

LABOUR GAZETTE

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CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

Summary of the State of Employment in August	PAGE 257
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Special Articles and Reports—

IRISH MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN 1898 ...	259
REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES (1897) ...	261
TERMINATION OF DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE	260
TRADE UNION CONGRESS	260
CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN FRANCE	263
FRIENDLY SOCIETIES IN AUSTRALASIA	282
RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS	263
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES	263

Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—

REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.

COAL MINING	267
IRON MINING	267
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	268
IRON AND STEEL WORKS	268
TINPLATE WORKS... ..	268
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	269
SEAMEN	271
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	270
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	271

DISTRICT REPORTS.

LONDON	271
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	272
Lancashire	273
Yorkshire	274
Midland Counties	274
Eastern Counties	276
South Western Counties	276
WALES	277
SCOTLAND	277
IRELAND	278

Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—

COLONIES... ..	264	BELGIUM	266
FRANCE	265	RUSSIA	266
GERMANY... ..	265	UNITED STATES	266

Miscellaneous Reports for August—

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR	264
RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION... ..	262
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	288
FOREIGN TRADE	287
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..	286
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	287

Statistical Tables for August—

TRADE DISPUTES	284
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	280
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR... ..	282
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	279
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	288
LABOUR BUREAUX... ..	283
PAUPERISM	283
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	286

Notes and Reviews—

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1897	259
PRIZE FOR ESSAY ON WORKMEN'S INSURANCE	262
EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS	262
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS—NEW ORDERS, &C.	286
EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES	288

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

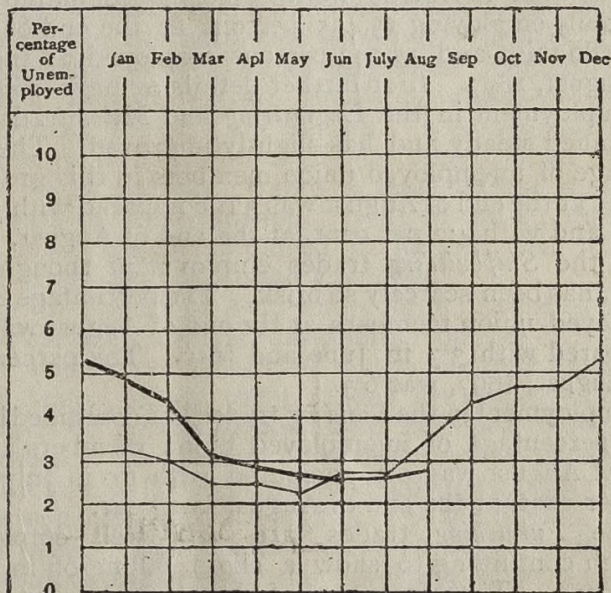
[Based on 2,343 returns, viz.: 1,655 from Employers, 550 from Trade Unions, and 138 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in August was still affected by the South Wales coal dispute, which was not settled until the end of the month. Apart from this, employment was generally good, though there has been some falling off in the shipbuilding and printing trades.

In the 117 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 466,025, 12,819 (or 2·8 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of August, compared with 2·6 per cent. in June and July, and with 3·5 per cent. in the 113 unions, with a membership of 462,256 from which returns were received for August, 1897.

The following chart enables a comparison to be made with last year:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1897 and 1898. [The thick line applies to 1898, the thin line to 1897.]



The table below classifies the membership of the 117 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the under-mentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of August, 1898.		Corresponding Percentages for	
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions. Number. Percentage.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Under 1 per cent. ...	29	164,654 35·3	34·7	29·5
1 and under 2 per cent. ...	20	40,810 8·8	9·5	11·5
2 " 3 " ...	19	31,468 6·8	11·4	7·6
3 " 5 " ...	22	161,355 34·6	36·4	22·9
5 " 7 " ...	9	44,827 9·6	3·5	10·3
7 " 10 " ...	9	15,313 3·3	1·1	12·9
10 per cent. and upwards	9	7,589 1·6	3·4	5·3
Total	117	466,025 100·0	100·0	100·0

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Throughout August employment in South Wales and Monmouthshire continued greatly affected by the coal

dispute. In other districts employment continued better than a year ago. Excluding South Wales and Monmouthshire, 1,142 pits employing 373,441 workpeople worked on an average 5.19 days per week during the four weeks ended August 20th, as compared with 4.83 days per week a year ago. (For further details see page 267.)

Iron Mining.—Employment was good during August, and was slightly better than a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended August 20th, at mines employing 17,296 workpeople, was 5.76 per week, as compared with 5.65 days in August, 1897. (For further details see page 267.)

Pig Iron Industry.—Returns relating to the works of 109 ironmasters show that 339 furnaces were in blast at the end of August, being 3 less than at the end of July, and 7 less than at the end of August, 1897. The estimated number employed was 22,427, or 42 less than a month ago, and 303 more than a year ago. Exclusive of Glamorgan and Monmouth (where employment was affected by the dispute in the coal trade), there were 4 more furnaces in blast, and 1,265 more workpeople employed than was the case a year ago. (For further details see page 268.)

Employment in the *Iron and Steel* industries has slightly improved, but is not so good as a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the works of 214 employers making returns was 77,549 in the last week of August, or 150 more than a month ago, but 610 less than a year ago. The average number of shifts worked in the last week of the month was 5.46 in August, 5.48 in July, and 5.54 in August, 1897. (For further details see page 268.)

Tinplate Trade.—Employment in this industry improved during August, but was worse than a year ago, owing, to a great extent, to the effects of the dispute in the South Wales coal industry. The number of mills in operation at the end of August was 270, giving employment to 14,428 workpeople, as compared with 268 mills employing 13,495 persons at the end of July, and 289 mills and 15,243 persons employed at the end of August, 1897. (For further details see page 268.)

Employment in the *Engineering and Metal* trades has continued steady and has slightly improved. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of August was 3.0, compared with 3.3 in July, and with 4.2 per cent. at the end of August, 1897.

In the *Shipbuilding* trades employment though still good, has been scarcely so brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 4.2, compared with 3.3 in June and July. The percentage for August, 1897, was 6.3.

Employment in the *Building* trades has continued brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 0.9, compared with 1.0 in July, and 1.2 per cent. at the end of August last year.

The *Furnishing* trades are still well employed, though continuing to show a slight falling-off in some branches. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 1.9, compared with 1.6 in July, and 1.7 per cent. in August, 1897.

Employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades has fallen off to some extent, but is still good for the season. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 4.6, compared with 3.0 per cent. in July. The percentage for August, 1897, was 5.3.

In the *Paper* trade employment is not so good, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August being 5.3, compared with 2.8 in July, and 3.9 per cent. in August, 1897.

In the *Glass* trade the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 9.4, compared with 8.6 in July, and 8.4 per cent. at the end of August last year.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has slightly improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 4.2, compared with 4.8 in July, and 3.6 per cent. in August, 1897.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Boot and Shoe* trade is quiet; in the ready-made branch it is bad in most centres, but fairly good at Leeds.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade continues dull; in the ready-made branch it continues only moderate in most centres, but is improving at Leeds and Bristol.

Employment in the *Spinning and Weaving* branches of the cotton trade continues fairly good.

Employment in the *Worsted* trade shows a slight improvement, but is still moderate. Employment in the *Woollen* trade continues fair on the whole, the heavy branches show a further slight improvement. Employment in the *Hosiery* trade continues quiet in some branches, fair in others.

As regards the employment of women in the *Textile* trades, information respecting 519 mills, employing 84,700 women and girls, shows that 78 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 76 per cent. in July, and 58 per cent. in August, 1897. (For further details see page 271.)

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment during August shows, as in July, a falling off as compared with a year ago. It was better, however, at the end of the month than at the beginning. The daily average number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves was 13,978 in August, 13,785 in July, and 15,009 in August, 1897. (For further details see page 270.)

Agricultural Labour in August.—Agricultural labourers were generally very fully employed during the month of August at harvest. The crops were everywhere heavy, and frequently laid by storms, which necessitated much being cut by hand instead of by machine. This created an increased demand for labour, and in many districts in all parts of the country farmers found it very difficult to obtain sufficient hands. (For further details see page 269.)

Trade Disputes.—Forty-four fresh disputes occurred in August, 1898, involving 10,457 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for July was 33, involving 8,753 workpeople, and for August, 1897, 60 disputes, involving 15,269 workpeople. Nine disputes took place in the building trades, 7 in mining and quarrying, 9 in the metal, engineering, and ship-building trades, 13 in the textile trades, and 6 in other industries. Of the 53 new and old disputes, involving 115,039 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 20, involving 4,878 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 14, involving 103,953 persons, in favour of the employers; and 19, involving 6,208 persons, resulted in a compromise. The principal dispute settled was that in the South Wales coal trade. (For further details, see page 284.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 188,400 workpeople were reported during August, of which number 187,600 received advances, and 800 sustained decreases. The increases were mainly in the mining industry (176,606). The net result was an increase estimated at about 1s. 3^d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. Changes affecting 2,600 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work, in addition to the 100,000 Welsh coal miners, whose wages have been increased 5 per cent. Changes affecting about 1,800 workpeople were settled by arbitration and conciliation without strikes. The other changes, affecting about 84,000 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives. (For further details see page 280.)

Pauperism.—In the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom, 323,383 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of August. This number corresponds to a rate of 204 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, or 1 per 10,000 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 283.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during August was 15,795, as compared with 17,295 in August, 1897. (For further details see page 287.)

IRISH MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN 1898.

In the returns published on previous occasions in the *GAZETTE*, giving the number of migratory labourers who left the Province of Connaught for harvest work in England, figures were not given showing the numbers who booked by other lines besides the Midland and Great Western Railway Company. This year, however, the numbers booked who travelled *via* Dundalk, have been kindly supplied by the Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway, and by the Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway, both for the season 1897 and 1898.

The total number booked this year by rail and sea from the Province of Connaught was 27,866, compared with 25,962 in 1897. Of the total number booked in 1898, 20,905,* or 75 per cent., came from the county of Mayo, or 40 per cent. of the male population of 20 years of age and upwards in that county, according to the census of 1891.

The following table shows the number of migratory labourers who left the province of Connaught for England and Scotland in 1897 and 1898 up to the end of August:—

Place of Booking.	1897.	1898.
By Rail.		
Midland Great Western Railway—		
From stations in Mayo (Connaught)	17,640	15,537
From other stations in Connaught in the Counties of Galway, Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim .. .	3,448	5,565
Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway (Claremorris and Collooney Line)—		
From stations in Mayo	2,636	2,914
From stations in Sligo	1,077	185
Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway—		
From Collooney Station	45	2,422
Total by Rail	24,846	26,643
By Sea.		
By steamer from Westport (Mayo) to Glasgow and Liverpool	893	987
By steamer from Ballina (Mayo) to Glasgow† .. .	223	256
Total by Sea	1,116	1,243
Grand Total	25,962	27,866

In addition to the above a small number (92 in 1897 and 58 in 1898) were booked from stations on the Midland Great Western Railway in provinces other than Connaught.

From inquiries made in all parts of the country it is learnt that the men from the West of Ireland generally go to the Northern and Midland counties of England, but a good many young women go from Mayo by sea to Scotland. Very few of the men who go to England go further south than North Cambridgeshire. Those from Mayo, and also from Galway, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, and Cavan chiefly go to Lancashire, Durham, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Lincolnshire, and North Cambridgeshire. Some also go to a few districts in the counties of Cumberland, Nottingham, Shropshire, Rutland, Leicestershire, Northampton, and Herts. A very few are said to be sometimes found in parts of Worcestershire, Beds, Bucks, Surrey, and Sussex. In former years it is said that they came in considerably larger numbers in some of the counties referred to, and reports from Berks, Oxford, Hunts, Kent, and Hereford, state that they used to come there, but have now ceased to do so, chiefly owing to introduction of machinery at harvest, and also owing to the smaller acreage of grain crops grown. It is not uncommon to find men going to several counties. For instance, a number go to Derbyshire for temporary employment before the corn is ripe in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. Others will get two

* In making this total it is estimated that about a half of the 2,422 booked from Collooney came from Mayo.

† The numbers booked by steamer are approximate, as no distinction is made between migratory labourers and ordinary passengers. The figures given in the table are calculated, as in previous years, on the basis of an estimate furnished by the Steam Packet Company. The number booked from Sligo is not given, as the Company state that it is impossible to distinguish them from other passengers. It is probable that some of those starting from Ballina come from Sligo.

‡ A few of these go to Liverpool.

harvests by going further north when they have completed one in a more southern county.

Some of the men start as early as February, take part in the ordinary work on farms, and do not return until the late autumn; but the majority do not go until June. They find employment during the summer and autumn at hoeing, haymaking, harvesting, and taking up potatoes and roots, and on dairy farms in parts of Cheshire they undertake milking.

When engaged upon ordinary farm work, such as thinning turnips and potato lifting, they are frequently employed at piece work, and in parts of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, and Warwickshire, they undertake harvest at piece work. But in the Northern counties they are generally paid by the week or month, and in some districts they are hired at hiring fairs held specially for harvest hands. In addition to cash wages in the Northern counties, they are generally found sleeping accommodation in a barn, but find their own food. Not infrequently, however, their employers give them fuel, milk, and porridge, and in some cases they are found all their food. It is customary in some districts for many to work on the same farms year after year.

Nearly all the other migratory labourers come from the Province of Ulster, and most of these come from Donegal. They chiefly go by steamer to Northumberland or Scotland. A few start for Scotland early in the year. Some, both men and women, arrive in time for the potato planting in Ayrshire, the Lothians, and a few other places where potatoes are largely grown, but the majority do not go until the summer, some starting in July for turnip thinning, haymaking, and lifting early potatoes, while many start in August for harvest. Some remain for potato lifting, chiefly in the great potato-growing districts of the Lothians, and the counties of Forfar and Perth. A few men stay still longer for storing turnips.

The counties in Scotland in which both Irish men and women are employed are Ayr, Wigtown, Lanark, Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian, Forfar, Perth, and the eastern Border Counties of Berwick, Roxburgh, Peebles, and Selkirk. They are most largely employed in the counties of Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian, where a large extent of land is devoted to corn growing. Next to the Lothians they are most largely employed at harvest near Glasgow and in the eastern Border Counties.

In the County of Ayr, where large quantities of early potatoes are grown, a considerable number of Irish men and women are employed in the months of June, July and August lifting them. They are employed in large companies by the dealers, who purchase the growing potatoes in the ground. The dealers often communicate with a man in Ireland whom the labourers call a "gaffer," who collects and takes a gang of young women over for this work. The "gaffer" accompanies them from farm to farm, and makes all the necessary arrangements as to travelling, etc.

It is stated that in recent years the introduction of the self-binder at harvest has greatly decreased the employment of Irish hands at harvest.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1897.

The report of the New Zealand Department of Labour for the year ended March 31st, 1898, states that during that period employment was exceptionally good in the engineering, iron-working, and building trades, and that woollen mills and clothing factories were in full swing. Gold mining was depressed in the North during the latter portion of the year, but in the South there was an expansion of the gold-dredging industry, which indirectly stimulated the engineering and iron trades. In the bootmaking trade the operatives made very irregular time, and the output fell off. During the year, 2,035 unemployed men were helped, of whom 1,599 were labourers. These 2,035 men had 4,928 dependents. In addition, some 296 women were assisted to situations. The number of registered factories was 5,601, employing 39,672 operatives, an increase of 424 factories and 2,754 employees over the figures for the previous year. These figures do not include 1,077 men and 145 apprentices employed in the Government Railway Workshops.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The thirty-first Annual Congress of the Trade Unions of the United Kingdom was held in the Colston Hall, Bristol, on Monday, August 29th, and five following days, under the presidency of Councillor James O'Grady, of the Alliance Cabinet Makers' Association.

Three years ago the standing orders regulating the admission of delegates to Congress were considerably amended, none but recognised trade unions being allowed to send representatives. Furthermore, it was provided that such delegates must have been actually working at their trade at the time of appointment, or be permanent paid working officials of their trade union. The unions may, if they choose, send one delegate for every 2,000 members or fraction thereof; but, the system of voting being by card, on the principle of one card for every 1,000 members, few societies send the number of delegates they are thus entitled to send. The attendance of delegates at the Bristol Congress was the largest yet recorded under the above-mentioned standing orders.

In order that the general composition of the Congress may be clearly seen, the following table gives an analysis of the representation by groups of trades, which allows of comparison with that of the previous year:—

Groups of Trades.	1897.			1898.		
	No. of Organi- sations.	No. of Dele- gates.	No. of Members.	No. of Organi- sations.	No. of Dele- gates.	No. of Members.
Building	10	30	113,512	10	36	146,890
Mining and Quarrying	4	58	221,800	5	59	226,912
Engineering	12	24	135,413	14	29	110,922
Shipbuilding (including Boiler Making)	3	20	56,420	4	21	60,465
Other Metal Trades	34	44	50,882	33	41	55,624
Textile Trades	13	73	157,344	15	73	146,488
Clothing	6	22	62,831	7	22	59,849
Transport (including Railway Workers, Seamen, Firemen, and Dock Labourers)	11	21	104,604	14	31	159,250
Agricultural, Chemical, Gas and General Labourers	13	30	78,869	14	34	95,818
Printing, Bookbinding, &c. ...	12	19	40,932	15	20	42,566
Pottery and Glass	3	3	2,106	4	5	6,426
Cabinet Making and Fur- nishing Trades, &c. ...	7	9	21,302	9	14	25,211
Baking, &c.	3	5	7,900	1	4	4,728
Engine-men	6	6	19,195	7	7	16,900
Miscellaneous Trades	12	17	20,081	7	11	18,677
Total	149	381	1,093,191	159	406	1,176,896

NOTE.—Societies forming parts or branches of a general federation or amalga- mation are not counted in this table as separate organisations, and double entries arising in this way have been deducted.

The printed programme of business was a very lengthy one, there being 73 resolutions on the paper, 60 of which were sent in by the various trades, the remainder being put forward by the Parliamentary Committee.

Of the Committee's resolutions the most important related to such subjects as the amendment of the Law of Conspiracy, the Truck Act, and the Factory Acts; the banking of Trade Union Funds; the extension of the Compensation for Accidents Act; the application of the "Fair Wages" resolution of the House of Commons; a General Eight Hours' Working Day; payment of Members of Parliament. All the resolutions of the Committee were adopted by Congress. Of the resolutions sent in by the trades, five referred to the subject of Trades Federation. Owing, however, to the destruction by fire of the hall in which the meeting was held, the discussion was restricted to very narrow limits, and it was resolved to convene a special congress to consider the subject. This meeting will be held at Manchester in January next. A resolution from the Stevedores' Society, proposing that the contribution of the unions to the expenses of Congress should be raised from £1 to £1 5s. per 1,000 members, was lost by 486 to 382 votes. The principal resolutions adopted on other subjects related to such matters as—"sweating" and combination in the Public Service; the early closing of shops; the hours of work and sanitation of bake- houses; the hours and wages of barmaids and waiters; Miners' Eight Hours Bill; the abolition of Foreign Export Bounties; Merchandise Marks; abolition of the

system of character notes for workmen; "nationalisation of the means of production, distribution, and exchange"; boiler registration and inspection; steaming in weaving sheds; and the abolition of child labour under the age of 14, and of all night labour under the age of 18.

The National Federation of Labour of the United States, and the Co-operative Union each sent two delegates to the Congress, and each of these delegates delivered an address.

The election of the Parliamentary Committee for the ensuing year resulted in the appointment of repre- sentatives of the following organisations:—Miners' Federation of Great Britain, Gas Workers' and General Labourers' Union, Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, Amalgamated Society of Engineers, National Society of Amalgamated Brass- workers, Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders' Society, Northern Counties Amalgamated Association of Weavers, As- sociated Society of Shipwrights, Amalgamated Associa- tion of Card and Blowing Room Operatives, National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, and London Compositors' Society.

The balance sheet presented to Congress by the auditors, showed a total income of £2,658 4s. 10d. (including balance of £729 from previous year) and an expenditure of £1,447 13s. 4d., leaving a balance in hand of £1,210 11s. 6d.

TERMINATION OF DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE.

In the last number of the GAZETTE the account of this dispute was brought up to the refusal of the Employers' Committee, on July 30th, to entertain any other terms than those fixed at the pitheads.

During the following weeks resolutions were passed by a large number of collieries, suggesting the re-opening of negotiations with the employers. These resolutions were considered at a meeting of the Workmen's Provisional Committee, on August 25th, and a telegram was sent to the Secretary of the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coalowners' Association, asking for a further conference. This proposal was accepted on the same day, and a meeting between the two committees was arranged for August 27th.

At this meeting a provisional agreement was arrived at, which the representatives of the coalminers agreed to place before the delegates. A conference of delegates was held on August 31st, at which these terms were discussed, and the Provisional Committee were recom- mended to accept them, but to endeavour to secure the retention of a monthly holiday.

On September 1st a further meeting was held between representatives of employers and miners, at which the former again definitely insisted on the abolition of "Mabon's Day." After considerable discussion, the following memorandum of agreement was drawn up and signed:—

"Memorandum of Agreement made this first day of September, 1898, between the undersigned William Thomas Lewis, Archibald Hood, Edward Jones, William Thomas, Edward P. Martin, T. Forster Brown, Fred L. Davis, Charles H. Eden, William Jenkins, Joseph Shaw, Henry Davies, G. W. Wilkinson, Clifford J. Cory, T. E. Watson, Henry Lewis, M. Wolstenholme, Richard Cory, Walter S. B. McLaren, and Phillip Williams, and other persons who shall execute this Agreement duly authorised to act on behalf of the Members of The Monmouthshire and South Wales Coal Owners Association (hereinafter called the Employers) of the one part, and the undersigned William Abraham, T. Daronwy Isaac, Alfred Onions, Thomas Richards, D. Beynon, Evan Thomas, J. Eynon, D. Morgan (Anthracite District), J. Wood- ward, D. Morgan (Wattstown) and D. Thomas, and other persons who shall execute this Agreement duly authorised to act on behalf of the Workmen (excepting Engine-men, Stokers, and Outside Fitters) formerly employed at the Collieries of the Members of the said Association of the other part:—

"1. It is agreed that work shall be resumed at the Associated Collieries as on and from the first day of September, 1898, upon the following conditions:—

"2. The terms and conditions of the Sliding Scale Agreement

(known as the 'Old Scale'), which terminated upon the 31st March last, shall, together with Clause 3 of the Agreement of the 17th of February, 1893, be embodied in an Agreement which shall continue in force until the first day of January, 1903, and may be determined by six months' notice on either side, to be given on the 1st of July, 1902, the 1st of January, 1903, or any other following 1st of July or 1st of January.

"3. The monthly holiday known as 'Mabon's Day' shall be abolished, and no other holiday of a like nature will be permitted.

"4. The wages payable up to the 30th of November, 1898, shall be 17½ per cent. above the Standard of December, 1879.

"5. An audit of the selling prices shall be taken for the two months ending 31st of October, 1898, to regulate wages as from the 1st of December, 1898, in accordance with Clause 12 of the 1892 Agreement.

"6. If, after the 1st day of September, 1899, the Employers, by virtue of this Agreement, reduce the wages of the Workmen below 12½ per cent. above the Standard of December, 1879, the Workmen shall have the right of giving six months' notice to terminate this Agreement on the first day of any January or July next ensuing, notwithstanding Clause 2 of this Agreement.

Employers' Representatives:—

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| W. THOMAS LEWIS. | HENRY DAVIES. |
| ARCHIBALD HOOD. | G. W. WILKINSON. |
| EDWARD JONES. | CLIFFORD J. CORY. |
| W. THOMAS. | T. E. WATSON. |
| E. P. MARTIN. | HENRY LEWIS. |
| T. FORSTER BROWN. | M. WOLSTENHOLME. |
| FRED L. DAVIS. | R. CORY. |
| CHARLES H. EDEN. | WALTER S. B. MCLAREN. |
| WILLIAM JENKINS. | P. WILLIAMS. |
| JOSEPH SHAW. | |

Workmen's Representatives:—

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| W. ABRAHAM. | DAVID MORGAN (Anthracite). |
| T. D. ISAAC. | DAVID THOMAS. |
| THOMAS RICHARDS. | DAVID MORGAN (Wattstown). |
| ALFRED ONIONS. | JOHN EYNON. |
| DAVID BEYNON. | JOHN WOODWARD. |
| EVAN THOMAS. | |

Witness to the signatures of the parties hereto.

W. GASCOYNE DALZIEL, }
LEWIS MILES, } Joint Secretaries."

September 1st, 1898.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES (1897).

THE Report of H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories for 1897 (C-8965, price 3s. 10d.), contains additional statistics, and an increased and more detailed series of appendices. In connection with prosecutions, in- formation is given as to penalties, and workshops are separated from factories.

The year has been marked by three important Departmental Committees, two concerned with dangerous trades, and a third with cotton cloth factories. The trades reported on by the Dangerous Trades Com- mittees were:—Wool sorting, hair factories, brush- making, bone factories, fellmongers' works, furriers' works, tanneries, wool-combing, blanket stoving and tentering, warp-dressing, carbonising and grinding of rags, flock-making, feather cleaning. Three processes were certified as dangerous, and brought under special rules, viz.:—Wool sorting, handling of foreign and dry East Indian hides and skins, and manipulation of Russian, Chinese, and South American hair and bristles.

Accidents.—In 1897, 658 fatal and 39,816 non-fatal accidents were reported to the Factory Department, as compared with 596 fatal and 32,961 non-fatal in 1896. Of the total, the number reported to the certifying surgeons in 1897 was 15,987, as compared with 14,433 in 1896. This increase is not confined to any particular locality or industry. So far as fatal accidents are concerned it has been practically limited to adult males, though in the non-fatal class it was shared also by young persons and by females—children alone having a diminishing record.

The increase in the number of accidents reported may be due to a large extent to the better observance of the requirements of the acts—to fuller statistics, without necessary increase in the number of casualties. Some of the additional accidents, too, may be those

occurring in places (e.g., docks) which before the opera- tion of the Act of 1895 were not subject to the Factory Acts. A large number of accidents were reported in 1897, which under the older Acts would not have been brought to the knowledge of the Inspectors. Com- paring 1897 with 1895, 203 more fatal accidents were reported, but 142 were of a kind made reportable by sections 22-23 of the new Act. The following table includes all the accidents reported:—

Reported Accidents and their causes, 1895-1897.

Cause of Accident.	Fatal.			Non-fatal.		
	1897.	1896.	1895.	1897.	1896.	1895.
1. Machinery	272	280	177	13,021	12,658	9,183
2. Molten metal	25	21	37	615	535	341
3. Explosion	26	17	31	369	336	239
4. Escape of gas, steam, or metal	18	20	16	422	308	257
5. Other causes	317	258	194	21,489	19,124	0
All causes	658	596	455	39,816	32,961	10,011

In the present report accident rates are given for non-textile as well as textile factories.

In the following table these accident-rates are stated for all factory industries upon the basis of the second Annual Return (of persons employed in 1896) and the accidents reported in 1897.

Accident Rates, 1897.

Table showing accident-rates among persons employed in textile and non-textile factories respectively.

Males:—	Textile Factories.				Non-Textile Factories.			
	Number employed.	Accident rate per 1,000 employed.		Number employed.	Accident rate per 1,000 employed.		Fatal.	Non-fatal.
		Fatal.	Non-fatal.		Fatal.	Non-fatal.		
Children	24,302	0.12	5.64	5,092	—	—	—	9.03
Young Persons	82,383	0.10	10.68	301,910	0.19	—	—	20.50
Adults	306,156	0.09	4.99	1,880,031	0.22	—	—	12.70
All Ages	412,841	0.09	6.16	2,187,033	0.21	—	—	13.77
Females:—								
Children	28,954	—	2.52	2,149	0.47	—	—	0.93
Young Persons	153,862	0.01	4.83	134,592	0.01	—	—	3.18
Adults	482,030	0.01	2.05	341,957	0.01	—	—	1.60
All Ages	664,846	0.01	2.72	478,698	0.02	—	—	2.04

Sanitation, &c.—There was some further increase in the number of matters to which H.M. Inspectors found it necessary to call the attention of the local sanitary authorities. There is a total of 5,245 items, which is made up as follows:—

Over-crowding; air space	453
Ventilation; dust; fumes	257
Effluvia	195
Sanitary conveniences	1,303
Cleanliness	1,392
Fire	1,074
Other matters	571
Total	5,245

Notification of Lead, Phosphorus, and Arsenic Poisoning and of Anthrax.

During the year 1,239 cases were reported altogether. There is reason to fear that the numbers would be much larger if all the cases were known. The following table shows the number of reported cases in 1897 and 1896:—

	No. of Reported Cases in	
	1897.	1896.
Lead Poisoning:—		
China and Earthenware	446	432
White Lead	370	239
Smelting	102	56
Other Industries	296	303
Total Lead Poisoning	1,214	1,030
Phosphorus Poisoning	2	2
Arsenic Poisoning	0	1
Anthrax	23	17
Total	1,239	1,050

Prosecutions.—In 1897 there were 3,518 prosecutions (of which 95 per cent. ended in conviction), slightly in excess of the number for 1896, which was 3,341. Of

* Not reportable prior to 1896.

these, 2,199 were concerned with factories, the rest with workshops. It is interesting to note the increase under two heads: laundries (20 to 82) and Truck Acts (0 to 28). The group of industries which are responsible for the largest number of prosecutions are the clothing trades, with 1,214 cases, of which 498 were cases relating to the employment of women, and 390 to young persons. The cotton industry comes next with 439 cases.

As in the previous report, elaborate statistics are given of employment in factories and workshops. These statistics will be dealt with in a separate article.

The Report also includes an account of the International Congress on Accidents to Operatives, and a report on the manufacture of lucifer matches at various places abroad.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 989 co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,342,779, show total sales for the second quarter of 1898 amounting to £9,825,416 as compared with £9,136,515 in the corresponding quarter of 1897. Of these societies, 784 show an increase and 202 a decrease, the net increase being £688,901 or 7.5 per cent.

Returns from the four wholesale federations for the same period show total sales in the distributive departments amounting to £4,191,856 as compared with £3,943,803 in the second quarter of 1897, an increase of 6.3 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish wholesale societies amounted to £696,492 as compared with £582,111 in the corresponding period of 1897, an increase of 19.6 per cent. At the half-yearly meeting of delegates to the Scottish Wholesale Society, held on August 27th, it was decided to allot £3,363 of the profits of the half-year to the employees, as bonus on wages, at the rate of 7d. in the £.

Forty-eight retail distributive societies in England and Wales reported the opening of 61 new branches and departments during the quarter, and 11 societies in Scotland reported opening 18 new branches, etc.

During the Annual Co-operative Festival at the Crystal Palace several conferences of delegates from societies were held, among the subjects discussed being the advisability of establishing a test of qualification for membership of co-operative societies.

The fourth annual meeting of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was held in Dublin on the 26th August. Fifty-eight delegates were present, representing 49 co-operative societies, in addition to 44 officials, organisers, and visitors. The annual report presented to the meeting states that 101 new societies had been established during the year ending March last, and six from various causes had been removed from the list. At the end of March, 1898, 243* societies were in existence in Ireland, comprising 136 dairies and auxiliary societies; 77 agricultural societies (for the joint purchase and sale of seeds, manures, implements, etc.); 15 co-operative credit banks; 2 wholesale federations; and 13 miscellaneous productive and distributive societies. Of the 243 societies, 47 were in Leinster, 80 in Munster, 50 in Ulster, and 66 in Connaught. Returns published in the report show that the total sales during 1897, of 112 of the societies, amounted to £398,375, of which butter accounted for £334,711.

Returns from the three Irish co-operative credit banks at work in 1897 in Doneraile, Kyle, and Belmullet, show that with a total loan and reserve capital of £337, 124 loans amounting to £475, an average of about £3 17s. each had been granted, the amount outstanding at the end of the year being £283. A net profit of £6 had been made by the three banks.

The following table, based upon balance sheets and reports supplied direct to the Department, shows the progress in trade of the wholesale and retail distribu-

* In addition to the societies reported by the I.A.O.S., there are 18 co-operative retail distributive societies in Ireland.

tive societies. The figures for the retail distributive societies have for the first time been classified by districts. All districts show an increase over the corresponding period of 1897, with the exception of Wales, which shows a slight decrease, attributed to the recent dispute in the coal trade.

Description of Societies and Districts.	Societies making Returns.		Sales of Societies making Returns.			
	No.	Member-ship.	In 2nd quarter of		Increase in 1898 compared with 1897.	
			1898.	1897.	Amount.	Per cent. on Sales.
Retail Distributive Societies.						
ENGLAND AND WALES:-			£	£	£	
Northern Counties	108	182,500	1,637,569	1,523,427	114,142	7.5
Yorkshire	151	271,572	1,930,389	1,787,116	143,273	8.0
Lancashire and Cheshire	154	333,880	2,415,689	2,395,444	20,245	4.8
North and West Midland Counties	126	144,233	824,832	737,249	87,583	11.9
South Midland and Eastern Counties	88	62,965	351,089	324,105	26,984	8.3
London (12 mile radius)	24	31,482	153,596	139,495	14,101	10.1
South Eastern Counties	34	31,757	172,710	154,901	17,809	11.5
Southern and Western Counties	43	42,389	191,954	182,039	9,915	5.4
Wales and Monmouth	37	13,542	101,437	103,391	-1,954	-1.9
Total—England and Wales	765	1,114,320	7,779,265	7,257,167	522,098	7.2
SCOTLAND—North	84	86,231	688,996	649,913	39,083	6.0
South	132	140,454	1,348,496	1,221,327	127,169	10.4
Total—Scotland	216	226,685	2,037,492	1,871,240	166,252	8.9
IRELAND	8	1,774	8,659	8,108	551	6.8
TOTAL RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES	989	1,342,779	9,825,416	9,136,515	688,901	7.5

Wholesale Societies.						
Description of Societies and Districts.	No.	Member-ship.	Sales of Societies making Returns.			
			1898.	1897.	Amount.	Per cent. on Sales.
ENGLAND AND WALES:-			£	£	£	
Distributive Departments	1,058*	1,107,105*	2,970,302	2,824,586	145,716	5.2
Manufacturing Departments			379,206	333,481	45,725	13.7
SCOTLAND:-			£	£	£	
Distributive Departments	288*	215,727*	1,171,716	1,078,907	92,809	8.6
Manufacturing Departments			317,286	248,630	68,656	27.6
IRELAND:-			£	£	£	
Agricultural	26†	Not stated.	13,709†	6,207†	7,502	120.9
Butter	30†		36,129	34,103	2,026	5.9

WORKMEN'S INSURANCE.

Prize Competition.—The Société du Musée Social (5, Rue Las-Cases, Paris) has offered a prize of £1,000 for an essay on Workmen's Insurance (including insurance against accidents, sickness, old age, death, and want of employment), with conclusions as to the best way of dealing with these questions in France. The competition is open to foreigners as well as Frenchmen; but the essays (to be sent in before December 31st, 1898) must be written in French.

EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS.

By the South Metropolitan Gas Act, 1896, amended by the South Metropolitan Gas Act, 1897, it was provided that at any time after the total investments of the employees of the South Metropolitan Gas Company in its ordinary stock, dating from the distribution in 1890 of the first bonus under the profit-sharing scheme in force with the company should exceed the nominal amount of £40,000, the directors might prepare a scheme for enabling employees holding stock to elect one or more of their number, but not exceeding three, to be a director or directors, such scheme, after adoption by the shareholders, to be submitted for the approval of the Board of Trade. A scheme under these Acts has been adopted by the company, and received the approval of the Board of Trade on August 27th. Provision is made for the election of two directors by employees in receipt of weekly wages, and of one director by employees on the staff receiving monthly salaries.

* Number and Membership of Federated Societies.
† The return of this Society being for six months, one-half of the sales are taken for the quarter.

‡ The figures for 1897 refers to the Irish Agricultural Agency Society of which the existing Society is practically a reconstruction.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN FRANCE.

AT the end of 1897 the French Conciliation and Arbitration Act had been in operation for five years, having been passed in December, 1892. Under this Act the justice of the peace of a canton, in which a dispute between employers and employed (whether accompanied by a strike or lock-out or not) has arisen, upon receipt of a declaration from either of the parties who may wish to have the matter settled by conciliation or arbitration, naming delegates (not more than five) for this purpose, notifies the opposing party of the fact within 24 hours. If the proposal be accepted, the other side in their turn name delegates (not more than five), and the justice of the peace urges the parties to meet or to form a committee of conciliation. The deliberations take place in his presence, and, if he be so requested, under his chairmanship, but he has no voting power. If an agreement be arrived at, its terms are set down in a report drawn up by the justice of the peace, and signed by the parties or their delegates. Failing such agreement, the justice of the peace invites the parties to appoint an arbitrator or arbitrators. If such arbitrators differ, and cannot agree upon an umpire, an umpire is named by the president of the Civil Tribunal. In default of initiative on the part of those concerned in a strike, the justice of the peace, of his own motion, invites the parties to state whether they are willing to submit the matter to conciliation or arbitration, and, if so, to name delegates for that purpose. The demand for conciliation or arbitration, the refusal or failure to reply of the opposing party, and the decision of the committee of conciliation, or of the arbitrators, are communicated by the justice of the peace to the mayors of the communes affected by the dispute, by whom these matters are made public by placard.

The following table is based upon particulars contained in a report* recently published by the French Labour Department:—

	Years.					Total for the 5 years.
	1893	18 4	1895	1896	1897	
No. of strikes and lock-outs...	634	391	405	476	356	2,262
No. of cases in which the Act was put into operation before the commencement of any strike or lock-out	7	8	5	6	3	29
No. of cases in which the Act was put into operation:-						
By initiative of employers	5	4	2	4	4	19
" " " workpeople	56	51	46	57	46	256
" " " both sides	2	2	3	4	1	12
" " " justice of the Peace	46	44	34	39	37	200
Total ...	109	101	85	104	88	487
No. of strikes and lock-outs settled before formation of Conciliation Committees	13	8	4	7	9	41
No. of refusals to settle by conciliation:-						
By employers ...	34	21	29	41	20	148
" workpeople ...	6	4	—	3	2	15
" both parties ...	2	1	2	—	3	8
Total ...	42	29	31	44	25	171
No. of Conciliation Committees formed	55	65	53	53	54	280
No. of Committees which settle disputes:-						
By conciliation ...	28	31	24	21	25	129
" arbitration ...	5	2	3	1	5	16
Total ...	33	33	27	22	30	145†

Out of the 29 cases in five years in which the Act was put into operation before the commencement of a strike or lock-out, a stoppage was averted in 14 cases.

* Statistique des Grèves et des Recours à la Conciliation et à l'Arbitrage survenus pendant l'Année 1897. On sale at establishment of M.M. Berger-Levrault et Cie., Paris.

† In a few cases there have been several distinct committees in relation to the same dispute; the 145 committees dealt with in the table related to 142 separate disputes.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Arbitration in the Stafford Boot and Shoe Trade.
THE Arbitrators (Messrs. S. Lennard, President of the Employers' Federation, and W. B. Hornidge, President of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives) appointed to consider various matters in dispute between a Stafford firm and the boot and shoe operatives in their employ, issued their award on August 24th, dealing with alleged violations on both sides of the "Terms of Settlement." Among other decisions the arbitrators ordered the reinstatement of five discharged workmen pending a reference to the Arbitration Board. The matters in dispute had led to a strike of nine finishers on June 18th, which terminated on August 20th.

Agreement in the Liverpool French Polishing Trade.
On July 18th, some 250 French polishers in Liverpool struck work for an advance in wages from 7½d. to 8½d. per hour, a reduction of hours from 51 to 50 per week, an increase in country money from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day, and overtime rates to be paid for all time worked on any day after the customary closing hour of the firm. On August 10th, an agreement was signed by representatives of the Liverpool Master Cabinetmakers, Chair-makers, Upholsterers and French Polishers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of French Polishers. Under this agreement wages are advanced to 8d. per hour and hours reduced to 50 per week. Country money continues to be at the rate of 1s. 6d. per day. Overtime is only to be paid for hours worked above the normal weekly working hours, but hours worked between the usual leaving-off time on Saturday and the usual starting time on Monday morning are to be paid as time and a half. The agreement also contains provision for the reference of shop disputes to arbitration, for three months' notice of proposed alteration of its terms, and for the discussion of such alterations by a Conciliation Board.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES.

In the July and August numbers of the GAZETTE, lists were given of the 30 Compensation Schemes that had been approved by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies up to the 12th August last.

In the following list, which is made up to 12th September, 8 other schemes are included:—

Title of Scheme.	Nature of Employment.	Situation of Works.	No. of Workpeople affected.
Messrs. Lewis Merthyr Navigation Collieries	Coal Mining	Hafod, near Pontypridd, Glam.	Not stated
United National Collieries Company, Limited	Coal Mining	Huttsown, Risca, and Abercarn	46
John Brace & Co.	Coal Mining	Pontypool	56
Universal Steam Coal Company, Limited	Coal Mining	Senghenidh, near Caerphilly, Glam.	8
United Accident Fund...	Coal Mining	Swllington & Gt. Preston, Yorks.	751
Messrs. Partridge, Jones & Co.	Coal Mining	Llanerch Colliery, near Pontypool	48
Albion Colliery Company	Coal Mining	Cillyydd, Pontypridd	24
Contracting-out Scheme of J. & J. Charlesworth's West Yorkshire Collieries, Limited	Coal Mining	Rothwell Haigh, near Leeds	2,100

No less than 23 of the 38 schemes relate to coal miners, but the two largest concern railway servants. Of the remaining 13, seven relate to various classes of metal workers and 6 to pottery, glass, chemical, cement, and sugar operatives. In the case of 30 of the 38 schemes the numbers of workpeople affected are given, and the results, so far as recorded, may be summarised as follows:—

Trades.	Number of Schemes.		
	Total number passed up to Sept. 12th.	Number for which the number of workpeople is returned.	Number of workpeople affected.
Railway Service	2	2	34,933
Coal Mining	23	19	18,952
Metal Trades	7	4	3,597
Miscellaneous Trades	6	5	4,483
Total	38	30	61,875

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.*

Meaning of "Workman."—Employee of Contractor.—The plaintiff, the widow and administratrix of a pit-sinker, who had met with a fatal accident while working in the employment of a contractor who had undertaken with the defendants, a colliery company, to sink a shaft at their mine, appealed from the judgment of a Divisional Court, setting aside the verdict and judgment of a County Court and entering judgment for the defendants. The action was brought by the plaintiff, under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, and Lord Campbell's Act, to recover damages for the death of her husband. The jury in the County Court under the direction of the Judge found a verdict for the plaintiff for £234 damages, but the Divisional Court entered judgment for the defendants upon the ground that there was no evidence that at the time of the accident the deceased was in the employment of the defendants, he being in the employment of an independent contractor.

The work was carried out under a written contract, by which the contractor agreed with the defendants to sink the shaft in question for £12 12s. per fathom sunk, he providing such sinkers, banksmen, &c., as might be necessary, and undertaking to have not less than one chageman and five others employed at the pit bottom on each shift. The contractor had to pay the wages of the men whom he employed, and had engaged the deceased at 5s. per day. The contract provided that the contractor should in certain instances execute some of the works under the orders and supervision of the manager of the mine. The Court of Appeal held that the deceased could have sued the contractor, but not the defendants, for his wages, and was his employee and not theirs. Accordingly, the deceased did not come within the meaning of the term "workman," as used in the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, in relation to the defendants, not being a "person who, being a labourer, . . . miner, or otherwise engaged in manual labour, . . . has entered into or works under a contract with an employer," so far as concerned the defendants.

It was argued that since, by the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, coupled with the rules in the Act, and the special rules applicable to the defendants' mine, the certificated manager had to appoint such competent persons as might be necessary for carrying out the provisions of the Act, since it was required that there should be a chageman in each shift who should have full control of the sinking operations, and since this position was occupied by the contractor, therefore the contractor was under the control of the defendants, and that this fact pointed to the relationship between the contractor and the defendants being that of workman and employer, and in consequence to the relationship between the deceased and the defendants being of a similar nature. But the Court held that the statutory control over persons in the mine, which the statute and rules give to the mine-owner, does not afford evidence of such relationship; they in no way alter the relation of the contracting parties *inter se*, but simply give control by the owner so as to enforce the prescribed regulations for carrying on without danger the mining operations. The appeal was accordingly dismissed.—*Court of Appeal, August 10th.*

Contributory Negligence.—The widow of a labourer lately employed by a company at their tube-drawing works, and who died as the result of an accident, sued the company for damages under Lord Campbell's Act. In order to carry ore brought by canal boats to the refining shop, the defendant company established a tramway eleven feet high, from which the workmen formerly descended by a ladder provided by the company. Subsequently this ladder ceased to be provided; and the deceased was descending from the tramway by way of a wall, when he slipped off the top of the wall and fell on to a heap of ore, receiving fatal injuries. The jury found that the defendants did not exercise due care to have the tramway in safe and proper condition, that it was dangerous to descend from the tramway without a ladder, and that the deceased, when he attempted to descend, was aware of the danger, but at first could not agree on the question of contributory negligence, but finally found that there was no such negligence on the part of the deceased. Counsel on either side asked, on these findings, for a verdict in his favour. The judge, on the point of law, gave judgment for the defendant company.—*Birmingham Summer Assizes, August 9th.*

(2) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1891. SS. 9-12 AND S. 32.

Special Rules.—Not wearing Gauntlets or Face-guards while Bottling.—In 11 cases aerated water bottlers were fined sums varying from 1s. to 5s., in two cases with costs (7s. 6d. and 9s.), for neglecting to comply with special rules in not wearing gauntlets or face-guards while bottling.—*Rotherham County Police Court, August 8th; Norwich City Police Court, August 16th and 20th; Smethwick County Police Court, August 24th.*

Overtime in Emergency Processes.—A firm of sauce and pickle manufacturers was summoned by a factory inspector for employing three girls after the hours allowed by law. It was shown that the regular hours worked at the factory, except in overtime, were 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The inspector, on August 5th, found these girls employed from 9.15 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., in washing bottles and others in stacking and carrying pots of cold jam. The Factory

* Under this heading are also included actions at Common Law to recover from employers compensation for injuries to workpeople.

and Workshop Act, 1891, s. 32, exempts from the restrictions imposed by the Factory Acts "the process of cleaning and preparing fruit so far as is necessary to prevent the spoiling of the fruit on its arrival at a factory or workshop during the months of June, July, August, and September." The magistrate held that the work on which the girls were engaged came within this section, and dismissed the summonses.—*Thames Police Court, August 23rd.*

(3) MISCELLANEOUS.

Compelling Employer to Discharge a Workman.—A labourer, who had been in the employment of a firm of building contractors, sued two other labourers for damages alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiff by reason of combination and intimidation on the part of the defendants, by which his employer was induced to dismiss him, and his fellow-workmen were induced not to work with him. The defendants were members of the Trade Union, but the plaintiff was not a member. One of the defendants asked the plaintiff to join the union, which he declined to do. The other labourers then refused to work with him. The Recorder said that all the unionists did was to say they would exercise their right not to work with any firm that did not employ their society, and that there was no evidence of malice; and he dismissed the action.—*Dublin City Sessions, July 19th.*

Railway Servants' Accident Allowance Fund.—Accident while coming on Duty.—The widow of an artisan late in the employment of a railway company, who was insured in an accident allowance fund established by the company, brought an action, as his legal personal representative, against the company, to recover the allowance provided by the fund "in case of the death of an insurer from any accident in the discharge of duties in the company's service." The workmen in the company's shops were required, before they started work, to obtain a ticket from an office near the works. This office was approached by two paths provided by the company and free from risk, and could also be reached by crossing the rails, but the workmen were forbidden to cross the rails in order to get to the office. The deceased was killed by being knocked down by an engine while crossing the rails to reach the office in order to obtain his ticket before going to work. The company refused to pay the allowance, and the Court held that, since the procuring of the ticket was a condition precedent to the employment of the deceased, and since at the time of his death he was crossing railway lines against the orders of the company before his work commenced, his death did not occur in the discharge of his duty in the company's service, and the company was not liable to pay the allowance. Judgment was accordingly given for the defendants.—*Queen's Bench Division, August 3rd.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, &c., mostly dated July and August last.)†

Canada.—Wages for silver miners in British Columbia are 3 dols. to 4 dols. a day; the work is hard and only competent men can get work; the miners are often housed and boarded by the mine, paying 1 dol. a day, which is deducted from their wages. The wages of men engaged on the construction of the Crow's Nest Railway into British Columbia have been raised from 1.50 dols. a day to 1.75 dols. and 2 dols.; the men's condition in other respects still occasions some complaints. A large number of men are reported to be out of employment at the Klondyke goldfields owing to many of the claims remaining unworked. The building trades at Vancouver, B.C., have been busy. There is a limited demand in Montreal for blacksmiths, boiler-makers, and locomotive fitters. The supply of farm labour in Ontario this season has, as a rule, been fully equal to the demand.

New South Wales.—The coal trade continues to be busy both at the Northern and the Southern Collieries. A conference of employers and men has provisionally agreed that the selling price of coal shall be raised on 1st of January next from 6s. 9d. a ton to 8s., which will proportionately increase the rate of wages.

Victoria.—The recent report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1897 shows that there has been a considerable improvement in trade. The number of employees was larger than in any year since 1891, the chief increases having been in the following classes of trade—clothing, millinery, dresses, foundries, furniture, boots and shoes, and tanneries. The Boot Board appointed under the Factories and Shops Acts has determined that the lowest rates of wages to be paid to adult males employed in manufacturing boots, shoes, and slippers shall be either 6s. 2d. or 7s. per day of 8 hours according to the kind of work performed, and that the lowest wage to be paid to females so employed

* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

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

shall be 20s. per week of 48 hours. Minimum wages are now fixed in the clothing, breadmaking, furniture, and boot trades. A great deal of "sweating" still goes on among the 2,400 outworkers connected with the clothing trades.

South Australia.—A Government Bureau is in course of establishment for the purpose of facilitating the obtaining of employment. The Inspector of Factories in her report for 1897, which has recently been issued, comments on the very low prices paid to outside women workers of male and female clothing.

Queensland.—Gold miners have been busily employed. The yield of gold during the first six months of this year was 427,661 ounces, as compared with 361,108 ounces in the first six months of 1897. There is a demand for female servants, and experienced ploughmen and farm labourers, but not for mechanics.

Western Australia.—A strike has taken place on some Government buildings being erected at Kalgoorlie on the question of wages. The contractors have agreed to pay masons the standard rate of 15s. a day, and labourers 10s. to 12s. according to their competency; an abundance of labour is offering, and work is now proceeding on these terms. There were numerous cases of typhoid in the Kalgoorlie hospital during the first six months of this year. Agriculture is making good progress, both the area under crop and the average yields having been considerably greater in 1897-8 than in the previous year. There continues to be some demand for experienced mechanics, but the demand is much less than it was, owing to the completion of various public works. There is no longer a demand for navvies or general labourers.

New Zealand.—The building and engineering trades continue to be busy in nearly every part, but the boot and clothing trades have been generally dull. Unskilled labour seems to be more fully employed than was the case at the beginning of the year, large numbers of men now finding work at bush-felling, fencing, &c.

Cape Colony.—The building trade at Grahams-town is reported to be very busy at the present time, a large number of buildings being in course of erection; but it must be remembered that in the present depressed condition of trade in the Transvaal a considerable local supply of labour must be available.

Transvaal.—The great depression in the Transvaal labour market continues.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in August.*—No material change in the volume of employment has taken place. Employment has continued good in the mining, quarrying, tanning, carpentry and joinery, coachbuilding, coopering, metal (smelting and manufacture), and building trades. Employment has fallen off, owing to the great heat, in the trades engaged in food preparation, and is also less plentiful in printing, in the silk industry, in tin box-making, and among seamen. Slackness still prevails in the boot and shoe making trade, in woollen, flax, and cotton spinning and weaving, in the garment-making trade, and in the manufacture of porcelain and glass.

Labour Disputes in August.*—Thirty-six disputes, directly involving 4,254 workpeople, were reported to the French Labour Department in August, compared with 31 disputes involving 3,069 workpeople reported in July. All, except 2, of the August disputes were confined to single establishments. Ten out of the disputes were in the textile trades, 8 in the building trades, 5 in the metal trades, 2 each in the glass-pottery group and the printing and allied trades, and 1 in each of the following trades:—miners, cokeworkers, coopers, tobacco-workers, tripe-workers, gasworkers, coffee-house waiters, boot and shoemakers, and carters. Amongst the causes of the disputes were 16 demands for higher remuneration; in 9 cases the dispute was caused by

opposition to a reduction of wages; in 5 cases by demands for the re-instatement or dismissal of employees; in 6 cases by questions connected with workshop rules or arrangements or alleged bad material. Out of a total of 20 disputes terminated in August, 4 were compromised, 11 ended unfavourably, and 5 favourably for the workpeople.

Conciliation and Arbitration.*—Four attempts to apply the Conciliation and Arbitration law were reported in August. In 2 cases, affecting 150 stonemasons and labourers at Parthenay (Deux-Sèvres), and 91 workmen employed in a jute-spinning factory at Doullens (Somme), conciliation committees effected a settlement. In the case of 30 juvenile hosiery operatives at Romilly-sur-Seine (Aube) the *juge de paix* brought about a meeting between the parties at which, the employer having declared himself unable to make any concession, the *juge* proposed a reference of the dispute (which was occasioned by a reduction in wages) to arbitration. This proposal was accepted by the employer, but declined by the operatives. On August 16th work was resumed at the rates fixed by the employer. In the remaining case the dispute arose among the silk-throwing operatives at Privas, owing to a reduction in wages. On August 2nd a committee of conciliation, summoned at the request of the workpeople, met, with the *juge de paix* in the chair, at which the employers promised to raise wages as soon as the state of trade should permit them to do so, but the workpeople declined to be content with this promise, and the dispute took larger dimensions, 1,500 operatives being directly involved. The employers declined to attend a second meeting of the committee, and work was gradually resumed, 318 female operatives being at work at Privas on August 30th, and another 100 having been engaged elsewhere. The dispute still continues, and a trade union is stated to be in course of formation.

Coal Mining in July.†—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in July was 5.92, compared with 5.93 in the preceding month, and 5.85 in July, 1897. In July, full time (6 days and over) was worked by 90 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 10 per cent. of the miners, whilst in the preceding month the percentages were 69 and 31 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

Strike of Laceworkers at Calais.—A report has been received from Mr. Charles A. Payton, H.M. Consul at Calais, of a strike of laceworkers in that town. In all some ten firms are affected by the dispute, which commenced on August 16th, and which has reference to piece prices, chiefly in connection with veilings, the Trade Union claiming higher prices than those admitted by the employers. At the end of August about 100 workpeople were affected, most of whom had been replaced by non-unionists. A proposal made by the employers for a discussion of the question by a joint committee, under the chairmanship of the *juge de paix*, has led to nothing, owing to the union insisting, as a preliminary condition, on the strikers being replaced in a body.

GERMANY.

Liability under Accident Insurance Law: Change of Procedure.—According to information supplied to the Foreign Office by Sir F. C. Lascelles, H.M. Ambassador at Berlin, under date of August 4th, the Imperial Insurance Office has made a new arrangement for the procedure in determining the incidence of liability for compensation under the Accident Insurance Law, where several trade groups are concerned.

In such cases the usual process of application for compensation will be allowed to take its course, but the Imperial Insurance Office will at the same time call upon the Trade Group which they consider really liable to give a decision as to their liability, in order that, if they dispute it, the Imperial Insurance Office may

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department. † Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, August, 1898.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

decide the question, as nearly as possible simultaneously, in regard to all the trade groups concerned.

Should the group so called upon acknowledge their liability, they will at once communicate with the group originally applied to, in order to avoid a double payment of compensation.

Should they deny their liability, but be condemned to pay by a Court of Arbitration, the sentence shall not be carried out until the sentence against the group originally applied to has been cancelled.

Labour Disputes in August.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* the disputes reported to have begun in August were 56 in number, compared with 47 in July. The total number of the workpeople reported to have taken part in the disputes, so far as ascertained, was 2,766, of whom some 2,400 were concerned in a dispute in the building trade at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, the other disputes involving only small numbers. The trades affected were: woodworking and kindred trades, 16 disputes (5 in July); building trades, 15 (16 in July); metal, engineering, and allied trades, 6 (10 in July); trades engaged in the preparation of foods, drinks and tobacco, &c., 3 (4 in July); trades involving work in stone, clay, &c., 2 (6 in July); textile trades, 2 (1 in July); and trades not included in any of the foregoing groups, 12. The increase in the number of disputes in the woodworking trades is stated to be attributable to the fact that disputes arose among the coopers in several different places. If this movement were reckoned as one dispute, the total number of the new disputes of August would be reduced to 43. According to information given in *Soziale Praxis* the dispute in the building trade at Frankfurt-on-the-Main referred to above has ended with the success of the workpeople, while a dispute in the same trade at Magdeburg, originally affecting only a small number of workmen, has assumed much larger dimensions, a general lock-out having been declared on September 1st, and a general strike on September 5th, and 2,000 operatives being involved in the dispute. The *Deutscher Reichs Anzeiger* states that the disputes in the building trade at Breslau and Lübeck, mentioned in last month's *Gazette*, have terminated by the submission of the workmen, and that the General Association of Employers in the Building Trade has determined to form a Federation with the object of resisting strikes.

Operations of Public Labour Registries in August.—The total number of situations offered by employers in August at 45 of the municipal and other public labour registries which have sent returns to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* was 33,552, as compared with 29,714 in the previous month, and 29,373 in August, 1897. The number of situations sought during the month was 36,441, compared with 34,068 in the previous month, and 32,117 in August, 1897. The number of situations found was 23,637, compared with 20,941 in July, and 20,388 in August, 1897.

BELGIUM.

Employment in August.*—Great activity continues to exist in coal mines. In the heavier branches of the metal trades, in large building works, in the glass trades, brickmaking, and most branches of industry connected with the building trades the state of employment has been very good on the whole. The printing trade has been exceptionally busy for this time of year. The manufacture of arms has been brisk, except in certain special branches. Great slackness still prevails in the textile trades (cotton, flax, and jute spinning and weaving, and woollen and worsted weaving), only the spinning of worsted being active. The various branches of the garment-making trades still suffer from the slack season.

In several departments of the larger industries there has been a marked diminution of output on the part of the workpeople, due to the great heat prevailing during part of the month.

Labour Disputes in August.*—Four new disputes only, affecting about 600 workpeople, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department in August. Four other disputes, which commenced in July, and which directly affect 328 workpeople, were also in progress in August. Of seven disputes, of which the results are known, the workpeople were partially successful in two cases and unsuccessful in five. Three of the above eight strikes took place in the textile industry at Ghent.

Additions to list of Trades classed as dangerous, &c.*—The following additions are made, by two Royal decrees under date of August 15th, to the list of trades classed as dangerous, unhealthy, or inconvenient, and accordingly

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department.

subject to inspection:—(1) Skin dressing, etc.; (2) Manufacture of acetylene, storage of liquid or compressed acetylene, and storage of carbide of calcium.

RUSSIA.

The Late Engineering Dispute: Effect on Russian Trade.—In his report* for 1897 to the Foreign Office, Mr. J. Michell, H.M. Consul-General at St. Petersburg, states that, owing to the recent engineers' strike in Great Britain a great many orders for railway locomotives, electric plant, and other machinery went to Germany and the United States; in this way great injury was done to British industrial interests in Russia, and the success furthered of rivals to British trade. As a case in point, the Finnish Railway Company, which had always previously supplied itself with locomotives of British make, gave an order for twenty powerful locomotives to American builders, seeing that it could not rely on the execution of the order within a reasonable time in England, in consequence of the strike.

UNITED STATES.

Chicago Consular District.—According to a report dated August 25th, received from Captain W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago, there has been no improvement in labour conditions of late. The miners and mine operators have had a number of meetings, and the scale has been altered and the Springfield scale upheld at different times. When, however, the decision was in favour of the miners, the operators declared they could not work the mines without loss at the scale proposed, and when it was given in the mine operators' favour, the miners would not go to work. The condition of things at the date of the report is described as a deadlock, with the operators trying to re-open the mines with imported negro labour from the South, to which the miners were likely to make opposition. In other trades strikes had continued all through the month, and the strike of woodworkers at Oshkosh was still in progress. The Printers' and Typographers' Unions were also moving for a rise of wages and shortening of hours.

Constitutionality of Eight Hours' Law for Miners.—The Legislature of the State of Utah passed in 1896 a law limiting the period of employment of working-men in underground mines and in smelters and ore-reduction works to eight hours per day (except in cases of emergency where life or property is in imminent danger). Proceedings were taken before a Justice of the Peace against an employer for employing a workman in his underground mine in one case, and another workman in his ore-concentrating mill in another case for ten hours a day. The facts were admitted; but the defendant pleaded that the law creating the alleged offences was repugnant to the Constitution of the United States, on the ground that such law "deprives the defendant and all employers and employees of the right to make contracts in a lawful way and for lawful purposes"; that "it is class legislation, and not equal or uniform in its provisions"; and that "it deprives the defendant and employers and employees of the equal protection of the laws, abridges the privileges and immunities of the defendant as a citizen of the United States, and deprives him of his property and liberty without due process of law." The court found the defendant guilty, and sentenced him to pay a fine and costs or be imprisoned. The defendant appealed to the Supreme Court of Utah, and, upon that tribunal dismissing his appeal, carried the case before the Supreme Court of the United States, which, on February 28, 1898, gave its decision, affirming the judgments of the State Court. The Supreme Court of the United States held that the law of Utah, restricting the hours of labour of workmen in particular occupations, too prolonged employment in which was, upon reasonable grounds, considered to be detrimental to their health, was made in the valid exercise of the police power of that State, and was, therefore, not in conflict with the constitution of the United States.—*Bulletin of the Department of Labour, July, 1898.*

* F. O. Annual Series, No. 2,169. (C. 8,618—191, price 5d.) Eyre & Spottiswoode.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—COAL AND IRON MINING.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry (excluding the South Wales and Monmouthshire district) continued better in August than a year ago, the improvement being still chiefly noticeable in the Midland and Western counties of England and North Wales. Bank holiday and similar holidays were observed at a fair proportion of mines in England and North Wales, though to a less degree in the two northern counties than elsewhere. In spite of this fact, the average time worked in August was greater in England and North Wales than in July, and in Scotland (where local holidays occurred in July) about half-a-day more per week was worked in August.

In the following tables the South Wales and Monmouthshire district has, as in previous months, been excluded throughout, the majority of pits in that district having been idle during the month owing to the dispute. Some particulars are, however, given below, respecting employment at some of the non-associated Welsh collieries.

In other districts, 1,142 pits employing 373,441 workpeople, worked on an average 5'19 days per week in the four weeks ended August 20th, as compared with 4'83 days in the corresponding period of 1897, and 5'13 days per week in July, 1898.

The following table shows the average number of days worked in these periods in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in August, 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		20th August, 1898.	21st August, 1897.	23rd July, 1898.
England and N. Wales	338,825	5'18	4'79	5'16
Scotland	34,048	5'31	5'25	4'85
Ireland	568	4'82	4'34	4'44
United Kingdom	373,441	5'19	4'83	5'13

In the next table the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced. It will be seen that the average time worked in manufacturing and steam coal pits was less in August than in July. The improvement, as compared with a year ago, extended to all classes of pits.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in August, 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		
		August, 1898.	August, 1897.	July, 1898.
Coking Coal	27,456	5'62	5'57	5'51
Gas "	43,732	5'30	5'07	5'28
House "	91,602	4'83	4'29	4'71
Manufacturing Coal... ..	24,983	5'21	4'84	5'28
Steam "	104,741	5'31	4'96	5'33
Mixed "	80,927	5'22	4'89	5'08
All Classes of Coal	373,441	5'19	4'83	5'13

In the following table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 77.7 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, as against 60.5 per cent. in August, 1897, and 73.9 per cent. in July last.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN FOUR WEEKS BY THE COLLIERIES.

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	August, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	August, 1897.	July, 1898.
21 days (full time)	46,603	12'5	5'4	12'1
20 and under 24 days	243,509	65'2	55'1	61'8
16 " " 20 " "	50,832	13'6	20'4	17'6
12 " " 16 " "	18,084	5'1	12'2	4'9
8 " " 12 " "	8,055	2'1	6'2	2'2
Under 8 days	5,458	1'5	1'7	1'4
Total	373,441	100'0	100'0	100'0

Comparison by Districts.—Except in West Scotland, where there was a trifling falling off, the average time worked per week was greater in all districts in August than a year ago, the improvement amounting to about 1½ days in Gloucester and Somerset, and to about one day in Nottingham and Leicester, and in North Wales. The highest averages during the month were worked in North Wales (5'65 days per week), Cumberland (5'62 days), Durham (5'53 days), and Gloucester and Somerset (5'52 days), and the lowest in Staffordshire (4'46 days), Nottingham and Leicester (4'55 days), Salop, Worcester, and Warwick (4'80 days), Ireland (4'82 days), and Derbyshire (4'98 days). In other districts the average amounted to between 5 and 5½ days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN AUGUST, 1898 AND 1897, AND IN JULY, 1898.

District.	No. employed in Aug., 1898, 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., 1898 as compared with	
		20th Aug., 1898.	21st Aug., 1897.	23rd July, 1898.	A year ago.	A m'nth ago.
ENGLAND & N. WALES						
Northumberland	35,065	5'24	4'98	5'26	+ '26	- '02
Durham	50,981	5'53	5'47	5'42	+ '06	+ '11
Cumberland	5,565	5'62	5'21	5'79	+ '41	- '17
Yorkshire	47,875	5'11	4'93	5'11	+ '18	...
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,779	5'18	4'72	5'14	+ '46	+ '04
Nottingham and Leicester	22,736	4'55	3'55	4'54	+ '00	+ '01
Derbyshire	39,145	4'98	4'50	4'90	+ '68	+ '08
Staffordshire	23,173	4'46	3'96	4'60	+ '50	- '14
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	8,217	4'80	4'48	5'08	+ '32	- '28
Gloucester and Somerset	7,752	5'52	3'94	5'54	+ '58	- '02
North Wales	11,537	5'65	4'73	5'60	+ '92	+ '05
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	19,212	5'31	5'33	4'86	- '02	+ '45
The Lothians	3,651	5'27	5'11	5'45	+ '16	- '18
Fife	11,185	5'33	5'14	4'67	+ '19	+ '66
IRELAND.						
... ..	568	4'82	4'34	4'44	+ '48	+ '38
Grand Total & Averages	373,441	5'19	4'83	5'13	+ '36	+ '06

With regard to the South Wales and Monmouthshire district, returns have been received from 70 pits affected by the dispute, which formerly employed 37,095 persons, and from 55 pits not affected by the dispute. At these latter, at which 23,163 persons were employed, the average time worked in August was 5'61 days per week.

Percentage of Unemployed.—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0.4 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of August, as compared with 0.5 per cent. in July, and 0.6 per cent. in August, 1897.

Exports of Coal.—The exports of coal, coke, cinders, and patent fuel during August, amounted to 3,078,525 tons, as against 2,953,336 tons in July and 3,406,053 tons in August, 1897.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was good in August, though interrupted by holidays in some districts. As compared with a year ago, there was, on the whole, a slight improvement in the number of days worked per week at the mines, the increase in the Cleveland, Northamptonshire, and Staffordshire and Shropshire districts more than balancing the falling off in other districts. The decline in the Scottish district is mainly due to the continuance of a dispute at one of the mines. The total number of persons employed at all the mines also shows an increase as compared with August, 1897.

From returns received relating to 136 iron mines and openworks, it is shown that 17,296 workpeople were employed at these mines in August, being 108 more than a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the mines included in the returns was 5'76 during the four weeks ended 20th August, as compared with 5'65 days per week in August, 1897. Of the 17,296 persons employed 87.3 per cent. were at mines

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—IRON MINING; PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL TRADES; TINPLATE INDUSTRY.

which worked 22 or more days in the four weeks, as against 81.1 per cent. a year ago.

The following tables summarise the returns received:

(I.) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:—

District.	No. employed in Aug., 1898, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Aug., 1898, as compared with	
		20th Aug., 1898.	21st Aug., 1897.	23rd July, 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	6,222	5'88	5'93	5'94	— '05	— '05
Cleveland ...	6,581	5'94	5'93	5'96	+ '31	+ '18
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	751	5'78	5'95	5'87	— '17	— '09
Northamptonshire and Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	633	5'83	5'69	5'94	+ '14	— '11
Other places in England ...	1,528	5'07	4'31	5'31	+ '76	— '24
Scotland ...	277	5'35	5'63	5'35	— '28	...
IRELAND ...	1,128	5'00	5'78	4'40	— '78	+ '60
IRELAND ...	176	5'95	6'02	5'93	— '05	+ '01
Total ...	17,296	5'76	5'63	5'71	+ '11	+ '05

(II.) Classification of workpeople according to days worked by the mines:—

Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks.	August, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	August, 1897.	July, 1898.
24 days (full time) ...	10,574	61.1	47.5	38.7
22 and under 24 days ...	4,535	26.2	33.6	52.1
20 " 22 " ...	1,329	7.7	8.0	2.8
Under 20 days ...	858	5.0	10.9	6.4
Total ...	17,296	100.0	100.0	100.0

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN AUGUST.

IN South Wales and Monmouthshire most of the furnaces remained idle during August, owing to the continuation of the coal dispute. In other districts in England and Wales there was practically no change in employment as compared with a month ago, while in Scotland there was a decline, four furnaces having been damped down in consequence of a dispute at one of the works. Employment was better than a year ago in districts other than South Wales and Monmouth.

Returns relating to the works of 109 ironmasters show that there were 339 furnaces in blast at the end of August, being 3 less than at the end of July. As compared with August, 1897, there were 11 furnaces less in blast in Glamorgan and Monmouthshire, but 4 more in all other districts. At the end of August, the estimated number of workpeople employed was 22,427, or 42 less than a month ago, and 303 more than a year ago. Omitting Glamorgan and Monmouthshire, the numbers employed have increased by 1,265, as compared with August, 1897.

The following table gives particulars of the number of furnaces in blast in the different districts of the United Kingdom at each of the three periods:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Aug., 1898.	Aug., 1897.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Aug., 1898.	Aug., 1898.	July, 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Aug., 1898.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	91	92	+ 2	91	94	...
Cumberland & Lancs S. and S.W. Yorks...	47	43	+ 4	47	47	...
Lincolnshire ...	18	18	...	18	18	...
Midlands ...	14	15	— 1	14	14	...
Glamorgan and Mon. Other districts ...	94	93	+ 1	94	93	+ 1
Total England and Wales...	3	14	— 11	3	3	...
Other districts ...	9	9	...	9	9	...
Total England and Wales...	279	284	— 5	279	278	+ 1
SCOTLAND ...						
Total furnaces included in returns ...	60	62	— 2	60	64	— 4
Total furnaces included in returns ...	339	316	— 7	339	332	— 3

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all the ports of the United Kingdom during August amounted to 121,887 tons, as against 97,083 tons in July, and 105,423 tons in August, 1897.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS IN AUGUST.

THE number of workpeople employed in these industries at the end of August by firms making returns shows a slight increase as compared with a month ago, but a falling off as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts worked per week was about 5½ in all three periods.

Returns received from 214 employers show that they employed 77,549 workpeople in the last week of August, or 150 more than in the last week of July, but 610 less than in August, 1897. The following table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales and in Scotland respectively:—

Numbers Employed.

District.	Numbers employed in last week of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Aug., 1898, as compared with	
	Aug., 1898.	Aug., 1897.	July, 1898.	a year ago.	a month ago.
England and Wales ...	64,589	65,639	64,747	— 1,100	— 158
Scotland ...	12,960	12,470	12,652	+ 490	+ 308
Total ...	77,549	78,109	77,399	— 610	+ 150

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to over 90 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.46 in the last week of August, as compared with 5.48 shifts a month ago, and 5.54 shifts a year ago.

Average Weekly Number of Shifts worked per Man.

Number of Shifts worked per man.	Number employed in Aug., 1898, so far as returned.	Percentage Proportion to Total.	Corresponding Percentage in Aug., 1897.
Under 5 per week ...	6,014	8.4	6.1
5 " ...	23,937	33.5	31.8
5½ " ...	1,540	2.1	3.0
6 " ...	39,121	54.6	56.6
Above 6 " ...	990	1.4	2.5
Total ...	71,682	100.0	100.0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this table worked the same average number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople employed by the 214 employers may be estimated at 423,763 in the last week of August, 423,940 in the last week of July, and 432,915 in the last week of August, 1897.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry improved during August, but was worse than a year ago, owing, to a great extent, to the effects of the dispute in the South Wales coal industry.

At the end of August 37 works had all their mills, to the number of 173, at work, and 23 works had 97 mills working out of a total of 156 mills. Thus 270 mills were running, as compared with 268 at the end of July. During the same period the number of workpeople employed has increased from 13,495 to 14,428. At the end of August, 1897, 289 mills were at work, employing 15,243 persons.

The following table shows the number of mills and workpeople employed at the establishments which were fully or partially working at the three periods:—

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—TINPLATE INDUSTRY; AGRICULTURE.

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		Estimated No. of Workpeople employed.
		Working.	Not Working.	
Works giving full employment	37	173	—	173
Works giving partial employment	23	97	59	156
Total at end of August, 1898	60	270	59	329
Corresponding Total for July, 1898	60	265	66	334
Corresponding Total for August, 1897	58	289	85	374

It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures in the table are believed to give approximately the total number of works, mills and persons actually employed.

The Exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during August amounted to 17,869 tons, as against 22,010 tons in July and 21,021 tons in August, 1897. Of these quantities the United States took 4,457 tons in August, 4,850 tons in July and 3,526 tons in August, 1897.

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN AUGUST.

THE agricultural correspondent to the Department on the basis of 233 returns from various parts of the country reports as follows:—Generally speaking agricultural labourers were very fully employed at harvest work during the month of August. From all districts reports state that the corn crops, which are heavy, have frequently been laid by storms, and that this necessitated their being cut by hand instead of by machine. Consequently there was a greater demand for labour, and also increased expense, as high prices had frequently to be paid for cutting such a heavy crop. In many districts in all parts of the country, notwithstanding that an increased number of self-binding machines were used, farmers state that they were unable to obtain as much labour as they desired, though the fine weather greatly assisted them in getting the work done quickly.

Northern Counties.—In *Northumberland* and *Westmorland* farm labourers were fully employed during the month of August, and also in *Cumberland* in the Unions of Bootle, Cockermouth, Longtown, Penrith, Whitehaven, and Wigton. Reports from the Carlisle and Penrith Unions say that extra hands are scarce. An employer in the Carlisle Union states that under the circumstances it would have been most difficult to do the harvest work without the use of self-binders. In *North Lancashire*, in the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, and Ulverston there is said to be plenty of employment, as the crops are much beaten down in many districts, and much has to be cut by hand. For some days men lost a little time owing to bad weather. Reports from *Durham* state that employment is quite regular in the Unions of Darlington (*Durham* and *Yorks, W.R.*), and *Durham*. A large employer of labour in the first-named Union writes that the heavy crops of hay and corn were much laid and difficult to reap, and, in consequence, all available hands have been required. In *Yorkshire* it is stated that employment has been very regular in the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Guisborough, Malton, Pocklington, and Ripon. Reports from the Unions of Beverley, and Guisborough state that extra harvest hands have been scarce, all the local men being fully engaged. A report from the former Union states that more self-binding machines have been used this year than in previous years.

Midland Counties.—Reports from *Cheshire* state that employment is quite regular in the Unions of Chester-le-Street, Nantwich, Tarvin, and Macclesfield. A report from the Tarvin Union states that labour is scarce, and that there are not so many Irishmen in the district as usual, and that more would be of service. In *Derbyshire* all labourers are said to be fully engaged in the Union of Hayfield, and in some districts difficult to obtain in the *Derbyshire* portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs* and *Derby*), the *Derbyshire* portion of the Worksop Union (*Notts, Derbyshire*, and *Yorks, W.R.*), and the *Derbyshire* portion of the Mansfield Union (*Notts* and *Derby*).

Labourers in *Shropshire* are said to be in full employment in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Ellesmere, Market Drayton (*Staffs* and *Salop* portions), Wellington, Wem, and Whitchurch. Scarcity of labour for harvest is referred to in all reports from this county. A report from the Whitchurch Union states that corn is much laid, and in consequence a great portion has to be cut with scythes. Favourable reports come from *Staffordshire* from the Unions of Leek, Lichfield, Tamworth, and Uttoxeter. A report from the last-named Union states that the bulk of both hay and corn crops have been considerably above the average, but that, with the help of fine weather and machinery, the work has been accomplished without the aid of a greater number of hands than usual.

In *Warwickshire* employment is said to be quite regular in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Meriden, Stratford-on-Avon, and in the *Warwickshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon, Northants* and *Warwick*); in *Leicestershire*, in the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Market Harborough, Loughborough, and Lutterworth (*Leicester* and *Warwick*); in *Nottinghamshire*, in the Unions of Retford, and Southwell, and in Rutland in the Oakham Union.

Favourable reports come from *Worcestershire* from the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Shipston-on-Stour, and Tenbury, and from *Oxfordshire* from the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and from the *Oxfordshire* portion of the Abingdon Union (*Oxon* and *Berks*). All reports from this county refer to a scarcity of labour for harvest work. One correspondent writes that "the use of improved machinery has alone enabled the farmers to secure the bountiful crops of this year." In *Northamptonshire* employment is said to be quite regular in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, Towcester, and Wellingborough. Nearly all the reports from this county refer to the great difficulty of getting extra men for harvest work. Agricultural labourers are said to be fully employed in *Huntingdonshire* in the Unions of Huntingdon and St. Neots (*Hunts* and *Beds*). In the former union reports state that extra labour for harvest has been very difficult to obtain, partly owing to the employment of men on works in connection with the railway. A report from the St. Neots Union states that in many cases machines could not be used for cutting, and that owing to the heavy crops high prices had to be paid for labour. Another report from the same union states that there were "not sufficient men for the harvest, and every boy who can do anything is employed, and some women and girls." Reports from the Bedford, Biggleswade, and Luton Unions of *Bedfordshire* state that employment is quite regular. A report from the Biggleswade Union states that the corn crops were considerably laid and therefore difficult to cut. A report from a district in the Luton Union states that as the straw trade has been slack the blockers have assisted in the harvest, and that in consequence there has been no scarcity of labour.

Eastern Counties.—In *Essex* agricultural labourers are said to be fully employed in the Unions of Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, Tendring, and in certain parishes in the Saffron Walden Union. It is generally stated in reports from this county that there was a greater demand than usual for men owing to the heavy crops, some of which had to be cut by hand, and that wages were higher than in 1897. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Maldon, and Tendring. All reports from Norfolk state that heavy crops are being harvested in splendid weather, and that all agricultural labourers are fully employed. Reports to this effect come from the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Smallburgh, St. Faiths, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. An employer from the last-named union writes that, "Not a man, woman, or child who is willing to work need be in want of a job."

Reports of a similar character come from *Suffolk* from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. An employer in the Plomesgate Union, writing on the 2nd inst., says that the corn is very much laid by storms, and will take a considerable time to harvest as no extra hands are available. Reports from the Bosmere and Claydon and the Thingoe Unions are to the same effect.

In *Cambridgeshire* employment is said to be quite regular in the Unions of Caxton and Arrington, Chesterton, North Witchford, Whittlesea, Wisbech, and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Royston Union (*Cambs* and *Herts*). Reports from the Caxton and Arrington, Chesterton, North Witchford, Royston, and Wisbech Unions refer to a difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour for harvest. Reports from Lincolnshire state that all

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—AGRICULTURE; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

available hands are fully engaged with harvest work in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Louth, Sleaford, and Spilsby, and in the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Lines and Notts).

Home Counties.—Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in Buckinghamshire in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. Reports state that the crops are bulky and that much of it has had to be cut by hand.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment in Sussex is said to be quite regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailley, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Lymington, Newhaven, Petworth, and Rye.

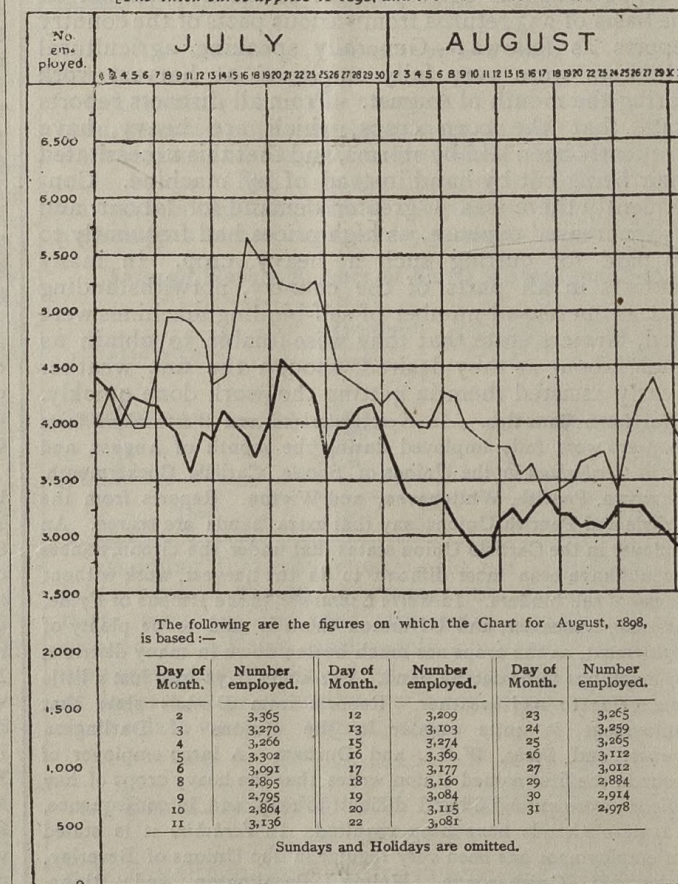
four weeks, and with 15,009 in the corresponding period in August, 1897. The estimated number employed ranged from 15,063 on July 28th to 12,514 on August 6th.

Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Table with columns: Period, Labourers employed in Docks (By Dock Companies, By Ship-owners, Total), Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns, Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during July and August is shown on the chart below. The numbers in August ranged from 2,795 on the 9th to 3,369 on the 16th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of July and August, 1898. The corresponding curve for July and August, 1897, is also given for comparison.



During August, 1897, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 3,370 on the 17th to 4,385 on the 27th. Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during August, 1898, varied from 1,342 on the 15th to 938 on the 25th.

Work in mid-stream is reported as moderate during the month, with a slight improvement in the last two weeks. Deal porters and lumpers have been busy. Employment has been moderately good with coal porters, winchmen, lightermen, and stevedores; with corn porters it has been slack at the Surrey Docks, and moderately good at the Millwall and India Docks.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have had rather better employment than in July, the average number of men employed being 210 in August, as compared with 168 in July.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves during August shows, as in July, a marked falling off as compared with a year ago. It was better, however, at the end of the month than at the beginning.

The daily average number of labourers employed at all the docks and at 115 of the principal wharves was 13,978 during the five weeks ended August 27th last, as compared with an average of 13,785 in the preceding

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—TEXTILE; SEAMEN; LONDON.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN AUGUST.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month showed practically no change in the cotton, woollen, and worsted trades. Information has been received with regard to 519 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, employing about 84,680 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Table showing percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were: Working full time, With Full Employment, With Partial Employment, Working Short Time, Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes. Includes sub-tables for Cotton Trade, Woollen and Worsted Trade, Silk Trade, and Total of above Trades.

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 62,740; of these 81 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 80 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in July, and with 62 per cent. in August, 1897); 14 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 2 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 3 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 17,920; of these 70 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 69 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in July, and 47 per cent. in August, 1897); 22 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 7 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN AUGUST.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

THE number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 34,228 in August, or 1,559 less than in August, 1897. Omitting Newport and Cardiff, the two ports principally affected by the disturbance in the South Wales coal trade, the number of men shipped in August, 1898, shows an increase of over 2,000 as compared with a year ago. At most of the ports the supply of men is reported as equal to or greater than the demand. At Hull, however, there was a slight scarcity of firemen and trimmers, owing to an increased demand, while at Bristol the supply of men for sailing vessels was not quite sufficient.

The following table, as usual, shows the number of men shipped in foreign-going vessels at the principal ports during the month:—

* Exclusive of silk trade.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in August 1898 and 1897 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the eight months ended August in each of these years:—

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Men, &c., shipped in August, 1898, Total in August, 1897, Total number shipped in eight months ended August* (1898, 1897). Includes sub-sections for ENGLAND, BRISTOL CHANNEL, OTHER PORTS, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—On the whole, employment during August remained fairly steady. Returns from 420 branches of 110 unions, having an aggregate membership of 72,013, show that 2,705 (or 3·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·4 per cent. in July. The percentage for August, 1897, was 4·0.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding trades continues steady. Reports from 122 branches of 26 unions, with an aggregate membership of 20,212, show that 685 (or 3·4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 3·3 in June and July. The percentage for August, 1897, was 3·7. Employment with sailmakers was fair.

The Building trades remain briskly employed. Returns from 179 branches of 6 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,130, show that 63 (or 0·6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 0·9 in July, and with 0·8 per cent. in August, 1897. The bricklayers, stonemasons, stonecarvers, carpenters and joiners, millsawyers, and painters and decorators, describe employment as good; the plasterers as fair; the plumbers as moderate.

Employment in the Furnishing trades is not so good. Reports from 44 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 6,500, show that 235 (or 3·6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 2·9 per cent. in July and 2·1 per cent. in August of last year.

Coopers remain busy, no members being returned as unemployed. The number unemployed in July and also in August, 1897, was less than 1·0 per cent.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights are well employed. Returns from 13 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,361, show that 30 (or 2·2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 1·9 per cent. in July and 1·1 per cent. in August, 1897.

The Printing and Bookbinding trades are well employed for the season. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 22,556, show that 1,121 (or 5·0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 3·6 per cent. in July and 5·6 per cent. at the end of August last year.

Employment in the Clothing trades is quiet. The West End bespoke tailors remain dull; the East End bespoke trade is quiet; the wholesale, contract and military uniform trades are also quiet; the ladies' tailoring and mantle making trade is dull. Employment with hatters is depressed; with capmakers moderate. Fur skin dressers remain slack. Silk weavers fairly employed.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the West End hand-sewn

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

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

branch is quiet, short time being worked; in the East End sewerage branch it is fair; with boot and shoe operatives employment remains bad.

Employment in the *Leather* trades remains steady. Returns from six unions, with a membership of 1,676, show that 67 (or 4.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 41 in July. The percentage for August, 1897, was 2.4.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,452, show that 77 (or 5.3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 55 in July, and 4.5 per cent. in August, 1897.

Hair, Fibre, and Caneworkers.—In these trades, returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 904, show that 40 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 35 in July and 3.4 per cent. in August of last year.

Gold and Silverworkers remained steadily employed. Returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,085, show that 20 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 19 in July. The percentage in August, 1897, was 2.4.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades improved. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,419, show that 104 (or 4.3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 60 in July, and 5.9 per cent. in August, 1897.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The daily average number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves during August was 13,978, as against 13,785 in July and 15,009 in August, 1897. Work in mid-stream is reported to have been moderate, with a slight improvement during the last two weeks of the month. Deal porters and lumpers have been busy; employment with coal porters, winchmen, lightermen and stevedores has been moderately good; with corn porters it has been slack at the Surrey Docks, and moderately good at the Millwall and India Docks; with the fruit porters it has been rather better than in July. (For further details see page 270.)

Labour Bureaux.—Returns received from eight labour bureaux show that 1,566 fresh applications for work were registered during August, 1898, as compared with 1,437 in August, 1897. Of these 516 in August, 1898, and 479 in August, 1897, were applications by women and girls. Work was found by these bureaux during August for 790 persons (including 89 women and girls), compared with 671 (including 100 women and girls) in the corresponding month of 1897. The number of persons on the register at the end of August, 1898, was 1,806, or 75 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 283.)

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of August was 98,811, being 621 more than on the corresponding day in July. As compared with August, 1897, there is an increase of 824, that in the North District being 423, East District 312, and West District 97.

On the same day in August, 904 vagrants were relieved, as compared with 818 on the corresponding day of July, and with 1,082 a year ago.

In West Ham the number of persons (exclusive of vagrants) relieved on one day in the second week was 8,818 in August, 8,707 in July, and 8,071 in August, 1897. (For further details see page 283.)

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—All but three pits were idle on Bank Holiday. Steam and house coal collieries have averaged respectively 5.17 and 5.19 days per week, practically full time, as against 5.26 and 5.32 days in July. Of the 20,888 union miners, 36 (or 0.14 per cent.) are idle, as against 0.14 per cent. in July. *Durham.*—The pits have been busy. Coking and manufacturing coal producing collieries have been the best employed, averaging 5.71 and 5.62 days per week. Other pits hewing house, gas, and a mixed class of coal have averaged respectively 5.50, 5.33, and 5.53 days per week, as against 5.15, 5.20, and 5.41 days last month. Returns from 130 collieries, employing 66,059 men and boys, show an average of 5.53 days worked, as against 5.36 days in July. There are 263 (or 0.43 per cent.) union miners unemployed through bad trade, as against 347 (or 0.57 per cent.) last month, exclusive of 447 from other causes. Colliery deputies, engine and firemen have less than 1 per cent. unemployed. Coke workers continue busy.

Metal Mining.—At the several lead and iron ore mines, especially the latter, employment has been good.

Quarrying.—Work at the quarries in Gateshead and district continues fairly good. Employment in lime quarries at Stanhope and Frosterly has been less regular. At Blyth and Weardale stone and whinstone workers have had full employment.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—On the Tyne.—In the lower reaches

of the river repair yards and shops are fairly brisk. Platers and riveters continue in good demand. The ordnance works maintain steady activity. Electrical, locomotive, and engine shops are busy. Returns from branches of these trades with a membership of 12,545 show 296 unemployed (or 2.3 per cent.) as against 249 (or 2.0 per cent.) in July. *On the Wear.*—Shipwrights are all employed. Forges have worked full time. Double shifts still prevail in engine and boiler shops. Of the 4,719 union members of these trades 38 (or 0.8 per cent.) are idle, as against 17 (or 0.4 per cent.) in July. Shipwrights and joiners are all in work. Of the 379 drillers and holecutters on the Wear 2.6 per cent. are off work. On the Tyne and at Blyth none are idle. On both rivers there are a few unemployed ironmoulders and brassfinishers. Steelplate and angle mills at Consett and Newburn have worked 5 shifts; iron-mills 4 days per week. At Spennymoor mills have been idle owing to a dispute. Chainmakers are fairly employed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Trimmers and teamers report a slight falling off in shipments during the last two weeks of the month. The demand for sailors and firemen has been moderate. Employment of quayside and riverworkers upon the whole is reported as good. Sailmakers continue slack on the north side of the Tyne, busy on the south-side, and fairly well employed on the Wear.

Building Trades.—Of the 681 union plumbers (house and ship) on the Tyne, 32 (or 4.6 per cent.) are out of work; masons on both rivers are busy. Other classes of workmen are fully employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers are quiet on the Tyne, well employed at Sunderland; bookbinders continue fairly employed. Three paper mills have worked full time; five others a little over half time.

Woodworking Trades.—All branches are busy, except coopers. Of the 864 union members of these trades, 10 (or 1.1 per cent.) are unemployed.

Other Metal, Glass, and Chemical Trades.—Copper, cement, and whitelead works have been fully employed. The "black ash" department in one or two chemical factories has been idle a few days for want of coal. Pressed glass makers continue slack; bottle-makers fairly employed. Of the 959 members of these trades, 77 (or 8.0 per cent.) are off work.

Fishing.—Trawl and line fishing have been fairly good. The catches of herring have improved, although below the average for August, while prices have been lower than those prevailing last season.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners report employment as fairly good, the number of days worked by 20 mines reported on averaging 5.94 days per week during the four weeks ending August 20th, as compared with 5.63 days per week during the four weeks ending August 21st, 1897.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment has been good generally at finished ironworks, steelworks, blast-furnaces, foundries, and bridge works.

Engineering.—The engineers, ironfounders, and pattern-makers report employment as good throughout the district. Branches with 3,570 members have 16 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 15 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Shipbuilding.—All the yards are reported as busy. Shipwrights and shipjoiners report employment as good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good at both ports; dock labour has been moderate at Middlesbrough, fair at the Hartlepoons; riverside labour good at Eston and Middlesbrough; quieter at Stockton.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with carpenters and joiners and bricklayers, moderate with plumbers, quieter with painters.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as fair at Darlington and Middlesbrough, good at Stockton, and moderate at the Hartlepoons; cabinet-makers, and mill-sawyers and machinemen as good; tailors as moderate.—*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended August 20th at pits from which returns have been received was 5.62 per week, as compared with 5.21 in August, 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 5,612, an increase of 121, as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended August 20th at the 48 mines from

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE.

which returns have been received was 5.88 per week, as compared with 5.93 in August, 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 6,222, as compared with 6,331 in the corresponding period of last year.

Pig-iron Manufacture.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that at the works covered by the returns the number of furnaces in blast at the end of August was 47, the same number as at the end of July, and 4 more than in August, 1897. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 3,668, a decrease of 14, as compared with July, but an increase of 219, as compared with a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—In Oldham and the surrounding districts employment is moderate. Disputes are pending at two mills, and some others are closed through breakdowns and alterations, but the remainder are working full time. The spinners in Rochdale, Stalybridge, Stockport, Ashton, and Dukinfield report employment as good, and in Mossley as moderate. Twiners report employment as slack; ring-frame spinners and throstle frame tenters as good. Cardroom workers report employment as moderate, reellers as bad, and winders as moderate. *Weaving.*—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as slack in velvets, bad in fustians, and moderate in calicoes. Beam and sectional and ball warpers report employment as fair.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—Employment is still unsatisfactory in the woolen trade in Stockport, Milnrow, and Rochdale districts. Silk dressers report employment as slack.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate, with upwards of 200 members still unemployed, on account of the late dispute. Plate and machine moulders, pattern-makers, brassfounders, ironfounders, and boiler-makers report employment as good; irongrinders, tinplate workers, gas-meter makers, and toolmakers as moderate. Employment is slack in the cycle departments.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Coal Mining.—The miners in Oldham, Chadderton, Royton, and Crompton districts report employment as fair, five days per week being worked on the average. In Ashton district employment is reported as slack, with three days work per week.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—In Bolton and immediate district employment is reported as steady on the whole; in Chorley and Bury as unchanged; in Wigan and Hindley as fairly good. Cardroom operatives in Bolton, Farnworth, Walkden, Chorley, and Bury are moderately well employed; in Wigan and district employment is fairly good. *Weaving.*—Employment in Bolton on white goods is fairly busy; on coloured cloth goods not at all active. In Bury employment is more or less dislocated owing to the fustian-workers' dispute. In Chorley it is slightly better on calico, and still depressed on coloured goods.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers continues good, though with a slight diminution of overtime. Iron machine-making firms in Bolton and Bury are fairly active in most departments. Branches of engineers with 2,640 members had 98 (or 4.1 per cent.) unemployed. In Chorley and Wigan employment is fairly regular.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good in Bolton, slightly improved in Bury and Wigan, and still slack in Chorley.

Coal Mining.—In Bolton, Darcy Lever, Little Lever and Ratcliffe activity is reported at the larger collieries, colliers working on an average 5.4 days per week. In Wigan, Westthoughton, Hindley and Ince colliers are fairly well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment continues fairly good in the Blackburn, Burnley, and Preston districts; in Nelson and Colne the improvement reported last month is maintained; in Darwen the number of looms stopped is 652, the remainder are on full time. The hardware trade weavers throughout the district are on full time. Employment in the coloured goods trade is reported as showing a further improvement. Warp dressers are moderately well employed. Twisters and drawers, and winders and beamers continue fully employed. *Spinning.*—Employment with spinners in Blackburn, Preston, Darwen, and Accrington is fairly good; in Burnley slack. Cardroom-workers generally are reported as fully employed. Branches of twisters and drawers, spinners, and warp-dressers with 3,994 members, have 151 (or 3.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 171 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Building Trades.—Painters report a slight falling off. Plumbers continue slack. Masons, joiners and wallers are fairly employed.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades continues good, some branches working overtime. Fitters continue brisk. Ironfounders in Todmorden and Blackburn are well employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners in Townley report employment as moderate; in Accrington as fair. In Burnley 170 men are working 3 days per week, the rest being on full time. Stone-quarrymen are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with letterpress printers, and calico printers and dyers, is only moderate; with tailors fair; with boot, shoe, and slipper-makers good; with cabinet-makers quiet in Colne and Nelson, moderate in Burnley; with brickmakers brisk. *W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,362 members have 715 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 674 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Ironfounders are busy; brassfounders and machine workers report employment as good; boiler-makers, engineers, smiths and strikers, and sheet metal braziers as moderate. At Northwich boiler-makers and smiths and strikers are moderately well employed; engineers are slack. In Stockport the iron trades are fairly busy. In Warrington wire-drawers and file-smiths are moderately well employed; wire-weavers are busy; other branches of the metal trades are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—In Manchester employment is good with bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers, stonemasons and painters; moderate with carpenters, plasterers, and plumbers. Employment in Stockport, Warrington, and Macclesfield is fair.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Coachmakers in both the private and railway trade in Manchester are busy, in Warrington moderately so; cabinet-makers throughout the district report employment as fair; French polishers are busy, upholsterers quiet, coopers fully employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in Manchester report a falling off in employment; in Stockport and Warrington they are fairly busy; lithographic printers report employment as moderate; pattern-card makers as fair; lithographic artists and bookbinders as bad.

Textile Trades.—Cotton-spinners in Manchester and Stockport report employment as moderate. In Macclesfield cotton-workers in general are more fully employed; silk workers report no change; fustian cutters are a little busier. Bleachers and finishers report employment as moderate; dressers, dyers and finishers as slack in the velvet trade, moderate in heavy goods.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is bad in the tailoring trade, slack in the boot and shoe trade. In the hat trade employment in ladies' felts is good and in men's felts slack. Ready-made mantle-makers, shirtmakers and waterproof garment-makers are busy; cap-makers moderately so. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment is slack.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron ship-builders continue fairly well employed. The pattern-makers, turners, smiths, ironfounders, brassfounders, iron and steel dressers, drillers, and hole cutters, shipwrights, and hammermen report employment as good; fitters and whitesmiths as moderate; ship joiners as quiet; sailmakers as dull. Branches with 4,849 members have 298 (or 6.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 317 (or 6.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, french-polishers, mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists report employment as fairly good; coachmakers as moderate; coopers as still moderate.

Transport Trades.—Seamen, firemen, and dock labourers report employment as fair; Mersey flatmen as good; quay and railway carters as rather quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as dull; bookbinders as slack; stereotypers as still fair.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as moderate; the ready-made branches as good; the boot and shoe makers as rather quiet.

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as fair; joiners as moderate. Other branches are fully employed.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report an average of five days per week. Quarrymen are fully employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle-makers report employment as rather dull; chemical workers as still moderate. Sheet glass-flatteners and decorative glass-workers are fully employed.

C. Rouse.

A report from *Winsford* states that employment in the salt trade has continued dull. It is moderate with ironmoulders at Winsford, and continues normal in the chemical trade at Middlewich. In both towns employment in the building trades is good, in the fustian cutting trade dull.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in Hull is good with engineers, machine-workers, brassfounders and finishers, ironfounders, pattern-makers, smiths and strikers, and farriers; fair with shipwrights and drillers and hole-cutters; moderate with boiler-makers and sailmakers. Engineers, boiler-makers and smiths at Grimsby and Goole report employment as fair; engineers at Doncaster as moderate; shipwrights at Beverley and Selby as good; iron and steel shipbuilders at Beverley, Grimsby and New Holland, and Selby as good.

Building Trades.—Masons and plumbers report employment as moderate. Other branches as good.

Transport Trades.—Employment for seamen and marine firemen is reported as good. Dock labour at Hull, Grimsby, and Goole has been fairly well employed in most departments. The railway workers report employment as good.

Fishing Industry.—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull and Grimsby report employment as fair; the trawl fishermen as moderate; fish market and curing house workers as fair.

Seed-crushing, Paint, and Colour Trades.—Most of the seed-crushing mills are stopped or only working short time. Employment in the paint and colour works is reported as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as good at Doncaster; moderate at Hull; the bookbinders as fair; the lithographic printers as moderate.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as good; the sawmillers as fair; the coopers, brush-makers, coachbuilders and lathrenders as moderate.

Leather Trades.—The tanners, leather belt and lace makers report employment as fair; the leather dressers and curriers as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners report employment as good; the gasworkers and general labourers as moderate; the tailors at Doncaster as moderate.—W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,318 members have 243 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 165 (or 2.0 per cent.) of their membership at the end of July.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is good with engineers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, pattern-makers, steelworkers, machine-workers, stovegrate-workers, and brassworkers; improving with spindle and flyer makers. At Stanningley ironfounders are busy in the steam-crane department; quiet in bridge-building shops.

Clothing Trades.—In the ready-made tailoring industry employment has been quiet, but improving. At the boot and shoe factories employment has improved; bespoke tailors and slipper-makers are quiet.

Textile Trades.—In the woollen cloth mills in Leeds employment continues only moderate. Blanket raisers are fairly employed; linen workers on full time; willeys and fettlers slack. One of the principal firms in the flax trade has stopped that branch of their business during the month. Cloth and wool dyers are only moderately employed, and stuff dyers slack. At Wakefield employment in the mills is fairly good.

Building Trades.—Employment in Leeds is good. At Harrogate painters are slack, and at Morley stonemasons are not so busy.

Mining.—Employment at the pits in the Leeds, Pontefract, and Wakefield districts has been good, full time generally being worked.

Leather Trades.—At the tanneries in Leeds employment continues to show a slight improvement. Curriers and leather shavers also report improvement in some departments. Saddlers and harness-makers are slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers is fair, with lithographers moderate; with bookbinders and machine rulers and paper mill workers slack.

Glass Trades.—Employment in the glass bottle trade has been fair at Leeds, and improving at Castleford. At Wakefield employment continues good. Flint glass makers are fairly employed.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers and brickmakers are busy; coach-makers moderately employed; mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists fairly employed.—O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in the worsted weaving trade in Bradford and district does not show much improvement. In wool-combing there is a slight improvement. In the Worth Valley employment is unchanged. In Halifax it shows a slight improvement. In Huddersfield it continues fairly good.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in the woollen trade in and around Huddersfield shows no change, and a little overtime continues in one or two places in the Colne Valley. In the heavy woollen trade in Dewsbury and Batley employment is again reported as slightly better.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Brighouse is reported as slightly improved, but at Manningham and Halifax it is about the same. In the cotton trade at Brighouse it improved slightly towards the end of the month. In the carpet trade employment is unchanged.

Metal Trades.—Branches of engineers and ironfounders with 2,666 members have 67 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 61 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. Employment is fair with engineers, good with ironfounders. Wireworkers at Brighouse are busy; at Halifax and Lindley moderately employed.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—The dyers report employment as quiet at Bradford; moderate at Brighouse; bad at Huddersfield. The tailors are still quiet. The printers report no change.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Branches of these trades with 5,656 members have 39 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 45 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. The engineers, ironfounders, Siemens steel smelters, spring smiths and strikers, stovegrate workers, iron rollers and iron and steel dressers report employment as good, kitchen range and hot water fitters and railway springmakers as fair; Bessemer steelworkers and wireworkers as quiet. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders are well employed. At Parkgate and Rotherham ironworkers are badly employed, but steelworkers are busy. In the stove grate trade and bath trade employment remains good.

Cutlery and Tools.—Joiners' toolmakers and edge tool forgers report employment as good; edge tool grinders and engineers' tool-makers as fair; handle and scale cutters, sawmakers, table blade forgers and grinders as quiet; pen and pocket blade forgers and grinders as improved. File forgers (hand) are fairly well employed, and file hardeners report an improvement. Razor forgers, grinders and hafters, and haft and scale pressers are slack.

Other Metal Trades.—Hollow-ware finishers and silver and metal stampers report employment as good; buffers and silversmiths as fair; platers and gilders, spoon and fork filers, Britannia metal-smiths, and general brassworkers as moderate. At Rotherham, Mexbro' and Masbro' brassworkers are not so well employed.

Coal Mining.—At 56 pits an average of 5.4 days per week was worked in August. The pit lads' dispute has been settled. Colliery surfacemen report employment as fair.

Building Trades.—At Barnsley employment is moderate. Throughout the rest of the district it is good.

Glass Trades.—At Barnsley and Mexbro' bottle-makers and flint glass workers are busy. At Rotherham flint glass workers are busy, bottle-makers only moderately employed.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailoring is quiet. Operatives in ready-made clothing are only moderately employed. At Barnsley the boot and shoe trade remains good.

Linen Trade.—Employment continues moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as fair.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Coachmakers are fairly busy; railway carriage and wagon builders quiet. Cabinet-makers in Sheffield report employment as good; at Barnsley as slack. Box and bobbin-makers at Barnsley are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with saddlers and harness-makers, paper-makers, down quilt-makers, and brick-makers is good; potters and chemical workers are only moderately employed.

S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,612 members have 118 (or 1.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 99 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Employment continues good at the locomotive works, and in bridge, girder, and boiler yards, and with ironfounders, brassmoulders and finishers, stove grate

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

workers, wire drawers, merchant iron rollers, makers of railway material, iron and steel dressers, farriers, blastfurnacemen and pipe-moulders. Lace machine builders in Long Eaton report employment as dull; cycle-workers in Long Eaton and Draycott as slack.

Coal Mining.—At collieries employing upwards of 28,000 men an average of nearly 5 days per week has been worked, as compared with 5 days in July.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen continue fairly well employed, and chert quarrymen busy. A new chert quarry has been opened.

Building Trades.—Employment generally remains fair.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long Eaton, and with carriage builders in private shops. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as improving.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull in Derby, good in Chesterfield; tailors in Derby and Chesterfield as moderate. Dress and mantle makers are fairly well employed, wholesale garment-makers well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues good with cotton weavers and spinners, and has slightly improved with hosiery workers; with lace workers it is still bad. Calico printers and engravers report employment as fair generally; surgical bandage-makers as good; elastic web-weavers as still bad; dyers and bleachers as fairly good.

Printing Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate in all branches.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—There has been a further decline in employment. In the plain net branch a number are unemployed. The curtain branch, levers branch, warp lace branch, warpers, readers and correctors, and auxiliary laceworkers report employment as bad; designers and draughtsmen as moderate; female lace and card punchers and bleachers and dyers as slack. Finishers at Basford and Bulwell are working short time.

Hosiery Trade.—Framework-knitters report many unemployed. The circular hosiery branch is quiet; the handframe branch busy; the rib top branch fairly well employed. At Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield the framework-knitters are well employed, the handframe branch busy on best goods. At Hucknall Torkard Shetland shawl-workers report a decline. Hosiery-trimmers at Bulwell and Basford are only moderately employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—With engineers employment is moderate; with ironfounders, brassworkers, brassfounders, bobbin and carriage makers, carriage straighteners, wheelwrights, smiths, and farriers it is good; with lace and hosiery machine builders it is rather quiet; with cycle workers bad, numbers being unemployed. At Grantham boiler-makers are fairly well employed; tool machinists busy. Engineers and machinists at Newark are quiet; at Mansfield and Grantham regularly employed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 36 pits employing 17,673 work-people, show an average of slightly under 4½ days per week, an improvement on the month of July. Employment is slack in South Notts, but improving in the Leen Valley; and full time is general in North Notts.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and labourers are now fairly well employed; masons report employment as improved; carpenters and joiners as dull; painters as quiet for the time of year; plumbers as slack; slaters and tilers are busy. All branches are busy at Newark, Mansfield, Grantham, Worksop, Netherfield, Bulwell, Beeston, and outside districts.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Upholsterers are well employed; coachmakers busy at Newark; moderately employed at Nottingham. Boxmakers and cabinet-makers report employment as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers, litho artists, and printers' labourers report employment as moderate; bookbinders as fairly good. Letterpress printers at Retford are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as good at Mansfield; slack at Nottingham; fair at Hucknall Torkard. Bespoke tailors are rather better employed.

Miscellaneous.—Bakers and confectioners report employment as improving; female cigar-makers as fair; general labourers and gasworkers are better employed.—W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—At Leicester, Northampton, Kettering, Higham, and Rushden employment in the boot and shoe trade continues irregular, the majority of the operatives still working short

time. At Raunds, Rothwell, Daventry, and Finedon there is a slight improvement, workpeople engaged on army contracts being better employed.

Other Clothing Trades.—In the wholesale tailoring trade employment is fairly regular. It is slack with bespoke tailors at Leicester and Northampton. Corset makers, milliners, and dress-makers are not so fully employed. Work is slack in all branches of the hatting trade, many workpeople being on short time.

Hosiery and Wool-spinning Trades.—Except that a little improvement is reported in the hose branch, workpeople are only moderately employed at Leicester. Work is slack at Loughborough, especially in the half-hose and pant branches. Dyers and scourers are busier. Trimmers are also better employed.

Elastic Web Trade.—With braid hands work is fairly regular. It is slack with weavers in the belting and shoe-webbing departments of the trade.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Employment is reported good with engine builders, ironfounders and moulders at Leicester, Northampton and Rugby. Turners and winders are working overtime at Loughborough. It is moderate with boiler makers, reed-makers, and shoe machinery builders. Cycle makers are not so fully employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment has improved, especially on steam coal. Stone quarrymen, and iron and limestone workers are fully employed.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Letterpress printers report employment as quieter; lithographic printers as slack; bookbinders as fairly good.

Building Trades.—Employment is a little less brisk in some branches.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment has improved in the cabinet and upholstering trades. It continues good with coachmakers, tram, road car, and railway wagon builders.

Leather Trades.—At Leicester and Northampton leather curriers are slack. At Market Harborough tanners are in regular work.

Miscellaneous.—Employment has improved with cigar-makers, brushmakers and gas stokers. It continues good with brickmakers, basket-makers, bakers and confectioners and railway workers.

T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment improved slightly in several branches towards the close of the month. Hollow-ware pressers have 2½ per cent. out of employment, and a majority on short time. Sanitary pressers continue fairly busy; flat pressers report an improvement; printers and transferers, women gilders and decorators, throwers and handlers in the general trade, ovenmen, kilnmen and dippers report employment as scarce; designers, modellers and mouldmakers report an improvement. All branches in the electrical department are busy; encaustic tilemakers are working full time; women stilt and spur makers average three days per week.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Puddlers and blastfurnacemen continue busy. Rollers are moderately so.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, boiler-makers and moulders in the Potteries and at Crewe and Stafford are busy, overtime being generally worked. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley are fully employed. Copper-workers at Oakamoor and Froghall are busy in all branches. Brassfinishers and moulders at Longport and Milton are working overtime. Anchor and chain makers at Ford Green report an improvement.

Coal Mining.—At Talk-o-th'-Hill and district full time is general. In the Potteries coal and ironstone workers are fairly busy. At Cheadle the improvement has been well maintained.

Textile Trades.—At Leek trimming weavers have 8 per cent. on short time; silk-pickers are busy and working overtime; winders, doublers, throwsters, dyers, and braidmakers are well employed; silk twistlers report a falling off. At Congleton trimming weavers report employment as scarce, with 1.4 per cent. out of work; silk-dressers are fairly employed; towel-weavers keep busy; fustian cutters report a further decline. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives are working full time.

Clothing Trades.—In the Potteries and at Crewe, tailors report a decline. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone report a further falling off. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne continue busy.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good throughout the district.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND, E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a further decline. At Stafford employment continues fairly good. Lithographic artists and printers are busy. Bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Stone quarrymen at Hollington and Alton are busy. Bakers are moderately employed. Brushmakers are fairly employed. Basket-makers are busy on potters' work. Railway servants are fully employed. Gas stokers report an improvement. I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is generally better in the steel and iron bar trades, and good with steel smelters. In the sheet trade employment is not so good. In Shropshire the mills and forges are well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment with engineers, moulders, boiler, girder and tank makers is good. Cycle-makers are slack. The malleable iron-workers at Walsall are quiet for the most part. At Coalbrookdale and Madeley employment is reported as fairly good.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, axles, springs, coach-ironwork, wrought ironwork, builders' ironmongery, spring traps, edge tools, plantation hoes, and black castings; it is quiet with stampers and piercers, brassworkers, galvanisers, grinders, lock and key makers, and with makers of tips, cut nails, protectors, malleable nails, gunlocks, and wrought nails. The hollow-ware, iron plate, spectacle frame and steel toy makers are working on the average 4 days per week. In Dudley and district the anvil and vice makers are working short time; anchor-smiths are quiet; chain-makers and strikers are reported as brisk.

Coal Mining.—On Cannock Chase employment in the steam coal seams is fairly good; in house coal seams bad. The Oldbury and Tipton districts average $4\frac{1}{2}$ days per week; the Old Hill districts 5 days. In Tamworth and Shropshire the pits are working full time.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass makers, cutters, and bevellers report employment as quieter. The glass bottle makers at Brierley Hill are working only 3 days per week.

Leather Trades.—The harness and gig-saddlers at Walsall report employment as falling off towards the end of the month; brown saddlers as bad; chain, buckle, cart gear, case, and hame makers as fair.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster carpet weavers are quiet, and spinners at some firms are working short time. The woolstaplers report an improvement. At Bridgnorth all hands are steadily employed. The Tamworth Tape Mills are working full time.

Clothing Trades.—Ready-made and bespoke tailors report a considerable falling off. Boot and shoe makers are quiet.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,342 members have 410 (or 19 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 378 (or 18 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. These figures do not include gunmakers.

Engineering.—Employment in the engineering trade is only moderate; toolmakers and machinists are moderately employed; smiths and strikers fully employed; pattern-makers report employment as fair, with no unemployed. In Coventry and West Bromwich employment continues good; in Redditch only moderate. In the Birmingham, Coventry, and Redditch cycle trade men are being discharged, and short time is general.

Brass and Copper Trades.—The brassworkers continue fully employed, with overtime in the chandelier departments. Tubemakers report employment as fair; metal-makers and metal rollers as busy; fender and firebrass-makers as quiet.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electroplaters.—Jewellers return employment as a little brisker; electroplaters as moderate; bevellers and silverers as fair.

Other Metal Trades.—Bedstead-makers report employment as fair, with some short time; ironfounders as moderate, with some overtime; file cutters (hand) as moderate; ironplate workers as fair; tinplate workers as busier; steel and iron rivetted, and welded tube makers, wrought iron and steel hinge makers, cut nail makers and machine rivet makers as good; gunmakers and wire nailmakers as quiet. Cycle tubemakers continue slack. In Coventry employment in the watch trade is fair; in Redditch it is good in the needle trade, quiet in the fish hook trade; at West Bromwich it is fair in the iron, hollow-ware, and spring trades.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good in all branches throughout the district.

Glass Trades.—Employment is good with the flint glass makers, and satisfactory with the flint glass cutters. In West Bromwich employment is good.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—The coachmakers, cabinet-makers, millsawyers, and woodworking machinists, and employees in the railway and wagon shops report employment as good; coopers as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as bad; boot and shoe makers as quiet.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as moderate in Birmingham, quiet in West Bromwich; the brushmakers, the bakers and confectioners, and the gasworkers and gasfitters as quiet; the saddlers and harness-makers and the brick-makers as good. In Coventry the ribbon weavers continue quiet. In Redditch fancy case makers are fairly employed.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.**Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

Clothing Trades.—In the boot and shoe trade a slight improvement has taken place with the turn shoe hands. In other branches many are unemployed or on short time. Ready-made tailors at Cambridge are not busy; in other parts of the district employment is still fair. The ready-made tailoring factories are running full time.

Building Trades.—At Yarmouth painters report a falling off. In all other branches employment is good throughout the district.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Shipwrights and boatbuilders are well employed at Lowestoft, and shipwrights at Yarmouth fairly well employed. Engineers and boiler-makers are well employed throughout the district; electrical engineers at Norwich are busy.

Textile Trades.—The mat and matting weavers at Diss are fairly well employed; silk and crape factories at Yarmouth and Norwich are on full time.

Fishing Industry.—Trawl fishing at Lowestoft and Yarmouth has been moderate; the North Sea fishing fair. At Lynn the fishing industry generally is fair.

Miscellaneous.—Horticultural builders at Norwich are busy. Navvies and general labourers are well employed in most parts of the district. Dock, wharf, and riverside labourers are well employed at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Lynn. Brushmakers and corset-makers are not busy. Letterpress printers report employment as fair.—G. Cleverly.

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as good at Beccles, Bury St. Edmunds, Colchester, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; fair at Chelmsford; moderate in the Ipswich district. Boiler-makers and shipwrights report employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—In the boot and shoe trade at Ipswich employment is dull. At Colchester short time prevails. In wholesale tailoring employment is reported as good at Ipswich; dull at Colchester. Corset-makers are only moderately employed at Ipswich and Sudbury.

Textile Trades.—The mat weavers report employment as good at Lavenham and Long Melford; moderate at Sudbury; fair at Glemsford; horsehair weavers as good at Lavenham; furniture silk weavers as fairly good at Braintree. The silk weavers at Sudbury are moderately employed. In the Halstead district employment in the silk trade is good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as dull at Ipswich, fair at Colchester and Bury St. Edmunds, slack at Beccles. Lithographers are well employed, bookbinders moderately so.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour has improved at the port of Ipswich. Employment is good with brickmakers, general labourers, and gasworkers.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol and District.**

General.—Branches of societies with 7,698 members have 89 (or 12 per cent.) unemployed, as against 108 (or 14 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The engineers, coppersmiths, brassworkers, toolmakers and machinists, and ironfounders report employment as good. Short time continues at the Swindon railway works. Shipwrights in Bristol are slack.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good. The Forest of Dean colliers received an advance of two and a half per cent. in wages, commencing with the last week in August.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—S.W. COUNTIES; WALES AND SCOTLAND.

Textile Trades.—Employment in Trowbridge and district continues to improve, and is now good in all branches, except the heavy woollen. At Twerton-on-Avon weavers are making about five days per week, the other hands full time. At Wellington the weavers are busy, but the spinners are losing half a day a week.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as quiet; the stay and corset makers as moderate; the hatters as dull; the wholesale garment makers report employment in the home trade as improving, in the export trade as good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment continues steady with lithographic printers and bookbinders. The letterpress printers report an increase in the number unemployed at Bath and Bristol. At Gloucester and Hereford employment is good.

Glass Trades.—The glass bevellers and cutters report employment as good; the glass bottle-makers as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The coopers report employment as dull; the latherers as moderate; the saddle and harness makers as quiet; the upholsterers as slack. Dock labourers in Bristol have had steady work.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—The improvement in the tin mining continues, especially in the western portion of the district. In the limestone and granite quarries employment is good; in the slate quarries quiet; among the china clay workers moderate.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers, boiler-makers, and iron shipbuilders continue moderately employed; the ironfounders and shipwrights report employment as good; brass and tin plate-workers are well employed. Branches with 2,199 members have 15 or 07 unemployed, as compared with 23 or 10 per cent. of their membership at the end of July.

Building Trades.—In Torquay employment is somewhat unsettled by the plasterers' dispute, but in other towns of the district it is generally good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Ready-made tailors continue moderately employed, but the bespoke branch is quiet. Boot and shoe makers are fairly employed. In lace making employment is falling off.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printing has been bad, especially in the early part of the month; lithographic printing continues fair; bookbinders and paper-rulers are quiet.

Dock and Quayside Labour.—Employment was slack in the early part of month, but fairly busy later.

Fishing Industry.—Trawlers' catches have been light; hook and line boats good. Mackerel fishing has been bad, but pilchards are fairly plentiful. At Brixham the fishing has been worse than at Plymouth and Newlyn. Prices have ruled low.

Miscellaneous.—General labourers and excavators and brick and tile makers are well employed. In the market and fruit gardens work has been comparatively quiet.—W. Hedge.

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment continues brisk in the North Wales coal-field. It is also good at the lead and blende mines.

Quarrying.—Employment continues good in slate, granite sett, freestone, limestone, and roadstone quarries.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate at Oswestry, fair at Ruabon, brisk at Cefn and Carnarvon; ironfounders, iron and steel-workers, and coach and wagon-makers as good.

Building Trades.—The plasterers at Llandudno report employment as slack. In other towns employment generally is fair.

Brick and Terra-Cotta Industry.—The workmen in the terra-cotta industry are reported to be fully employed. Some brick works at Rhydymun which have been stopped have resumed work.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment in the tweed and flannel industries of Montgomeryshire shows no improvement. Tailors are slack at Wrexham and Oswestry; well employed at Rhyl. G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—The non-associated collieries have been worked to the fullest capacity. Up to the end of August the associated pits were still idle. (See also p. 267.)

Iron and Steel Trades.—Works at Briton Ferry, Neath, Landore, and Morriston in the Western district, and Rogerstone, in Monmouthshire, have been going regularly, but the Blaenavon, Dowlais, Cyfartha, Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, and the Cardiff Dowlais Works have been idle, with most of the mechanics and general labourers on short time.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Few yards average more than half time. In the inland and colliery districts employment has fallen off. Branches of engineers and iron moulders, with 2,623 members, have 228 (or 87 per cent.) unemployed, as against 281 (or 105 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. The boiler-makers had 45 per cent., and the shipwrights 85 per cent. unemployed. All classes of labourers and helpers are equally affected.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The ports of Swansea, Llanelly, Briton Ferry, and Port Talbot have had a fairly good month in coal and other shipments, with a fair average of imports; but the coal shipments at Cardiff, Barry, Penarth and Newport have been very small. The iron ore, pitwood and corn imports have been below the average, and the timber trade quiet. The shipment of crews has also been quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues quiet. Branches of carpenters and joiners with 1,350 members have 44 (or 33 per cent.) unemployed, as against 35 (or 26 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the fuel trade is reported as good at Swansea, dull at all other ports. In the metallurgical and chemical trades employment is very quiet. Wagon builders and lifters are still less brisk. Compositors and bookbinders have had a dull month.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.—Employment in this industry continued to be affected by the coal trade dispute throughout the month. The number of mills at work at the end of August was 270, giving employment to 14,428 workpeople, as compared with 268 mills employing 13,495 persons at the end of July, and 289 mills employing 15,243 persons at the end of August, 1897. It is reported that the emigration of tinplate workers to the United States continues.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches of societies with 16,032 members have 161 (or 10 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 153 (or 09 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the coal industry continues good, the miners generally continue to work full time.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 37 pits employing 3,742 workpeople (as compared with 3,879 in August, 1897) show that 2,772 were employed in pits at which full time was worked during the four weeks ended August 20th, and that 970 were at pits which worked 20 and under 24 days.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,306 members have 31 (or 13 per cent.) idle as against 29 (or 12 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. Branches in Falkirk with 3,147 members have 32 (or 10 per cent.) idle, as against 41 (or 14 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in the shipyards in Leith continues to improve.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the woollen industry in Galashiels continues bad with both weavers and spinners. Most of the latter are not working more than half time. In Selkirk both spinners and weavers have been fairly well employed. In Hawick employment has not been so good as in July. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,734 members have only one member unemployed.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,135 members have 18 (or 16 per cent.) idle, as against 7 (or 06 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as good, the dock labourers and coal porters continue well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,302 members have 30 (or 13 per cent.) idle, as compared with 36 (or 16 of their membership) at the end of July.

Miscellaneous.—The saddlers, glassmakers and glasscutters report employment as good; the settmakers as fair; the tailors, bakers, curriers, and shoemakers as quiet.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment has been good during the month. Branches with 12,081 members have 134 (or 11 per cent.) idle, as against 146 (or 12 per cent.) of their membership at the end of July.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in Glasgow and surrounding districts has been good. Branches with 26,931 mem-

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

bers, have 452 (or 17 per cent.) idle, as against 355 (or 13 per cent.) of their membership at the end of July,

Building Trades.—Employment is exceptionally good throughout the west of Scotland.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire the collieries are working 5 days per week. In Lanarkshire the majority of the men have worked 11 days per fortnight.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow employment is good in the cotton and rope spinning trades; dull in the carpet trade.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors are still dull; clothiers' operatives and tailors' machinists and pressers as slackening in the bespoke trade.

Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.—Seamen have been busy; dock labourers at Glasgow and Greenock fully employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as hardly so good; lithographic printers as good.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass cutters and makers, decorative glass-workers, and glass bottle-makers report employment as good.

Miscellaneous.—Labourers, scalebeam-makers, corkcutters, saddlers, gilders, basket-makers, setmakers, and potters are busy.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment is on the whole good in the jute industry, and has improved in the linen trade.

Coal Mining.—Reports from pits employing upwards of 10,000 workpeople show an average of 53 days per week worked during the four weeks ending August 20th.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment is active in all branches of these trades. Branches of societies with 2,383 members report 22 (or 0.9 per cent.) as unemployed.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues brisk in most branches of the building trades.

Fishing Industry.—The herring fishing season at Arbroath and Montrose has proved rather a failure.

Dock and General Labour.—Employment at the docks and jetties has on the whole been good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment continues good in the printing and allied trades. It is quiet in the tailoring and boot and shoe trades.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,447 members have 29 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of July.

Quarrying.—All branches report employment as good, but a number of setmakers are idle on account of a dispute.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The boot and shoe makers (hand-sewn) and mill and factory workers report employment as good.

Fishing.—In August at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats

landed 67,978 cwt., value £32,266, an increase in quantity and value over the previous month.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers, saddlers and combmakers report employment as good; upholsterers as fair.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment in nearly all branches continues good.

Metal Trades.—Employment is good with the ironfounders and boilermakers; fair with the smiths, whitesmiths and gasfitters.

Woodworking Trades.—One society of cabinet makers reports employment as bad, other branches as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring industry was moderate; in one branch of the bootmakers good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Work was fair at the commencement of the month in some branches, but has been slack with the letterpress printers and bookbinders.

Miscellaneous.—Bakers report employment as dull, other provision trades as good; bottle-makers as good; brushmakers as bad.

J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches of societies with 10,267 members have 185 (or 1.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 132 (or 1.2 per cent.) at the end of July.

Linen Trades.—Branches of societies, with a membership of 3,994 have 145 (or 3.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 128 (or 3.2 per cent.) at the end of July.

Building Trades.—Branches of societies with a membership of 3,020 have 73 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 49 (or 1.7 per cent.) at the end of July.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches of societies with 802 members have 31 (or 3.9 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of July.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 934 members have 64 (or 6.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 34 (or 3.7 per cent.) at the end of July.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is quiet with both tailors and boot and shoe operatives, and a number are only partially employed.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with a membership of 1,825 have 60 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 34 (or 1.9 per cent.) at the end of July.

Cork and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment continues steady in all branches of engineering, and is good with boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders.

Building Trades.—Employment is good in Cork, and fair in Limerick, Waterford, and Tralee.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as quiet.

Furnishing and Woodworking.—Employment with cabinet-makers and cork cutters continues dull; in other branches it is fair.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants, tramway employes, and quarry labourers report employment as moderate; coal porters and gas-workers as declined; bakers and confectioners as quiet.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN AUGUST.

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

THE total number of persons reported as killed during August was 292, being 29 more than in July, but 14 less than in August, 1897.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,294,393 persons (according to the latest available figures), 267 persons were killed, and 6,126 reported injured by accidents in August, as compared with 289 killed and 4,333 reported injured in August, 1897.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables 25 persons were reported as killed, and 805 injured, last month, as compared with 17 killed and 424 injured in August of last year.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Summary Table showing Killed and Injured statistics for various industries like Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, Workshops, and Under Factory Act, 1895, etc.

DETAILED TABLE.

Detailed Table showing Killed and Injured statistics categorized by accident type (Railway Service, Mines, Quarries over 20 feet deep, etc.) and location (Underground, Surface, Total).

Table showing Shipping accidents: Killed and Injured by Wreck or Casualty, By other Accidents, and Total.

Table showing Factories and Workshops accidents: Killed and Injured by Males, Females, and Total.

Table showing Factories & Workshops (classified by trades): Killed and Injured by Males, Females, and Total.

Table showing Under Factory Act, 1895, accidents: Killed and Injured by Docks, Wharves and Quays, etc.

Table showing Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894: Killed and Injured by Bridge, Canal, Railway, etc.

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels...

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN AUGUST, 1898.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.)

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during August affected about 188,400 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these workpeople affected was an increase of about 1s. 3½d. per head. About 187,600 received advances averaging 1s. 3½d. per head, and 800 sustained decreases averaging 6½d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were the advances granted to miners in South Wales and in various parts of Scotland.

Decreases.—The principal decreases affected tinsplate-makers in South Wales.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 2,600 workpeople were preceded by disputes, in addition to the Welsh miners, who received 5 per cent. advance. Changes affecting 1,800 workpeople were brought about by arbitration or conciliation. The remaining changes affecting 84,000 were settled by negotiation between the employers and the representatives of the workpeople, &c.

Totals for First Eight Months of 1898.—For the eight months, January to August, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 552,000, compared with 522,000 for the corresponding period of 1897. The net effect of all the changes in the weekly wages of these workpeople is estimated at an increase of about 1s. 11d. per head, as compared with 11½d. in the first eight months of 1897.

NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. § Exclusive of a considerable number of miners employed at "non-associated" collieries in South Wales, who obtained advances during the progress of the recent dispute. Full particulars with regard to these advances have not yet been collected.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN AUGUST—(continued).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

* Exclusive of overtime.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN AUGUST—(continued).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

NOTE.—Since this Table was compiled, information has been received that the result of the ballot in Fife is in favour of accepting the employers' offer of 5 per cent. advance. This affects 10,800 miners, and leaves wages 4 1/2 per cent. above standard of 1888.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES IN AUSTRALASIA.

THE nineteenth annual report of the Actuary for Friendly Societies in Victoria contains a statement of the number of friendly societies, branches and members, and the amount of funds to the credit of such societies for the several colonies of Australasia, at the latest date for which particulars have been supplied.

Table with columns: Colony, Date of Return, Number of Separate Societies, Number of Branches, Number of Members, Amount of Funds, Capital per Member.

The Report also gives the results of the third quinquennial investigation into the financial condition of the Friendly Societies of Victoria effected during 1896, together with a comparison with the results of the first and second valuations.

Table showing the financial position of all the societies at first, second, and third valuations:—

Table with columns: First Valuation, Second Valuation, Third Valuation, Value of Sick and Funeral Claims, Value of Contributions, Net Liability, Capital, Deficiency, Ratio per £ to Liabilities of the—Value of Contributions, Capital, Assets.

There is seen to have been a decrease in the deficiency at the second and third valuations, the assets having increased in comparison with the liabilities, both with regard to the contributions and the capital.

Tables are given in respect to such societies in Victoria as include at least 1,000 members, showing the ratio of assets to liabilities, the "actual" and "expected" rates of duration of sickness per member, and the "actual" and "expected" rates of mortality per 1,000 members.

In the review of the condition and progress of Friendly Societies in Victoria in 1896, a table is given showing a statement of the cases of sickness, the period and sum expended in relief under the rates of sick pay, payable (1) during the first six months, (2) during the second six months and (3) after twelve months; the total at the three rates in every society; and the ratio the whole duration bears to the respective periods.

third rates of sick pay for all societies in 1896 was 48 per cent., 10 per cent., and 42 per cent. respectively. If the returns for Victoria for 1896 be compared with those for 1878, it appears that the number of members of friendly societies has risen from 45,430 to 80,691; the sick and general and medical and management funds have risen from £367,079 at the beginning of 1878 to £1,111,034 at the end of 1896.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN AUGUST, 1898.

THE changes in hours of labour reported in August affected 1,938 workpeople, their working hours being reduced, on the average, nearly 2 hours (1.8) per week. The principal change was the reduction from 54 to 52 hours per week in a printing establishment at Bristol.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Extent of change per week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople affected, Before change, After change, Extent of change per week.

* Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are the result of averaging the hours for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. ‡ NOTE.—In connection with the rise of wages of Letterpress Printers in Plymouth, reported on p. 250 of last GAZETTE, 106 men who had previously been working less than the maximum recognised hours of the district (54 per week), had their hours increased, viz. 56 from 48 to 51, and 50 from 52 or 53 hours to 54. There was no alteration in the recognised maximum hours.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

DURING August, the 13 bureaux furnishing returns, registered 2,509 fresh applications for work, as compared with 2,122 in August, 1897, an increase of 387. Work was found for 1,086 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 842 in August, 1897.

(I.) Work Done in August.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Bureaux, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities.

(II.) Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of August.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Engineering, Metal Trades, etc.), Total Men.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Ser-vants, Dress-makers and Semp-stresses, Others, Total Women and Girls), Grand Total.

* Permanent employment. † Temporary employment. ‡ These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. § Women and Girls are not registered.

PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

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

THE number of persons relieved in the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of August was 323,383. This number corresponds to a rate of 204 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1898.

Compared with July, 1898, a decrease is shown of 339 in the number relieved, the rate per 10,000 remaining about the same. In 9 districts the rate is unchanged; in 13 increases are shown, the largest increases being in the Leicester district (16), Cardiff and Swansea (6), and Belfast (5 per 10,000).

The remaining 13 districts show decreases in the rate, the most marked falling-off being in Galway (of 273 per 10,000), Dublin (9), Stockton and Tees (7), and Paisley and Greenock (6). Compared with August, 1897, the number relieved has increased by 4,542, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 1.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of August, 1898, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with Month ago, A year ago.

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES*, Metropolitan Districts, Total Metropolitan, West Ham.

Table with columns: Other Districts, Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Leicester District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea, Total "Other Districts".

Table with columns: SCOTLAND*, Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock District, Edinburgh & Leith District, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie, Total for the above Scottish Districts.

Table with columns: IRELAND, Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, Galway District, Total for the above Irish Districts.

Table with columns: Total for above 35 districts in August, 1898.

* 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.

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information, obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.)

Number and Magnitude.—Forty-four fresh disputes were reported as beginning in August, 1898, compared with 33 in July, and 60 in August, 1897.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 9 disputes took place, involving 442 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 7 disputes, involving 3,181 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 9 disputes, involving 1,216 workpeople; textile trades, 13 disputes, involving 4,371 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 6 disputes, involving 1,247 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 44 new disputes, 30 were chiefly on wages questions, 2 on the matter of working hours, 6 on questions of working arrangements, and 6 arose from other causes.

Results.—Thirty-three new disputes, involving 8,206 workpeople, and 20 old disputes, involving 106,833 workpeople, were reported as settled. The most important old dispute recently settled is that affecting 100,000 Welsh coal miners.

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in August owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 2,594,000, compared with 2,527,000 in July, and 1,406,000 in August, 1897.

Total Disputes for First Eight Months of 1898.—For the eight completed months of 1898 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 439 disputes which commenced in those months was 198,725, as compared with 177,346, in the 668 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1897.

Table with 7 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST, 1898.

Table for Building Trades (342 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Mining and Quarrying (3,181 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (1,216 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected by dispute, but not themselves on strike.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Table with 7 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST, 1898—continued.

Table for Textile Trades (4,371 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades (1,217 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE AUGUST, 1898, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for Building Trades with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Mining and Quarrying with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Metal Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected by dispute, but not themselves on strike.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued.)

Table with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE AUGUST, 1898, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH—(continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Table with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE AUGUST, 1898, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 25 disputes which have been previously reported, were still unsettled at the end of August. The number of workpeople then involved was about 5,100. The month in which each dispute commenced is stated in brackets.

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

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Particulars Clause (Wholesale Tailoring).—By an Order* of the Home Secretary, dated August 6th, 1898, the provisions of Section 40 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, have been applied, with modifications, to factories and workshops in which wholesale tailoring is carried on.

Dangerous Trades.—The Home Secretary, by an Order† dated August 3rd, 1898, has declared that the process of dusting colours on adhesive surfaces, for the purpose of making transfers for use in the manufacture or decoration of earthenware and china, is a process dangerous or injurious to health within the meaning of Section 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891.

H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.—New Addresses.—Mr. W. F. Ireland, 14, Finsbury-circus, E.C. Mr. W. Buchan, 121, West Regent-street, Glasgow. Mr. W. Lauder, 51, South John-street, Liverpool. Mr. J. T. Ashton, 10, Cotton-street, Oldham. Mr. A. G. H. Thatcher, 14, Finsbury-circus, E.C. Mr. J. Ryan, 33, Princess-street, Manchester. Mr. J. H. Parker, 12, Dawson-street, Dublin.

New Appointment.—Miss Emily Sadler, of 1, Phene-street, Cheyne Walk, S.W., has been appointed Female Inspector of Factories and Workshops.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during August show a large increase as compared with August 1897, chiefly owing to increased imports of American cotton. As compared with August 1896, there is a smaller increase.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 549, price 3d. Eyre and Spottiswoode. † Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 571. Price 3d. Eyre and Spottiswoode.

The following are the figures for the different periods:—

Table showing Imports, Forwards from Ports to Inland Towns, and Exports in Bales for August 1898, 1897, and 1896.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom, during the four weeks ended September 4th, amounted to £7,145,765, an increase of £153,395 (or 2.2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1897.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during August was £863,429, an increase of £81,548 compared with a year ago.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during August numbered 374, being 52 more than in August, 1897, 65 more than in August, 1896, and 12 more than in August, 1895.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead and Phosphorus poisoning and Anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during August, classified by industries [M.—Males, F.—Females]:—

Table with columns for Disease and Industry, Adults (M, F), Young Persons (M, F), Children (M, F), Total (M, F), and Grand Total.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Trade returns for the month of August, 1898, show an increase, compared with the corresponding month of 1897, in the value of both the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, and in the exports of British and Irish produce, while in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise there is a slight decrease as compared with August, 1897.

The imports for August, 1898, were valued at £37,216,527, as compared with £33,371,385 for August, 1897, an increase of £3,845,142, or 11.5 per cent. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures were valued at £20,186,016, as compared with £18,773,997 for August, 1897, an increase of £1,412,019 or 7.5 per cent., and the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted in value to £4,531,548, as against £4,651,947, showing the slight decrease of 2.6 per cent.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for August, 1898, as compared with August, 1897, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table showing imports for August 1897 and 1898, with columns for Increase and Decrease.

The only decreases as shown in the returns are under the headings of animals (living) for food (£157,479); articles of food and drink, dutiable (£30,674), and tobacco, dutiable (£120,266); but these are more than counterbalanced by the large increase of £1,992,868 in the value of the imports of articles of food and drink (duty free).

The articles chiefly contributing to this increase are wheat (£898,654), bacon (£175,428), and sugar of all kinds (£719,387). The increased quantities of sugar are principally from Germany, France, Belgium, and the Philippine Islands, and there is also a slight increase in the amount from the British West Indies for the month of August.

With regard to the imports of wheat into this country, it may be interesting to note that the quantity received during the twelve months from 1st September, 1897, to 31st August, 1898, amounted to 66,384,590 cwt. valued at £28,168,148 as compared with 65,017,490 cwt. with a value of £22,475,628 during the period comprised between 1st September, 1896 and 31st August, 1897.

With regard to other articles of import, and taking the month of August, 1898, as compared with August, 1897—raw cotton has increased in value £337,536, and flax and hemp £194,239. Petroleum, caoutchouc, sawn or split woods, and seeds have also considerably increased.

Exports.—With regard to the exports for the month, the following table shows the values for August, 1897, and August, 1898, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table showing exports for August 1897 and 1898, with columns for Increase and Decrease.

Taking the categories in the above table in the order in which they are given, the decrease in the exports of animals is found principally in cattle. In articles of food and drink a noteworthy

item is the increase in the export of herrings. There has been a decrease in the quantity of coal, coke, and fuel exported, amounting to 327,528 tons, but an increase in the value of £85,616, and cycles show a falling off to the extent of £39,126. Cotton yarn has decreased £177,390, and a falling off is also shown in woollen and worsted yarns, but the exports of cotton piece goods and manufactures have increased £90,209, linen piece goods and manufactures £139,157, and woollen and worsted tissues £123,682. Telegraphic wires and apparatus have increased £172,026, arms, ammunition, and military stores, £101,853, and the value of the machinery and millwork exported during the month under consideration was £273,093 higher than that of the corresponding month of the previous year.

With regard to the trade of the eight months ended 31st August, 1898, the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions amounted to £309,076,495, as compared with £294,565,179, in 1897, showing an increase of £14,511,316; and the value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted to £152,784,073, as against £157,685,901 for the eight months of 1897, a decrease of £4,901,828. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise decreased from £42,030,922 during the first eight months of 1897, to £41,748,111 during a similar period of 1898.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports of the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions during August amounted to 3,354,172 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,398,560 tons, as compared with 3,161,720 tons entered and 3,384,989 tons cleared in August, 1897. The tonnage of vessels entered coastwise amounted to 2,638,692 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,606,052 tons, as against 2,732,453 tons and 2,627,420 tons respectively in August, 1897.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during August was 22,341, as compared with 25,253 in August, 1897.

British and Irish.—Of the 22,341 passengers 15,795 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 1,500 as compared with a year ago, chiefly due to a falling off in the numbers bound for the United States and South Africa. The total number of British and Irish passengers for the first eight months of the year shows a decrease of 5,473 when compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The figures for the different periods are given in the following table:—

Table showing emigration by destination for August 1898 and 1897, with columns for Total for eight months ending.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 22,341 passengers, viz., 6,546 were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 1,412 less than in August, 1897.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during August was 8,112. Of these, 2,863 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 3,322 so stated in August, 1897. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 5,249 (including 979 sailors) the corresponding figure for August, 1897, being 5,182 (including 956 sailors). The figures for August, 1898 and 1897, and also for the eight months ended August 31st in each year are as follows:—

Table showing alien immigration for August 1898 and 1897, with columns for Total for 8 months ending.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 979 in August, 1898, 956 in August, 1897; and 8,331 and 7,426 respectively in the eight months ended August 31st, in each year.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN AUGUST.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*†

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-				
Neglecting to Limewash	4	4	£ 5 10 0	£ 2 8 7
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	13	11	33 10 0	8 7 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	35	35	26 2 6	16 19 6
<i>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</i>				
Before or after the legal hour	68	66	34 13 6	27 6 8
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	19	19	6 2 6	9 12 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	33	33	13 7 0	12 8 0
At night	56	53	68 18 6	16 15 0
Other	2	1	0 6 0	0 4 0
<i>Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—</i>				
Not keeping Registers	26	26	16 2 6	11 1 4
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	14	13	4 3 6	5 1 6
Not sending Notices required by Act	6	6	2 11 6	4 8 7
Not supplying sufficient or correct particu- lars	7	4	1 0 0	2 0 0
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules	4	3	10 2 6	2 0 6
Prosecutions under Cotton Cloth Factories Act, 1889	10	6	35 0 0	4 10 6
Prosecutions under Truck Acts... ..	2	2	2 0 0	2 2 0
Other offences	4	3	3 1 0	1 18 0
By Workmen :-				
Employment at night	7	7	0 17 6	3 6 6
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules	12	11	1 0 6	0 16 6
Total for August, 1898	322	303	264 9 0	131 6 2
<i>Total for August, 1897</i>	<i>294†</i>	<i>339</i>	<i>211 5 0</i>	<i>136 15 11</i>

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.*†

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-					
Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c.	4	3	—	1	£ 3 0 0
Ventilation	4	4	—	—	6 10 0
Miscellaneous	1	1	—	—	3 10 6
By Workmen :-					
Safety Lamps	5	5	—	—	5 5 0
Shot-firing and Explosives	8	8	—	—	8 17 0
Timbering	10	8§	—	2	11 5 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	20	20	—	—	20 3 0
Riding on Trams	15	15	—	—	15 14 0
Miscellaneous	32	32	—	—	23 12 11
Total for August, 1898...	99	86	—	3	97 17 11
<i>Total for August, 1897 ...</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>36 2 0</i>
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-					
Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children	3	3	—	—	3 2 2
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	5	4	1	—	2 7 0
Other Special Rules	2	2	—	—	5 6 6
Total for August, 1898...	10	9	1	—	10 15 8
<i>Total for August, 1897...</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships :-				
Carrying excess Passengers with- out Certificate	2	2	£ 37 0 0	...
Employing Officers without Certi- ficate	3	3	10 10 0	1 10 0
By Seamen :-				
Frauds in connection with Dis- charge Note	1	1
Total for August, 1898 ...	6	6	47 10 0	1 10 0
<i>Total for August, 1897 ...</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>19 5 0</i>	<i>3 18 0</i>

* Supplied by the Home Office.

† The figures relating to Prosecutions under the Mines and Quarries Acts for August, 1898, include prosecutions by H.M. Inspectors of Mines under the Factory and Workshop Acts in factories and workshops connected with Metalliferous Mines and Quarries. In the figures for August, 1897, given in the above tables, such prosecutions are included in the Table of Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts. The difference owing to the change of tabulation is not, however, very material.

‡ In this case the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice being in Scotland to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with.

§ In one of these cases the collier refusing to pay the fine of £1 and 13s. 6d. costs was sent to prison for 1 month.

|| Defendant sent to prison for 14 days.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN AUGUST.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in August it will be seen that 4 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 3 Co-operative Associations for Production, 4 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 25 new Friendly Societies, 28 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 2 Building Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during August. One Trade Union, 4 Industrial and Provident Societies, 22 Building Societies, and 18 Friendly Societies (including 9 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registry cancelled during the month.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Birmingham and District Operative Zincworkers Society, Nottingham Arms Inn, Bristol-street, Birmingham; Amalgamated Society of Silk and Cotton Dyers, Black Swan Hotel, Sheep Market, Leek; Wheelwrights' and Smiths' Society, 122, Chorley Old-road, Bolton.—*Scotland.*—None.—*Ireland.*—National Coal Labourers' Trade Union, 4, Sandwith-street, Dublin.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Newhey Provident Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Shaw-road, Newhey, Rochdale; Mutual Provident Musical Instrument and Furnishing Soc., Ltd., 121, Victoria-road, Seacombe, Cheshire; International Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 33, Charlottestreet, Fitzroy-square, W. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *Associations for Production.—England and Wales.*—Trades Union Co-op. Cutlery Soc., Ltd., 39, Red Hill, Sheffield; Walsall Saddlers' Ltd., 59, Corporation-street, Walsall; Andrews Co-op. Watch Mfg. Soc., Ltd., 9, Radford-street, Coventry. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(C) *Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.*—Leicester Freehold Investment Soc., Ltd., Temperance Hall, Granby-street, Leicester; Eastleigh Liberal and Radical Working Man's Club Building Assoc., Ltd., Station-hill, Eastleigh, Hants; Waterhead Reform Club Land and Builder's Soc., Ltd., Waterhead Reform Club, Oldham; Industrial Registration Soc., Ltd., 157, Kennington Park-road, S.E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 10; Dividing, 2; Juvenile, 1; Benevolent, 1; Specially Authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 8. *Scotland.*—Collecting, 1. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.*—18. *Scotland.*—7. *Ireland.*—3.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—2. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—London and Provincial Domestic Servants' Union (Male and Female), 33, Southwick-street, W. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Resolution to wind up received:—Tunbridge Wells Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 7, Kensington-street, Tunbridge Wells; Ton-y-pandy Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 98, Dunraven-street, Ton-y-pandy. Order of court for winding-up received:—Sedbergh and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Sedbergh. Registry cancelled by request:—London Householders' and Owners' Mutual Protection Assoc., Ltd., 30, Heygate-street, Walworth-road, S.E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 5 (including one branch); registration cancelled, 5; dissolved otherwise, 8 branches. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 4; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 11; notice of termination of winding-up, 3. *Scotland.*—Notice of termination of winding-up, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Midland District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Coal Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. William Saunders, Wilson-street, Derby.

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