working of Law of December 23rd, 1903, on Workmen's Compensation.

## Denmark.

(1) *Report of Council for Workmen's Insurance for 1905.* (2) *Report of Fishermen's Department of Council for Workmen's Insurance for 1905.* [Copenhagen: G. E. C. Gad, 1906.]

## Sweden.

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