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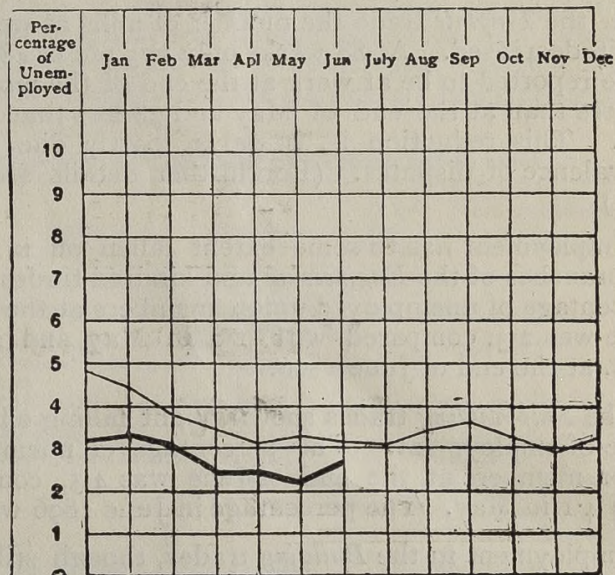
STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE.*

ON the whole there has been some falling-off in the state of employment during the past month, almost all the principal branches of industry being more or less affected by the decline. Employment, however, remains better than a year ago.

In the 113 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 464,126, 12,713 (or 2·7 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of June, compared with 2·3 per cent. in May, and with 3·2 per cent. in the 109 unions, with a membership of 422,602, from which returns were received for June 1896.

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 month of 1896 and of each completed month of 1897.



The following table classifies the total membership of the 113 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of June 1897.		Corresponding Percentages for		
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
		Number.	Per-centage.		
Under 1 per cent. ...	34	163,215	35·2	38·1	22·1
1 and under 2 per cent. ...	24	120,955	26·1	26·5	27·4
2 " 3 " ...	15	17,337	3·7	3·7	20·7
3 " 5 " ...	11	71,725	15·4	18·6	5·3
5 " 7 " ...	16	67,629	14·6	10·4	8·4
7 " 10 " ...	7	14,252	3·1	1·5	14·8
10 per cent. and upwards	6	9,013	1·9	1·2	1·3
Total	113	464,126	100·0	100·0	100·0

* The reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of June, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between June 30th and July 15th. This remark also applies to the reports on pp. 207-214.

In addition to the new profit-sharing schemes just mentioned, the scheme of profit-sharing deposits in force since 1878 with Messrs. Sir Joseph Whitworth & Co., Limited, of Openshaw, Manchester, manufacturing engineers (see Report on Profit-sharing, 1894, pp. 49-50), has, upon the amalgamation of that business with that of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co., Limited, ordnance manufacturers and iron and steel shipbuilders, of Elswick Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne, been extended by its application, in a form slightly modified, to the whole of the employees (about 21,000) working for the amalgamated company (Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Limited), this new scheme taking effect as from April 1st, 1897. Under this scheme deposits of not less than 1s. and not more than £1 of the depositor's weekly wages will be received from persons in the employ of the company each week (officials paid quarterly being allowed to deposit up to £2 per week), the maximum amount which may be deposited being £200 (£400 for those paid quarterly). The deposits carry a fixed interest of 4 per cent., and, in addition, a bonus will be declared each year equal to half the difference between this fixed rate and the dividend payable on the shares of the company. Interest and bonus will be added to depositors' accounts unless they give notice to withdraw in cash. Deposits can be withdrawn up to one-half on 7 days', the whole on 14 days' notice (under special circumstances, without notice). Persons leaving the employ of the company will be repaid their deposits at the end of 14 days.

The total number of persons employed by the 78 firms now practising profit-sharing as to which particulars on this point have been received (varying according to seasons, &c.) is minimum 43,721, maximum 45,592 (43,356—45,202 employed by 75 firms in the United Kingdom, 365—390 by 3 firms in British Colonies). The corresponding number of firms a year previously was 85 (with 23,947—26,187 employees). The large increase in the number of employees during the year is mainly accounted for by the amalgamation of the two firms alluded to above. With respect to the addition made to the wages of the participating employees by the bonus allotted in 1896, details in regard to 72 cases* (69 with 19,671 employees in the United Kingdom, 3 with 368 employees in British Colonies) are available, and are as shown below :—

Ratio of Bonus to Wages in 1896.

Table with 4 columns: Ratio of Bonus allotted in 1896 to wages., No. of cases in which the Bonus in Col. 1 was paid., No. of Employees (mean between minimum and maximum) in 1896., Number of Participants in 1896.

The figures show a mean bonus of 4.9 per cent. on wages paid in the above 72 cases (compared with 4.7 per cent. in 1895). Excluding 23 cases in which no bonus was earned the bonus allotted in the remaining 49 cases was (taking into account the number of participants in each case) at the mean rate of 10.3 per cent.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS IN 1896.

IN the annual return for the United Kingdom recently issued by the Board of Trade† it is stated that during 1896 447 railway servants were reported as killed, and 3,986 injured in accidents to trains, rolling stock,

* In two cases (both in the United Kingdom), in which the bonuses calculated separately for distinct branches of a business, the ratios are stated separately for each branch. The 72 cases include 2 (both in the United Kingdom) in which profit-sharing ceased to be in force in 1896, after the date for distribution of bonus.

† Returns of Accidents and Casualties reported to the Board of Trade by Railway Companies in the United Kingdom, during 1896, [C—3410] Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 2s. 5d.

permanent way, &c., and by accidents caused by the running of trains or the movement of railway vehicles. The number killed by such accidents was 5 more than in 1895.

The number of persons injured was considerably larger than in 1895, but the comparison is misleading, since the 1896 returns are largely affected by a recent Board of Trade order defining the non-fatal accidents to be reported.

The 447 railway servants fatally injured include 136 killed by accidents during shunting operations. The number injured in such accidents was 2,548. Whilst working on the permanent way, sidings, &c., 101 servants were killed, and 164 injured, and 92 were killed and 185 injured whilst walking, crossing, or standing on the line (on duty). Accidents occurring whilst attending to, or by the failure of machinery, &c., of engines in motion accounted for only 2 deaths, but for 427 injuries.

In addition to the above, accidents unconnected with the movement of railway vehicles, but which occurred upon the railway companies' premises in 1896, caused death to 43 railway servants, as compared with 47 in 1895. The number of railway servants injured by this class of accidents was 10,124. This number included 2,605 injured whilst loading, unloading, or sheeting waggons, 1,740 injured whilst attending to engines at rest in sheds, or by falling of, or when getting on or off engines or vehicles at rest, other accidents being due to falls from ladders, &c., moving goods, &c., the falling of wagon doors, lamps, &c., &c.

The following table enables the year's accidents to be compared with those of 1895 :—

Table comparing accidents in 1895 and 1896, categorized by type (I, II, III) and showing killed, injured, and increase/decrease.

The Report includes particulars of the number of railway servants of various classes employed by all the railway companies in the United Kingdom. The total amounts to 465,112, so that the proportion of servants killed in the year was 1 in 992.

The following table shows for some of the largest classes of railway servants, the total number employed and the total killed and injured in 1896 by all classes of accidents.

Table showing Class of Workpeople, Number of Men and Boys in 1896 (Employed, Killed, Injured).

* The numbers injured were reported on the new system in 1896 and on the old system in 1895, and are not therefore comparable.

† Railway servants and contractors' servants were not separately distinguished in 1895 as regards this class of accident.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE average selling prices of coal and iron in certain districts, as ascertained at the last audits, are shown in the following table, in which are also included for purposes of comparison the results of the previous audits.

As the result of the ascertainment, the wages of coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire and of puddlers and millmen in the manufactured iron districts remain unchanged. The Cumberland blast-furnacemen have sustained a reduction as the result of a fall in the selling price of pig-iron. In Cleveland the sliding scale agreement was terminated on June 30th, and no ascertainment can therefore be given.

Table showing Average ascertained selling price per ton for Coal, Pig Iron, and Manufactured Iron in various districts.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN JUNE.

(For Detailed Tables see p. 215.)

THE following table contains a summary of the number of workpeople killed or injured by industrial accidents in June 1897 and 1896 respectively, so far as reported. It will be seen that the number killed was less by 65 in June 1897 than in June 1896, and the number reported as injured greater by 279. The particulars are given in greater detail in the tables on page 215.

Table showing Occupational statistics for Killed and Injured in June 1897 and June 1896.

* The exact amount of the ascertained selling price cannot be stated.

† The sliding scale agreement regulating the rates of wages of the blast-furnacemen in Cleveland and Durham terminated on June 30th, on the notice of the workpeople. No ascertainment can therefore be given of the selling price of pig-iron during the last quarter.

‡ No audit has been made in the West of Scotland District for March and April, a temporary arrangement having been agreed to by which the rate of wages will remain unchanged until the end of July.

REGULATION OF HOURS OF ADULT LABOUR IN RUSSIA.

THE following account is based on a memorandum prepared for the Foreign Office by Mr. J. Michell, H.M. Consul-General at St. Petersburg, under date of June 30th, and on the text of the law which accompanied that memorandum.

The Commission appointed in January last, to examine the question of the duration of the hours of labour in Russian manufactories and industrial establishments, elaborated a scheme, which was submitted to the Council of the Empire, and having been, with slight modifications, approved by the latter, was confirmed by the Emperor on June 14th, and has been promulgated in form of law.

The operation of the law extends to all manufactories, industrial establishments, mines, smelting works, gold and platinum workings, railway workshops, all industrial works and establishments belonging to the "Cabinet" of the Emperor and to the Department of "Appanages," the Crown and the Government Administrations. The technical establishments under the jurisdiction of the Military and Naval Departments of the State, however, do not come under the operation of this new law, but remain subject to the special rules and regulations under which they have been conducted hitherto.

It is enacted that workmen employed exclusively by day shall not be employed more than 11½ hours out of 24; on Saturdays and days preceding the 14 holidays (in addition to Sundays) enumerated in the Law, the working day shall not exceed 10 hours. Ten hours in 24 is the maximum duration of work, if any part of the work time falls between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. As working time is reckoned the entire time during which the workman is bound, according to his contract, to remain upon the premises of his employer, at the disposal of his employer; in mines it includes the time spent in descending and ascending the shaft. No general provision is made as to intervals of rest, which, with other matters, have been left to be dealt with by Decrees of the Ministers concerned, in conjunction with the Minister of the Interior, while, in regard to particular trades, establishments, or classes of workmen, the restrictions of the new law may be either relaxed or made more stringent in the same manner.

On the day preceding Christmas day all work must terminate not later than noon. By mutual agreement between employer and employed, which must be at once notified to the authorities, workpeople may work on a Sunday in lieu of a week day.

Overtime work is allowed only under special agreement between employers and men, such agreements being allowed to be made only in relation to work which the conditions of the industry concerned require to be done in overtime.

The new Law is to come into force on January 13th, 1898, but it may be applied at an earlier date to special districts or establishments by Ministerial order.

The present Law applies to male labour only, that of women and young persons being regulated by a Law passed in 1888. Under this latter enactment women and young persons of the ages of 15-17 years are not allowed to work in mills and factories between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m., and in the Kingdom of Poland all female labour in mines is prohibited.

Children under 12 years of age may not be employed at all, and those between the ages of 12 and 15 must not work longer than 8 hours a day, with a break at the end of 4 hours; or than 6 hours if no break be allowed.

A maximum working day of 10 hours was, at the same date, also passed for handicrafts, but it has remained a dead letter.

* Or in cases in which shifts are changed twice or oftener, between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m.

per hour was to be paid); an increase of 2d. per day in the wages of all classes of employees, and one whole Sunday off every two months.

Of the remaining disputes reported in June, the most important were a general strike of joiners and cabinet-makers in Linz, for a working day of 9½ hours, the number of participants being given as 250; a strike of 450 operatives at a cigarette factory in Trieste on a question of wages, a strike of 500 workmen at a brewery in Graz for increased wages and a shorter working day, and a strike in the brickmaking trade in the neighbourhood of Buda-Pesth, where complaint is made of long hours, low wages, truck practices and other grievances.

Proposal to increase premiums for Workmen's Accident Insurance.—According to Die Industrie of July 1, the Accident Insurance Institution for Lower Austria has applied to the Ministry of the Interior, for leave to increase the premiums payable in that province under the Accident Insurance Law.

Substitution of "Trade Group" System for Territorial System in Accident Insurance in Metal and Engineering Trades.—The same journal reports that application was made on June 28th to the Ministry of the Interior on behalf of 112 Austrian firms engaged in the iron and engineering trades for permission to organise a trade group for purposes of workmen's accident insurance.

By organising a trade group the engineering firms hope to reduce this expenditure, as has been done by the Railway Companies which form the only existing trade group in Austria under the Accident Insurance Law.

DENMARK.

Lock-out in the Iron Trade in Denmark.—The following account of a lock-out of ironworkers is based on a memorandum furnished to the Foreign Office by the Hon. Alan Johnstone, Secretary of Legation at Copenhagen.

As far back as December 1894, an agreement was come to by the Union of Manufacturers in Iron in Copenhagen and the Danish Smiths and Machine Workers' Union for the constitution of a tribunal of arbitration in case of a disagreement between employers and workmen.

Towards the close of 1896 a dispute arose in Aalborg on the question of a rise in wages. The local branch of the Danish Smith and Machine Workers' Union decided to draw off the men gradually, week by week, under the pretence of their getting work elsewhere, and to assist them by grants from the travelling expenses fund.

rules for the acceptance of both parties. These rules were presented at the end of April to the workmen's unions, but were refused, the grounds of objection being the absence of any provision for a minimum wage and the existence of the following rule:—

"On leaving the workshop every journeyman shall receive a discharge certificate, stating how long he has been employed in that workshop. A journeyman who was last employed by one of the members of the association must not be re-engaged without showing his discharge certificate."

While matters were in a state of tension owing to the deadlock on the question of these working rules, the workmen in Slagelse and Odensee struck for an increase of wages and a minimum fixed wage of 4d. per hour and refused to submit their claims to the Rules of Arbitration. It is understood that the wages in Copenhagen range from 4d. to 5¼d. per hour, and that the rates in the provinces are about ¼d. lower.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information supplied by Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul in Chicago, under date of June 24th:—

Labour Disputes.—After lingering for months the tanners' strike came to an end on May 22nd (see March GAZETTE, p. 75). Out of the 2,000 tanners and curriers involved in the strike, not more than half will be re-employed, for the employers do not propose to discharge any of the new men who have proved themselves competent workmen.

The plumbers' strike, alluded to in the June GAZETTE (p. 170) was virtually settled on May 26th, when some 1,300 or more journeymen, juniors and helpers, returned to work, after three weeks' idleness. The strikers claim to have won the only point in dispute.

A strike of steam-fitters which began on May 1st was virtually ended on June 10th in favour of the men, the juniors having succeeded in getting an increase from 7s. 2½d. to 8s. 3d. per day.

As regards the coal miners' strike in Spring Valley, Illinois, some 500 miners resumed work, after a series of meetings, on June 1st; the remainder (500 men) have resumed work since that date.

On June 16th, for the second time this spring, the quarrymen employed in the Limestone Company's quarry at Joliet, Illinois, left for the other quarries, where they drove out the men. The men demand 6s. 2¼d. instead of 5s. 1¼d. per day.

New York State: Labour Law.—An Act, which is to be known as "the Labour Law," has recently been passed by the Legislature of the State of New York, and took effect from June 1st 1897.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

including the hours of labour, the payment to workpeople engaged on public works of the rate prevailing in the same trade in the locality in which the work is performed, the truck system, the exclusion of persons not citizens of the United States from employment on public works, and the preference to be given in regard to labourers employed on such works to citizens of New York State, the prohibition of the use in State and municipal works of stone (other than paving blocks and crushed stone) not worked, dressed and carved within the State, the protection from piracy of trade union labels, the provision of seats for female employees and of proper scaffolding on building jobs, &c.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN JUNE.

(NOTE.—The following tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received.

Summary.—Employment in almost all districts was better in June than a year ago. Partly owing to the Whitsuntide holidays, the number of days worked during June was generally less than during May.

Returns received respecting 1,288 pits employing 404,222 workpeople show that the average time worked at these pits in the four weeks ended June 19th was 4·82 days per week, as compared with 4·58 days in June 1896, and 5·20 days in May last.

Table with columns: District, No. employed in June 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table, Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended, 19th June 1897, 20th June 1896, 22nd May 1897.

The following table gives the average number of days worked in pits, classified according to the class of coal principally raised. The falling off in June as compared with May was most noticeable in the case of house coal.

Table with columns: Description of Coal, No. employed in June 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table, Number of days worked per week, June 1897, May 1897, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June 1897.

If the workpeople be classified according to the number of days worked by the pits at which they were employed it will be seen that 57·2 per cent. were employed at pits working five or more days per week, as against 47·1 per cent. in June 1896.

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

Table with columns: Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks, June 1897, Corresponding percentages in— June 1896, May 1897.

The number of workpeople employed at pits covered by the returns is greater than a year ago by 3,164 in England and Wales, by 698 in Scotland, and by 38 in Ireland.

Comparison by Districts.—In every district except Fife employment was better than a year ago. The improvement amounted to nearly a day per week in the small Irish district, to nearly three-quarters of a day in Staffordshire, and to over half a day in Gloucester and Somerset, Derbyshire and Yorkshire.

The highest average (5·75 days) was worked in the Lothians, followed by West Scotland (5·46 days), and South Wales and Monmouth (5·40 days).

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN JUNE 1897 AND 1896, AND IN MAY 1897.

Table with columns: District, No. employed in June 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table, Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended, 19th June 1897, 20th June 1896, 22nd May 1897, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June 1897 as compared with A year ago, A month ago.

The percentage of unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted to 0·6 per cent. of the membership at the end of June, as compared with 0·7 per cent. in May. The percentage at the end of June 1896 was 1·7.

Exports of Coal.—During June, 3,082,214 tons of coal, coke, cinders, and patent fuel were exported, as compared with 3,502,240 tons in May, and 3,264,315 tons in June 1896.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN JUNE.

OWING to the Whitsuntide holidays the number of days worked at iron mines and open works was, on the whole, not so great during June as during May.

At 124 mines and open works respecting which

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

returns have been received, an average of 5·72 days per week was worked during the four weeks ended June 10th by the 16,656 workpeople employed. During May the average time worked per week was 5·87 days, and during June 1896 the average was 5·59 days.

The following tables summarise the returns received:— (I.) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:—

Table with columns for District, No. employed in June 1897, Average number of days worked per week, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June 1897.

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

Table with columns for Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got, No. of Workpeople employed, Percentage proportion to total, June 1897, and Corresponding percentages.

(c) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN JUNE.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was not so good at the end of June as at the end of the previous month. It was, however, better than a year ago. The 111 ironmasters from whom returns have been received and who own about 92 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, had 350 furnaces in blast at the end of June, or 3 more than a year ago.

Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of June 1897, with the number in blast at end of June 1896, and at end of May 1897, so far as included in the returns made to the Department by 111 ironmasters owning 92 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom:—

Table with columns for Districts, Present time compared with a year ago, and Present time compared with a month ago.

* Whitsuntide included in this period. † Amended figures.

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British Possessions from all parts of the United Kingdom during June amounted to 103,591 tons as compared with 129,762 tons in May, and 111,997 tons in June 1896.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES AND ROLLING MILLS.

TAKING this group of industries as a whole, employment has declined during the month, and is now not so good as a year ago. In the steel trade the number employed is greater than at the end of June 1896, but this increase is outweighed by the decreases in employment at ironworks and tinplate works.

Returns received from 257 employers show that they employed 80,631 persons at the end of June, compared with 84,168 at the end of May, and 81,047 a year ago. Of the above total 38,183 were employed at 137 steel-works, this number being greater by 1,390 than a year ago, but less by 927 than at the end of May.

The number employed at 94 iron puddling furnaces and rolling mills has fallen off, during June, from 19,000 to 17,734, and was at the end of the month 756 less than a year ago.

Table showing the number of persons employed* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of June 1897 and 1896 and May 1897 respectively, by 257 employers making returns:—

Table with columns for Occupation, Number Employed (June 1897, June 1896, May 1897), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June 1897.

Further returns received respecting 88 Tinplate Works show that out of 488 mills only 273 were at work, as compared with 302 at the end of May, and 311 a year ago. The number of works giving partial employment remains the same as last month, with a larger proportion of the mills (70 out of 108) at work.

Table showing number of tinplate works and mills in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire fully or partially employed, or wholly idle, at the end of June, so far as stated in the returns received by the Department:—

Table with columns for Works giving full employment, Works giving partial employment, Works idle, and No. of Mills in such Works.

* This table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.

† The figures on this line relate to only 327 of the 488 mills referred to in the next table.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Returns received from owners of 56 tinplate works show that 10,546 were employed at end of June, or 1,318 less than at end of May, and 1,305 less than a year ago. The exports of tinplates and sheets from United Kingdom during June amounted to 23,206 tons, of which 7,172 tons went to United States.

(e) SHIPBUILDING.

Tonnage under Construction.*

THE quarterly returns published by Lloyd's Register show that the gross tonnage of vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom on 30th June last, amounted to 871,661 tons, the largest recorded since December 1889. This figure is greater by 43,180 tons than at the end of the previous quarter, and by 97,649 tons than at 30th June 1896.

The following table summarises the above figures:—

Table with columns for Date of Return, Merchant Vessels (Tons gross, Tons displacement), and War Vessels (Tons displacement).

The number of merchant vessels included in the tonnage given above for June 30th was 435, of which 396 (gross tonnage, 859,283 tons) were steamers, and 39 (gross tonnage, 12,378 tons) were sailing vessels.

The following table shows the gross tonnage of vessels (except warships) under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts at the end of June 1897, March 1897, and June 1896 respectively.

Table with columns for District, At June 30th 1897, At Mar. 31st 1897, At June 30th 1896, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of June 1897.

As compared with the previous quarter it will be seen that four out of the seven districts show increases, the largest increase being in the Clyde district, viz.:— 22,206 tons. As compared with a year ago five districts show substantial increases, while there is a falling off of 33,095 tons in vessels building on the Tyne, and a smaller decrease in the Barrow, &c., district.

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN JUNE.

THE agricultural correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 170 returns from various parts of the country, reports as follows:—Generally speaking, the state of agricultural employment was very satisfactory throughout the country during the month of June.

* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are in various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the amount of work remaining to be done.

stated that agricultural employment was more regular in June 1897 than in June 1896, as the crops were much lighter last year owing to the dry weather. Changes in Wages.—A rise of weekly cash wages took place in June in Essex in certain parishes in Tendring Union amounting to 2s. a week (from 10s. to 12s., and 12s. to 14s.); in Suffolk in certain parishes in Blything Union amounting to 1s. a week (10s. to 11s.).

In Kent a seasonal rise of wages took place in Faversham Union amounting to 1s. (14s. to 15s.).

In a great number of districts, though not in Northern Counties, where the men are hired yearly or half-yearly, the labourers at this time of year are employed at hoeing and hay harvest by piecework, and earn considerably more than the ordinary rate of weekly cash wages.

The system of payment at hay harvest differs in various parts of the country. Generally speaking, in the Northern Counties where most of the men are hired yearly or half yearly, only extra food and drink are given. In several districts there are regular hirings for hay harvest, which are attended by odd hands and also Irishmen, and engagements are made for a month. In some counties piecework rates are paid; in others it is the custom to pay only the ordinary weekly wages and give beer or beer money extra, and pay from 3d. to 6d. an hour for overtime.

Northern Counties.—In certain Poor Law Unions in the counties of Cumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland and Yorkshire the state of agricultural employment is said to be very satisfactory. In North Lancashire reports state that there is a heavy hay crop, and that all day labourers who can be found at liberty are being engaged for the hay harvest.

Midland Counties.—Reports of a favourable character come from Cheshire from the Unions of Nantwich and Tarvin; in the latter union labour is said to be scarce. In Derbyshire work is said to be regular in the Belper Union, and in the Derbyshire portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (Stafford); in Shropshire in the Oswestry and Market Drayton Unions; in Warwickshire in the Unions of Alcester, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, and Warwick; in Staffordshire in the Unions of Lichfield and Tamworth (Staffs and Warwick); and in Worcestershire in the Union of Evesham.

Eastern Counties.—Reports from Essex state that work is regular in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Malden, Orsett, and Tendring. The damage caused to crops in the districts affected by the great storm did not materially affect the employment of labourers in June. The effect of the destruction of corn crops upon their harvest earnings cannot be measured until the autumn.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DISTRICT REPORTS (*contd.*)—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland.*—Steam coal collieries have had fuller employment, the average number of days worked being 5'17 per week. House coal pits show a slight falling off, averaging 5'15 days per week, as against 5'38 in May. Of the 20,117 union miners only one is returned as unemployed. *Durham.*—Coking coal pits are working fairly regularly; several gas coal collieries, however, have had broken time. These two classes of pits have averaged 5'34, and 5'01 days per week respectively, as against 5'58 and 5'19 in May. The average number of days worked per week throughout the month was 5'25 as compared with 5'42 in May. The number of union miners idle owing to bad trade is 498 or 0'9 per cent., the same percentage as at the end of May.

Metal Mining.—Iron mines continue working short time, lead mines fully.

Quarrying.—Employment is good in the Gateshead district and at Weardale.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne.*—All yards except two continue busy, repair shops are also active. Electrical engineers are brisk. The Elswick ordnance factory maintains activity. Employment in engine shops is fairly steady. Branches of these trades with 11,357 members have 234 (or 2'1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 140 (or 1'2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. *On the Wear.*—Boiler shops keep busy. Employment in the yards is fairly good. Engine and repair shops continue active. Branches with 4,514 members have 87, or 1'9 per cent. unemployed, as against 88 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. Drillers and hole cutters on both rivers are busy, especially on repair work. Steel smelters and men employed at plate mills and blast furnaces have worked full time. Angle mills at Consett have been laid off a week. Iron mills have worked five shifts per week. Shipwrights on new work are fully employed.

Dock Labour.—Quay-side labourers and watermen are well employed. Trimmers and teamers, however, have averaged only about 3 days per week. Sailmakers have 25 per cent. idle. The demand for firemen and sailors is reported as fair.

Building Trades.—Joiners (house and ship) on both rivers have 1'2 per cent. of members idle. Slaters and tilers are fully employed. Other branches of the building trade on the Tyne continue active.

Woodworking Trades.—Coopers are slack. Upholsterers are all employed. Millsawyers in shipyards are not so busy. Lathrenders are fully employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Three paper mills have worked 48 shifts (full time), one 43, and five others a little over half-time. Bookbinders and machine rulers have 2 per cent. out of work. Letterpress printers at Sunderland are slack, and on the Tyne there are 7'1 per cent. of members unemployed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Chemical workers have had fuller employment. White lead factories are brisk. Copper works continue steady. Pressed glassmakers report employment as good; bottle-makers as unchanged.

Fishing.—Owing to unsettled weather and holidays little has been done in herring fishing. Trawl and line boats have landed fair catches of white fish, prices being up to the average.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron Mining.—Cleveland miners have continued fairly well employed during the month.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment continues good at the steel works, the mills generally being reported as busy. Finished ironworkers have been fairly employed. Blast furnacemen have been well employed. Employment on the whole is good at the foundries and bridge works, there having been an improvement at some of the foundries reported as slack at the end of May.

Engineering.—Employment is good throughout the district. Branches with 3,483 members report 17 (or 0'5 per cent.) as unemployed, the same number as at the end of May.

Shipbuilding.—One yard at Hartlepool is doing very little, and employment in one yard at Middlesbrough is reported as moderate; with these exceptions employment is good.

Building Trades.—All branches of these trades are busy. Bricklayers, plasterers, painters, joiners, sawyers and machinists with nearly 2,000 members report that none are unemployed and that more men are wanted.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as good at the Hartlepools and improving at Middlesbrough. Dock labour is moderate at Middlesbrough; good at the Hartlepools. Riverside labour is fair.—*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 is still good, although the average number of days worked shows a falling off when compared with May; this is accounted for, however, by the fact that the Whitsuntide holidays fell within the period. In June the average number of days worked at pits from which returns have been received was 5'25, as against 5'71 in May; and 4'77 in June 1896. The number of workpeople was, so far as shown by the returns slightly more than in the corresponding month of last year.

Iron Mining.—Employment is still good at the Cumberland iron mines. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ending 19th June at the 44 mines from which returns have been received was 5'75, as against 5'95 in May and 5'65 in June last year. In June 1897 and 1896, however, employment was interrupted by the Whitsuntide holidays. The number of workpeople employed was 6,270, compared with 6,101 in the corresponding month of last year.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast during June was 42, as against 44 in May and 41 in June 1896. The number of workpeople employed at the 42 furnaces was 3,270, a decrease of 73 as compared with May, and an increase of 36 as compared with June 1896.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trades.—*Spinning.*—In Oldham and the surrounding districts and in Mossley, Stalybridge, Stockport and Rochdale employment is reported as moderate; in Ashton-under-Lyne as slack. One mill in Stalybridge has been closed through bad trade. Out of 9,148 union members 341 (or 3'7 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit, as against 355 (or 3'9 per cent.) at the end of May. The cardroom operatives in Oldham and Mossley report employment as moderate; and out of 12,009 union members 315 (or 2'6 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit, as against 388 (or 3'2 per cent.) at the end of May. Ring frame spinners are fully employed; twiners only moderately so. *Weaving.*—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as bad in velvets and fustians, with a large number of looms standing idle, and as slack in calicoes. Employment is moderate in sectional warping and reeling, and indifferent in winding.

Woollen Trade.—Employment is reported as slack in Stockport, and bad in Rochdale and Milnrow districts.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In eight branches of the engineers, employment is reported as moderate; in two as good. Pattern-makers, tinplate workers, iron founders and boiler-makers report employment as moderate; gasmeter-makers as slack; iron-grinders, plate and machine-moulders and brassfounders, as good. Branches with 3,332 members return 33 (or 1'0 per cent.) as on unemployed benefit, the same percentage as at the end of May.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, painters, and carpenters and joiners report employment as good; the plumbers and plasterers as moderate. Branches with 900 trade members have none out of employment.

Coal Mining.—Returns received from three collieries show that at one pit the miners are working full time, and that the other two are working 4 and 5 days per week respectively. Employment is reported as declining.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—Employment in Bolton and the immediate district is reported as moderate, although all mills are at present working full time. Out of 4,386 union members 55 (or 1'3 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit, the same percentage as at the end of May. In Chorley, Wigan, and Bury employment is reported as fairly good. Cardroom operatives throughout the district are moderately well employed. *Weaving.*—In Bolton weavers are irregularly employed; in Bury and Chorley there is much waiting for warps.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The engineers are reported as busy at most firms in Bolton. The steam engine makers, ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers, smiths and strikers are moderately well employed. In Bury engineers are well employed. Iron machine shops are busy. In Wigan engineers are reported as well employed; steel smelters as only moderately so. At cycle works employment is good. General ironworkers are working full time.

Building Trades.—Employment in Bolton is reported as improved; in Chorley as slack; in Bury, and Wigan as moderate.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DISTRICT REPORTS (*contd.*)—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Coal Mining.—Employment at Bolton, Little Hulton, Ratcliffe, Walkden, and Darcy Lever is reported as slightly less active. In Wigan and district most collieries are working from three to four days per week.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers, paper makers, bleachers, stamp makers, cloggers, are fairly well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Weaving.*—Employment in the weaving industry shows a slight improvement, the number of looms temporarily stopped not being quite so large as last month. In Burnley some 820 looms are on short time, besides a number stopped for warps; in Darwen 710 looms are totally stopped, together with some 1,050 stopped for warps; in Nelson there are upwards of 3,000 looms playing for warps and other causes; in Preston a considerable number of looms are stopped for warps, but in Blackburn and Colne there is a slight improvement. Employment in the hard waste trade is considered fair; the coloured goods trade shows an improvement over the preceding month. Work is irregular in the looming and drawing industry in the Blackburn district, but in Burnley there is a slight improvement. Winders and warpers are only moderately employed throughout the district. *Spinning.*—Employment is reported as moderate in Preston and Accrington, fair in Padibam and Blackburn, indifferent in Burnley, good in Darwen. Card-room workers are stated to be fairly well employed. Branches of twisters, warp dressers and spinners, with 3,989 members, return 173 (or 4'3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 218 (or 5'4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with joiners, masons and bricklayers; painters and decorators are busy, much overtime being worked. Plumbers are not busy.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment is reported as fair in the machine works; in other works it is reported as moderate with moulders and engineers.

Coal Mining.—Miners report work as brisk in Burnley and Accrington; in Townley the average time worked is about four days per week.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors are busy. Boot, shoe and slipper makers in the Rossendale district are slack.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 27,111 members have 72 (or 2'7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 558 (or 2'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate in Manchester and Warrington, bad in Northwich. The steam-engine makers, machine workers and ironfounders report work as good; boiler-makers, brassfounders and smiths and strikers as moderate; braziers and sheet metal workers at Manchester as bad; iron workers at Macclesfield as moderate. At Warrington wire drawers, wire weavers and filesmiths are fairly well employed. Branches with 11,467 members have 388 (or 3'4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 266 (or 2'3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners in Manchester report employment as moderate, with many short stoppages for bobbins in mills spinning fine counts. In Macclesfield weavers, spinners and cardroom hands are now busy. Employment with silk weavers in Macclesfield is unchanged, silk dressers are fairly well employed, and silk dyers are rather more fully employed. Fustian cutters are fairly busy. Bleachers, dyers and finishers are moderately employed. Doublers in Stockport are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are fairly busy. Capmakers are busy. Employment is moderate with wholesale tailoring operatives, waterproof garment-makers, shirtmakers, felt hat-makers and trimmers and boot and shoe makers; with ready-made mantle and umbrella makers it is bad.

Building Trades.—Branches in Manchester and Northwich, with 6,554 members, have only 29 unemployed, as against 52 at the end of May. Employment at Stockport, Warrington, and Macclesfield is moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders, is moderate; with pattern-card makers bad.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers and French polishers report employment as good. Coachmakers are well employed in Manchester, and moderately so in Warrington. Coopers are fairly well employed.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report a falling off in employment. The engineers, pattern-makers, brass and ironfounders, whitesmiths and shipjoiners report employment as fair; shipwrights as dull. Branches of boiler-makers, brassfounders, and whitesmiths with 3,519 members have 370 (or 10'5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 98 (or 2'8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—In the furnishing trade employment continues good. Coopers, coachbuilders, and wood-working machinists report employment as fair.

Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate; dock labourers, quay and railway carters as unchanged; Mersey flatmen as fairly good; salt and coal heavers as quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 1,286 members return 64 (or 5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 54 (or 4'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with tailors continues good. Boot and shoemakers are moderately employed.

Building Trades.—Joiners report a slight falling off. Other branches continue well employed.

Quarrying.—Employment with quarrymen continues good.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as good; chemical workers as moderate.—*C. Rouse.*

According to a report from Winsford, employment in the salt trade at Winsford and Middlewich has been only moderate. In the chemical trade at Middlewich it has been rather dull. Employment with moulders at Winsford is normal; with fustian cutters rather dull. In the building trades employment is moderate in both towns.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 9,395 members have 118 (or 1'3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 126 (or 1'4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The shipbuilding yards, engineering works and boiler shops continue well employed. The pattern-makers and sailmakers report employment as moderate; other trades as good. Branches of these trades, with 4,138 members, have 74 (or 1'8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 39 (or 1'0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. The boiler-makers, engineers, and shipwrights at Grimsby, Goole, and Selby are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—The slaters and tilers, plumbers and lath-renders report employment as moderate; other trades as good. Branches with 3,022 members have only 12 unemployed as against 19 at the end of May.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment for seamen and firemen is moderately good; deal carriers and fruit porters at Hull are fairly well employed, but on general cargoes employment is slack. Dock labourers at Goole report employment as fair, at Grimsby as moderate.

Fishing Industries.—Employment in the fishing and subsidiary industries is good at Hull and moderate at Grimsby.

Seed Crushing, Paint, and Colour Works.—Employment in seed crushing mills is slack. Paint and colour workers continue busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers in Hull and Doncaster report employment as good; the lithographic printers, bookbinders, and machine rulers in Hull as moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The coopers in Hull report employment as good but a trifle slack; the coachmakers at Doncaster as moderate; the brushmakers at Hull as bad.

W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches with 8,072 members have 155 (or 1'9 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of May.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers in Leeds continue well employed in all branches; at Wakefield moderately so. Ironfounders are busy in Leeds and Stanningley. Boiler-makers, steelworkers, brassworkers, stovegrate workers, spindle and flyer makers, machine workers, and whitesmiths are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade in Leeds is dull, except in the ankle-strap department. At Heckmondwike it has been slack, short time prevailing; at Bramley quiet. In the ready-made tailoring trade it has been variable, but on the whole fair. Bespoke tailors are fairly busy.

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

Textile Trades.—Employment in the mills at Leeds is not good. Woollen spinners, weavers and blanket raisers report employment as quiet, with some firms on short time. Flax and linen workers are fully employed. Willeyers and fettlers are dull. Employment at Yeadon and Stanningley is bad; at Morley, Pudsey and Farsley moderate; at Wakefield worsted mills are fairly employed.

Coal Mining.—Work has fallen off at some pits during June; at others full time has been worked.

Leather Trades.—At the tanneries employment is slack. Calf kid and fancy leather shavers and carriers are dull.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as fair; bookbinders and machine rulers as brisk.

Glass Trades.—At Leeds, Castleford, and Wakefield glass bottle-makers continue busy. Flint glassmakers are fairly well employed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is good with cabinet-makers; fair with brushmakers.—O. Connellan.

Bradford and Huddersfield District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in the worsted trade in Bradford and the Worth Valley shows no improvement, and in the worsted coating trade in Halifax is not good. In the worsted piece trade in Huddersfield it is about the same as in May, some overtime being worked.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in the woollen trade in and around Huddersfield is fair. Overtime is still being worked, though night work is hardly so common. In the heavy woollen trade employment shows no improvement.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade is still quiet at Manningham, Halifax, and Brighouse. In the carpet trade at Heckmondwike it is bad, and in the carriage cloth trade hardly so good as in May. In the cotton trade employment at Brighouse is rather worse; in Huddersfield it is unchanged. In the rag trade it is still rather poor in Batley and district.

Metal Trades.—The engineers and ironfounders are fairly well employed. Branches of these societies at Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, Huddersfield, and Dewsbury with 2,657 members, have 72 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 54 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Building Trades.—Employment continues fairly good throughout the district, though still affected by the masons' dispute at Huddersfield.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Dyers and tailors are fairly well employed. In the printing and allied trades employment is rather quiet.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners), with 14,548 members, have 81 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 62 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Armour-plate makers on foreign orders are busy, others are quiet. Crank and axle-makers and forgemen generally are busy. Engineers and boiler-makers report employment as good. Bessemer steel workers and Siemens steel smelters are fairly employed, and crucible steelmakers well employed. All branches of the stove grate trade are busy; wire drawers are quiet. Branches of these trades, with 5,253 members, have 36 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 22 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. At Barnsley and Rotherham engineers and ironfounders continue well employed.

Cutlery and Tools.—Pen and pocket knife workers are fairly employed; table-knife cutlers, all sections of the file and tool trades, and makers of cycle parts and agricultural and horticultural implements are busy. Saw makers and razor workers report employment as fair; saw handle-makers and haft and scale pressers as brisk; bayonet workers as slack, and wool shear grinders and benders as moderate. Branches with 5,601 members have 18 (or 0.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 20 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Other Metal Trades.—Britannia and silver metal smiths are fairly employed. Hollow-ware buffers and silver and electro-plate finishers report employment as good. Brass workers are exceedingly busy. Out of 1,417 members of the local unions in this section, only 7 are unemployed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 61 of the principal collieries show an average of 4.98 days per week, as against 5.05 days per week last month, the reduction being largely due to holidays.

Building Trades.—Out of 10 local branches making returns with 1,337 members only 4 men are unemployed. In Rotherham and district all branches are busy. At Barnsley employment is only moderate.

Linen Trade.—Employment in the linen industry at Barnsley is moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke department reported as good in Sheffield, moderate in Barnsley, and fair in Rotherham. At Barnsley the workpeople in the ready-made trade are fairly well employed. Boot and shoe makers are slack.

Glass Trade.—Bottle-makers of all kinds are busy; flint glass workers continue well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report a slight improvement. The lithographers, bookbinders and machine rulers are all fairly well employed.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding.—Coachbuilders and hobbin and boxmakers are busy; cabinet-makers and railway carriage and wagon-builders are moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants are well employed, general labourers are busy. Fancy leather workers and saddlers and harness-makers are fairly well employed.—S. Uttley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coalminers) with 6,507 members have 76 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Engineering and Allied Trades.—Branches with 2,319 members have 21 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 13 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. Employment in the locomotive and other engineering branches, and in girder and boiler yards continues good. Ironfounders report employment in Derby as improving; at Butterley, Chesterfield, and Somercotes as moderate; brassmoulders and finishers at Derby and Burton-on-Trent as good; iron wagon-builders in Long Eaton as brisk; lace machine builders as bad. Cycle workers at Draycott and Long Eaton report a decline, men being discharged. Stove grate workers in Derby, Belper, and Langley mills are fairly well employed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 49 collieries, employing about 20,000 men, show an average worked of about 4 days per week.

Quarrying.—Employment in limestone quarries in all districts has been fairly maintained.

Textile Trades.—Employment with cotton spinners and weavers at Borrowash, Belper, Draycott, Glossop and Hadfield is rather quiet. Hosiery workers at Heanor, Belper and Ilkeston report employment as moderate on hose, slack on shirts and pants. Dyers and bleachers in Belper are fairly well employed; lacemakers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton are slack. Surgical bandage makers in Derby report employment as good; elastic web weavers as bad. Calico printers and engravers in Hayfield, Dinting and New Mills as bad.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches is exceptionally good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with boot and shoe operatives, tailors, dress and mantle makers continues good.

Coachbuilding Trades.—Railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby report employment as good, in Long Eaton as fair; carriage builders in private shops as fair.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The coopers in Burton-on-Trent report employment as good; cabinet-makers as moderate. In most timber yards employment continues regular.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders is fair.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The plain net branch continues well employed, but the curtain and levers branches show a marked decline. In the finishing departments and warehouses employment is better. Warp makers, warp lacemakers, and curtain readers report employment as bad; bleachers at Basford and Bulwell are fairly well employed. Dyers at Basford and Nottingham are slack on lace goods.

Hosiery Trade.—Rotary framework knitters report one-third unemployed and short time general. The circular hosiery branch is very slack. Shetland shawlmakers at Hucknall are well employed; framework knitters at Sutton, Kirkby and Mansfield are moderately employed. The hand frame branch is well employed on lace ankle goods, but is slack on plain goods.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment shows a decline in most branches, especially in the cycle trade. Branches with 4,023 members have 223 (or 5.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 124 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. Employment is fair at Mansfield, Newark and Retford in all branches, but declining at Beeston.

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

Building Trades.—Employment is good at Nottingham, except with plumbers, and also at Mansfield, Newark, Worksop, Retford, Colwick and Beeston. At Grantham it is fairly good. Branches with 2,701 members have 6 unemployed, as against 3 at the end of May.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 34 collieries show that an average of about 3½ days was worked.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress printers are slack; lithographic artists and printers report employment as moderate; bookbinders continue well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are not so well employed, but the factory and ready-made branches are fairly busy; mantle-makers are well employed. Boot and shoe operatives are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Boxmakers, basket-makers and coachbuilders are all well employed. Silk dressers and cotton doublers are making four days per week. Bakers and confectioners are moderately employed; general labourers are well employed; hackney carriage drivers and horsemen are busy.—W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—In the Northamptonshire boot and shoe trade employment has continued regular throughout the month. At Leicester and the surrounding towns it is less regular, especially with clickers and pressmen.

Hosiery, Yarn, and Wool Spinning Trades.—Employment in nearly all branches of the hosiery industry is quiet; in the yarn and wool spinning factories it is moderate; in most branches of the trimming and dyeing trades it is good.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors continue in full work at Northampton, Kettering and Rugby, but are slacker at Leicester. In the wholesale department employment is quieter. Staymakers and dressmakers are not so busy; milliners continue well employed. Felt hatters and cap-makers are moderately employed; silk hatters are still busy.

Elastic Web Trade.—Elastic web weavers are reported as slack. Those employed on cords, braids and narrow webbings are more regularly employed.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—General engineers, pattern-makers, ironfounders, moulders, boiler-makers, and shoe and hosiery machine builders at Leicester, Loughborough and Rugby are busy, some branches working overtime. Work is quieter at Northampton. It is slacker with cycle-makers.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment is reported as less regular with the South Leicestershire coal miners. Of 15 pits in Leicestershire from which reports have been received, 1 worked five days per week, 3 worked four days and under five, 1 worked three days and under four, and 10 worked less than three days per week. Stone quarrymen are in full work, some millmen working overtime. Ironstone miners are well employed.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—With letterpress and lithographic printers employment is reported as good at Leicester, Kettering and Loughborough; fair at Rugby, and quieter at Northampton. It is moderate with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with bricklayers, builders' labourers, carpenters, joiners and plasterers at Leicester, Loughborough and Rugby; moderate at Hinckley and Kettering. It is quieter with stonemasons, and plumbers; painters and house decorators are generally fully employed.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment is reported as plentiful in all branches of the furnishing trades, and good with coach and wagon builders.

Leather Trades.—Tanners at Market-Harborough are well employed. But carriers are slacker at Northampton.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with farriers, basket-makers, cigar-makers, brush-makers, wood-cutting machinists, railway workmen, and brick and tile makers; moderate with bakers, confectioners and boxmakers; slack with gasfitters and stokers. T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Hollow-ware pressers report a decline, with increased numbers working short time. Sanitary pressers are indifferently employed, some firms only working 4 days per week. Flat pressers report a further decline. Printers and transferrers report a serious falling off. Women gilders and decorators are busy. Men artists on best goods are regularly employed. Modellers, designers, and mould-makers are fairly busy. Throwers and turners are moderately employed in the open trade; slack in the furniture and electrical departments. Ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggar-makers report a general decline.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is improving in the mills, and puddlers are well employed. Blast furnacemen are busy. Employment has improved in the steel trades. Anchor chainmakers at Ford Green continue busy.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers at Crewe, Stafford and the Potteries are busy. The dispute among the moulders in North Staffordshire continues. At Longport brass moulders and finishers are busy, and overtime is general. Copper workers at Oakamoor and Froghall report a slight decline in the wire mills. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley are busy.

Coal Mining.—The miners at Talk-o'-th'-Hill and district are working well. In the Potteries employment is scarce. At Cheadle fully one-third of the miners are unemployed, and at Rugeley and district they are averaging about 3½ days per week.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade is fairly good in all branches. At Congleton it has improved. Fustian cutters report a decline. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors at Crewe, Stafford and the Potteries are very busy. Shoemakers at Stafford report employment as fairly good. At Stone operatives are fairly employed.

Building Trades.—All branches are very busy. **Miscellaneous.**—Stone quarries at Alton and Hollington are busy. Railway servants throughout the district are well employed. Gasworkers are slack.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues good in the steel smelting and the steel and iron bar, angle, and hoop trades. No improvement is reported in the sheet trade. In Shropshire, work at the mills and forges with one exception is reported as steady.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The boiler-makers and engineers are well employed. Cycle workers are not so busy. The Coalbrookdale ironfounders are busy. At Madeley and Tamworth employment is reported as steady.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is quiet in the anchor trade, in the anvil trade, and most branches of the chain trade. In the vice trade it is brisk. Makers of axles and springs, nuts and bolts, iron fences and hurdles, wrought nails, tin and galvanised oddware, hand-cut files, keys and light hollow-ware, and file grinders, brass-workers, stampers and piercers, tube, gunlock, and axe makers are well employed. Makers of cast nails and protectors have lost 6 days during the month, and cycle casters 9 days. The tinplate workers and makers of tips, tacks, cut-nails, spring traps, iron plate, steel toys, wrought iron odd-work, builders' ironmongery, rims and mortices, latches and cabinet locks, and edge tools are quieter. Plantation and brazil-hoe makers are dull.

Coal Mining.—Employment is reported as quiet in the Cannock Chase and Tamworth district. In Shropshire pits producing manufacturing coals are busy; house coal pits are slack.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and carpenters report employment as good, plumbers and painters as moderate.

Glass Trades.—The flint glassworkers at Wordsley and Brettle Lane have been busy with Jubilee orders, but are now quieter. The glass bottle-makers at Brierley Hill have worked half-time during part of the month, but are now stopped altogether.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster employment in the carpet and spinning trade has been quiet. Employment in the Bridgnorth carpet mills and the Tamworth tape mills is reported as steady.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as good in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trades and in the boot and shoe trade. C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of engineers, brass workers, and workers in other metals with 13,623 members, return 187 (or 1.4 per cent.) as unemployed.

Engineering.—Employment is good, overtime being generally worked. In Coventry, Redditch, and West Bromwich, employment is good. Employment in the cycle trade in Birmingham and Coventry is not so busy; at some factories overtime is worked, but at others work is falling off, and men are being discharged. At Redditch, the trade is busy, overtime being worked.

Brass and Copper Working.—Employment in the brass trade is good, some branches working overtime, and no factories being on short time. Fender and fine brass workers report work as fairly good, with no unemployed. Coppersmiths continue well employed.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Employment in the jewellery districts is slack. The demand for Jubilee medals has ceased.

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

Electro-plate workers report employment as fairly good, several firms working overtime; britannia metal workers as quiet, only one firm working overtime.

Other Metal Trades.—Ironfounders report employment as good, several foundries are working overtime, and no short time is being worked. Bedstead-makers and filesmiths report employment as good. The ironplate workers report employment as only fair, with two firms on short time. In the Lye district employment is fair.

Building Trades.—The carpenters, bricklayers, stonemasons, plasterers and plumbers report employment as good, with no unemployed. Employment is brisk in the districts of Coventry and West Bromwich.

Glass Trade.—Flint glass makers, plate glass bevellers, and silverers and cutters report employment as good. Employment in the glass trade of West Bromwich is also good.

Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers are fully employed. Employment on house furniture is fairly good, but on school furniture is quieter. The coachmakers report employment as good.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as fair; tailors are busy; the sporting and military gunmakers as fairly good. In Coventry weaving is reported as slack, short time being worked. In Redditch employment in the home trade in needles, &c., is reported as quiet; in the American and continental trade as fair.

A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

General.—Branches with 3,420 members have 20 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 24 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are fairly busy at Norwich, Cambridge, Beccles, Yarmouth and Lynn. The ready-made clothing factories at Norwich are on full time. The dispute in the boot and shoe trade at Norwich still continues.

Building Trades.—Employment is good throughout the district.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers are fully employed. Shipwrights and boatbuilders at Yarmouth and Lowestoft are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth are on full time.

Fishing Industry.—Trawl fishing has not been good at either Yarmouth or Lowestoft.

Miscellaneous.—Horticultural builders are busy, coachbuilders are fairly so; navvies and general labourers are well employed throughout the district.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment with engineers is reported as good at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Chelmsford, Halstead, and Earls Colne; moderate at Ipswich; and bad at Wickham Market. It is good with boiler-makers, moulders, and shipwrights at Ipswich, and with shipwrights at Rowhedge and Wyvenhoe.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives at Ipswich and Colchester report employment as moderate. Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade at Ipswich is fair; at Colchester it is good. Corset-makers are well employed at Ipswich and Sudbury.

Textile Trades.—Employment is reported as good in the mat and matting industry at Sudbury, Glemsford, Lavenham, and Hadleigh; fair at Long Melford. Horse-hair weavers at Lavenham, and silk weavers at Sudbury are well employed. The crape and silk factories at Halstead and Earls Colne are running full time.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good at Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Felixstowe, Hadleigh, Clacton-on-Sea, Colchester, Chelmsford, and Halstead and Earls Colne; fair at Southend and Sudbury.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Beccles, moderate at Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds, and bad at Colchester. Lithographers are moderately employed and bookbinders steadily employed at Ipswich.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with horticultural builders at Ipswich and Chelmsford, brickmakers at Sudbury, Chelmsford and Braintree, and gasworkers and general labourers at Ipswich and Colchester; dull with leatherworkers at Colchester. Shipping and dock labour has been moderate at Ipswich, improving towards the end of the month.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.

General.—Branches with 8,082 members have 87 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 73 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades is moderately good, though some irregularity has been caused by the disputes at Weston-super-Mare. Branches with a membership of 2,733 have 32 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Bristol district is reported not to average more than four days per week. In the Forest of Dean, miners are reported as busy on steam coal, slack on house coal.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment continues brisk in all departments. Branches with 3,127 members have 16 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 11 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment in Bristol has been fair, with an improvement in the timber trade.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is brisk in all branches of the tailoring and hat trades. In the boot and shoe trade it is dull at Bristol, slightly improved at Kingswood.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Stroud Valley continues good in most departments. At Tiverton silk lace makers are reported as steadily employed. Cotton operatives in Bristol report an improvement.

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

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers are busy; brushmakers brisk; and coopers slack.

Printing Trades.—The lithographic printers report employment as good; the letterpress printers as slack at Bath, fair at Bristol, and good at Gloucester and Hereford.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—Employment in the metal mining industry of Cornwall remains unchanged. The clayworkers and quarrymen continue well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment continues good with the engineers, boiler-makers, brassfounders and finishers; there is an improvement with the ironfounders. These branches, with a membership of 1,452, report only 6 unemployed. Wheelwrights and smiths are also busy.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made and bespoke departments of the tailoring trade continue fairly busy. The boot and shoe trades continue moderately employed.

Building Trades.—Employment except in Torquay continues good.

Transport Trades.—Employment has not been quite so brisk with the quayside and dock labourers during the month. The demand for seamen continues quiet. Bargemen and those engaged on the water and river service are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with the letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders is moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues fairly good with the upholsterers, polishers, cabinet-makers, mill-sawyers and machinists.

Miscellaneous.—General labourers, excavators and brickyard workers are well employed. The fishing industry again shows an improvement.—J. Welland.

WALES.

North Wales District.

Mining.—Employment at the various collieries of North Wales has not been so good, partly in consequence of the holidays. The dispute at the Ruabon collieries remains unsettled. The development of the metalliferous mines in the district is going on satisfactorily.

Quarrying.—Employment continues good at the slate quarries of North Wales, and brisk at the granite sett quarries. Employment is good at the limestone and freestone quarries, and brisk at the roadstone quarries.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers at Sandycroft and Oswestry again report employment as moderate. Employment is good at Ruabon and Cefn. Employment has been good at the spelter works at Mold and Bagillt, but not at the tinplate works at Mold. Employment is reported as good with the coachmakers at Oswestry, and the wagon makers at Johnstown, and Ruabon.

Building Trades.—At Wrexham employment is reported as fair with bricklayers and carpenters, slack with plasterers and painters;

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—WALES AND SCOTLAND.

at Oswestry, as moderate with bricklayers, and slack with carpenters. Employment continues quiet in the Mold district, steady in the Rhos district, and good at Ruabon and Cefn in all branches.

Brick and Terra Cotta Works.—Employment continues good in the Mold and Buckley districts. The brickworks at Rhydymwyn, near Mold, have been stopped for a short time for alterations in the machinery; full time is being worked at the various brickworks in the Wrexham, Rhos, Ruabon and Penybont districts.

Chemical Trades.—The men at the Flint and Ruabon chemical works continue fully employed.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tweed industry of Montgomeryshire has been moderate. The tailors at Rhyl report employment as good; at Oswestry as moderate.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Employment has been much the same as during May. Returns show that at Ebbw Vale, Dowlais, Cyfarthfa, Merthyr and Tredegar collieries are working full time; at Nantyglo and Blaiva irregularly; at Blaenavon an average of 5 days a week; in the Garw Valley and the western district from 4½ to 5 days a week.

Building Trades.—Employment is fairly good. Branches of carpenters and joiners with 1,435 members, have 21 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 16 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—All sections have been well employed throughout the month. Boiler-makers report about 12½ per cent. unemployed; shipwrights 10 per cent. Branches of engineers and ironmoulders with 3,038 members have 64 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 88 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. Labourers have had a good month.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been steady; general cargo shipments improved. Employment in the iron ore, pitwood, and timber trades has been good. Corn porters and general hoblors report a fairly good month. The shipment of crews has not been very brisk.

Iron and Steel Trade.—At six large steel works the mills and furnaces are going regularly, and at several works additional plant is being laid down.

Miscellaneous.—Patent fuel workers report employment as fair; wagon builders and lifters as good; chemical and smelting workers as dull; letterpress and lithographic printers as moderate.

T. Davies.

The Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—At some of the works at which a stop week was declared by the men work has not since been resumed, the employers having decided to lock them out. Disputes due to this and other causes are said to have thrown about 2,000 hands idle. Those unemployed from other causes are now few in number and are gradually leaving the trade. Out of 88 works with 488 mills, 38 with 203 mills were giving full employment at the end of June, and 33 with 177 mills were idle. The remaining 17 works were giving partial employment, 70 out of 108 mills being at work. The total number of mills at work is thus 273, as compared with 302 at the end of May, and 311 at the end of June 1896.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches with 16,613 members return 269 (or 1.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 186 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good in Mid and East Lothian, fully 90 per cent. of the miners being fully employed, and the remainder nearly so. In West Lothian employment has declined considerably.

Mineral Oil Trades.—Employment in these trades continues fairly regular, except with the candle-makers. Returns have been received relating to 25 pits employing 3,070 workpeople, compared with 3,171 in June 1896. Full time was worked at 15 pits employing 1,971 workpeople, while at the other 10 pits employment ranged from 19 to 23 days during the four weeks ended 19th June.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,476 members have 23 (or 0.9 per cent.) idle, as against 29 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. Branches of the iron trades in Falkirk, with 2,225 members have again no idle members.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in the shipbuilding yards in Leith continues to decline. Three branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights with 580 members have 140 (or 24.1 per cent.) idle, as against 80 (or 14.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of

Textile Trades.—The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as quiet. Employment in the linen industry in Dunfermlie has declined considerably in all branches. In the woollen industry in Selkirk, employment is fairly good with the weavers, spinners are not so busy; in Hawick and Galashiels employment with both spinners and weavers has declined considerably. Employment in the hosiery trade is fair in Selkirk, and in Hawick quiet.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,798 members again report 4 (or 0.1 per cent.) as idle.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,055 members have 18 idle, as against 17 at the end of May.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as good; dock labourers and coal porters are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,252 members have 55 (or 2.4 per cent.) idle, as against 38 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

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

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues plentiful in all departments throughout the district. Branches with 11,067 members have 317 (or 2.9 per cent.) idle, as against 235 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is still good throughout the district. Branches with 25,630 members have 452 (or 1.8 per cent.) idle, as against 511 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire the miners are working on an average five days per week. In Ayrshire, Dumbartonshire, and Lanarkshire most collieries are working full time. Renfrewshire the idle day at Nitshill still continues; otherwise the coal and ironstone miners are working full time.

Building Trades.—Employment in Glasgow and surrounding districts is reported as good. Branches, with 12,398 members, return 31 (or 0.3 per cent.) as idle, as against 83 (or 0.7 per cent.) of their membership at the end of May.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment has been good except with the packing box makers, who have been affected by a dispute. Branches, with 3,795 members, return 40 (or 1.1 per cent.) as idle, as against 64 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow hundreds of looms are idle both in woollen and silk goods. In Newmilns and district about 1,200 weavers are locked out. With carpet weavers employment is declining; calender men and power loom beamers are dull; dyers are busy; rope and twine makers are improving. In Kilbirnie employment is good except with the networkers. In Paisley there is some improvement at the thread mills. In Port Glasgow textile workers are busy. In Renfrewshire weavers continue slack. In Busby, Thornliebank and Barrhead the calico printers are dull. In Pollokshaws all branches are dull.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors have been moderately well employed; the clothiers' operatives have been rather dull; the boot and shoe operatives are not busy; the knee shoemakers have been well employed; the carriers report an improvement.

Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as still dull; the dock labourers as good. In Ardrossan, both sailors and dock labourers have been busy; carters report an improvement; railwaymen, hackney carriage drivers and tramway men are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers in Glasgow are still dull; in Paisley they are moderately employed. Lithographic printers have been fairly busy. Bookbinders are not busy; electrotypers and stereotypers report no unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—Cork cutters, settmakers, potters, gilders, paviors, spindle and flyer makers and bottle-makers all report employment as good; pipemakers and finishers as fair.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the textile trades continued steady until the end of the month, when it commenced to decline. One firm in Forfar is working short time, and at Brechin and Arbroath short time prevails.

Coal Mining.—Work at the Fifeshire collieries has been fairly steady. Returns from 36 collieries employing 11,000 workpeople, give

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

an average of 4.89 days worked per week for the four weeks ending 10th June.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Work in the various branches of the engineering trades has been steady, and shipbuilders are at present well placed for orders.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in all branches of the building trades has been fairly good.

Dock and General Labour.—Work at the docks and jetties has been good all through the month.

Fishing Industry.—The line and trawl fishing has been prosecuted with fair success.

Miscellaneous.—The printing and kindred trades have been moderately busy. Tailors report a considerable falling off in employment.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches with 5,556 members have 85 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 58 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Quarrying.—The blockers, drillers, settmakers, cranemen, and labourers report employment as good; monumental masons as moderate; granite polishers as fair.

Building Trades.—Branches with 210 members return 14 (or 0.6 per cent.) as idle, as against 2 at the end of May.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, engineers, blacksmiths, iron moulders, pattern-makers, brassmoulders and fishers, toolsmiths, tinplate workers and horseshoers report employment as good; shipwrights as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders, machine rulers and paperworkers report employment as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The hand sewn boot and shoe makers report employment as good; riveters and finishers as bad; tailors as good.

Transport Trades.—Railway servants, seamen and firemen report employment as good.

Fishing.—In June at the port of Aberdeen the total quantity of fish landed by trawl and line boats was 63,017 cwt., realising £31,378, an increase in weight and value as compared with the previous month.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good in all branches except the paviers. Branches with 3,171 members have 74 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 79 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as fair, except with the gasfitters and engineers. Branches with 841 members have 24 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 9 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment with the letterpress printers continues fair. Branches with 1,238 members return 47 (or 3.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 68 (or 5.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with the tailors and bootmakers has been fair.

Dock and Transport Labour.—The railway servants and dockers report employment as good; tram-men and sailors and firemen as fair; the grain checkers as dull.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

General.—Societies with 22,271 members return 311 (or 1.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 290 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches with 10,655 members report 114 (or 1.1 per cent.) as unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of May. The blacksmiths report employment as fair; the boiler-makers as improving; and other trades as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,018 members report 116 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 82 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. The powerloom tenters report employment as very bad; flax roughers and power loom yarn dressers as dull; flax dressers and yarn bundlers as fair; beetlers, linen lappers, spindle and flyer makers as good; and the hackle and gill makers as good.

Building Trades.—Societies, with 3,556 members, return only 7 as unemployed at the end of June. All branches report employment as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 658 members return 11 (or 1.7 per cent.) as unemployed as against 7 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. Cabinet-makers, coopers and coachbuilders report employment as fair; French-polishers, upholsterers and packing-case makers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Societies with 888 members return 16 (or 1.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 28 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. Bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment as fair; letterpress printers, lithographic printers, and designers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives and the bespoke tailors, with 770 members, return 8 (or 1.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 10 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as moderate; the tailors as good.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Societies with 1,726 members report 39 (or 2.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 48 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. The bakers and butchers report employment as fair, and the carters, locomotive engine-drivers and railway servants as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as bad; engineers as bad in Cork and fair in Limerick and Waterford. Employment with shipwrights, shipjoiners and painters continues dull throughout the district.

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

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Flax and tweed operatives continue well employed; employment is fair with boot and shoe makers; with tailors it is fair in Limerick and bad in Waterford, Tralee, and Cork.

Wood-workers.—Coopers and cabinet-makers report employment as fair; mill-sawyers and woodworking machinists as steady in Cork, and fair in Limerick and Waterford.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with plumbers, fair with letterpress printers, and quay labourers, and dull with gasworkers.—P. O'Shea.

FACTORY INSPECTION IN WÜRTEMBERG.—The following is based on a memorandum, prepared for the Foreign Office by Mr. Harriss-Gastrell, Commercial Attaché to H.M. Embassy at Berlin:—

Of the 6,393 factories and workplaces ranking as factories in Würtemberg, 3,224 (or 50.4 per cent.) were visited in 1896.

The number of girls from 16 to 21 years old employed in the 6,393 factories, &c., was 14,633 (13,809 in 1895), of young persons from 14 to 16 years old, 11,946 (10,918 in 1895), and of children under 14, 165 (142 in 1895). Women over 21 numbered 19,173 (17,907 in 1895). The increase of female workers is chiefly in the textile, metal and woodworking trades.

There were 945 cases of infractions of the law on the employment of young workers, as against 1,140 in 1895. Length of hours, a break in the middle of the day and Sunday labour were the chief points in which the law was broken.

In small trades it is every year more difficult to get apprentices, as the young people prefer employment in the factories, where they at once earn money and can maintain themselves.

Women's labour is daily in greater request; and in some parts enough of it cannot be obtained; and what has hitherto been women's work, such as, for example, nickeling and silvering metals, has had to be given to men. The number of hours of overtime for women sanctioned in 1896 was 317,744, as against 310,641 in 1895.

As regards men's labour, the duration of work has again been reduced in many trades, and it is stated that the work accomplished has not suffered in amount.

1,676 accidents were notified to the inspectors in 1896.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JUNE.

(For Summary of these detailed Tables, see p. 197.)

I. Railway Servants.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned, during the month of June 1897.

[The number of Servants employed by the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom was 465,112 on 31st December, 1895.]

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned, during the month of June 1897. Columns include Class of Service, Killed, and various types of injuries.

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 4 servants killed and 800 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during June, as compared with 4 killed and 784 injured in June 1896.

II. Miners and Quarrymen.*

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of June 1897.

[The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 725,803, and in and about quarries (more than 20 feet deep) as 112,829, in 1896.]

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of June 1897. Columns include Cause of Accident, Mined, and Quarries.

* Supplied by the Home Office.

III. Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents).

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of June 1897 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of June 1897 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

NOTE.—Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatic ports, serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.*

(A) Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of June 1897, distinguishing Factories and Workshops. †

[The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 (2) of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.]

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of June 1897, distinguishing Factories and Workshops.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 2,057 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors, viz., 2,054 in Factories and 3 in Workshops.

(B) Table showing the number of persons killed or injured by accidents reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories by occupiers of factories and workshops during May and June 1897 respectively, grouped according to industries.*

Table showing the number of persons killed or injured by accidents reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories by occupiers of factories and workshops during May and June 1897 respectively, grouped according to industries.

V. Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.) Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of June 1897.

Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of June 1897.

* Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894. † Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. ‡ Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JUNE.

(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 total number of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported in June was about 17,300, and the net effect of all the changes on the week's wages of these workpeople was an average increase of 1s. 5d. per head. About 15,830 received increases, averaging 1s. 8½d. per week, and 1,470 sustained decreases, averaging 7½d. per week.

Increases.—About 4,820 workpeople in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 7,600 workpeople in the building trades, 1,000 workpeople engaged in the London saddle and harness trades, and 1,000 brickmakers in Middlesex received advances.

Decreases.—The principal decreases are those sustained by the blastfurnacemen in Cumberland and North Lancashire.

Method of Settlement.—Of the workpeople whose wages were changed, about 14,100 had their wages altered by arbitration, sliding scale, negotiation, or by the voluntary concession of employers. The changes in the case of the remaining 3,200 workpeople were preceded by strikes, although in some cases only a portion of the workpeople whose wages were altered actually struck work.

Totals for first Six Months of 1897.—For the six months, January—June, about 347,750 workpeople were reported as receiving advances of wages, and 6,800 as having sustained decreases. The net effect of all these changes on the weekly wages of these 354,550 workpeople is estimated at an increase of 1s. 1d. per head.

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 changes in the pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected (Inc., Dec.), Particulars of Change (Decreases in Italics), Estimated Rate of wages in a full Week, exclusive of overtime (Before change, After change), Increase or Decrease in a full Week, exclusive of overtime (Increase per week, Decrease per week). Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, and EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Table for MINING AND QUARRYING. Includes entries for Coal Miners, Brickmakers, and Quarrymen with details on wage changes and dates.

* 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.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JUNE—continued.

Table for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. Includes entries for Riveters, Caulkers, and Holders-up; Patternmakers, Smiths, Turners and Fitters; Engineers; Ironfounders; Brassfinishers; Strippers and Grinders; Ship Joiners; and Engineers in various localities like The Wear, Barnsley, Penistone, Leigh, Derby, Nottingham, London, E., London, W., London, S.W., Exeter, Aberdeen, Kirkcaldy, Belfast, and Dublin.

Table for OTHER METAL TRADES. Includes entries for Blastfurnacemen, Nut and Bolt Makers, Ditto (Machine Workers), Range and Stove Fitters, Keysmiths, and Nail Makers in localities like Cumberland and Askam, Barrow, Ulverston, South Staffordshire, Falkirk, Willenhall, and Leeds.

Table for TEXTILE TRADES. Includes entries for Willeyers and Blenders, Strippers and Grinders, Willeyers, Hosiery Dyers, and Linen Thread Workers in localities like Mirfield, Bolton, Yeading, Leicester, and Kilbirnie.

Table for CLOTHING TRADES. Includes entries for Tailors, Shoemakers, Lasters and Finishers, and Bootmakers in localities like Huddersfield, Stafford, Rushden, and Cork.

Table for TRANSPORT. Includes entries for Tramway Drivers and Conductors, Dock Labourers, and Carters in localities like Wigan, Birmingham, Glasgow, and Belfast.

Table for WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES. Includes entries for Cabinet Makers, Cabinet and Chair Makers, Upholsterers and Machinemen, Upholsterers, Trimmers, Machinist, and Wheelwrights in localities like Scarborough, London, E., Cork, Glasgow, London, E.C., London, N.E., Killybrewster, Aberdeen, London, S.E., Bury, and Leeds.

Table for EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Includes entries for Quarrymen, Gasworks Labourers, Building Labourers and Navvies, Shipwrights, and Paviers in localities like Halifax, Oldham, London, Aberdeen, and Belfast.

† See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

* Comprise bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, painters and labourers. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. ‡ Marine Engineers—An agreement was made in May between employers and men engaged in the steam fishing industry of Grimsby for an advance of 1s. 6d. per month to chief and second engineers, to take effect on 14th May, and a further advance of 1s. to come into operation on 1st August.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JUNE.

The changes in hours of labour reported during June were all decreases and affected about 12,700 workpeople; 7,000 engineers employed in London obtained the 48 hours week, and 1,000 saddle and harness makers in London had their hours reduced from 56½ to 52½ per week. The average amount of reduction of working hours was 4.76 per week.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (before and after change), Extent of decrease per week.

* See also under Changes in Wages. † Summer hours. ‡ Mid-winter. § Hours previous to change 50 for 35 weeks, 44½ for 4 weeks, 44 for 4 weeks and 41½ for 9 weeks. ¶ Hours after change 44½ for 39 weeks, and 39 for 13 weeks.

PAUPERISM IN JUNE.

Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland. THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of June was 315,470, corresponding to a rate of 201 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1897.

Compared with May last, the number relieved has decreased by 4,842, and the rate per 10,000 by 3. Three districts only show increased rates, viz.:—Newcastle (5 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees district (2), and Edinburgh and Leith district (1). In 3 districts the rate remains the same, while in the remaining 29 districts decreases are shown; the largest decreases being in the Central London and Dublin districts (10 each), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (8), Bristol (7), and Belfast (6 per 10,000). The rate for the whole Metropolitan area has fallen by 5 per 10,000.

Compared with June 1896, the total number relieved has decreased by 2,788, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 4. The decrease was entirely in outdoor pauperism, indoor pauperism showing an increase. Eleven districts show an increased rate, the largest increases being in the Paisley and Greenock district (18 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick district (10), Barnsley district (8), and Galway district (7). In the Dublin district the rate was the same, while in the remaining 23 districts decreases are shown, the most marked being in the Hull district (22), Stockton and Tees district (14), Nottingham, Leicester, and Wolverhampton districts (13 each), and Leeds (11 per 10,000).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of June 1897, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year, Rate per 10,000 of estimated population.

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

Table with columns: SCOTLAND, IRELAND, Total for above 35 districts in June, Total for previous month.

* 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.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN JUNE.

DURING June 1,567 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux making returns. Private employers engaged 637 persons, and local authorities 277. Of the 2,123 workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month, 1,027 were men, 110 lads and boys, and 986 women and girls.

Comparing the figures of the 12 bureaux which also furnished returns for June 1896, the number of fresh applicants for work decreased by 43 per cent.

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 Work by Bureaux.

(II.) Workpeople on Registers at end of June classified by Occupations.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stablemen and Horsemen, Clerks and Warehousemen, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Charwomen, Daily Work, &c., Servants, Dress-makers and Sempstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total.

* New register opened 1st January 1897. † Women and Girls are not registered. ‡ Not furnished.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JUNE.

(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.—Fifty-three fresh disputes occurred in June 1897, compared with 126* in May, and 95 in June 1896. In these disputes 13,380 workpeople were involved compared with 17,848* in May, and about 11,700 in June 1896.

Trades affected.—In the building trades 16 disputes took place, involving 1,186 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 9 disputes, involving 7,315 workpeople; engineering and shipbuilding, 5 disputes, involving 158 workpeople; other metal trades, 3 disputes, involving 1,058 workpeople; textile trades, 5 disputes, involving 1,703 workpeople; furnishing and woodworking trades, 5 disputes, involving 127 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 10 disputes, involving 1,833 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 53 disputes, 26 arose chiefly on wages questions (in some cases movements for reduced hours were supplementary causes), 1 was for reduced hours of labour only, 12 arose on questions of working arrangements, working rules and bye-laws, 5 on questions of non-unionists, defence of union customs, fellow-unionists, &c., 3 were demarcation disputes, and 6 were due to other causes.

Results.—Forty-two new disputes, involving 10,347 workpeople, and 38 old disputes, involving 2,127 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 80 new and old disputes settled, 32 involving 3,236 persons were successful from the point of view of the workpeople; 23 involving 5,865 persons, partially successful; and 25 involving 3,373 persons, unsuccessful.

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in June owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 231,700, as compared with 450,000 in May, and 360,000 in April.

Total Disputes for the first six Months of 1897.—For the six completed months of 1897 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 519 disputes which commenced in those months was nearly 112,240, as compared with about 103,250 in the corresponding months of 1896. The number of working days lost owing to disputes in the first six months of 1897 was about 1,995,500.

Table with 6 columns: Employment, Locality, Date when Dispute began, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected, Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JUNE 1897.

Table for Building Trades (16 Disputes, 1,186 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Carpenters and Joiners, Plasterers, and Builders' Labourers.

Table for Mining and Quarrying (9 Disputes, 7,315 Workpeople). Includes entries for Coal Miners, Putters, Pit Boys, Quarrymen, and Coal Miners.

Table for Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (5 Disputes, 158 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Platers' Helpers, Engineers, and Ditto.

* Amended figures, disputes being included which occurred in May, but of which information was received too late for insertion in the June GAZETTE.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JUNE—(continued).

Table with 6 columns: Employment, Locality, Date when Dispute began, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected, Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Result.

1.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JUNE 1897—(continued).

Table for Other Metal Trades (3 Disputes, 1,058 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Brass, Wire and Tube-workers, Coffin Furniture Makers, and Tinplate Workers.

Table for Textile Trades (5 Disputes, 1,703 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Cardroom Tenters, Textile Operatives, Cotton Weavers, Jute Spinners, and Lace Operatives.

Table for Furnishing and Woodworking Trades (5 Disputes, 127 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Mill Sawyers, Upholsterers, Ditto, and Cabinet Makers.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades (10 Disputes, 1,833 Workpeople). Includes entries for Cement Workers, Sanitary Pressers, Railway Navvies, Omnibus Conductors, Lightermen, Brickmakers, Seamen and Firemen, Ditto, Mineral Water Operatives, and Fireclay Workers.

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

Table for Building Trades (11 Disputes, 1,186 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Joiners, House Painters, Slaters and Tilers, Builders' Labourers, Carpenters and Joiners, Plumbers, Stonemasons (Banker Heads), Slaters, and Other Trades (Ironfounders, Woollen Weavers, Tramway Employees, Patternmakers, Skippers, Skippers, Lathesplitters, Boot and Shoe Operatives, Tailors).

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE JUNE, BUT OF WHICH FULL INFORMATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN OBTAINED.

Table for Building Trades (4 Disputes, 1,186 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Carpenters and Joiners, Bricklayers, Bricklayers, and Bricklayers, Joiners, and Labourers.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JUNE.—continued.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date when Dispute began, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly Affected, Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Result. III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE JUNE, BUT OF WHICH FULL INFORMATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN OBTAINED.—continued.

IV.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE JUNE, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 31 disputes, the commencement of which has been previously reported, and which now involve about 5,900 work people, were still unsettled at the end of June.—Disputes commencing June 1896: joiners, Chorley; August 1896: cotton weavers' Padham; September 1896: quarrymen, Bethesda; January 1897: boot and shoe operatives, Norwich, lace curtain operatives, Beeston; March: boot and shoe operatives, Leicester, tinsplate workers, Pentyrch; leather shavers, Leeds, (since settled—July); April: carpenters and joiners, Tavistock, Dudley and Erith; plasterers, Liverpool; woollen operatives, Kirkburton; tinsplate workers, Gowerton; packing box makers, Glasgow; coal miners, Ruabon, hosiery operatives, Ilkeston; May: building trades, Plymouth (carpenters have settled); carpenters and joiners, Ipswich; plasterers and stonemasons, Weston-super-Mare (since settled—July); masons and masons' labourers, Huddersfield; ironfounders' Potteries; tinsplate workers, Lydbrook, and Llantrissant; pattern makers, Maryhill, Glasgow; hosiery operatives, Nottingham; bricklayers, Preston, (since settled—July); rivet-heaters, Low Walker; plasterers, Colne, Nelson and District.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

United Kingdom.—Returns collected by the Co-operative Union, and published in its annual report, show that at the end of 1896 420 co-operative associations in the United Kingdom had capital amounting to £2,150,582 (compared with 364 associations and £1,803,641 in 1895), invested in house and cottage property, which was let on rental or sold on mortgage to their members.

Of this amount £1,976,455 belonged to 361 retail, distributive societies in England and Wales, and £158,786 to 51 in Scotland; the remaining £15,341 being divided between the English wholesale society and eight productive societies.

From the same report it appears that of 1,434 retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom for which particulars are given, 235 paid "bonus on wages" to their employees in 1896 amounting to £22,635, as compared with 204 societies paying £18,953 in 1895. Of the 235 societies 180, paying £13,766, were in England and Wales; 50, paying £8,810, in Scotland and 5 paying £59 in Ireland.

During the past month two new co-operative distributive societies were registered in England and Wales and one in Scotland, and one society for the promotion of home industries in Ireland.

EMPLOYMENT REGISTRIES IN GERMANY IN 1896.*

In a report on the work of public employment registries in Germany in 1896 annexed to the report of the Berlin Association for

* Der Allgemeine Arbeitsnachweis in Deutschland im Jahre 1896, vom Dr. jur. Richard Freund, Berlin. Carl Heymanns Verlag, 1897.

Registering Labour, 77 registries are dealt with, of which 52 are municipal institutions and 25 registries similar to that of Berlin (of which an account is given below) and managed by societies or groups of societies existing for the purpose of bringing employers and workpeople together.

The total number of applications from employers at 33 municipal registries for which particulars covering the whole of 1896 could be given, was 107,050, the number of applications from workpeople being 141,817 and that of situations found, 71,630.

Similar information for 22 registries managed by societies of the kind referred to, show totals of 91,371 applications from employers, 134,561 from workpeople and 123,144 situations found.

With reference to these figures it is pointed out that in some registries the number of "applications from Employers" represents the number of situations offered, while in others it represents applications irrespective of the number of workpeople applied for; also, that the figures given under the heading, "Applications from workpeople," represent, in a few cases, the actual number of individuals who applied for work, but that in most cases the same person is counted as often as he is entered in the register.

The Berlin Central Association for Registering Labour has now a membership of 530, the majority of the members being heads of business firms. The number of applications for work registered in the course of 1896 was 27,645 (compared with 23,573 in 1895), the number of situations found being 20,619 (compared with 17,095).

The "general" branch of the male department of the registry is chiefly used by persons described either as unskilled labourers or as

† Exclusive of applications from employers to the Berlin Central Association for Registering Labour.

errand boys. Of 14,602 applications for work registered in this branch in 1896, 11,298 were from one or other of these classes.

The branch set apart for special trades was chiefly used by painters (6,000 applications for work and 4,360 situations found), smiths of various sorts (2,181 applications and 1,483 situations found), and braziers and tinworkers (1,514 applications and 1,300 situations found). Masons and bricklayers appear not to make use of the registry to any great extent.

In the department for women and girls (which is separate) 3,013 applications for work and 1,794 offers of situations were registered, the number of situations procured being 1,662. No domestic servants were registered.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

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

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, Adults (M, F), Young Persons (M, F), Children (M, F), Total (M, F), Grand Total. Includes categories like Lead Poisoning, China, Earthenware, and Glass, White Lead and Colour Works, Smelting, Tinning and Enamelling, Coach-making, &c., Other Industries.

NOTE.—No cases of Phosphorus poisoning or Anthrax were reported during June 1897.

FOREIGN TRADE IN JUNE.

Imports.—The imports during June were of a total declared value of £36,321,809, an increase of 3.1 per cent. on the value for June 1896. For the first six months of the year the imports are greater by 4.1 per cent. than for the corresponding period of 1896. The following table gives the total declared value of the imports grouped in large classes for June 1897 and June 1896.—

Table with columns: Class of Goods, June, 1897, June, 1896, Increase, Decrease. Categories include Food, Drink, and Tobacco, Metals, Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances, Raw Materials for Manufacture, Manufactured Articles, Miscellaneous.

The imports of wheat were less in June by 2.4 million cwts. than a year ago, the total decrease in value of wheat amounting to £420,514, and of all classes of corn to £335,591. The decrease in the value of sugar imported amounted to £286,945. On the other hand almost all classes of meat, dairy produce, and fruit were imported in increased quantities. Most varieties of raw materials for textile manufactures were imported in diminished quantities, flax and goats' wool or hair forming the only two important exceptions. In the case of raw cotton the decrease amounted to 58,996 cwts., and in the case of jute to 10,049 tons, the corresponding decreases in value being £151,385 and £120,661 respectively. On the other hand raw materials for most other classes of manufacture show increased imports.

British and Irish Exports.—The total declared value of the exports during June was £19,089,997, or 7.2 per cent. less than the value for June 1896. For the first six months of the year the decline in value, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, amounted to 1.5 per cent. The following table gives the total declared value of the exports grouped in large classes for the months of June 1897 and June 1896:—

Table with columns: Class of Goods, June 1897, June 1896, Increase, Decrease. Categories include Articles of Food and Drink, Raw Materials, Yarns and Textile Fabrics, Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery), Machinery and Mill Work, Miscellaneous.

The exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel fell off in quantity by 182,101 tons, and in value by £45,329. The exports of cotton piece goods fell off in yardage by over 81 1/2 million yards (or about 19 per cent.), and in value by £820,444. The exports of woollen tissues also decreased, but the exports of worsted tissues and linen and jute piece goods show increases in yardage of about 2 1/2, 5, and 11 1/2 million yards respectively. The exports of most metals fell off somewhat, the decrease in the case of iron wrought and unwrought amounting in value to £231,510.

Re-Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—These amounted in value in June to £5,451,789, or £812,821 more than June 1896.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels entered in ports of the United Kingdom in June from Foreign Countries and British Possessions was 3,087,442 tons, or 27,640 tons less than in June 1896. The tonnage cleared was 3,319,936 tons, or 20,244 tons less than a year ago. The tonnage entered Coastwise amounted to 2,515,345 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,513,447 tons, as against 2,637,894 tons entered and 2,524,615 tons cleared in June 1896.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during June were 3.4 per cent. more than in June 1896, but, as compared with June 1895, show a falling off of 33 per cent., chiefly accounted for by a decrease in the quantity of American cotton imported. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was less than in June 1896, but more than in June 1895.

Table with columns: Imports, Bales, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Bales, Exports, Bales. Rows for June 1897, 1896, 1895.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended July 3rd amounted to £8,006,718, being £451,317 (or 6 per cent.) more than for the corresponding period of 1896. The receipts from passenger traffic were £4,145,526, an increase of £515,665, while those from goods and mineral traffic were £3,861,192, a decrease of £64,348.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during June was £637,916, a decrease of £1,611 as compared with June 1896. In England and Wales the decrease amounted to £3,152, and in Ireland to £1,501. Scotland shows an increase of £3,042.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankruptcies gazetted during June was 331, being 48 less than in June 1896, 24 more than in June 1895, and 92 less than in June 1894.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during June was 14,940, as compared with 17,701 in June 1896.

British and Irish.—Of the 14,940 passengers, 10,233 were of British or Irish origin, being a decrease of 906 as compared with a year ago, chiefly due to a falling off in the number of passengers bound for the United States and South Africa. The following table gives the figures for June 1897 and 1896:—

Table with columns: Destination, June 1897, June 1896. Rows include United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, Totals.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 14,940 passengers, viz., 4,707, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 1,855 less than in June 1896.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during June was 7,056. Of this number 2,355 were stated to be en route to America, compared with 4,051 so stated in June 1896. Those not stated to be on their way to America numbered 4,701 (including 858 sailors), the corresponding figure for June 1896 being 4,687 (including 903 sailors).

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN JUNE.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Infor- mations laid.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:				
Allowing Factory or Workshop to be over-crowded ...	1	1	10 0 0	0 2 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	12	11	30 16 0	9 11 4
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	15†	16	11 9 6	7 3 5
Employing Women and Children in forbidden Trades ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 12 5
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour ...	96†	123	68 19 6	41 15 11
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	5	5	0 18 0	1 12 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	22	22	14 15 0	9 13 8
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays... ..	2	2	1 5 0	0 18 5
At night ...	26	26	10 1 0	12 6 0
Employing Children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c....	6	6	1 12 6	2 17 6
Other illegal hours, &c. ...	7	7	2 9 0	3 16 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.:				
Not keeping Registers ...	17	17	12 12 0	7 6 6
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	18	18	8 17 6	5 16 7
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	3	3	2 16 0	1 5 0
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars ...	7	7	0 13 0	4 17 6
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 10 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts 1831, 1887, 1896 ...	13	13	7 1 0	5 7 10
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
By Workmen:				
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty ...	1†	2	3 7 6	1 2 6
By Parents:				
Allowing children to be illegally employed	2	2	2 7 6	1 2 6
Total for June 1897...	255†	283	191 0 0	117 18 1
Total for June 1896 ...	436	430	194 8 0	190 16 3

II.—Under the 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.:					
Ventilation ...	1	1	—	—	5 0 0
Shafts and Manholes ...	1	1	—	—	2 0 0
Miscellaneous ...	9	9	—	—	12 12 0
By Workmen:					
Safety Lamps ...	2	2	—	—	1 16 6
Timbering ...	2	2	—	—	1 0 0
Lucifer Matches, &c. ...	4	4	—	—	4 14 0
Riding on Trams ...	5	5	—	—	3 5 0
Miscellaneous ...	23	22	—	1	20 9 0
Total for June 1897	47	46	—	1	50 16 6
Total for June 1896 ...	38	37	1	—	42 11 0
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Abstracts, Registers, Notices ...	2	2	—	—	1 6 0
Other Special Rules ...	12	12	—	—	9 10 4
Miscellaneous Matters ...	1	1	—	—	2 8 0
By Workmen					
... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total for June 1897	15	15	—	—	13 4 4
Total for June 1896 ...	—	—	—	—	—

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Penalties.	Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:				
Submerging Disc ...	2	2	11 0 0	0 13 6
Making a false report of character ...	1	1	9 10 0	0 10 0
Failing to make an entry in the official log book of the discharge of seamen ...	2†	—	—	0 15 0
Failing to serve out lime juice ...	1	1	5 0 0	—
By Runner of Boarding-House Keepers:				
Illegal boarding ...	1	1	§	—
Total for June 1897	7	5	25 10 0	1 18 6
Total for June 1896 ...	6	6	25 12 0	4 6 0

* Supplied by the Home Office.

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

‡ These two summonses were withdrawn at the suggestion of the Bench on payment of costs, the false report (see above) being considered the chief offence.

§ Two months' imprisonment without the option of a fine.

IV.—Under the Friendly Societies Act.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	With- drawn on compli- ance with Act.	Con- victions.	Fines or Costs.
For failing to send Annual Returns ...	8	6	2	£ s. d. 10 8 0
" " " Quinquennial Valuations	2	1	1	2 0 0
Total ...	10	7	3	12 8 0

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JUNE.

(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 June it will be seen that 3 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 1 Association for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 21 new Friendly Societies, and 30 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. One Trade Union, 16 Building Societies, and 2 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, or to have commenced "winding up."

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—London and Provincial Hammermen's Association, Rising Sun Inn, High-street, Poplar, E.; Monmouth Western Valleys Miners' Association, Tillery Miners' Institute, Abertillery; Oldham and Rochdale Districts Pork Butchers' Employees' Protection Association, 36 Union-street, Oldham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Olney and District Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Elm Cottage, Midland-road, Olney; Wharfedale Coal Association, Ltd., 44 Springfield-place, Westgate, Otley. *Scotland.*—Annbank Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Annbank. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Crossmaglen Co.-op. Home Industries Soc., Ltd., The Factory, Crossmaglen.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Enderby Liberal Club, Ltd., Townsend-road, Enderby; Employees' Provident Soc., Ltd., 4 Bridge-street, Port Sunlight. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 9; Working Men's Clubs, 5; Specially Authorised, 1; Dividing, 4. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Specially Authorised, 2.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—I. O. Rechabites, 6 (including 1 Juvenile and 1 Female); A. O. Foresters, 3; G. U. Oddfellows, 3; various, 6. *Scotland.*—A. O. Foresters, 3; Edin. and Leith M. and F. Juvenile Shepherds, 3; various, 4. *Ireland.*—Various, 2.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Yorkshire and Derbyshire Deputies' Association, Station-road, Halfway, Eckington. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—(By Instrument): Victoria Docks Licensed Victuallers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Dock House Tavern, Tidal Basin, E. (Resolution to Wind Up received); Mutual Industrial and Provident Land and Building Soc., Ltd., 97 Old-road, Middleton.

Building Societies.—By instrument of dissolution, 4; notice of commencement of dissolution, 2; notice of termination of dissolution, 10.

H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.—*Retirement.*—Mrs. H. J. Tennant has resigned the post of H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Overtime Exception.—By an order of the Home Secretary dated 30th June 1897, factories and workshops or parts thereof in which the making of boxes for aerated water bottles is carried on are included in the list of special exceptions, made in accordance with section 53 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, as amended by sections 14 and 37 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, permitting women to be employed overtime within prescribed limits of time.

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