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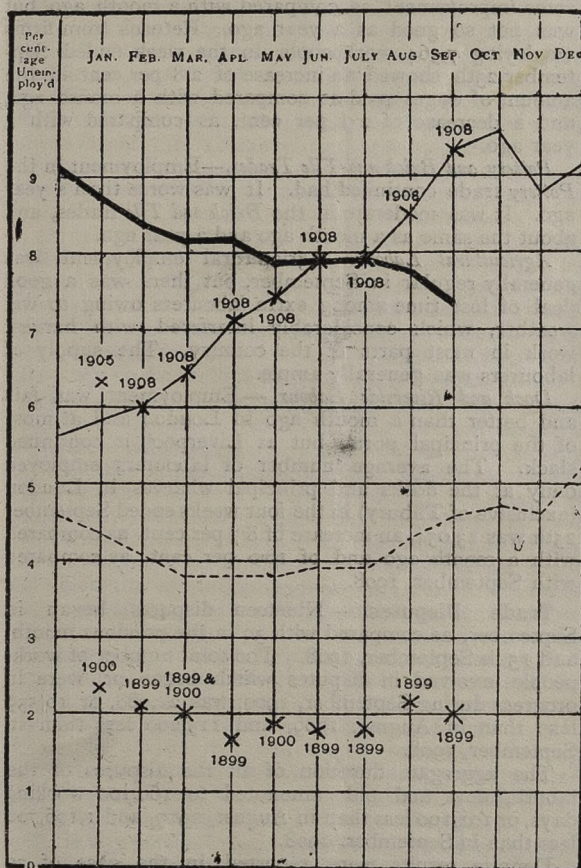
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve—1909. —— Thin Curve—1908.
..... Dotted Curve—Mean of 1899-1908.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1899-1908 with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For September, 1909, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 695,720 members in the following trades:—

Building... ..	58,917	Paper, Printing & Book-binding	59,127
Coal Mining	139,746	Woodworking and Furnishing	35,165
Engineering	171,370	Miscellaneous	16,790
Shipbuilding	57,280	• Total	695,720
Other Metal Trades	41,504		
Textiles	115,821		

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN SEPTEMBER.

[In addition to the 2,884 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,678 were received from employers relating to 1,123,087 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,562 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT generally continued to improve in September. Engineering, shipbuilding and the textile trades all showed some improvement. On the other hand there was a seasonal decline in the building and furnishing trades.

As compared with a year ago, all the principal industries showed an improvement except coal mining, which was about the same as in September, 1908.

In the 416 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 695,720 making Returns, 51,749 (or 7.4 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of September, 1909, as compared with 7.7 per cent, at the end of August, 1909, and 9.3 per cent. at the end of September, 1908.

Coal Mining.—Employment during September was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days per week worked during the four weeks ended September 25th was 5.26, as compared with 5.34 days a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment was good, and showed an improvement compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended September 25th was 5.93, as compared with 5.78 (affected by holidays) a month ago, and 5.82 a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during September continued moderate. It was better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 22,000 workpeople showed 293 furnaces in blast at the end of September, 1909, as compared with the same number in August, 1909, and 277 in September, 1908.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works continued moderate. It showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, and was also better than a year ago. The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended September 25th, 1909, at the works from which Returns were received was 0.9 per cent. more than a month ago, and 3.7 per cent. more than in September, 1908.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment continued very good, and was better than both a month ago and a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns, 453 tinplate and steel sheet mills were working at the end of September, 1909, as compared with 444 a month ago and 446 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment during September continued slack, but there was some improvement as compared with a month ago. It was better than

a year ago. Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 171,370 showed that 10.8 per cent. were unemployed at the end of September, 1909, as compared with 11.3 per cent. a month ago and 12.4 per cent. a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment continued bad. It showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions reported 22.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 23.3 per cent. in August, and 26.6 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the spinning branch was moderate and better than a month ago. Organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in mills spinning American cotton during August and September, 1909. In the weaving branch employment continued slack. In both branches it was better than in the week ended September 19th, 1908. Returns from firms employing 127,218 workpeople in the week ended September 25th, showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago and of 5.5 per cent. as compared with September, 1908.

Woolen Trade.—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 28,952 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 8.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,860 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 9.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment was good, better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 50,234 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 21.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,816 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 8.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,266 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 7.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was good, better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 20,742 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 3.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 13.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment continued fairly good and was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,151 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 8.4 per cent. on a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the bespoke branch in London showed a seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a year ago; in the provinces it was moderate. In the ready-made branch it was fair, and better than a year ago.

Hat Trade.—Employment in the Silk hat trade was moderate, and slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. In the Felt hat trade it was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment was moderate, and showed little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. Returns from firms employing 63,157 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of

wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued fair, and was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,226 reported 4.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 4.1 per cent. in August, and 8.2 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued fairly good, and was rather better than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment continued slack, but was better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in the printing trades at the end of September was 6.6, as compared with 7.1 in August and 7.2 a year ago. In the bookbinding trades the corresponding percentages were 6.4, 7.1 and 7.2 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment continued slack. It showed some seasonal decline, but was rather better than a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment during September continued bad generally. It showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, but was rather better than a year ago. With coachmakers employment continued fairly good generally. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,165 reported 7.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 7.5 per cent. a month ago, and 8.9 per cent. a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment was moderate. It showed some improvement as compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,364 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade continued bad. It was worse than a year ago. It was moderate in the Brick and Tile trades, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Agricultural employment was generally regular in September, but there was a good deal of lost time among extra labourers owing to wet weather, which considerably interfered with harvest work in most parts of the country. The supply of labourers was generally ample.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment was fair and better than a month ago in London and at most of the principal ports, but at Liverpool it continued slack. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London (exclusive of Tilbury) in the four weeks ended September 25th was 13,054, an increase of 8.7 per cent. as compared with a month ago and of 10.0 per cent. as compared with September, 1908.

Trade Disputes.—Nineteen disputes began in September, as compared with 39 in the previous month, and 15 in September, 1908. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during September, 1909, was 21,988, or 10,539 less than in August, 1909, and 115,200 less than in September, 1908.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 160,100 working days, or 101,100 less than in August, 1909, and 1,106,700 less than in September, 1908.

Definite results were reported in the case of 30 disputes, new and old, directly involving 8,199 persons. Of these 30 disputes, 10 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 13 in favour of employers, and 7 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in September affected 13,100 workpeople, of whom 8,000 received advances, and 5,100 sustained decreases. Amongst those whose wages were increased were 6,600 coal miners in the Bristol and Radstock districts; the number who sustained reductions included 4,400 ironmoulders in Scotland. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £67 per week.

LABOUR EXCHANGES ACT, 1909.

THE following are the provisions of the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909:—

1.—(1) The Board of Trade may establish and maintain, in such places as they think fit, labour exchanges, and may assist any labour exchanges maintained by any other authorities or persons, and in the exercise of those powers may, if they think fit, co-operate with any other authorities or persons having powers for the purpose.

(2) The Board of Trade may also, by such other means as they think fit, collect and furnish information as to employers requiring workpeople and workpeople seeking engagement or employment.

(3) The Board of Trade may take over any labour exchange (whether established before or after the passing of this Act) by agreement with the authority or person by whom the labour exchange is maintained, and any such authority or person shall have power to transfer it to the Board of Trade for the purposes of this Act.

(4) The powers of any central body or distress committee, and the powers of any council through a special committee, to establish or maintain, under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, a labour exchange or employment register shall, after the expiration of one year from the commencement of this Act, not be exercised except with the sanction of, and subject to any conditions imposed by, the Local Government Board for England, Scotland, or Ireland, as the case may require, and that sanction shall not be given except after consultation with the Board of Trade.

2.—(1) The Board of Trade may make general regulations with respect to the management of labour exchanges established or assisted under this Act, and otherwise with respect to the exercise of their powers under this Act, and such regulations may, subject to the approval of the Treasury, authorise advances to be made by way of loan towards meeting the expenses of workpeople travelling to places where employment has been found for them through a labour exchange.

(2) The regulations shall provide that no person shall suffer any disqualification or be otherwise prejudiced on account of refusing to accept employment found for him through a labour exchange where the ground of refusal is that a trade dispute which affects his trade exists, or that the wages offered are lower than those current in the trade in the district where the employment is found.

(3) Any general regulations made under this section shall have effect as if enacted in this Act, but shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after they are made, and, if either House of Parliament within the next forty days during the session of Parliament after any regulations have been so laid before that House resolves that the regulations or any of them ought to be annulled, the regulations or those to which the resolution applies shall, after the date of such resolution, be of no effect, without prejudice to the validity of anything done in the meantime under the regulations or to the making of any new regulations.

(4) Subject to any such regulations, the powers of the Board of Trade under this Act shall be exercised in such manner as the Board of Trade may direct.

(5) The Board of Trade may, in such cases as they think fit, establish advisory committees for the purpose of giving the Board advice and assistance in connection with the management of any labour exchange.

3. If any person knowingly makes any false statement or false representation to any officer of a labour exchange established under this Act, or to any person acting for or for the purposes of any such labour exchange, for the purpose of obtaining employment or procuring workpeople, that person shall be liable in respect of each offence on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

4. The Board of Trade may appoint such officers and servants for the purposes of this Act as the Board may, with the sanction of the Treasury, determine, and there shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament to such officers and servants such salaries or remuneration

as the Treasury may determine, and any expenses incurred by the Board of Trade in carrying this Act into effect, including the payment of travelling and other allowances to members of advisory committees and other expenses in connection therewith, to such amount as may be sanctioned by the Treasury, shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament.

5. In this Act the expression "labour exchange" means any office or place used for the purpose of collecting and furnishing information, either by the keeping of registers or otherwise, respecting employers who desire to engage workpeople and workpeople who seek engagement or employment.

6. This Act may be cited as the Labour Exchanges Act, 1909.

RECENT PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Ironmoulders, Scotland.

In connection with a dispute between the Scottish Employers' Federation of Iron and Steel Founders and the Associated Ironmoulders of Scotland regarding a proposed reduction in the wages of piece workers, a joint conference of representatives of the parties was held at Glasgow on September 14th, under the chairmanship of Mr. John Burnett, acting as Conciliator on behalf of the Board of Trade. At this conference it was agreed to refer the question to the decision of a Court of Arbitration to be appointed by the Board of Trade.

The Court of Arbitration, appointed on September 17th, consisted of Mr. Ernest Moon, K.C., Chairman, Mr. Alexander Siemens, from the Employers' Panel, and Mr. James Gavin, from the Labour Panel. The Court issued their Award on September 18th, deciding that the wages of the piece workers should not be reduced.

Jute Workers, Dundee.

A dispute having arisen between the Victoria Spinning Company, Ltd., of Dundee, and certain of their workpeople, the parties, on September 20th, made joint application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an Arbitrator to consider and decide upon the questions in dispute. The Board of Trade, on September 24th, appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act as Arbitrator.

Carpenters and Joiners, Blackburn.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the Arbitrator appointed in connection with the dispute affecting carpenters and joiners at Blackburn (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for July), issued his award on September 23rd, deciding that the rate of wages should be reduced from 9½d. to 9d. per hour.

Plasterers, Swansea.

A dispute having arisen as to the wages and hours of labour of plasterers at Swansea, the parties made joint application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an Arbitrator to decide the questions in dispute. Mr. A. A. Hudson, who was appointed by the Board of Trade to act as Arbitrator, issued his award on September 29th. At the hearing the parties agreed upon a reduction of working hours, and the Arbitrator awarded an increase in the hourly rate of wages from 8½d. to 8¾d.

Quarrymen, Ballachulish.

On August 10th, 288 quarrymen at Ballachulish ceased work owing to a dispute as to the number of men to be employed, and other matters. Subsequently two arbitrators were chosen to settle the dispute, and on October 5th, a joint application was made by the parties to the Board of Trade asking for the appointment of a Referee. The Board of Trade on October 11th appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, to act in that capacity.

Wire Weavers, Glasgow.

A dispute having occurred involving wire weavers in the employment of a firm at Glasgow, application was made by the Trade Union on October 6th to the Board

of Trade for the appointment of a Conciliator to effect a settlement of the dispute. The employers concurring in the application, the Board of Trade, on October 11th, appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, to act in that capacity.

Trawl Fishermen, Hull.

A dispute having arisen in the Hull trawl fishing industry in connection with the payment of trip money, it was mutually agreed by the parties on October 5th that work should continue on the old conditions pending a conference to be presided over by a Conciliator appointed by the Board of Trade. On October 11th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, K.C., to act as chairman of the conference.

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION IN 1907.

THE first of a series of Tables summarising for the more important trades of the country the preliminary results of the Returns received under the Census of Production Act, 1906, has recently been issued by the Board of Trade.* The tables now presented contain preliminary figures relating to Mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, Coke Works and Shale Oil Works in connection with such mines, and Factories in the Cotton Trade, Woollen and Worsteds Trades, certain branches of the Iron and Steel Trades and the Tinplate Trade. Particulars as to the Bleaching, Dyeing and Printing Trades, and the Cotton Lace and Cotton Hosiery Trades, are not included in this Report.

The "output" shown in the Tables is the gross output of each trade, *i.e.*, where the goods pass through the hands of several manufacturers at different stages, their quantity and value have been registered at each stage. The value of this gross output is, therefore, much greater as a whole than the value of the goods ready for export or consumption manufactured by each trade considered as a unit. The figures entered against each class show the output of that product in the year, whether sold or not, after deducting any amount worked up in the same factory into goods of a kind separately classified. Thus the entry against cotton yarn shows only that portion of the yarn spun in the year of return which was either sold as yarn or remained in stock at the end of the year as yarn, and does not include yarn woven into cloth by the spinning firm. When a firm makes goods for sale the value entered is the net selling value of the goods, including, of course, the value of any work done on the goods by other firms working on commission. Where a firm does work on commission the value entered is the amount received for the work, exclusive of the value of the material worked upon. In so far as such work on commission is done for other firms making Returns, the figures for gross output necessarily include twice over the payments for such work, and in order, therefore, to avoid duplication the schedules issued required a statement of the amount paid to other firms for all work given out.

The result of deducting the total cost of materials used and the amount paid to other firms for work given out from the value of the gross output for any one industry or group of factories, is to give a figure which may, for convenience, be called the "net output" of the industries or the group. This figure expresses completely and without duplication the total amount by which the value of the products of the industry or group taken as a unit exceeded the value of the materials purchased from outside, *i.e.*, it represents the value added to the raw materials in the course of manufacture. This sum constitutes for any industry the fund from which wages, salaries, rents, rates, taxes, depreciation, and all other similar charges as well as profits have to be defrayed.

The following short statement shows for the United Kingdom as a whole the gross output, the cost of materials used, the amount paid for work given out to other firms, and the "net output" as above defined the number of persons employed (including salaried persons) and the net output per person:—

	Gross Output Selling Value.	Materials used. Cost.	Work given out. Amount paid to Other Firms.	Net Output Excess of Column (1) over Columns (2) and (3)	Persons Employed. Total.	Net Output per Person Employed.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts	123,245,000	16,881,000	—	106,364,000	840,250	129
Coke Works	10,141,000	7,148,000	—	2,993,000	10,944	82
Shale Oil Works	2,371,000	1,594,000	—	777,000	3,391	101
Cotton Factories	176,940,000	129,035,000	904,000	46,941,000	572,869	76
Woollen and Worsteds Factories	70,331,000	49,241,000	1,638,000	19,452,000	257,017	101
Tinplate Factories	9,350,000	7,203,000	—	2,147,000	21,222	118
Iron and Steel Factories (Smelting, Founding & Rolling)	105,597,000	74,049,000	600,000	30,948,000	262,225	—
Total	497,975,000	285,211,000	3,142,000	209,622,000	1,967,948	—

Comparisons with 1906.

In order to obtain comparisons with the trade of the previous year, firms in the cotton, woollen, tinplate and iron and steel trades were invited to state voluntarily the total value of their output in the twelve months preceding the period for which they had furnished detailed returns, and the following statement shows the gross value in the two years of the output of those firms who complied, the proportion borne to the total output in the trade, and the increase in value in 1907 as compared with 1906. It must be remembered that this increase is calculated on the gross value of output, a figure which differs considerably from the value of the actual goods ready for consumption produced by the trade as a whole.

	Proportion of output of firms making voluntary returns to total output.	Gross output of firms making voluntary returns in		Percentage increase in 1907 over 1906.
		1907.	1906.	
Cotton	58	Thousand £. 102,723	Thousand £. 97,395	5
Woollen	40	27,181	25,368	5
Tinplate	60	5,783	4,820	20
Iron and Steel	46	48,454	45,475	13

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1908.

THE Sixteenth Annual Report of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom, which has just been published,* gives the result of all the ascertained changes in 1908 in the rates of wages and hours of labour of a working population of nearly 10,000,000. It shows that the upward movement in wages which commenced in 1905 and continued throughout 1906 and 1907, terminated about the third month of 1908. During the last nine months of the year there was a steady decline, and the net result of all the changes during the year was a decrease of £59,200 per week in the wages of 963,000 workpeople. Of these, 119,000 received advances amounting to £7,200 per week, and £464,000 sustained decreases amounting to £66,400 per week, whilst the remaining 380,000 workpeople had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the year.

The net weekly increases or decreases in the twelve preceding years were as follows:—

Period of Rising Wages.	Period of Falling Wages.
1896 + £26,519	1901 - £76,587
1897 + £31,507	1902 - £72,595
1898 + £80,713	1903 - £38,327
1899 + £90,314	1904 - £39,230
1900 + £208,590	1905 - £2,169
1906 + £57,897	
1907 + £200,912	

Taking into account the various dates at which the changes in 1908 came into operation, the net decrease in the year's wages bill due to changes in rates of wages (as distinct from earnings, with which the Report does not deal), may be estimated at £873,800, as compared with increases of £5,821,000 in 1907, and £1,419,000 in 1906.

* Cd. 4896. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 4d.

*Cd. 4713. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 4d.

The following Table shows the number of persons affected in 1908 by the changes in rates of wages in 1908 and the net amount of the change in each group of trades:—

Group of Trades.	No. of work-people affected by changes.	Net amount of change per week.
Building	12,101	+ £ 225
Mining and Quarrying	678,733	- 50,311
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	175,903	- 13,913
Textile	12,760	+ 1,132
Clothing	2,295	+ 149
Other Trades	24,702	+ 796
Employees of Public Authorities	56,734	+ 2,750
Total	963,333	- 59,171

Of the 678,733 workpeople in the mining and quarrying group, 661,750 were engaged in coal mining whose wages were reduced by £47,085 per week. It will thus be seen that the changes in coal miners' wages were by far the most important factor in the total changes for the year.

The majority of the workpeople affected had their changes arranged by Conciliation Boards, Arbitration, &c., the proportion of such workpeople being 62.4 per cent. of the whole. Almost all of these were engaged in the coal mining industry. In the manufacture of pig iron and iron and steel, however, the principal method of arrangement was by sliding scales, under which 6.5 per cent. of the whole number had their wages changed. The remaining 31.1 per cent. had their changes arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. The number of workpeople whose changes were preceded by a stoppage of work formed only 1.9 per cent. of the whole, most of these being engaged in the engineering and shipbuilding trades.

The changes in hours of labour recorded in 1908 affected 26,500 workpeople, of whom 10,000 were in the building trades. The total net reduction was about 38,400 hours per week.

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE OF FAMILIES OF SMALL MEANS IN GERMANY.

A REPORT has recently been issued by the Imperial Statistical Office in Berlin, giving the results of an enquiry made by that Department, with the co-operation of certain of the municipal statistical offices, into the income and expenditure of families of small means in Germany.* It was originally intended to confine the enquiry to families with an income from all sources not exceeding 3,000 marks (about £150) per annum, and to those in which the number of children was not less than three or more than five. It was found impracticable, however, to adhere rigidly to either of these limits.

The data were collected by means of account-books, which were prepared by the Imperial Statistical Office, and distributed, either directly by that Department, or indirectly through the municipal statistical offices, among families willing to use the books for keeping a precise daily record of income and expenditure for a full year, and to place the results at the disposal of the Imperial Statistical Office.

Books were distributed among 4,134 families, of whom 3,855 actually started keeping the records asked for. Only 960, however, continued to do so for a whole year, a fact which would suggest that the budgets thus obtained relate to families of an exceptional character. Of these 960 returns 81 were sent in too late to be used, while 27 had to be rejected for various other reasons, so that there remained in the end 852 usable budgets. The towns from which the largest number of budgets were received were Hamburg (with Altona), 189; Berlin and suburbs, 136; Breslau, 67; Dresden, 64; Lübeck, 46; Nuremberg, 45; Kiel, 43; Strassburg, 29; Chemnitz, 26; Cassel, 23 and Cologne, 21. It will be observed that 325, or about 38 per cent. of all the usable budgets came from the two great cities of Berlin and Hamburg with their suburbs.

* Erhebung von Wirtschaftsrechnungen minderbemittelter Familien im Deutschen Reich. Berlin, Carl Heymanns Verlag, 1909.

A classification of the budgets according to the occupations of the head of the family gives the following results:—

Occupation Class.	Number of Budgets.
A. "WORKPEOPLE"—	
i. Industrial.	
(a) Skilled	382
(b) Unskilled	54
ii. In Commerce or Transport	53
iii. Not otherwise defined	33
Total Workpeople	522
B. SALARIED PERSONS IN PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT	36
C. SCHOOLMASTERS	79
D. OFFICIALS (2ND GRADE)	139
E. DITTO (SUBORDINATE)	67
F. OCCUPATION NOT STATED	9
Total	852

It appears, therefore, that 522, or 61 per cent. only of the budgets emanate from working-class families, 206 from the families of public officials, 79 from the families of schoolmasters, and 36 from those of salaried employees in offices, shops, &c.

The aggregate of the year's income of the 852 families amounted to £92,883, and that of the expenditure to £95,169. Four hundred and thirty-nine families ended the year with a deficit, 406 showed a surplus, and the accounts of 7 balanced evenly. The aggregate deficits amounted to £4,211, or between £9 and £10 on the average per family with a deficit. The aggregate of the surpluses was £2,425, or about £6 per family having a surplus. The net result for the 852 families was therefore a deficit of £1,786, or about £2 2s. per family. The deficits were found to be relatively more frequent among the families of public officials and schoolmasters than amongst those of workpeople. In explanation of the frequency of deficits, the Report suggests that expenditure was probably more accurately recorded than income, and also that, as a statement of cash in hand at the beginning of the year was not asked for, the deficits may in many cases be apparent only.

The following statement shows for each of the principal occupation groups the average income and average expenditure for the year, and the proportions in which the average expenditure was allocated to the items "food," "clothing," "housing," "fuel and light" and "sundries" respectively.

Occupation Class.	No. of Families.	Average Income per Family.	Average Expenditure per Family.	Percentage of Year's Expenditure allocated to				
				Food	Clothing	Housing	Fuel and Light	Sundries
A. WORKPEOPLE:								
i. Industrial—		£ s. d.	£ s. d.					
Skilled	382	91 5 8	94 1 11	51.5	11.2	16.8	4.2	16.3
Unskilled	54	86 6 6	85 17 4	52.8	10.6	18.4	4.1	14.4
ii. In Commerce and Transport	53	86 17 4	87 12 4	53.4	12.0	17.2	4.6	12.8
iii. Not otherwise defined	33	79 8 9	80 17 9	55.9	10.7	17.3	4.7	11.4
TOTAL WORKPEOPLE	522	91 15 5	91 15 1	52.0	11.2	17.0	4.3	15.5
B. SALARIED PERSONS IN PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT	36	122 1 8	120 5 1	40.9	12.7	18.7	3.5	24.2
C. SCHOOLMASTERS	79	164 14 4	171 6 9	34.7	14.8	21.0	3.7	25.8
D. OFFICIALS (2ND GRADE)	139	143 1 9	152 12 0	37.9	14.2	18.0	3.9	26.0
E. OFFICIALS (SUBORDINATE)	67	104 4 4	105 16 4	49.0	13.9	18.2	4.2	14.7
All Families furnishing Returns*	852	109 12 1	111 14 0	48.5	12.6	18.0	4.1	19.8

It will be seen from the Table that, taking the whole of the 852 families, the average income for the year was £109 12s. 1d., and for the 522 working-class families, £91 15s. 5d.

Among the working-class families the proportion of the total expenditure allocated to food (52 per cent.) is higher than among the non-working-class families. Thus among schoolmasters' families only 34.7 per cent. of the expenditure falls under this head; among salaried persons in private employment, 40.9 per cent.; among second-grade officials, 37.9 per cent.; while among subordinate officials, the proportion spent on food (49 per cent.) approximates to that of the working-class families.

The proportion of expenditure absorbed by the item fuel and light is also larger among working-class

* Including 9 families not classified by occupation.

families (4.3 per cent.) than among the families of officials and similar persons, for the majority of whom it ranges from 3.7 to 3.9 per cent. In respect to clothing and housing, however, the situation is reversed. These items absorb 11.2 and 17.0 per cent. respectively of the expenditure of working-class families on the average, while among the families of the other occupation groups the lowest average expenditure on clothing is 12.7 per cent. (salaried persons in private employment), and the lowest average expenditure on housing 18.0 per cent. (second-grade officials).

It will be evident from the foregoing analysis that the German Enquiry and the Enquiry made in the course of the years 1906 and 1907 by the Board of Trade into the weekly income and expenditure of working class families in German towns* are different both in scope and method. The results of the latter enquiry were based on returns for one week, obtained from 5,046 families, all working-class, and distributed among 33 of the principal industrial cities of Germany.

EARNINGS IN THE BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

THE volume† on the earnings and hours of labour in the clothing trades, reviewed on page 291 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for September, analyses the earnings of the various classes of workpeople in the boot and shoe industry.

The total number employed in factories and workshops covered by the returns received, was 41,508 or 33 per cent. of the total number employed in the industry in 1904. Of this number 38,582 were engaged in the wholesale manufacture of boots and shoes, and the remainder in the bespoke and repair branches of the trade and in clog making.

Boot and Shoe, Ready-made.

The average earnings in the last pay-week of September, 1906, of all workpeople were 18s. 7d. This amount is inclusive of the effect of the short time and overtime worked in that week. For those operatives who worked neither less nor more than full time the average was 19s. 5d. The proportion returned as working full time in the above week was 73.2 per cent., while 26.8 per cent. worked either less or more than full time.

The respective average earnings of those men, lads and boys, women and girls who worked full time were as follows:—

District.	Average Earnings of Workpeople who worked Full Time in the last Pay-week of September, 1906.										
	Lads and Boys.			Girls.			All Work-people.	Men.			Women.
	Full Timers.	Half Timers.	...	Full Timers.	Half Timers.	...		Full Timers.	Half Timers.	...	
Leicester ...	s. d. 31 2	s. d. 10 9	...	s. d. 14 11	s. d. 7 11	...	s. d. 21 6	s. d. 10 9	s. d. 11 4	...	s. d. 18 11
Leicestershire (excluding Leicester)	27 9	11 4	...	13 11	8 3	...	18 11	11 4	...	...	18 11
Northampton	29 10	11 6	...	12 5	6 3	1	19 8	11 6	...	...	19 8
Kettering	29 6	12 3	...	13 3	6 11	...	20 10	12 3	...	...	20 10
Northamptonshire (excluding Northampton & Kettering)	27 1	10 4	...	12 4	6 9	...	18 11	10 4	...	...	18 11
Stafford	29 5	9 3	...	10 9	4 9	...	19 2	9 3	...	...	19 2
Norwich	25 11	9 4	...	10 6	4 6	...	17 1	9 4	...	...	17 1
Bristol	26 6	9 9	...	11 7	6 1	...	18 1	9 9	...	...	18 1
Kingswood	27 10	9 11	...	11 2	5 6	...	17 11	9 11	...	...	17 11
London	30 6	10 11	...	12 6	6 5	...	19 11	10 11	...	...	19 11
Leeds	28 4	9 6	...	13 10	6 6	...	19 0	9 6	...	...	19 0
Manchester	27 8	12 6	3 7	17 6	10 5	3 4	19 6	12 6	...	...	19 6
Scotland	31 5	8 9	...	12 8	6 9	...	20 9	8 9	...	...	20 9
Rest of United Kingdom	26 6	9 6	...	12 4	6 5	...	17 6	9 6	...	...	17 6
United Kingdom...	23 8	10 6	3 7	13 1	6 10	3 4	19 5	10 6	...	...	19 5

Men formed 52 per cent. of all the workpeople included in the returns, and the average full-time earnings of the principal classes of operatives are shown below:—

* Cd. 4032 of 1908. pp. xviii. et seq.

† Cd. 4844. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price as. 5d.

‡ The numbers of half-timers returned in these districts were insignificant.

Average Earnings of Men who worked Full Time in the last Pay-week of September, 1906.

District.	Clickers.		Pressmen or Rough Stuff Cutters.		Lasters or Rivetters.		Finishers.	
	Time.	Piece.	Time.	Piece.	Time.	Piece.	Time.	Piece.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Leicester ...	31 11	33 10	25 6	31 3	33 3	35 5	31 2	36 2
Leicestershire (excluding Leicester)	27 2	*	25 11	*	28 10	25 0	23 0	...
Northampton	29 1	...	26 11	...	31 6	21 0	30 7	24 9
Kettering	27 9	...	26 10	...	30 9	30 8	29 5	...
Northamptonshire (excluding Northampton & Kettering)	26 2	*	25 5	*	29 5	26 8	27 10	26 8
Stafford	29 0	...	27 5	...	30 0	28 6	30 2	30 11
Norwich	25 1	...	22 11	...	26 2	25 8	21 8	27 11
Bristol	27 9	27 9	24 8	...	29 3	22 1	23 0	*
Kingswood	27 7	*	25 6	...	22 2	22 0	29 4	*
London	30 8	27 9	26 3	*	30 8	27 2	31 3	25 8
Leeds	28 11	*	26 4	*	30 6	24 0	29 7	25 1
Manchester	24 8	26 3†	26 7	25 5†	30 3	26 9	*	30 5
Scotland	32 8	...	29 2	...	32 5	25 10	31 0	29 8
Rest of United Kingdom	27 0	...	25 1	...	27 5	24 4	23 1	26 2
United Kingdom	28 8	29 2	26 7	27 4	30 5	27 2	29 2	30 6

Women formed 22 per cent. of the total number returned and the following Table shows the range of earnings of fitters and machinists (who together make up five-sixths of the women), and of all women:—

Occupation.	Percentage Numbers of Women working Full Time in the last Pay-week of September, 1906, whose earnings fell within the undermentioned limits.					Average Earnings, for Full Time.
	Under 10s.	10s. and under 15s.	15s. and under 20s.	20s. and under 25s.	25s. and above.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Fitters ...	12.0	64.3	23.2	0.5	—	12 8
Machinists (Time or Closers) ...	11.8	61.3	23.5	0.4	—	12 7
All Women ...	12.4	58.9	25.2	2.8	0.7	13 1

Details are given in the report as to the number of workpeople paid wages in an ordinary week in each month of 1906, together with their aggregate earnings in the year. In the twelve specified weeks the average number employed was 37,919, the average weekly wages bill £35,344, and the aggregate wages bill for the year £1,724,343. If the wages bill for the year be divided by the average number employed in the twelve specified weeks, the resultant average earnings per head are approximately £45 10s. for the year.

Boot and Shoe and Clog Making (Bespoke) and Repairing.

The average earnings in the last pay-week of September, 1906, of the 2,307 men employed by firms making returns, including those who worked less or more than full time, were 26s. 2d. The average of the 1,985 men who worked full time was 27s. 3d. Four-fifths of the men were boot and shoe makers and repairers, and averaged 28s. on time work and 27s. 1d. on piecework. The remaining 326 men were employed on clog making, sole-makers averaging 28s. 8d. and seat workers 24s. 10d. Lads and boys working full time averaged 8s. 3d., and of the few women and girls employed those working full time averaged 12s. 6d. and 6s. 11d. respectively.

The aggregate wages bill for the year was £93,942, and the average number employed in twelve specified weeks was 1,632, yielding £57 10s. as the average annual earnings per head.

TRADE UNIONS IN GERMANY IN 1908.

ACCORDING to the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department), the total membership of Trade Unions in Germany in 1908 was 2,421,950, of whom 2,201,808 (or 91 per cent.) were organised in three federations known as the "Gewerkschaften," which are identified with the social-democratic movement, the Hirsch-Duncker unions, which are non-social-democratic, and the "Christian" unions. Of these

* The numbers returned in these districts were too small for the separate publication of their earnings.

† The majority of clickers and pressmen in the Manchester district were on piece work.

three federations by far the most important is that of the *Gewerkschaften*, numbering 1,831,731 members; the "Christian" unions have 264,519 members, and the Hirsch-Duncker unions 105,558 members. The great development of trade unionism in Germany during recent years may be measured by the growth in the membership of these three federations, which is shown below for the period 1900-1908.

Year.	Total Membership of Affiliated Unions.		
	Social-Democratic.	Hirsch-Duncker.	Christian.
1900...	680,127	91,661	76,744
1901...	677,510	96,765	85,911
1902...	731,266	102,851	84,117
1903...	887,698	110,215	90,390
1904...	1,034,108	111,889	109,724
1905...	1,344,803	117,097	192,314
1906...	1,689,709	118,598	247,116
1907...	1,895,599	128,889	274,323
1908...	1,831,731	105,558	264,519

The total membership of these three groups, which was 848,832 in 1900, had risen in 1908 to 2,201,808, an increase of 159 per cent. in eight years. In each federation a drop in membership was experienced in 1908, as a result of the depressed industrial conditions then prevailing. In addition to these unions there are also distinguished unattached unions (135,127 members in 1908), "patriotic" unions (19,677), and "yellow" unions (65,338), but in these cases figures for a series of years are not available.

The particulars given with regard to the finances of the three principal federations of unions in 1908 may be summarised as follows:—

Group of Unions.	Total Receipts.	Total Expenditure.	Funds at End of Year.
Social-Democratic	£ 2,386,765	£ 2,067,828	£ 2,097,956
Hirsch-Duncker	132,499	128,777	207,012
"Christian"	216,075	174,848	221,909

For the support of unemployed members (including travelling benefit) the social-democratic organisations paid £458,171, the Hirsch-Duncker £16,010*, and the Christian £6,611. In each case this was a large increase upon the amounts expended under the same head in the previous year owing to the depressed condition of the labour market in 1908. On the other hand total payments by these groups under the head of strike pay and allowances in support of "victimised" workpeople showed a considerable drop when compared with 1907, the respective totals in 1908 being £397,767, £6,408† and £20,895.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

THE Home Office has issued the first† of a new series of Workmen's Compensation Statistics, 1908 being the first complete year during which the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906 was in operation.

This Act generally widened the field of compensation by including all occupations, with certain exceptions, by reducing the period of disablement which entitles to compensation from a fortnight to one week, and by extending compensation to injuries caused by certain industrial diseases.

The statistics issued under the earlier Acts of 1897 and 1900, in the absence of any power of requiring returns from employers, were limited to such information as to the administration of the Act as could be obtained from the County Courts, &c. The Act of 1906, however, empowered the Secretary of State to require returns from employers in such industries as he might by order direct, and by order issued early in 1908 returns were directed to be made for mines, quarries,

* Including removal allowances.

† Strike pay only.

‡ Statistics of Compensation and of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1908. [Cd. 4,894; price 7d.]

railways, factories, harbours, docks, &c., constructional work and shipping (excluding sailing vessels in the sea-fishing service), as to the number of injuries in respect of which compensation had been paid, and the amount and duration of the compensation, and certain other particulars.

The returns, which were received partly in the form of collective returns supplied by mutual indemnity societies, insurance companies and employers' associations, and partly direct from individual employers, are tabulated in six Tables, and a seventh Table is added, compiled from returns made by certifying and other appointed surgeons as to the applications made to them in respect of industrial diseases under Section 8 of the Act.

Table I., which presents the general results, shows that the gross total of compensation paid in the seven groups of industries during the year 1908 under the Act of 1906 shown by the returns was £2,080,672, and represented 3,473 cases of death and 325,484 cases of disablement. The gross total of the persons employed in the seven groups of industries—as shown by the returns—is about 7,500,000; but the figures for some of the groups of factory industries are possibly an over-statement.

The following statement gives particulars of accident compensation for different industries:—

Industry.	Number Employed.	Fatal Cases.		Disablement Cases.	
		Number.	Amount of Compensation.	Number.	Amount of Compensation.
Shipping	235,001	371	£ 61,333	5,877	£ 51,519
Factories	5,497,988	951	130,506	136,317	650,301
Docks	67,929	156	21,254	10,591	65,220
Mines	1,017,862	1,301	226,226	137,622	601,848
Quarries	85,475	88	11,501	5,284	23,056
Constructional Work	127,106	119	13,551	6,805	38,263
Railways	451,392	461	67,715	29,688	81,079
Total	7,512,753	3,447	532,086	333,224	1,533,792

In addition there were 26 fatal and 2,260 disablement cases as a result of industrial diseases, the amounts paid being £4,037 and £21,257 respectively.

It is pointed out that the figures refer only to compensation paid under the Act of 1906, and do not include compensation paid under contracting-out schemes, payment made in cases outstanding under the earlier Acts of 1897 and 1900, damages recovered under the Employers' Liability Act or at common law, and other payments. They therefore do not represent the total charge upon the different industries in connection with the payment of compensation to persons employed in respect of injuries received.

The following Table classifies the disablement accident cases, according to the period for which the compensation lasted. Cases terminated by the payment of a lump sum are not taken into account. These are usually cases in which the disablement is likely to last for a considerable period, and the cases of disablement of longer duration would be higher than the figures in the last three columns indicate.

Industry.	Accident Cases terminated in 1908 in which Compensation had lasted,						Total.	Accident Cases not terminated which had lasted more than 1 Year.
	Less than 2 weeks.	2 weeks and less than 3.	3 weeks and less than 4.	4 weeks and less than 13.	13 weeks and less than 26.	26 weeks and over.		
Shipping	332	735	652	2,019	379	102	4,219	32
Factories	15,718	29,101	21,911	47,721	4,967	1,348	120,756	781
Docks	916	1,561	1,318	3,458	360	120	7,712	74
Mines	10,138	39,140	23,815	45,051	4,882	1,598	125,054	1,182
Quarries	594	1,253	873	1,722	211	61	4,624	28
Constructional Work	785	1,218	1,030	2,155	272	83	5,544	43
Railways	3,717	4,957	3,018	6,071	835	317	18,915	186
Total	32,111	78,264	52,657	103,197	11,896	3,729	286,854	2,324

In 14,214 cases of accident, £318,437 was paid in lump sums for compensation.

The duration of compensation in cases of industrial disease is shown below, again exclusive of cases terminated by the payment of a lump sum:—

Industry.	Cases terminated in 1908 in which compensation had lasted							Total.	Cases not terminated which had lasted more than 1 year.
	Less than 2 weeks.	2 weeks and less than 3.	3 weeks and less than 4.	4 weeks and less than 13.	13 weeks and less than 26.	26 weeks and over.			
Factories ...	7	22	26	182	66	24	327	13	
Mines ...	64	353	249	559	95	84	1,404	34	
Other Industries	2	3	...	15	2	...	21	2	
Total ...	73	378	275	756	163	108	1,753	49	

In 121 cases of industrial disease £3,302 was paid in lump sums for compensation.

In the case of the shipping industry the total compensation paid in the year works out, on the number of seamen returned as under the Act, at 9s. 7d. per head. In the cotton industry the compensation paid per head is 1s. 6d.; in the woollen, worsted and shoddy industry, 9d.; in the metal industry 6s. 3d., and in the engineering and shipbuilding industries 12s. On the figures given of the number employed in docks, which is hardly capable of exact calculation, the amount paid per head is £1 5s. In coal mines the amount is 17s. per head, while in quarries the figure is only about 8s. per head. In constructional work, in which the number employed is not definitely known, the cost per head is 8s. 2d., while for railway servants (other than the clerical staff) it works out at 7s. 7d.

The Report also contains statistics as to the administration of the Acts. From these it appears that, as in previous years, the great majority of claims were settled by agreement, only a small proportion of the claims under the Workmen's Compensation Act being the subject of litigation in the courts.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS: CONVENTION BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.*

ON July 3rd a convention between Great Britain and France on the subject of workmen's compensation for accidents was signed at Paris. In accordance with the terms of this convention British subjects in France who meet with accidents arising out of their employment as workmen in France and French subjects who meet with similar accidents in this country, as also persons entitled to claim through or having rights derivable from them, shall enjoy the benefits of the compensation and guarantees secured by the legislation in force in these countries to their own subjects. The convention is not to apply, however, to persons engaged in a business having its headquarters in one of the two countries but temporarily detached for employment in the other and meeting with an accident in the course of that employment, if at the time of the accident the said employment has lasted less than six months. In this case the persons interested shall only be entitled to the compensation and guarantees provided by the law of the former State. The same rule applies to persons engaged in transport services and employed at intervals, whether regular or not, in the country other than that in which the headquarters of the business are established.

The ratification of the convention will not take place until supplementary amendments regarding accidents to French subjects have been made in the legislation in force in this country. The authority to make such amendments in the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906 as are necessary to give effect to the Convention is provided for by a Bill which has recently passed both Houses of Parliament, and which now awaits the Royal Assent.

* Cd. 4731. Price 1d. Wymans & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C. (Full text in English and French.)

THE SWEDISH DISPUTE.*

FURTHER despatches from H.M. Minister and H.M. Consul-General at Stockholm, dated September 14th to October 11th, report that, owing to the return to work of all men except those employed by members of the Swedish Employers' Association the strike had ceased to be of a "general" character, and the Government had decided to intervene. A special committee of conciliation was appointed to attempt to bring about a settlement, but the negotiations were unsuccessful, both parties refusing to adopt the committee's proposals. When this became known a large number of men returned to work, signing individual contracts with employers, by which they were bound not to afford assistance to the unions during the strike, and in many cases giving a formal engagement not to belong to any union whatever. About 50,000 men are said to have returned to work since the failure of the negotiations, and the latest despatch states that trade and navigation were being carried on under normal conditions throughout the country.

SUPERANNUATION OF FRENCH RAILWAY SERVANTS.

NEW LAW.

A LAW dated July 21st last provides for the superannuation of all the employees of the principal French Railway undertakings, and requires the latter to bring their existing pension schemes into harmony with its provisions. The new law will come into force one year after the date of its promulgation, and will apply to all railway servants already included in existing pension schemes who, before that date, shall ask to be placed under its provisions; also to all other employees who shall have completed at least a year's service at that date. For all other persons employed by the railways concerned, the law will become operative after a year's service, provided, in the case of males, that they have fulfilled their military service, and in the case of females, that they have attained their majority.

All employees are to be entitled to a pension after twenty-five years' service, provided they have attained the age of fifty in the case of drivers and firemen, fifty-five in the case of others employed in the traffic service, and sixty in the case of office employees who have not had fifteen years' service in the traffic branch. The last class may obtain their pension at the age of fifty-five if certified to be unfit for further service. In case of sickness, injuries or premature infirmity rendering further service impossible, any employee with at least fifteen years' service is to be entitled to immediate superannuation. The claim to immediate superannuation is acquired irrespective of length of service, where the disablement arises out of the nature of the duties performed.

The pension is to amount to half the average wage in the case of drivers, firemen and others of the train staff who have reached the age of fifty and completed twenty-five years' service, and for all other employees of fifty-five years of age and twenty-five years' service. For purposes of the pension the average wage is calculated on the six most highly-paid years of service. The pension, as calculated above, is to be increased by a fiftieth part of the average wage for every year's service over twenty-five whatever the age of the employee, and to be reduced by one-hundredth part of the average wage for every year of service less than twenty-five, as also for every year of age less than fifty or fifty-five, as the case may be. A person leaving the service for causes other than those already mentioned is to be entitled to a pension calculated as above if he has served more than fifteen years, but the payment of such pension will be deferred until he has attained the age at which it would have become payable in the ordinary course. If the employee in question has not completed fifteen years' service the amounts deducted from his wages for pension purposes (see below) must be refunded

* For previous reports on this dispute see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, August, p. 256, and September, p. 296.

him with interest. If an employee is obliged to leave before he has served fifteen years owing to sickness, injuries or premature infirmity, not arising out of the performance of his duties, and if he is certified to be disabled he will receive not only the amount of these deductions, but also an indemnity of like amount.

Provisions are also made whereby the widows (or failing these, the orphans) of employees are to receive, under certain conditions, half the pension of the husband or father.

In their new pension rules the railway administrations are to fix the amount of their payments into the pension funds, and it is provided that these payments may consist in part of sums stopped from wages.

For those who join the service after the promulgation of the present law, as well as for persons already in the service but not yet included in any pension scheme, the stoppage from wages (if any) must be fixed at 5 per cent., together with (a) a sum equivalent to the first month's wages (spread over two years), and (b) one-twelfth of each increase in wages.

In respect of persons already comprised in pension schemes, no limit is fixed by the law as to the amount (if any) to be deducted from wages for purposes of superannuation.

The number of persons employed by undertakings affected by the law is stated to be 308,000.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON MINES.

The Royal Commission appointed to inquire into certain questions relating to the health and safety of miners and the administration of the Mines Acts have now presented their second Report.*

Inspection.—The Commission think that the time has arrived for increasing the staff of Government Inspectors of Coal Mines and for the revision of the existing division of districts. A new type of assistant inspectors should be appointed in addition to the existing class, chosen from among men of less qualifications, but who have thorough practical experience in work underground.

Supervision and Management.—The Commission consider that an agent who takes an active part in the management of a mine should possess a manager's certificate, and that power should be given to the Home Secretary to limit the number of mines over which a manager or under-manager may exercise control. No man should be eligible for appointment as fireman or deputy unless he is over 25 years of age and has had at least five years' practical experience in a mine, and has obtained a certificate as to his ability to make accurate tests for fire-damp. The inspection before the shift, should be made within two hours of its commencement, and there should be at least two inspections during the shift.

Ventilation.—Every reasonable endeavour should be made to maintain such a standard of ventilation as to prevent the appearance in any open and readily accessible position of a fully formed "cap" on the lowered flame of the safety lamp, and men should not be allowed to work or pass where this standard is exceeded. Enquiries are being made as to the percentage of fire-damp which constitutes a fully-formed "cap." As regards black-damp air found by analysis to contain less than 19 per cent. of oxygen, or more than 1½ per cent. of carbon dioxide, should be regarded as below the standard.

Coal Dust Explosions.—The methods of dealing with coal dust are being made the subject of important experiments, and the Commission have therefore limited their observations mainly to summarising the evidence submitted to them. They think, however, that much may be done to prevent the accumulation of coal dust.

Shot-firing.—The various regulations in regard to shot-firing should be consolidated, shot-firing on main haulage roads should be subjected to the strictest precautions. Persons appointed as shot-firers should be examined as to their abilities to test for gas in the same way as firemen or deputies. Permitted explosives should be fired only by electricity. Other explosives should be fired either by electricity or proper safety

* Cd. 4,920. Price 3s. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

fuse, and the use of straws and squibs should be prohibited.

Safety Lamps.—Where naked lights are used men should not be allowed to work or pass in air where the lowered flame of a safety lamp shows any indication of fire-damp. Wherever the return air current at any point in a seam contains more than 0.5 per cent. of fire-damp the use of safety lamps in that seam should be required unless the ventilation can be increased so as to lower the proportion of fire-damp below that amount. A government test of safety lamps should be established.

Falls of Roof and Sides.—Increased supervision of timbering at the working face is needed, especially where the timber is set by the colliers themselves. The rules for systematic timbering require revision.

Other Accidents.—With regard to underground haulage accidents they think that more attention should be given to the construction and maintenance of haulage roads. Where fast haulage is adopted men should not be allowed to travel while the haulage is in motion. The same rule should apply to slow haulage unless a path for walking is provided at the side of the haulage road. With regard to shaft accidents the Commission think that the hours worked by engine winders in some mines are unduly long; the working of "double shifts" should be prohibited. The Commissioners make a number of other recommendations dealing with the investigation of accidents, the organisation of rescue work, the provision of washing and drying accommodation, the examinations for managers' certificates, &c.

PROCEEDINGS OF DISTRESS COMMITTEES.

A RETURN* as to the Proceedings of Distress Committees in England and Wales and of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, during the year ended 31st March, 1909, has been issued.

The estimated population of the 29 London and 95 provincial districts in which Distress Committees received applications was 16½ millions; the number of applications received was 196,757, or 11.7 per 1,000 of the population, and included 4,852 from women. The total number of male applicants represented 41 per 1,000 of the aggregate working population. The total number of applicants registered in London was equivalent to 10.3 per 1,000 of the population, the highest proportions being found in Poplar (27.6 per 1,000), Bermondsey (19.1) and Shoreditch (15.0). The average proportion of applicants registered in provincial districts was 12.3 per 1,000 of population, but no less than 44 out of the 95 districts were above this average, the highest proportions being shown in Edmonton (36.1 per 1,000), Maidstone (33.9) and Sunderland (31.4).

The particulars for 12 areas bordering on London, viz.:—the boroughs of Croydon, West Ham, East Ham and Hornsey, and the urban districts of Barking Town, Edmonton, Erith, Leyton, Tottenham, Walthamstow, Willesden, and Wood Green, show that the total number of applications in these districts was 15.7 per 1,000 as compared with only 10.3 per 1,000 in London.

Both the total number of applicants and the number found qualified for assistance (136,589) were more than double the numbers recorded in the preceding winter. Comparisons with previous years, however, are affected by the fact that 14 new Committees were constituted during the year, and also by the removal of disqualifications from those who had been in receipt of Poor Law Relief within the previous 12 months, or had been employed in two successive periods of 12 months on work provided by a Central Body or a Distress Committee. The increase in the number of applicants was more marked in the provincial districts than in London, the increase in London being 50 per cent., while the total number of applicants outside London was as much as 157 per cent. in excess of the previous year.

In as many as 52,852 cases, or slightly more than one-fourth of the whole number of applications received,

* P.P. 276 of 1909. [Price 4d.]

the applicants had applied to a Distress Committee on a former occasion, at some date prior to March 31st, 1908. Of the 196,757 applications received, nearly 87 per cent. were investigated. Eighty per cent. of the total number of applicants found qualified for assistance were between the ages of 20 and 50 years, the group of persons aged 30 to 40 being actually the largest, and next to this group that of persons aged 20 to 30. The occupations of the applicants whose cases were entertained are, so far as they were ascertained, shown in the following table:—

Occupations.	London.		London and Provinces.	
	No.	Per cent. of Total of all Occupations.	No.	Per cent. of Total of all Occupations.
General or Casual Labour	7,169	32.0	64,773	47.4
Transport and Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages	3,376	15.1	7,449	5.4
Building Trades	6,767	30.2	23,047	16.9
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades	1,616	7.2	17,028	12.5
Furnishing and Wood-working Trades	702	3.1	2,260	1.7
Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades	523	2.3	1,458	1.1
Domestic Service	402	1.8	2,090	1.5
Tailoring and Clothing Trades	382	1.7	888	0.6
Textile Trades	95	0.4	2,619	1.9
Boot and Shoemaking Trades	339	1.5	2,437	1.8
Printing, Bookbinding and other Paper Trades	186	0.8	1,066	0.8
Other Occupations	927	4.2	11,970	8.8

Employment either on relief works or on ordinary work, with local authorities or private employers, was offered to 101,801 persons, including 19,414 persons in London. The total number of applicants who took up the work offered or found for them (including a certain number who were already at work at the beginning of the year) was 88,190, or nearly two and a-half times the number of persons thus assisted in 1907-8. The percentage of qualified applicants provided with work was 74.2 in London and 62.7 in the provincial districts.

The total amount earned in wages by the men and women employed in the various works provided by the Central (Unemployed) Body, Distress Committees, and local authorities was £327,633 of which approximately £16,973 was paid to men and their families engaged on labour colonies. The average amount earned by men on the labour colonies was £9, and by men employed on other work £4 per head.

The number of persons assisted to emigrate during the year was 1,139, as compared with 6,066 persons in 1907-8, while the provisions of the Act for the removal of unemployed persons to other areas in England and Wales were also utilised to a less extent than in the previous year, the total number so assisted being 408, as compared with 776.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

The demand in Canada for all classes of emigrants, except female domestic servants, is over till next spring, and no one should now go there unless at the invitation of friends or under a contract which will last during the winter. According to the latest published Dominion of Canada "Labour Gazette," general employment was considerably more active throughout Canada during August both as compared with July and with the month of August, 1908. The crop returns are expected to exceed those of last year. In the mining industry, labour disturbances created dullness in the Nova Scotia collieries, but the collieries of Alberta and British Columbia are reported as having had a good month. A new agreement has been signed between the Canadian Northern Railway Company and its maintenance of way employees by which advances ranging from 10 to 15 cents per day, except in the case of labourers, have been granted. The building, metal, engineering and shipbuilding, woodworking, printing, clothing, and many other trades were reported as being active in the

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

vast majority of the districts reported upon, but it is nevertheless necessary to bear in mind that emigrants should not go to Canada during the winter months.

Every emigrant, male or female, 18 years of age or over, who arrives in Canada, must have in his or her possession the sum of 25 dollars (£5 4s.), in addition to a ticket to his or her destination, unless satisfactory evidence is furnished that the emigrant is going to some definite employment, or to relatives or friends already settled in Canada who would take care of such emigrant. All emigrants sent out to Canada by British charitable societies or by public funds must obtain certificates from the Canadian Emigration Authorities, Charing Cross, London, S.W., that they are suitable settlers for Canada. Special attention is drawn to the fact that whenever an immigrant has within two years of his or her landing in Canada become a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison or hospital, or other charitable institution, he or she may, under the existing Canadian law, be sent back to the United Kingdom, after investigation of the facts, together with all those dependent on him or her.

Commonwealth of Australia.

There is an excellent demand in Australia for farmers, farm labourers, and female servants, and New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia offer cheap passages to these classes. Application must be made to the respective Agents-General in London. Settlers in Queensland or Western Australia may obtain free grants of 160 acres of land on easy conditions of residence and improvement. The demand for mechanics in Australia is intermittent, but thoroughly competent carpenters, bricklayers, blacksmiths, and other skilled men, can get work in many country districts. Such men should not, however, emigrate unless they are able to land with sufficient money upon which to live until employment can be obtained. According to the New South Wales Monthly Statistical Bulletin for July, 1909, the returns relating to employment in manufactories in New South Wales show that the number of hands has increased by 2,631, the total number employed in 1908 being 89,098, of whom 67,617 were males and 21,481 females. The industries in which the largest increases took place were those working in clothing, wood, paper and printing, heat, light, and power. There was also a general increase in the wages paid, the total for 1908 being £7,217,355, as against £6,650,715 in 1907.

New Zealand.

The only classes of emigrants wanted in New Zealand at the present time are farmers with capital, *bona fide* farm labourers, and female domestic servants. Reduced passages are offered to these classes. For mechanics there is practically no demand now, the supply of men on the spot being generally adequate. According to the latest published "Journal of the Department of Labour," the condition of trade and employment in New Zealand for the month ended July 31st, was, in the majority of the districts reported upon, as follows:—Agricultural operations, quiet; coachbuilding, printing, and leather trades, fair; building and woodworking trades, quiet; engineering and clothing trades, quiet or fair; unskilled labour, quiet or slack. All persons, especially those with families, should have with them upon landing sufficient money upon which to live until employment can be obtained.

South Africa.

Cape Colony and Natal.—The supply of labour in both these colonies generally exceeds the demand, and no one should go there now in search of employment. Female domestic servants should not emigrate to either of these colonies without first communicating with the South African Colonisation Society (see below).

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—There is some demand for approved female domestic servants, who should apply to the South African Colonisation Society, 23, Army and Navy Mansions, No. 2, 115, Victoria Street, London, S.W. Other persons are warned against going in search of employment.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 325 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in August.—Employment in the building trades continued good, and in the metal trades moderate. In the textile trades it was still satisfactory in the great majority of the centres of the Nord and Vosges, the smaller centres of Maine-et-Loire and Vendée, and in hosiery manufacture at Troyes; but short time was worked in the cotton industry at Rouen. In silk manufacture the decline continued in the majority of the weaving sheds of the Loire and Haute-Loire; in the Lyons district power-loom weavers were busy; there was some unemployment at Lyons itself in the smaller workshops of the Croix-Rousse quarter. The clothing trades were in their slack season. In the printing and bookbinding trades employment declined in the provinces. In leather dressing at Mazamet it continued good. Owing to large catches of fish there was a marked improvement in the tin-box making trade along the coast of Brittany. Watchmakers in Haute-Savoie continued very short of work. Owing to the termination of vineyard work many workers in the South of France were unemployed. Gardeners continued well employed in the Paris district.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed on a given date in August were received by the French Labour Department from 1,117 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 253,816. Excluding returns from the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais Department, 6.4 per cent were described as unemployed, as compared with 6.3 per cent. in the previous month, and 8.2 per cent. in August, 1908. (As regards these figures, see note above under "Labour Abroad.")

Labour Disputes in August.—Seventy-three disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having commenced in August, compared with 75 in the previous month, and 59 in August, 1908. In 70 of the new disputes 15,269 workpeople took part, compared with 3,979 who took part in 60 disputes in the previous month, and 4,860 who took part in 57 disputes in August, 1908. The trades chiefly affected by disputes in August were building (26), textile (16) and transport (6). Seventy new and old disputes were reported to have terminated; of these 16 ended in favour of the workpeople and 37 in favour of the employers, while 17 were compromised.

Coal Mining in August.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during August was 5.83, as compared with 5.93 in the previous month, and 5.66 in August, 1908. Taking surface and underground workers together, 80.27 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 17.95 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 83.81 and 16.08, and in August, 1908, 85.63 and 12.52.

Conciliation and Arbitration in August.—Two instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in August. In each case the employers refused to take part in conciliation proceedings.

GERMANY.

Employment in August.—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department) for the month of September:—"Although the aspect of the labour market varied in different industries and from place to place, yet, on the whole, there was a

gradual tendency towards improved employment. The position in the coal mining industry continued unsatisfactory in the Ruhr district, but the reports from Silesia and the lignite mines of Central Germany were for the most part favourable: in particular there was an increased sale of house coal in execution of winter orders. The metal and engineering trades were also active. The Steel Works Federation reported increased sales, and the unfavourable state of employment in foundries, as, for example, in Saxony and West Germany, showed a partial improvement. In the electrical trades also employment was better than in July. In the building trades it continued satisfactory almost everywhere. In the clothing trades a revival of employment, very marked in some cases, set in; to some extent, particularly in the large towns, there was even a scarcity of workpeople. On the other hand the conditions in the textile trades continued unfavourable. The tobacco industry experienced a change for the worse. Owing to the increased taxation upon raw tobacco, which came into effect on August 15th, the activity of July and the first part of August gave way to a perceptible decline. In the brewing trades there was a temporary diminution in sales after the middle of August owing to increased prices."

HOLLAND.*

Employment in August.—In the building trades employment declined in many districts for bricklayers, masons, carpenters, and painters; with plasterers and plumbers it was fair. Iron and steel works suffered from a certain slackness, but employment was satisfactory in machine construction and shipbuilding. The proportion of unemployed among diamond workers fell to just over 3 per cent. In the textile trades employment was normal on the whole. Slackness of employment was experienced in both the men's and women's branches of the clothing trades, and also in the hat and cap trades. In the printing trades employment on the whole continued fairly favourable.

Labour Disputes in August.—The number of labour disputes reported as having begun in August was 12, in 9 of which 735 persons were directly affected. During the month 10 disputes (including 9 of the new ones) came to an end. Of these 3 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 7 in favour of the employers, while 3 were compromised; the results of the remaining 3 were not known.

Labour Disputes in 1908.—One hundred and thirty-five disputes were reported to the Dutch Central Statistical Office as having commenced in 1908, as compared with 154 in the previous year. The number of persons directly affected by 133 disputes in 1908 was 7,165, as compared with 15,154 directly affected by the 154 disputes of 1907. The number of working days lost by these persons in 1908 was 91,860, but in addition 10,247 were lost by non-strikers affected, giving a total of 102,107, as compared with 458,429 in 1907. The trades in which most disputes occurred were building (including cleaning of buildings, maintenance of roads, &c.) (34), food preparation and tobacco (26), metal and shipbuilding (16), and textile (10). Of the 131 disputes which terminated in 1908, 28 ended in favour of the workpeople, 51 in favour of the employers, 42 were compromised, while in 10 cases the results of the disputes were indefinite or unknown.

BELGIUM.†

Employment in August.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 2.8 per cent. of the 47,514 members of Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of August, as compared with 2.7 per cent. in the previous month, and 5.9 per cent. in August, 1908. (As regards these figures, see note above under "Labour Abroad.")

Labour Disputes in August.—Eight strikes, affecting 1,871 workpeople (1,215 directly and 656 indirectly), and

* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).
† Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

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

one lock-out, affecting 1,468 workpeople, were reported to have commenced in August. Four other disputes, which had commenced before August, and in which 3,100 persons were involved, were also in progress during the month. Of 10 new and old disputes which were reported to have terminated, one, affecting 160 workpeople, ended in favour of the workpeople, and 5, affecting 306 workpeople, in favour of the employers, while 4, affecting 1,785 workpeople, were compromised.

Prohibition of the Use of White Lead in Painting.—A law of August 20th, 1909, prohibits the sale, transport and use of white lead for painting, whether in the form of powder, lumps, or cakes, and permits its sale, transport and use in such forms for other purposes only under conditions and within limits to be fixed by Royal Decree. White lead for use in painting may only be sold, transported and used in the form of paste, crushed and softened by means of oil. With the approval of the Higher Council of Public Health the sale, transport and use of other products in which lead is the principal ingredient, and which are used in painting, may be partially or wholly prohibited, whether such products are in the form of powder, lumps or cakes. Dry scraping and dry pumicing of surfaces coated with white lead are prohibited. The law is to come into force one year after publication.

NORWAY.*

Employment in August.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of August in Trade Unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Statistical Office, comparative figures relating to the same unions a month ago and a year ago being added:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Aug. 31st, 1909.	July 31st, 1909.	Aug. 31st, 1908.	Aug. 31st, 1909.	July 31st, 1909.	Aug. 31st, 1908.
Carpenters	836	834	707	4.2	3.5	2.7
Painters	450	475	550	...	...	...
Metal Workers	5,151	5,187	5,287	4.6	4.5	1.7
Boot and Shoe Makers	508	526	533	0.2	0.6	0.4
Printers	1,363	1,388	1,309	1.7	0.7	2.4
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers	675	686	772	...	...	...
Sawyers and Planers	410	403	545	4.4	1.2	4.2
Cabinet Makers	270	275	240	1.9	1.1	1.7
Bakers	265	270	185	9.1	5.6	7.0
Tinned Goods	305	299	289	2.0	2.7	1.0
Total	10,253	10,343	10,417	3.4	3.0	1.8

(As regards these figures see note on p. 335 under "Labour Abroad").

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Municipal Bakery in Buda-Pest.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated September 21st, H.M. Consul-General at Buda-Pest reports that, owing to the very high price of bread, a municipal bakery was started in that city in August. Municipal bread is to be had in all the public markets, including the municipal meat markets. The prices of municipal bread and bakers' bread per 4 lbs. are as follows:—

	Bakers' Bread.	Municipal Bread.
White	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Half Brown	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Brown	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

H.M. Consul-General states that the municipal bread stalls have been a great success since they started.

UNITED STATES.

Employment in New York State: January-June, 1909.—In the Bulletin of the Department of Labour of the State of New York for September, 1909, are published statistics of unemployment in New York State from January to June, based on returns received from 192 Trade Unions. Of 89,227 members reporting at the end of June, 13.1 per cent. were unemployed owing to causes

* Arbeidsmarkedet (Journal of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office).

other than disputes and disability, as compared with 12.7 per cent. the month before, and 28.7 per cent. in June, 1908. The membership reporting and percentage unemployed for each month from January to June, 1909, were as under, corresponding percentages for the previous year being added for comparison:—

Month.	Members reporting in 1909.	Percentage Unemployed owing to causes other than disputes and disability.	
		1909.	1908.
January	88,604	25.4	35.1
February	89,396	24.6	35.9
March	90,619	21.2	35.9
April	89,039	15.1	32.2
May	89,241	12.7	30.6
June	89,227	13.1	28.7

The following Table shows the percentage reported unemployed in certain groups of trades:—

Group of Trades.	Membership reporting at end of June, 1909.	Percentage reported Unemployed at end of		
		June, 1909.	May, 1909.	June, 1908.
Building, Stone Working, &c.	27,681	19.1	21.3	35.1
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	7,696	11.0	11.9	29.0
Clothing	11,285	22.1	18.9	45.4
Transport	14,644	4.4	3.9	31.0
Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	6,490	9.1	6.4	17.3
Woodworking and Furniture	2,910	12.6	12.1	35.0
Food, Drink and Tobacco	7,042	10.5	11.3	8.8
Hotels and Restaurants	2,202	4.7	5.9	11.0
Stationary Enginemen	2,981	1.7	1.7	2.8
Public Employment	2,275	...	...	...
Other	4,018	13.7	2.7	25.1
Total	89,227	13.1	12.7	28.7

(As regards these figures see note above under "Labour Abroad.")

NOTE.—The percentage of unemployment in New York State for March, 1909, as given in last month's GAZETTE (p. 298), was 19.7, while the percentage for the same month is now shown (in the first of the above Tables) as 21.2. The difference is due to the earlier figure being based on returns from all the Trade Unions in the State, while the present figure is based on returns from certain representative Unions only.

Strike of Employees of the Pressed Steel Car Company at Pittsburg.—Despatches from H.M. Ambassador at Washington and H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, dated August 31st to September 29th, report a strike of the employees of the Pressed Steel Car Company at Pittsburg, which commenced on July 15th and continued till September 8th. The strikers at first numbered only 200, but the dispute spread until all the workpeople employed—3,500 in number—were involved. The principal complaints of the strikers related to (1) a change in the system of manufacture by which their earnings were alleged to be reduced, and (2) the "pooled wage" system under which the men were ignorant of the amount by which their minimum earnings would be increased through the efficient working of the gang. The terms on which the men resumed work provided for the abandonment or improvement of the "pooled wage" system, but included no definite promise of any immediate increase of wages.

Strike of Cotton Weavers at Fall River, Massachusetts.—Despatches from H.M. Acting Consul-General at Boston, dated September 14th and 17th, report that 1,000 cotton weavers, employed at one establishment at Fall River, struck work on September 13th. The dispute resulted in the temporary unemployment of 5,000 operatives. The principal demand of the strikers was a 10 per cent. increase of wages, but work was resumed on the 17th September after an advance of 5 per cent. had been conceded.

Labour in Chicago.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated September 27th, H.M. Acting Consul-General at Chicago reported that at that date trade was improving rapidly; more men were being employed, and the wage scale was rapidly returning to the high level of 1907. The outlook for unskilled labour, for those employed in large retail stores and for ordinary clerks, however, showed no sign of improvement.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN SEPTEMBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 500 Returns—432 from Employers, 48 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during September was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. During August, 1909, about 0.45 of a day per week was lost on account of holidays and disputes.

Returns relating to 1,369 pits employing 671,370 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended September 25th, 1909, was 5.26, as compared with 5.01 days in August and 5.34 days a year ago.

Of the 671,370 workpeople covered by the Returns, 508,458 (or 70.6 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended September 25th, 1909, while 361,366 workpeople (53.8 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest average per week was in South Wales and Mon. (5.74 days), and the lowest in the Lothians (4.62 days).

The following Table shows the average number of days per week worked by the pits during the four weeks ended September 25th, together with the figures for similar periods in August, 1909, and September, 1908:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Sept., 1909.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in Four Weeks ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
		Sept. 25th, 1909.	Aug. 21st, 1909.*	Sept. 26th, 1908.	m'nth ago.	year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	46,047	5.34	4.98	5.41	+ 0.36	- 0.07
Durham	117,737	5.38	5.18	5.39	+ 0.20	- 0.01
Cumberland	7,762	5.42	5.12	5.30	+ 0.30	+ 0.12
South Yorkshire	72,500	5.29	5.43	5.45	- 0.14	- 0.16
West Yorkshire	25,074	5.07	4.64	5.07	+ 0.43	...
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,910	4.83	4.77	4.75	+ 0.08	+ 0.08
Derbyshire	44,030	5.05	4.89	5.19	+ 0.16	- 0.14
Nottingham and Leicester	35,140	4.80	4.67	5.20	+ 0.13	- 0.40
Staffordshire	29,764	5.00	4.37	5.33	+ 0.63	- 0.33
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop	9,512	5.07	4.62	5.26	+ 0.45	- 0.19
Gloucester and Somerset	8,018	4.78	4.34	5.14	+ 0.44	- 0.36
North Wales	11,257	5.28	5.40	5.81	- 0.12	- 0.53
South Wales and Mon.	147,557	5.74	5.15	5.60	+ 0.59	+ 0.14
ENGLAND AND WALES	612,308	5.20	5.02	5.35	+ 0.28	- 0.05
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland	25,207	4.72	4.60	5.13	+ 0.12	- 0.41
The Lothians	4,405	4.62	4.79	5.26	- 0.17	- 0.64
Fife	28,819	5.05	5.35	5.46	- 0.30	- 0.41
SCOTLAND	58,431	4.88	4.98	5.27	- 0.08	- 0.39
IRELAND	631	5.36	5.10	5.46	+ 0.26	- 0.10
United Kingdom	671,370	5.26	5.01	5.34	+ 0.25	- 0.08

As compared with August (after making allowance for holidays in that month) there was some improvement in West Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset; in Northumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, the Midlands and in Scotland there was a decline; in the other districts there was not much change.

As compared with a year ago there was an improvement in Cumberland, South Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire and in South Wales; in the Midland counties and in Scotland there was a decline. In Northumberland, Durham and West Yorkshire there was not much change.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days per week worked by the

* The figures in this article only show 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. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.
† The figures in this column are reduced on account of holidays and disputes.

pits, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged:—

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Sept., 1909.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in the Four Weeks ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
		Sept. 25th, 1909.	Aug. 21st, 1909.*	Sept. 26th, 1908.	M'nth ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite	7,543	5.56	5.34	5.74	+ .22	- .18
Coking	35,310	5.34	5.25	5.30	+ .09	+ .04
Gas	42,872	5.36	4.95	5.41	+ .41	- .05
House	20,784	4.78	4.50	5.10	+ .36	+ .03
Steam	278,677	5.47	5.11	5.44	+ .36	- .13
Mixed	226,184	5.14	5.04	5.27	+ .10	- .13
All Descriptions ...	671,370	5.26	5.01	5.34	+ .25	- .08

As compared with August, after making due allowance for holidays and disputes in that month, there was not much change at steam, house and gas coal pits. At anthracite and coking pits there was a slight decline. As compared with a year ago there was not much change, except at pits producing house coal, where there was a decrease of 0.32 of a day per week.

The **Exports** of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in September, 1909, amounted to 5,829,295 tons, or 492,547 tons more than in August, 1909, and 164,988 tons more than in September, 1908.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 76 Returns—57 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good in iron mines, and showed an improvement compared with a year ago. In shale mines it was fair, but worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Employment was moderate, but rather better than in the previous month in tin and copper mines. It continued moderate in lead mines. In quarries employment on the whole continued fair, but was still slack in slate quarries. Settmakers continued well employed.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended September 25th, 1909, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.93, as compared with 5.78 in August and 5.82 a year ago. Time lost through holidays in August amounted to 0.12 a day per week.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	Workpeople employed in Sept., 1909.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
		Sept. 25th, 1909.	Aug. 21st, 1909.*	Sept. 26th, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland... ..	7,928	5.97	5.97	5.98	...	- 0.01
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,706	5.93	5.77	5.73	+ 0.16	+ 0.20
Scotland	877	5.70	4.80	5.64	+ 0.90	+ 0.06
Other Districts	2,399	5.86	5.54	5.57	+ 0.32	+ 0.29
All Districts ...	15,910	5.93	5.78	5.82	+ 0.15	+ 0.11

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 96.1 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended September 25th, 1909, as compared with 90.7 per cent. in August, 1909, and 88.7 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns were received, 3,200 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended September 25th, as compared with 3,229 in August, 1909, and 3,386 in September, 1908. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended September 25th, was 5.37, as compared with 5.45 a month ago, and 5.77 a year ago. In August, 1909, time lost through holidays amounted to 0.19 of a day per week.

* The figures in this column are reduced on account of holidays.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment was moderate on the whole, but showed an improvement generally on a month ago, and was fairly good at Camborne.

Lead Mining.—Employment was moderate in Weardale and North Wales. In Derbyshire it was good.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment remained slack in North Wales, but was reported to show a slight improvement on a month ago in the Carnarvon district.

Granite.—Employment was generally good in Leicestershire and Aberdeen. It continued fair in Cornwall, and was dull but rather better than a month ago at Princetown.

Limestone.—Employment generally showed some improvement on a month ago. It was fair on the whole in Durham, good in North Wales, and moderate in Cumberland. There was a slight falling off in the Buxton district, where employment was dull. In the Somerset blue lias quarries employment continued bad. It continued dull in the Plymouth district.

Other Stone.—Employment was good and better than a month ago in chert quarries at Bakewell. In the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries employment was moderate, and at "Bath stone" quarries it was slack, and worse than a month ago. It continued moderate in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district, and was moderate and worse than a month ago in the Clee Hill road material quarries. Employment was also moderate, with much short time, in freestone quarries in the Newcastle and Gateshead districts. It was generally fair in the Sheffield and Rotherham district and at Barnsley. In Forfarshire employment was still reported as bad.

Setmakers.—Employment generally continued good in Scotland, and was better than a year ago. In North Wales and Leicestershire it was good, and at Rowley Regis (Staffs) it was fair. In the Clee Hill district it was moderate.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district, and was moderate at Lee Moor; it was, on the whole, about the same as a year ago.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 116 Returns—109 from Employers and an Employer's Association, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during September continued moderate. It was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of September, 1909, was 293, as compared with the same number in August, 1909, and 277 in September, 1908. Seven furnaces were re-lit during the month (2 in the Cleveland district, 2 in Lanarkshire, 2 in Cumberland and 1 in Glamorgan) while 2 were damped down (in Cumberland) and 5 were blown out (2 in Ayrshire, and 1 each in Cumberland, Glamorgan and Lanarkshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
	Sept., 1909.	August, 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	79	77	77	+ 2	+ 2
Cumberland & Lancs.	29	30	26	- 1	+ 3
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	12	12	10	...	+ 2
Derby & Nottingham	31	31	30	...	+ 1
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	26	...	...
Stafford & Worcester	34	34	32	...	+ 2
S. Wales & Monmouth	8	8	7	...	+ 1
Other districts ...	6	6	6	...	...
England & Wales	223	224	214	+ 1	+11
Scotland ...	68	69	63	- 1	+ 5
Total ...	293	293	277	...	+16

The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 22,000; an increase of 3.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The Imports of iron ore in September, 1909, amounted to 545,932 tons, or 26,917 tons more than in August, 1909, and 31,496 tons more than in September, 1908.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in September, 1909, amounted to 102,635 tons, or 760 tons less than in August, 1909, and 14,364 tons less than in September, 1908.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 211 Returns—195 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents; 3 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued moderate. It showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, and was also better than a year ago.

The volume of employment during the week ended September 25th, 1909 (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked), was about 478,200, showing an increase of 0.9 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 3.7 per cent. on a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
IRON:						
Puddling Forges ...	9,430	- 123	- 185	4.83	+ 0.05	- 0.04
Rolling Mills ...	3,783	+ 13	+ 22	4.23	- 0.15	- 0.15
Forging ...	423	+ 8	+ 52	5.46	- 0.04	+ 0.31
Founding ...	1,704	+ 26	+ 2	5.69	- 0.03	- 0.01
Other Departments ...	654	+ 7	+ 34	5.90	+ 0.11	+ 0.01
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,726	+ 13	- 190	5.54	...	+ 0.06
Total, Iron ...	17,720	- 86	- 369	5.01	...	+ 0.01
STEEL:						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,123	+ 267	+ 594	5.78	- 0.01	- 0.03
Crucible Furnaces ...	534	- 2	+ 8	4.80	+ 0.02	+ 0.77
Bessemer Converters ...	1,591	- 74	+ 52	5.13	+ 0.28	+ 0.17
Rolling Mills ...	15,563	+ 205	+ 1,473	5.32	+ 0.07	+ 0.30
Forging and Pressing ...	2,782	+ 74	+ 170	5.37	+ 0.18	+ 0.06
Founding ...	6,990	+ 157	+ 144	5.82	+ 0.09	+ 0.04
Other Departments ...	6,884	- 71	- 28	5.56	- 0.16	- 0.04
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,188	- 450	- 128	5.92	+ 0.02	+ 0.06
Total, Steel ...	49,655	+ 106	+ 2,585	5.58	+ 0.03	+ 0.11
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):						
Rolling Mills ...	10,266	+ 271	- 130	5.09	+ 0.03	- 0.05
Forging and Pressing ...	745	+ 85	+ 94	5.35	- 0.13	+ 0.08
Founding ...	710	+ 19	+ 51	5.90	+ 0.03	- 0.02
Other Departments ...	3,129	+ 11	+ 250	5.83	...	- 0.01
Mechanics, Labourers ...	5,777	- 40	- 41	5.78	+ 0.05	+ 0.01
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	20,627	+ 346	+ 224	5.44	+ 0.02	- 0.02
Grand Total ...	88,032	+ 366	+ 2,140	5.43	+ 0.02	+ 0.06
Districts.						
Northumberland & Durham	9,707	+ 305	+ 1,176	5.55	+ 0.10	+ 0.19
Cleveland ...	7,517	+ 269	- 83	5.38	+ 0.04	- 0.01
Sheffield & Rotherham ...	15,435	- 94	- 90	5.59	- 0.07	+ 0.06
Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns	4,241	+ 72	- 58	5.54	+ 0.12	+ 0.13
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	8,601	+ 148	+ 1,170	5.30	+ 0.24	- 0.10
Staffordshire ...	10,109	+ 124	- 122	5.44	+ 0.05	+ 0.11
Other Midland Counties ...	4,815	+ 8	- 21	5.25	- 0.03	+ 0.10
Wales and Monmouth	10,157	- 480	- 403	5.52	- 0.08	- 0.06
Total, England and Wales	70,872	+ 374	+ 1,569	5.45	+ 0.04	+ 0.08
Scotland ...	17,160	+ 24	+ 571	5.37	- 0.02	- 0.01
Total ...	88,032	+ 398	+ 2,140	5.43	+ 0.02	+ 0.06

Compared with a month ago, there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in all districts except Sheffield and Wales and Monmouth. The increases were chiefly at open hearth melting furnaces and at rolling mills. The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.43, as compared with 5.41 in August; there was an improvement in Northumberland and Durham, Leeds, Bradford, &c., and in Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, which was principally at steel forges and in the Bessemer converting department: at iron rolling mills there was a decline.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,009 Returns—9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 957 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 43 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during September continued slack, but there was some improvement as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago.

Returns from Trade Unions having a membership of 171,370 show that at the end of September the percentage unemployed was 10.8 as compared with 11.3 at the end of August, 1909, and 12.4 at the end of September, 1908. Compared with a month ago, ten districts show an improvement, two show no change, and two a decline. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in ten districts, notably the North-East Coast and Glasgow, and a decline in three districts, the most marked decline being in the East of Scotland.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Sept., 1909.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage for Sept., 1909, on a	
		Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,165	20.3	20.3	29.5	...	- 9.2
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,604	9.7	9.4	12.3	+ 0.3	- 2.6
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,351	13.4	14.2	11.0	- 0.8	+ 2.4
West Riding Towns ...	12,758	12.9	12.8	14.4	+ 0.1	- 1.5
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,997	8.1	8.7	9.9	- 0.6	- 1.8
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,323	7.3	8.7	9.6	- 1.4	- 2.5
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	4,324	9.0	10.4	9.3	- 1.4	- 0.3
London and Neighbouring District	11,789	6.1	6.1	7.3	...	- 1.2
South Coast ...	4,598	6.3	8.5	5.6	- 2.2	+ 0.7
South Wales and Bristol District	6,807	8.4	9.0	8.4	- 0.6	...
Glasgow and District ...	15,326	13.3	14.6	23.1	- 1.3	- 9.8
East of Scotland ...	3,810	23.5	23.9	19.5	- 0.4	+ 4.0
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,554	13.7	14.6	14.5	- 0.9	- 0.8
Other Districts ...	5,805	7.3	9.1	13.0	- 1.8	- 5.7
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	171,370	10.8	11.3	12.4	- 0.5	- 1.6

On the North-East Coast employment continued slack, with short time. It was much better than a year ago, when it was affected by a dispute. It continued fair at ordnance shops at Newcastle, and good with wagon builders at Darlington. Employment on the Wear continued bad, and large numbers were unemployed. On the Tees employment continued slack, but there was a considerable reduction in the number unemployed.

In Lancashire employment continued slack. At Oldham it was still good with electrical workers, though some falling off was reported. It was bad in the Liverpool district, with much short time. In Manchester it was also bad. It continued to decline at Barrow.

Employment continued slack in the West Riding of Yorkshire. An improvement was reported with pattern-makers at Sheffield. It was fair with patternmakers, but bad with most other branches at Hull. It continued good, with overtime, at Lincoln. It was fairly good, and better than a month ago, at Grantham.

Employment showed some decline with engineers at Birmingham, but some improvement was reported at Wolverhampton. At Coventry employment was good with patternmakers. It was quiet in the cycle industry in the Birmingham district, but continued to improve in the Wolverhampton district, where it was good in the motor industry. Employment was bad in Shropshire. At Nottingham it was very good with lace machine builders with much overtime, and also with bobbin and carriage makers; it was bad with ironfounders. At Derby some improvement was reported with railway carriage and wagon builders, and makers of sugar machinery were well employed. Employment showed some improvement in Leicestershire and was good with agricultural implement makers at Ipswich.

Employment in London continued quiet. In the Royal Dockyards it continued slack at Portsmouth, Devonport and Pembroke, and was moderate at Chatham and Sheerness. At Cowes, Southampton, and

Compared with a year ago, there were considerable increases in the number employed in Northumberland and Durham, Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, and in Scotland; in the other districts there were small decreases. The departments principally affected by the increases were open hearth melting furnaces and steel rolling mills. The average number of shifts worked showed an improvement of 0.06 of a shift; this improvement was greatest in Northumberland and Durham, and the branch chiefly affected was the steel rolling mills.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during September, 1909, amounted to 100,941 tons, or 7,366 tons more than in August, 1909, but 2,134 tons less than in September, 1908.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during September, 1909, amounted to 195,476 tons, or 5,253 tons less than in August, 1909, but 15,731 tons more than in September, 1908.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

(Based on 59 Returns—55 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during September continued very good, and was better than both a month ago and a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 401 tinplate mills were working at the end of September, as compared with 393 a month ago, and 399 a year ago. The number of sheet mills working at the same dates were 52, 51, and 47 respectively. The supply of and demand for labour were reported to be fairly equal.

The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,650 workpeople.

The following Table shows the number of works open and the number of mills working at the end of September, 1909, together with the increase or decrease as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

	Number of Works open.*			Number of Mills in operation.		
	At end of Sept., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	At end of Sept., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate Works	75	...	- 1	401	+ 8	+ 2
Steel Sheet Works	8	...	...	52	+ 1	+ 5
Total ...	83	...	- 1	453	+ 9	+ 7

Exports.—The Table below shows the exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning:—

	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<i>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</i>					
To United States ...	4,408	5,297	1,500	- 889	+ 2,508
British East Indies ...	4,681	2,777	4,411	+ 1,904	+ 279
Germany ...	2,831	2,687	2,355	+ 144	+ 476
France ...	1,072	1,135	1,530	- 63	- 458
Netherlands ...	2,618	2,897	1,373	- 279	+ 1,245
Other Countries ...	21,144	17,491	17,247	+ 3,653	+ 3,867
Total ...	36,754	32,284	28,416	+ 4,470	+ 8,388
<i>Black Plates for Tinning.</i>					
Total ...	3,997	3,984	4,094	+ 13	- 97

* It will be understood that in addition to the works returned as open, &c. giving full or partial employment, a certain number of works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the Returns relate; but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills a actually in operation.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

Weymouth employment showed an improvement. It remained slack in the Bristol and South Wales district.

In the Glasgow district employment showed a further improvement in most branches. It was much better than a year ago. In the East of Scotland employment continued bad, except with patternmakers at Aberdeen and Falkirk, with whom it was fair.

Employment continued bad generally in Ireland. A further improvement was reported with patternmakers at Belfast.

The Imports of machinery in September, 1909, amounted to £290,079, or £84,193 less than in August, 1909, but £18,160 more than in September, 1908.

The Exports of machinery in September, 1909, amounted to £2,324,643, or £95,971 more than in August, 1909, but £88,536 less than in September, 1908.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 372 Returns—7 from Employers' Associations, 350 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad. It showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,280 members reported 22.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of September as compared with 23.3 per cent. a month ago, and 26.6 per cent. a year ago.

As compared with a month ago, there was an improvement in eight districts, which was greatest on the Thames, Tees, and Clyde; at the Bristol Channel Ports, on the Mersey and on the East Coast of Scotland there was a decline. As compared with a year ago, employment showed a marked improvement on the Wear, Tees, and Clyde; on the South Coast, at the Bristol Channel Ports and on the East Coast of Scotland there were considerable increases in the percentage unemployed.

District.	No. of Members at end of Sept., 1909.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage for	
		Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,284	28.6	28.2	27.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.5
Wear ...	4,293	40.1	41.4	53.1	- 1.3	- 13.0
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,541	25.9	35.2	43.5	- 9.3	- 17.6
Humber ...	4,486	33.0	25.5	25.0	- 1.9	- 1.4
Thames and Medway ...	4,285	9.8	12.7	12.4	- 2.9	- 2.6
South Coast ...	4,645	6.6	8.4	3.3	- 1.8	+ 3.1
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,765	30.3	21.8	39.8	+ 8.5	+ 10.5
Morsey ...	4,102	23.9	19.9	28.1	+ 4.0	- 4.6
Clyde ...	12,493	17.2	19.2	25.3	- 2.0	- 8.1
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	2,316	45.6	41.5	40.4	+ 4.1	+ 5.2
Belfast ...	2,891	17.8	18.1	16.6	- 0.3	+ 1.2
Other Districts ...	3,179	14.3	15.3	14.1	- 1.0	+ 0.2
United Kingdom ...	57,280	22.4	23.3	26.6	- 0.9	- 4.2

On the Tyne employment continued bad generally, and was worse than a year ago. On repair work, however, it was fair, and better than a month ago. It improved generally at Jarrow, with rivetters and caulkers at Wallsend, and with shipwrights at Hebburn. On the Wear employment continued very bad, but was better than a year ago.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was slack, but showed an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago; on repair work employment was fair. On the Humber employment continued bad, although some improvement was shown on both a month ago and a year ago; with shipwrights at Beverley it was fair.

In the Thames and Medway district employment showed an improvement as compared both with a month ago and a year ago; at Chatham it was moderate with boilermakers and good with shipwrights. On the South Coast employment was better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago; with shipwrights at the Royal Dockyards it was good.

At the Bristol Channel ports employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. On the Mersey it was slack, and worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. At Barrow employment continued bad.

* Exclusive of supernannated members.

Employment continued bad on the Clyde, but was better than a year ago. On the East Coast of Scotland it continued very bad, and was worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Belfast continued slack.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's Returns there was at the end of September, 1909, an increase in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom of 32,331 tons gross (4.3 per cent.) as compared with the end of June, 1909, and of 44,658 tons gross (6.1 per cent.) as compared with the end of September, 1908. Of war vessels there was an increase of 15,175 tons displacement as compared with June, 1909, and a decrease of 12,013 tons displacement as compared with September, 1908.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	End of Sept., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on		End of Sept., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on	
		June, '09.	Sept., '08.		June, '09.	Sept., '08.
	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.
Clyde ...	284,627	+ 21,486	+ 56,581	48,608	+ 129	+ 41,642
Belfast ...	176,530	- 26,961	+ 19,110	...	...	...
Tyne ...	118,955	+ 2,163	- 58,428	52,452	+ 16,345	+ 32,465
Wear ...	84,120	+ 23,335	+ 27,215	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	49,940	+ 8,852	+ 14,780	...	...	...
Middlesbrough and Stockton ...	45,420	+ 17,490	+ 8,424	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington ...	2,880	- 1,620	- 2,170	45,870	- 1,260	+ 3,810
Other Districts ...	24,154	- 12,419	- 20,854	7,075	- 789	+ 2,700
Royal Dockyards ...	...	...	...	85,120	+ 750	- 27,700
Total ...	778,036	+ 32,331	+ 44,658	239,125	+ 15,175	- 12,013

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with June, 1909, there were increases of over 20,000 tons gross on both the Clyde and Wear and an increase of 17,500 tons in the Middlesbrough and Stockton district. At Belfast there was a decrease of 27,000 tons. Compared with September, 1908, there were large increases on the Clyde and Wear; on the Tyne, however, there was a decrease of nearly 60,000 tons.

War Vessels.—As compared with June, 1909, there was an increase of over 16,000 tons displacement on the Tyne. On the Clyde and at the Royal Dockyards there was not much change. As compared with September, 1908, there was a large increase on the Clyde, but on the Tyne and at the Royal Dockyards there were marked decreases.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 69 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 42 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during September continued dull, and showed little change as compared with a month ago. It was rather better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 23,540 had 4.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 4.6 per cent. a month ago, and 5.0 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—At Birmingham employment was moderate, and rather better than a month ago. In the bedstead trade it continued bad with much short time. With brassworkers in Lancashire employment continued fair.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment was fair at Darlaston, and fairly good at Halesowen; at both places it was better than a month ago. At Birmingham it continued fairly good generally with makers of wire nail and shoe rivets; with makers of cut nails it was moderate.

Wire.—Employment was moderate at Halifax, Sheffield, and Middlesbrough; fairly good at Birmingham, and fair at Manchester and Warrington. It was about the same as a month ago and better than a year ago.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—At West Bromwich employment was moderate with hollow-ware makers.

With lock makers at Wolverhampton and Willenhall it continued bad, with much short time; it was worse than a year ago.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—With stove grate makers employment was bad generally; at Falkirk and Rotherham it was, however, rather better than a month ago.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—At Sheffield employment was fair with edge-tool grinders and moderate with saw makers; in the other branches it was slack generally. At Birmingham employment was moderate in the edge-tool trade. At Redditch it continued moderate on the whole in the needle trade, and quiet in the fish-hook trade.

Tubes.—In South Staffordshire employment was fair; it was not so good as a year ago. In the brass and copper tube trades at Birmingham it was also fair.

Chains, Anchors, and Springs.—In the chain and anchor trade at Cradley Heath employment continued bad. At Sheffield it continued bad with railway spring fitters and vicemen. At Dudley employment with anvil and vice makers was still bad, but slightly better than a month ago.

Sheet Metal Workers.—With braziers and sheet metal workers employment continued bad generally, and was worse than a year ago. With sheet metal workers employment continued good at Aberdeen. With tinplate workers it was quiet at Birmingham and bad in Glasgow. With iron plate workers there was an improvement in London; at Bilston and Dudley it was slack, and in the Lye district it was fairly good and better than a month ago.

Gold, Silver and Britannia Metal.—With London goldsmiths and jewellers employment was fair on the whole, and better than a year ago; with silver workers it showed a further slight improvement; with electro-plate operatives it was good and better than a month ago. At Sheffield employment was quiet with silversmiths, and fair with electro-plate operatives. At Birmingham it was moderate and improving with jewellers, fair with silversmiths and electro-platers; and good with Britannia metal workers. At Coventry employment in the watch trade continued quiet.

Furriers.—Employment continued fair generally.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the value of cutlery and hardware imported and exported:

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery ...	12,643	11,728	12,253	+ 915	+ 390
Hardware ...	95,468	92,725	82,610	+ 2,743	+ 12,858
Exports:—	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery ...	62,606	55,441	54,537	+ 7,165	+ 8,069
Hardware ...	190,786	162,460	169,039	+ 28,326	+ 21,747
Implements and Tools ...	156,657	154,199	164,376	+ 2,458	- 7,179

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 469 Returns—393 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 66 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the spinning branch was moderate, and better than a month ago. Organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in mills spinning American cotton during August and September, 1909. In the weaving branch employment continued slack. In both branches it was better than in the week ended September 10th, 1908, the week prior to the commencement of the dispute in the spinning branch.

Returns from firms employing 127,218 workpeople in the week ended September 25th, 1909, showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with September, 1908 (prior to the dispute), there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.*

* Comparisons with a year ago in the amount of wages paid are affected by the reduction in wages of 5 per cent. in the preparing and spinning departments, which took place in March last.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Sept. 25, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.*
Preparing ...	14,742	+ 0.2	+ 1.0	12,570	+ 4.2	+ 1.0
Spinning ...	26,056	+ 0.9	- 1.7	23,230	+ 4.4	- 1.2
Weaving ...	160,232	+ 0.4	+ 2.1	53,617	+ 1.2	+ 10.5
Other ...	9,961	- 0.6	+ 1.7	11,776	+ 0.7	+ 4.6
Departments not specified	16,227	- 0.1	+ 2.0	16,297	+ 3.4	+ 5.6
Total ...	127,218	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	117,490	+ 2.4	+ 5.5

Districts.	Week ended Sept. 25, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde ...	6,454	+ 0.5	- 0.5	5,904	+ 0.8	- 2.4
Oldham District ...	14,533	+ 0.2	- 0.9	13,837	+ 7.5	- 1.6
Bolton and Leigh ...	14,395	- 2.3	- 1.1	13,041	+ 1.0	+ 7.7
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden ...	9,211	+ 0.2	+ 2.0	8,105	+ 6.1	+ 6.0
Manchester ...	9,214	- 0.1	+ 1.8	6,503	- 3.2	+ 4.7
Preston and Chorley ...	14,233	+ 0.1	+ 1.3	13,101	+ 2.1	+ 13.4
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen ...	17,237	+ 0.7	+ 3.3	16,847	+ 4.0	+ 5.4
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson ...	15,995	+ 1.2	+ 2.2	17,615	+ 3.6	+ 14.7
Other Lancashire Towns ...	4,264	- 1.0	- 9.2	3,638	+ 2.3	- 4.3
Yorkshire Towns ...	5,799	+ 0.7	+ 4.0	5,011	+ 0.8	+ 6.1
Other Districts ...	7,493	+ 1.0	+ 3.9	6,298	- 1.6	+ 11.3
Total ...	127,218	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	117,490	+ 2.4	+ 5.5

As compared with a month ago, there was no marked change in the numbers employed in any of the departments; as compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the spinning department and an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the weaving department. As regards the wages paid, the preparing and spinning departments showed an increase of over 4 per cent., as compared with a month ago, and the weaving department an increase of 10.5 per cent., as compared with a year ago.

In the principal districts there was but little change in the numbers employed, as compared with a month ago, except in the Ashton district, where there was an increase of 3.4 per cent.; as compared with a year ago, the most marked changes were increases in the Blackburn (3.3 per cent.), Burnley (2.2 per cent.), Bury (2.0 per cent.), and Manchester districts (1.8 per cent.), and a decrease of 4.6 per cent. in the Ashton district. The wages paid, as compared with a month ago, showed an increase of 7.5 per cent. in the Oldham district; 6.1 per cent. in the Bury district; 4.0 per cent. in the Blackburn district; and 3.6 per cent. in the Burnley district. As compared with a year ago there were increases in 8 districts, most marked in the Burnley and Preston districts, 14.7 and 13.4 per cent. respectively. In the Ashton district there was a decrease of 8.0 per cent.

Exports.

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

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Grey ...	14,971	15,834	15,344	- 863	- 373
Bleached and Dyed ...	3,005	3,496	3,458	- 491	- 453
Total ...	17,976	19,330	18,802	- 1,354	- 826
Cotton—					
Thread for Sewing ...	2,416	2,590	1,745	- 274	+ 671
Cotton Piece Goods—	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Grey or Unbleached ...	165,192	201,628	173,922	- 36,436	- 8,790
Bleached ...	133,347	142,149	119,342	- 8,802	+ 14,005
Printed ...	90,436	99,214	85,131	- 8,778	+ 7,305
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ...	90,008	100,880	83,881	- 10,872	+ 6,127
Total ...	478,983	543,871	460,276	- 64,888	+ 18,707

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of September the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 7.02d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.36d. and the lowest 6.77d. per lb. The average price for August, 1909, was 6.69d. per lb., and for September, 1908, 5.36d. per lb. For the period from

October 1st to 11th, 1909, the average price of "middling American" was 7.24d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on October 8th, 1909, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 794,640 bales, as compared with 433,880 bales on October 9th, 1908.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during September, 1909, averaged 9.47d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9.11d. and the lowest 9.10d. per lb. The average price for August, 1909, was 9.08d. per lb., and for September, 1908, 7.15d. per lb. For the period from October 1st to 11th, 1909, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.76d. per lb.

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

Description of Cotton.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American	227,505	156,654	150,252	+ 70,851	+ 68,253
Brazilian	16,133	4,607	7,619	+ 11,546	+ 8,474
East Indian	5,032	4,126	4,868	+ 906	+ 164
Egyptian	18,877	20,854	15,352	+ 1,977	+ 3,525
Miscellaneous	9,501	4,075	4,839	+ 5,426	+ 4,662
Total	277,048	190,316	191,970	+ 86,731	+ 85,073

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 389 Returns—364 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 8 from Local Correspondents, and 17 from Trade Unions.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 28,952 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Huddersfield district employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the Leeds district it was fair, and much better than a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district it continued fair generally. At Selkirk and Galashiels employment was good; at Hawick it was fair; at all three towns it was better than a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Wool Sorting ...	617	+ 0.2	5,909	+ 6.3
Spinning ...	5,890	+ 0.8	4,787	+ 2.4
Weaving ...	12,892	+ 0.8	4,870	+ 2.7
Other Departments ...	8,149	+ 0.4	2,214	+ 2.5
Unspecified ...	2,004	- 1.5	4,669	+ 0.7
Total	28,952	+ 0.5	27,369	+ 3.4

Worsted Trade.

Employment was good, and better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 46,860 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Bradford district employment continued good with wool sorters and combers; in the other branches

it was fairly good and much better than a year ago. In the Keighley and Halifax districts there was an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago. In the Huddersfield district employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,662	+ 4.9	5,659	+ 5.1
Spinning ...	24,115	+ 0.3	13,409	+ 1.2
Weaving ...	9,866	+ 3.9	8,953	+ 7.5
Other Departments ...	5,012	+ 0.8	5,179	+ 1.6
Unspecified ...	2,205	+ 1.3	1,586	+ 6.4
Total	46,860	+ 1.7	34,777	+ 3.7

Prices of Raw Materials.

The prices of wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the three months specified:—

	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	10 1/2	10 1/2	8 1/2
40's Crossbred tops	12 1/2	12 1/2	10 1/2
60's Super Botany tops	28 1/2	27 1/2	23 1/2
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	10 1/2-10 3/4	10-10 1/4	8 1/2-8
40's Crossbred tops	12 1/2-13 1/4	12 1/2-12 3/4	10 1/2-10
60's Super Botany tops	25-28 1/2	27 1/2-23	24-23 1/2

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish Exports of woollen and worsted yarns, and piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')					
Imports ... 1,000lbs.	26,492	34,109	34,894	- 7,617	- 8,402
British Exports ...	6,644	6,821	4,085	- 177	+ 2,579
Re-Exports of Imported Wool ... 1,000 lbs.	8,912	32,611	6,872	- 23,699	+ 2,040
Yarn:					
Woollen ...	219	241	149	- 22	+ 70
Worsted ...	4,734	4,233	4,147	+ 53	+ 627
Alpaca and Mohair ...	1,519	1,313	1,293	+ 206	+ 226
Total, Yarn	6,522	5,807	5,589	- 715	+ 933
Piece Goods:					
Woollen ... 1,000 yds.	7,031	8,849	5,914	- 1,818	+ 1,117
Worsted ...	6,524	7,697	4,429	- 1,173	+ 2,095
Total Piece Goods	13,555	16,546	10,343	- 2,991	+ 3,212

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 119 Returns—109 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good, better than a month ago and much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 50,234 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 6.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 21.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Belfast district employment was good and much better than a year ago; very little short time was worked. In other parts of Ireland there was an improvement on a month ago, and employment was much better than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 92 Returns—79 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 8 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate, but was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,266 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment continued bad in the levers branch, fair in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch. Some short time was worked. In the Long Eaton district there was a slight decline as compared with a month ago, but employment was better than a year ago. In the West of England it continued fairly good generally. In Scotland employment was fair, and better than a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Preparing ...	6,484	+ 0.5	3,654	+ 1.6
Spinning ...	12,178	+ 1.4	6,079	+ 2.4
Weaving ...	17,144	+ 1.1	10,777	+ 4.2
Other ...	7,662	+ 0.6	6,126	+ 3.2
Not specified ...	6,826	+ 0.6	3,805	+ 5.1
Total	50,234	+ 1.0	30,441	+ 3.4

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Sept., 1909.	August, 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... tons	4,488	7,039	4,768	- 2,551	- 280
Exports:					
Linen yarn 100 lbs	13,115	12,764	10,578	+ 353	+ 2,537
Linen Piece Goods 100 yds	185,361	175,664	126,624	+ 9,697	+ 58,737

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 34 Returns—28 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 17,816 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 17,816 workpeople covered by the returns, 15,475 (or 87 per cent.) were employed in Dundee and district.

As compared with a month ago there was an increase in the number employed and wages paid in the weaving department, and a decrease in the preparing department. As compared with a year ago there was an increase in both numbers employed and wages paid in every department, the most marked being in the weaving branch where the wages paid increased by 13.1 per cent.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Preparing ...	4,107	- 1.1	2,746	- 1.9
Spinning ...	4,564	+ 0.4	3,056	+ 0.0
Weaving ...	6,112	+ 3.2	4,765	+ 1.4
Other ...	1,842	+ 1.2	1,891	+ 1.9
Not specified ...	891	+ 1.8	669	+ 5.9
Total	17,816	+ 1.2	13,127	+ 0.6

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports:					
Jute ... tons	5,498	3,516	14,118	+ 1,932	- 8,620
Exports:					
Jute Yarn 100 lbs	45,431	34,586	45,434	+ 11,845	+ 997
Jute Piece Goods 100 yds	188,730	143,139	182,917	+ 45,591	+ 5,813

Branches.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Levers ...	1,897	+ 1.5	2,442	- 1.3
Curtain ...	2,797	+ 1.8	2,691	+ 3.7
Plain Net ...	2,819	+ 0.4	2,194	- 0.6
Others ...	843	+ 0.1	559	+ 0.5
Total	8,266	+ 1.1	7,886	+ 0.7

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the values of lace imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports:					
Cotton Lace	210,924	194,619	240,110	+ 16,275	- 29,186
Silk Lace	13,911	18,851	17,926	- 4,940	- 4,015
Exports:					
Cotton Lace	307,999	321,045	277,656	- 13,046	+ 30,343
Silk Lace	6,506	9,638	10,459	- 3,192	- 3,953

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 109 Returns—102 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good, better than a month ago and much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 20,742 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 5.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Leicester ...	11,072	+ 1.2	9,233	+ 1.5
Leicester County District ...	2,331	+ 3.3	1,981	+ 4.0
Notts and Derbyshire ...	4,050	+ 1.8	3,183	+ 0.5
Scotland ...	2,548	+ 3.1	1,843	+ 1.1
Other Districts ...	731	- 0.5	430	- 1.0
Total, United Kingdom	20,742	+ 1.7	16,650	+ 3.1

At Leicester employment was good, and much better than a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough it was good, and better than a year ago. In Nottingham and Derbyshire employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland employment continued good and was better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the value of woollen and cotton hosiery imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports):					
Hosiery, Woollen ...	41,741	31,588	35,823	+ 10,153	+ 5,918
Cotton ...	153,652	171,797	149,257	+ 18,145	+ 4,395
Exports:					
Hosiery, Woollen ...	133,941	141,767	109,294	+ 7,826	+ 24,647
Cotton ...	48,218	44,336	35,724	+ 3,882	+ 12,494

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 53 Returns—50 from Employers, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 8,151 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.4 per cent. in the wages paid.

Employment at Macclesfield and Congleton with throwsters and spinners was good; at Leek it was good with spinners and moderate with throwsters. At Macclesfield with hand-loom weavers in factories it was good; with power-loom weavers, moderate. At Congleton employment with trimming weavers was fair. In the Bradford district it was fairly good. In the Eastern Counties employment was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing ...	1,052	+ 1.7	+ 2.4	439	+ 2.6	+ 5.0
Spinning ...	2,285	+ 0.9	+ 1.8	1,742	+ 0.9	+ 6.7
Weaving ...	3,359	+ 1.4	+ 3.3	2,297	+ 0.6	+ 8.0
Other ...	1,455	+ 3.7	+ 15.8	1,041	+ 4.9	+ 14.3
Total ...	8,151	+ 1.7	+ 4.9	5,519	+ 0.5	+ 8.4
Districts.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,126	- 0.1	+ 4.8	2,405	- 1.4	+ 9.6
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	566	+ 0.5	+ 4.8	418	- 4.8	+ 6.4
Eastern Counties ...	2,502	+ 2.1	+ 7.6	1,512	+ 4.9	+ 13.7
Other Districts, including Scotland and Leek ...	1,957	+ 4.5	+ 1.8	1,184	+ 1.2	+ 1.1
Total ...	8,151	+ 1.7	+ 4.9	5,519	+ 0.5	+ 8.4

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw and manufactured silk imported and exported for the months stated.

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk ... lbs	111,205	116,233	132,895	+ 5,028	+ 21,690
Thrown Silk ... lbs	40,535	39,533	37,632	+ 1,182	+ 2,903
Spun Silk Yarn ... lbs	29,985	28,923	22,806	+ 1,062	+ 7,179
Silk Broad-Stuffs ... yds	5,979,403	6,140,998	5,654,086	+ 161,595	+ 325,317
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ... lbs	3,449	2,613	5,638	+ 816	+ 2,189
Spun Silk Yarn ... lbs	110,169	94,084	44,749	+ 16,085	+ 65,429
Silk Broad-Stuffs ... yds	441,497	414,992	383,055	+ 26,505	+ 58,444

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 46 Returns—18 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 13 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

Carpet Trade.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed an improvement as compared with a month ago, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 5,038 workpeople and paying £4,441 in wages in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 11.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 30.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding continued moderate, and was better than a year ago. About three-eighths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-quarter worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment continued moderate, and was better than a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as good at Macclesfield, and fair at Leek; it was better than a year ago.

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment with machine calico printers continued good, and was better than a year ago. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire it was quiet. In Scotland it continued bad with calico printers and engravers, and fair with block printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester and Loughborough employment showed a slight decline; at Hinckley a slight improvement was reported. With dyers at Nottingham employment was good, and some overtime was worked; with bleachers at Basford and Bulwell it continued moderate; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell it continued fair; on the whole employment in Nottinghamshire was rather better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment continued fair. In Dundee it continued good with bleachfield workers and calender workers, and was better than a year ago.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 115 Returns—88 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch in London showed a seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a year ago. In the provinces it was moderate. In the *ready-made* branch it was fair, and better than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during September showed a seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a year ago.

Returns from firms paying £10,706 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended September 25th showed an increase of 12.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as fair at Glasgow and Belfast, moderate at Liverpool, slack at Edinburgh, and dull at Dublin.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was fair, and rather better than a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment was moderate, and rather better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,387 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—At Manchester employment continued moderate, and was slightly better than a year ago. At Norwich it was moderate. At Bristol it was good, and

better than a month ago and a year ago. At Glasgow it was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in September, 1909, were valued at £385,740, as compared with £276,064 in August, 1909, and £302,192 in September, 1908; and the **Exports** for the same months at £506,861, £535,601, and £414,023 respectively.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 11 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, and 8 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during September in the *Silk* hat trade was moderate, and slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 5.4, compared with 4.8 a month ago and 16.2 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 1.2, compared with 1.5 a month ago, and 3.0 a year ago. Employment was reported as fairly good at Denton, moderate at Stockport, and good in Warwickshire.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds ... doz.	37,406	36,748	25,174	+ 658	+ 12,232
Exports:					
Hats, Felt ...	53,210	55,506	45,873	- 3,386	+ 7,337
Straw ...	40,363	48,417	30,935	- 8,054	+ 9,428
Other sorts ...	9,739	9,100	8,707	+ 639	+ 1,032
Total ...	103,312	114,113	85,515	- 10,801	+ 17,797

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 532 Returns—474 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 49 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, and showed little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 63,157 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London ...	2,239	+ 2.5	+ 4.5	2,302	+ 3.4	+ 4.5
Leicester ...	12,318	- 1.6	- 1.2	11,249	- 3.4	- 3.8
Leicester Country District	3,173	+ 0.1	+ 5.3	2,813	- 2.0	+ 4.8
Northampton ...	10,013	- 0.4	- 0.4	9,558	- 1.6	+ 1.2
Northampton Country District	8,906	+ 0.9	+ 2.4	8,537	+ 1.5	+ 6.2
Kettering ...	3,864	+ 1.4	+ 5.7	3,929	+ 1.8	+ 8.1
Stafford & District ...	2,577	- 1.4	- 1.5	2,135	- 3.9	- 2.5
Norwich & District ...	3,476	- 0.4	+ 0.9	2,986	- 0.0	+ 10.1
Bristol & District ...	1,759	+ 0.1	- 6.4	1,525	- 1.9	- 13.5
Kingswood ...	1,873	+ 2.3	- 4.3	1,816	+ 3.1	- 6.3
Leeds & District ...	2,314	+ 3.4	+ 1.8	2,153	+ 1.5	+ 1.2
Manchester & District ...	2,824	+ 2.0	+ 2.4	2,650	+ 4.0	- 0.2
Birmingham & District ...	683	- 1.2	+ 12.7	811	+ 2.4	+ 12.2
Other parts of England and Wales	2,791	+ 0.1	+ 4.6	2,403	+ 1.1	+ 1.9
ENGLAND & WALES ...	59,110	+ 0.1	+ 1.5	54,877	- 0.4	+ 1.3
SCOTLAND ...	3,742	- 0.3	- 0.5	3,553	- 0.4	+ 0.1
IRELAND ...	305	+ 1.3	+ 3.7	241	- 0.4	+ 6.2
UNITED KINGDOM ...	63,157	+ 0.1	+ 1.4	58,671	- 0.4	+ 1.2

Employment at Leicester was still quiet, and rather worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Northampton employment was slack and rather worse than a month ago. At Kettering it was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. With army boot-makers in Northamptonshire there was a slight

improvement on a month ago. At Bristol employment was dull and worse than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood and Leeds it was moderate, and rather better than a month ago. In Scotland employment was fair generally, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)					
Quantity ... doz. pairs	45,194	30,706	31,356	+ 14,488	+ 13,798
Value ... £	99,433	74,103	72,942	+ 16,330	+ 17,491
Exports (British & Irish)					
Quantity ... doz. pairs	108,811	104,689	90,269	+ 4,122	+ 18,542
Value ... £	244,895	224,134	210,024	+ 20,761	+ 34,871

NOTE.—For imports of hides and of leather see under "Other Leather Trades."

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 31 Returns—16 from Trade Unions and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, and was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,226 reported 4.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 4.1 per cent. at the end of August, and 8.2 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers and Dressers.—With skinner employment was good at Leeds and Birmingham, bad in London. With curriers it was quiet at Birmingham and Edinburgh, bad in London, fair at Glasgow and Leeds. With leather workers generally employment was quiet at Leeds, slack at Manchester, fair at Bolton, Bury and Wigan.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—At Walsall employment was good with brown saddlers; it was not so good as a month ago with gig saddlers. With saddlers employment was good at Dublin and fair at Glasgow. In London employment with harness makers was quiet; with brown saddlers improved.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers generally and with portmanteau makers in London employment continued fair. With fancy and morocco leather finishers it was good and better than a month ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness:—

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry ...	34,970	37,654	40,245	- 2,684	- 5,275
Ditto, wet ...	57,716	59,735	57,199	- 2,019	+ 528
Total Hides, dry and wet ...	92,686	97,389	97,435	- 4,703	- 4,749
Goat skins, undressed No. ...	1,501,449	1,381,668	1,124,077	+ 119,781	+ 577,372
Sheep skins ...	215,417	235,405	198,977	+ 19,588	+ 16,440
Leather* ... cwts.	85,923	91,806	98,205	- 5,883	- 12,282
Exports:					
Saddlery and Harness (value) ...	37,821	34,841	33,158	+ 2,980	+ 4,663

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 173 Returns—167 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trades showed a seasonal improvement; in the retail branch it was better, and the Court dressmaking branch slightly worse, than a year ago; in the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades it was good, and better

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

than a month ago and a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally and in the corset trade it was fair and better than a year ago.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,079 dressmakers in the week ended August 21st and 1,884 in the week ended September 25th, showed an increase of 12.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Court dressmakers employing 338 workpeople in the week ended August 21st and 889 in the week ended September 25th showed a decrease of 2.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. With milliners in the West-End employment was fair.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,216 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 16.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 5.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed little change in the demand for, and a decrease in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 1,850 workpeople in the week ended September 25th showed an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 15.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fair, and about the same as a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 6,691 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) and paying £4,640 in wages in the week ended September 25th, showed an increase of 5.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 13.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 2,887 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended September 25th showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair.

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 455 Returns—131 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 304 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued fairly good, and was rather better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 21,054 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was practically no change in the total number of workpeople employed by them as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. on a year ago.

—	Workpeople paid Wages in last week of Sept., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	5,630	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland	1,440	+ 1.2	+ 0.1
Southern Counties	7,188	- 0.5	- 2.0
Scotland	5,916	+ 0.2	+ 1.7
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c. and-made Paper	20,513	+ 0.0	- 0.4
	741	- 0.1	...
Total	21,054	+ 0.0	- 0.4

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 1,578 members had 2.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 2.8 per cent. both a month ago and a year ago. In the hand-made paper trade, Trade Unions with 580 members had 6.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 6.6 per cent. a month ago, and 6.0 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of paper in September, 1909, amounted to £437,860, as compared with £444,620 in August, 1909, and £488,537 in September, 1908; and the Exports for the same months amounted to £220,058, £194,048 and £179,531 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment in these trades remained slack generally, but was rather better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 6.6, as compared with 7.1 at the end of August, and 7.2 at the end of September, 1908.

London.—Employment was slack on the whole, but fair with electrotypers and stereotypers. It was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 7.9, compared with 8.1 at the end of August and 9.0 a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was slack generally, but rather better than a month ago and a year ago. It was fair with letterpress printers at Bolton, Oldham, Stockport, Derby and Leicester, and in the Eastern counties. At Edinburgh it was fair and better than a month ago with machine printers, but declined with compositors. A decline was reported with letterpress printers at Aberdeen, Dundee and Plymouth. Lithographic artists reported a general decline.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1909.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London	20,937	7.9	8.1	9.0	- 0.2	- 1.1
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,431	7.0	7.9	6.2	- 0.9	+ 0.8
Lancs. and Cheshire	6,823	5.1	7.4	6.0	- 2.3	- 0.9
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,566	3.3	5.2	4.8	- 1.9	- 1.5
West Midlands	2,562	5.6	6.7	5.4	- 1.1	+ 0.2
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,721	3.8	3.9	4.6	- 0.1	- 0.8
Scotland	5,658	4.4	4.4	4.8	...	- 0.4
Ireland	2,461	12.7	10.4	11.1	+ 2.3	+ 1.6
United Kingdom	50,159	6.6	7.1	7.2	- 0.5	- 0.6

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment remained slack generally, but again showed an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In London both short time and overtime were reported.

—	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1909.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London	3,484	5.3	6.6	6.6	- 1.3	- 1.3
Other Districts	3,326	7.5	7.6	8.0	- 0.1	- 0.5
United Kingdom	5,810	6.4	7.1	7.2	- 0.7	- 0.8

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,282 Returns—745 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,483 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 54 from Local Correspondents.)

Employment in September was slack. It showed some seasonal decline, but was rather better than a year ago.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of September was 10.8 as compared with 9.6 a month ago and 12.3 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 166 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 126 from Trade Unions, and 36 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during September continued bad generally. It showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, but was rather better than a year ago. With coachmakers employment continued fairly good generally. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,165 reported 7.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 7.5 per cent. a month ago and 8.9 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment with cabinet-makers, french polishers and upholsterers was bad. It showed but little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago. Trade Unions reported 11.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 10.9 per cent. at the end of August, and 11.0 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinetware in September, 1909, were valued at £27,431, as compared with £29,540 in August, 1909, and £25,898 in September, 1908; and the Exports for the same months were valued at £75,222, £60,487, and £63,445 respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment was bad. It showed little change as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. At Hull it was fair. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 7.1 as compared with 7.2 a month ago, and 8.6 a year ago.

Imports.

Description.	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	138,763	116,619	89,868	+ 27,144	+ 48,895
" sawn	824,440	791,206	739,605	+ 33,234	+ 84,835
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 17,999	£ 14,792	£ 17,630	+ £ 3,207	+ £ 369

Coopers.

Employment was on the whole dull and worse than a year ago. It was slack at Burton; fair at Hull, Liverpool and Birmingham, and good at Dublin.

Coachbuilding.

Employment, though still fairly good on the whole, showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago. It was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 4.4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 4.1 per cent. a month ago, and 9.0 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment continued dull with a good deal of short time. It was, however, better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 6.3, as compared with 7.0 per cent. in the previous month, and 9.5 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—Employment with packing-case makers was still fair, but showed some decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago. With basket makers it continued bad in London and Leicester. It was also bad with skip and other basket makers at Oldham.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in September, 1909, were valued at £29,784, as compared with £31,907 in August, 1909, and £26,743 in September, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £16,308, £15,325, and £16,321 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 78 Returns—58 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate. It showed some improvement as compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago.

were 13.3, 13.3, and 11.7 respectively. These percentages were always exceeded in the Northern Counties and Scotland, and in the case of the plumbers the increase in the percentage unemployed compared with a year ago is mainly confined to these two districts. Returns received from bricklayers, plasterers, painters, and labourers unions show a slight decline compared with a month ago, stone masons showing little change.

For London the Trade Union Returns show that 12.3 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 10.0 a month ago and 13.2 a year ago. The percentage for plumbers (13.2) was the same at all three dates.

Returns received from 688 firms employing 39,101 workpeople at the end of September show that there was a decrease of 4.0 per cent. in the total number employed by them as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The decrease compared with both a month ago and a year ago was most marked in London, the Midland and Eastern Counties, and Scotland.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
	No. paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		No. paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
London	6,345	- 721	- 270	4,177	- 281	- 187
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,453	+ 7	- 103	2,025	- 146	+ 35
Lancashire and Cheshire	3,250	- 8	- 243	2,280	+ 102	+ 72
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,591	- 118	- 257	2,084	- 164	- 218
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,948	- 11	+ 210	1,840	- 56	+ 143
England and Wales	17,587	- 851	- 663	12,406	- 545	- 155
Scotland	3,148	- 86	- 490	1,704	- 107	- 238
Ireland	463	+ 14	- 86	670	- 64	+ 35
United Kingdom	21,198	- 923	- 1,239	14,780	- 716	- 358

District.	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
	No. paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		No. paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
London	350	+ 4	- 64	10,882	- 998	- 521
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	520	+ 20	- 34	4,988	- 119	- 102
Lancashire and Cheshire	807	+ 39	- 40	5,387	+ 133	- 211
Midland & Eastern Counties	323	- 12	- 37	4,998	- 294	- 512
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	373	- 9	- 3	5,161	- 78	+ 380
England and Wales	2,383	+ 42	- 178	32,376	- 1,384	- 993
Scotland	661	- 20	- 119	5,513	- 213	- 847
Ireland	79	+ 2	- 20	1,212	- 48	- 71
United Kingdom	3,123	+ 24	- 317	39,101	- 1,615	- 1,914

Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago, in most of the large centres. It was moderate on the whole at Hull, Huddersfield, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, Warrington and St. Helens. It was fair with carpenters and plasterers at Sheffield, plasterers and painters at Manchester, bricklayers at Blackburn, carpenters at Burnley, and painters at Ashton-under-Lyne. Slaters and tilers in the North of England were fairly well employed.

In the Midland and Eastern counties employment with stonemasons was moderate. At Nottingham employment generally was better than a month ago and a year ago, and bricklayers and plumbers at Birmingham reported an improvement. Employment was moderate with carpenters and joiners at Birmingham, Derby, and the Potteries. It was fair generally at Wolverhampton, Newark and Mansfield.

Employment was fair with carpenters at Bristol, Cheltenham, Torquay and Llanely, with masons at Llanely and Newport, with plasterers at Newport and Swansea, with bricklayers at Southampton, and with painters at Plymouth, Bristol and Cardiff.

In Scotland employment was worse on the whole than a year ago, but at Edinburgh employment with bricklayers and masons was better than a month ago and a year ago. Employment was fair with masons at Dundee, and with carpenters and plasterers at Aberdeen.

Plasterers and masons at Belfast, and plumbers at Cork were fairly well employed.

Returns from firms employing 7,364 workpeople in the week ended September 25th, showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was a decline of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Glass Bottle	4,700	+ 0.7	- 0.9	5,511	+ 4.3	- 3.8
Plate Glass	686	- 1.1	- 2.8	862	- 1.3	- 3.8
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,630	+ 0.4	- 2.0	1,777	+ 1.2	+ 0.3
Other Branches	348	+ 1.2	- 3.9	421	- 0.2	- 1.9
Total	7,364	+ 0.5	- 1.5	8,571	+ 2.8	- 2.9

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended Sept. 25th, 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
North of England	815	+ 10.1	+ 10.3	945	+ 14.3	+ 10.9
Yorkshire	3,765	- 0.8	- 3.4	4,343	+ 6.2	+ 1.2
Lancashire	663	- 0.9	- 1.6	772	+ 0.5	- 0.8
Worcester and Warwick	1,203	- 0.3	- 2.1	1,485	+ 0.5	- 0.8
Scotland	585	- 0.3	- 3.9	698	+ 6.2	- 8.6
Other parts of the United Kingdom	333	+ 0.3	+ 1.2	328	+ 2.2	+ 6.5
Total	7,364	+ 0.5	- 1.5	8,571	+ 2.8	- 2.9

Employment with glass bottle makers in Yorkshire continued bad, and was worse than a year ago; it was quiet at Leeds and Castleford; bad at Mexborough and Wakefield. In the North of England and at Portobello employment was moderate; in Lancashire it was bad; at Dublin, it was dull. At Bristol employment continued good. At Rotherham employment with medicine bottle makers was quiet. With flint glass makers employment was fairly good at Wordsley, and fair at Birmingham. With flint glass cutters employment was moderate generally; at Wordsley it was fairly good and at Birmingham it was quiet. Sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens reported employment as moderate. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne it was moderate. Bevellers at Birmingham reported employment as slack. With decorative glass workers it was fair generally.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Sept., 1909.			August, 1909.			Sept., 1908.		
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
Imports:									
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	84,553	89,918	96,360	- 5,365	- 11,807				
Plate...	35,239	30,480	25,595	+ 4,759	+ 9,674				
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	63,953	63,585	66,607	- 4,632	- 2,654				
Manufactures, other sorts	596	120	223	+ 476	+ 373				
Bottles	109,415	118,998	112,122	- 9,583	- 2,707				
Exports:									
Plate...	19,317	14,472	18,350	+ 4,845	+ 967				
Flint...	6,164	6,160	5,418	+ 746	+ 746				
Manufactures, other sorts	40,895	36,938	46,487	- 3,957	- 5,592				
Bottles	63,193	52,349	60,115	+ 10,844	+ 3,078				

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 28 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued bad. It was worse than a year ago. It was moderate in the Brick and Tile trades, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire continued bad generally, and worse than a year ago. Short time was reported. In Devonshire employment was moderate generally. In Bristol it was bad with stone potters, with much short time; with earthenware potters it was good. In the South Yorkshire and River Aire district employment continued bad. Clay tobacco pipe makers at Glasgow reported employment as fair.

Brick and Tile Trades.—In the Peterborough district employment was slack. In Nottingham it was still quiet, with much short time. In South Staffordshire

employment continued bad, with much short time. In Shropshire it was quiet; in the Eastern Counties and in the Hartlepool district it was fair. Employment was moderate in Devonshire. At Bristol it was slack. In North Wales there was some improvement on a month ago, but employment was not so good as a year ago.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in September, 1909, were valued at £79,646, as compared with £99,167 in August, 1909, and £74,734 in September, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £186,708, £193,576 and £165,998 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 204 Reports from Correspondents in various districts.)

AGRICULTURAL employment was generally regular in September, but there was a good deal of lost time among day labourers and men at piecework in September owing to wet weather, which considerably interfered with harvest work in most parts of the country, many farmers in districts usually early having corn still in the fields at the end of the month. When fine, the harvest, hoeing, potato lifting, &c., caused a good demand for day labourers, but the supply was generally ample.

Northern Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland, but rain interrupted the corn harvest at the end of the month and extra labourers lost time in consequence; there was a sufficient supply of these men. The supply of and demand for labour were generally about equal in Lancashire. In Yorkshire the corn harvest and potato lifting caused a fairly good demand for extra labour, but there was generally a plentiful supply; in most districts some time was lost by harvest labourers on piecework on account of rain.

Midland Counties.—Correspondents in both Cheshire and Derbyshire report some irregularity of employment, and in the Hayfield Union in Derbyshire a surplus of labour is mentioned. The demand for extra labourers in Nottinghamshire was largely intermittent on account of wet weather. In Leicestershire the corn harvest kept most men busy when the weather was fine, but rain prevented work on several days. Most day labourers lost some time through rain in Staffordshire and Shropshire, while generally there was an ample supply of this class of labour, two correspondents in Staffordshire mentioning a surplus. The corn harvest, fruit picking and potato lifting caused a fairly good demand for extra labourers in Worcestershire, but there was much loss of time in some districts on account of wet weather. There was similar irregularity of employment in Warwickshire, where, in fine weather, the supply of and demand for labour were fairly equal. Day labourers were also reported as much affected by the weather in Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire, harvesting operations suffering frequent interruption in many districts. Some excess in the supply of extra labourers was reported from Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, and irregularity of work for these men was further increased by the wet weather.

Eastern Counties.—The corn harvest generally provided plenty of work in fine weather for extra labourers in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, but there was much loss of time through wet weather in these counties. A correspondent in the St. Ives Union mentions some scarcity of men to meet the extra work on laid crops. The harvest was much interrupted by rain in Lincolnshire, and many men lost time in consequence; the supply of labour was generally sufficient, but a correspondent in the Brigg Union mentions a difficulty in securing Irish labourers for potato lifting, on account of the demand for the corn harvest. There was a good demand for extra labourers in Norfolk and Suffolk, when the weather permitted of the corn harvest being proceeded with, and some difficulty in getting men for work other than harvest was reported; in these counties, however, and in Essex rain seriously hindered harvest work, and many labourers who had contracted to work for a fixed sum during the harvest period suffered in consequence, although in a number of cases farmers gave out other work at ordinary

daily wages or by the piece when it was impossible to proceed with the harvest.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Hoppicking and the corn harvest provided a fair amount of work for extra labourers in Kent, but in several districts the demand was only moderate, while the supply was generally abundant; the corn harvest was much delayed by bad weather, and some corn was still uncut at the end of the month. The weather also caused much interruption to harvest work in Surrey. In Sussex and Hampshire the corn harvest, hoeing roots, &c., provided an intermittent demand for extra labourers, but the supply was well up to requirements. Day labourers in Berkshire and Wiltshire had much irregularity of employment on account of wet weather, and in several districts in Wiltshire some surplus of labour was reported. There was some interruption to out-door work in Dorset and Somerset, but generally not many men in these counties were reported as in irregular work. Fruit and hoppicking, and the corn harvest, provided fairly regular employment in Herefordshire, and the supply of and demand for labour were about equal. Occasional loss of time through rain was reported from Gloucestershire, where there was a plentiful supply of extra labourers, but some scarcity of cowmen and carters. Employment was fairly full and regular in Devonshire and Cornwall; there was a scarcity of men for permanent situations in Cornwall.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics of England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed in September, 1909, showed an increase both in quantity and value as compared with September, 1908.

Employment at the principal ports during September was fairly good. At Yarmouth employment was good with fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Grimsby it was good with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and fair with fish curers. It was better than a month ago at both ports. At Lowestoft it was moderate generally, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Hull was moderate with fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. It was better on the whole than in either August, 1909, or September, 1908. At Aberdeen employment was good with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and moderate with fish curers. At Macduff it was moderate generally; it was, however, better than a year ago. At Fraserburgh it was fair. Employment at Peterhead was good with fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. Off the south-western coast of England fishing operations during September were on the whole fairly successful.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in September, 1909 and 1908:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Sept., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Sept., 1909.	Sept., 1908.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	1,236,345	1,320,486	702,921	758,358
Scotland	567,619	441,096	224,898	160,121
Ireland	95,875	55,182	27,624	24,039
Total	1,899,842	1,816,764	955,443	942,518
Shell Fish				
Total Value...			990,347	978,504

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in September, 1909, were valued at £649,172, as compared with £595,970 in August, 1909, and £508,788 in September, 1908.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 141 Returns—116 from Employers, 9 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

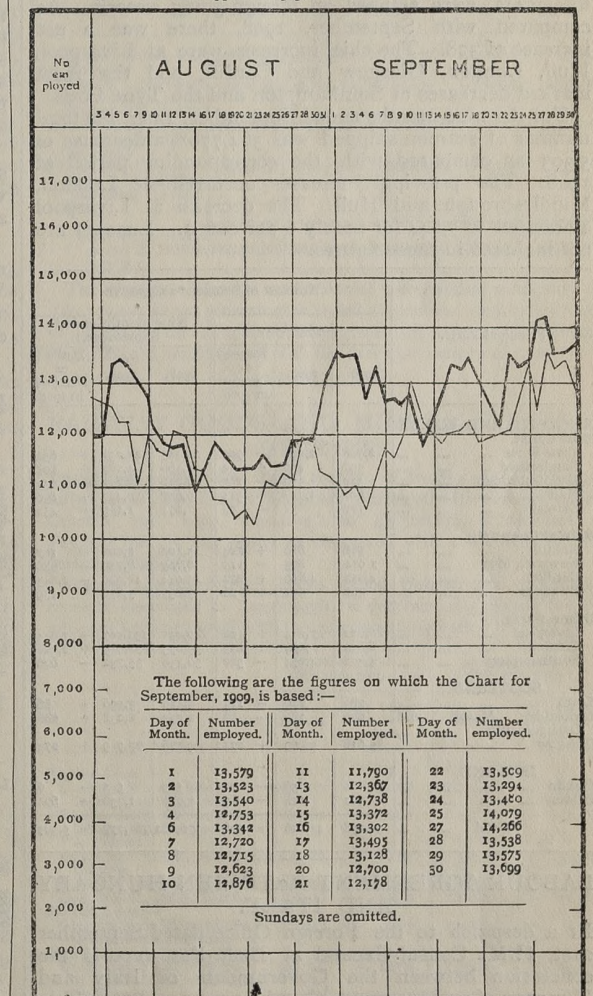
EMPLOYMENT in London was fair generally, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At the other principal ports, with the exception of Liverpool, employment was also fair and better than a month ago; at Liverpool it continued slack.

London.*—Employment was fair generally, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily in the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended September 25th was 13,054, an increase of 8.7 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 10.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The daily numbers employed in September, 1909, ranged from 11,790 on the 11th, to 14,266 on the 27th. During September, 1908, the numbers ranged from 10,576 on the 5th to 13,588 on the 28th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	In Docks*	At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total.	
Week ended Sep. 4th	4,484	2,893	7,377	13,263
" " " 11th	3,940	2,683	6,623	12,678
" " " 18th	4,144	2,553	6,697	13,067
" " " 25th	4,752	2,217	6,969	13,406
Average for 4 weeks ended Sep. 25th, 1909	4,330	2,587	6,917	13,054
Average for Aug., 1909	4,012	2,271	6,283	12,005
Average for Sep., 1908	3,947	2,187	6,134	11,868

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of August and September, 1909. The corresponding curve for August and September, 1908, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1909, and the thin curve to 1908.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for September, 1909, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	13,579	11	11,790	21	13,509
2	13,523	12	12,367	22	13,294
3	13,540	13	12,738	23	13,480
4	14,753	14	13,372	24	14,079
5	13,344	15	13,302	25	14,266
6	12,720	16	13,405	26	13,538
7	12,715	17	13,128	27	13,575
8	12,623	18	12,700	28	13,699
9	12,876	19	12,178	29	
10		20		30	

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,153 in September, 1909, as compared with 1,179 in the previous month, and 1,224 in September, 1908.

Employment continued slack with dock labourers at Liverpool, and was bad with quay and railway carters.

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

Other Ports.—Employment was fair and better than a month ago with dock and quayside labourers on the Tyne; on the Wear employment was only moderate. There was some decline on the previous month at Middlesbrough, but an improvement at Hartlepool, where employment was good. Employment was moderate with dock labourers at Hull and Goole, and good at Grimsby; it was moderate with coal porters at Hull, and fair at Grimsby and Goole. An improvement was reported at Yarmouth, and employment was good at Parkeston. It was fair at Southampton and moderate at Plymouth. Employment was fair and better than a month ago at the South Wales ports and Bristol. It was also fair and improved at Manchester. Employment at Glasgow was slightly better than in August; it continued good at Leith; at Grangemouth it was slack. The improvement at Dundee was maintained, but at Aberdeen employment, though fair, was rather worse than a month ago. It was bad at Belfast; at Dublin it was fair and better than a month ago.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN SEPTEMBER.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), show that during September 44,626* seamen, of whom 3,696 (or 8.3 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with September, 1908, there was a net increase of 528. The chief increases were at Liverpool, Hull, London, Glasgow and Cardiff, and the most marked decreases at Southampton and the Tyne Ports.

For the nine months ended September, 1909, the total number of seamen shipped was 364,779*, a decrease of 5,303 as compared with the corresponding period of 1908. The principal increases occurred at London, Middlesbrough and Hull. The decrease at Liverpool amounted to 7,844 (or nearly 6 per cent.). Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	September, 1909.			Nine months ended September, 1909.		
	1908.	1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.	1908.	1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	2,708	2,399	- 309	22,585	23,237	+ 652
Sunderland ...	397	436	+ 39	3,560	4,165	+ 605
Middlesbrough ...	510	339	- 171	2,616	3,849	+ 1,233
Hull ...	1,212	+ 311	9,607	10,443	+ 836	
Grimsby ...	110	31	- 79	1,651	1,199	- 452
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	586	810	+ 224	5,509	5,202	- 307
Newport, Mon. ...	1,014	895	- 119	8,819	8,239	- 580
Cardiff ...	4,558	4,850	+ 292	43,044	41,399	- 1,645
Swansea ...	466	492	+ 26	3,835	3,676	- 159
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	16,822	17,234	+ 402	140,031	132,187	- 7,844
London ...	6,999	7,194	+ 195	55,293	58,019	+ 2,726
Southampton ...	4,576	4,854	+ 278	36,338	35,732	- 606
SCOTLAND.						
Leith ...	383	229	- 154	3,510	3,505	+ 86
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	270	184	- 86	1,952	2,238	+ 286
Glasgow ...	3,616	3,909	+ 293	29,476	29,749	+ 273
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	81	55	- 25	519	513	- 6
Belfast ...	201	112	- 89	1,937	1,335	- 602
Total ...	44,098	41,626	+ 2,472	370,082	364,779	- 5,303

LABOUR AGREEMENT BETWEEN HUNGARY AND ITALY.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated September 21st, H.M. Consul-General at Buda-Pest reports the conclusion between the Governments of Italy and Hungary of an agreement whereby workpeople of either nation residing in the territory of the other are assured equality of treatment with native workpeople as regards insurance against accidents and payment of compensation in respect thereof.

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

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

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

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.	1909.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland ... (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth).	June-Aug.	7 4'30	+ 0 1'63	- 1 3'44
Pig Iron.	July-Sept.	48 3'51	+ 0 8'83	- 1 7'76
Cleveland ...	July-Sept.	58 7'86	+ 2 1'83	+ 0 3'819
Manufactured Iron.				
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)		126 8'16	+ 0 1'00	- 7 7'50
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, etc.)	July-Aug.	122 9'53	- 1 0'80	- 6 11'22
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)		116 4'64	+ 0 1'03	- 2 6'97

Coal.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Northumberland coal, it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board on October 2nd, that the wages of underground workers and "bankmen" should be advanced by 1½ per cent., and those of other surface workers by 1 per cent., making their wages 30 per cent. and 24 per cent. respectively, above the standard of 1879.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen were advanced by 1 per cent. in the Cleveland district and by 2½ per cent. in West Cumberland.

Manufactured Iron.—The wages of puddlers and millmen in the North of England, the Midlands and the West of Scotland remain unchanged as a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of 4 lbs. of bread on October 1st, 1909, have been received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and 30 from other sources. The returns are summarised in the following Table, in which the highest predominant rates and the lowest predominant rates are shown, together with the mean of all the predominant rates in each district:—

District.	1st Oct., 1909.			1st Sept., 1909.			1st Oct., 1908.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
London:—									
N. & N.W. ...	6 5½	5 9	6½	6 6	6 2	5½	4½	5 3	
E. & N.E. ...	6 5½	5 7	6½	6 5½	6 1	5½	4½	5 3	
S.E. ...	6 6	6 0	6	6 6	6 0	6 5	5 5	5 5	
S.W. ...	6½	5½	6 0	6½	6 0	6 5½	5 7	5 7	
W. & W.C. ...	6½	6 1	6½	6 6	6 4	6 5½	5 7	5 7	
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	6½	5½	6 0	6½	5½	6 1	5 5	5 4	
Midlands ...	6½	5½	6 0	6½	6 2	6½	5 5	5 4	
Eastern Counties ...	7 5	6 3	7 5	6 5	6½	6½	4½	5 9	
Southern Counties & S. Western Counties and Wales	6½	5½	6 2	7 5	6 3	6 5	5 5	5 5	
Scotland ...	7 6	6 6	7 6	6 6	7 5½	6 2			
Great Britain ...	7 5	6 1	7 5	6 3	7 4½	5 6			

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the predominant prices shows a decrease of 2d. per 4 lbs. Compared with a year ago an increase of ½d. per 4 lbs. is shown.

In the next Table the predominant price is shown for 27 of the principal towns.

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lbs. on Oct. 1st, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London ...	d. 6	- ½	+ ½	Sept. '09	- ½
Birmingham ...	5½ & 6	- ½	+ ½	Sept. '09	- ½
Bolton ...	6	- ½	...	Sept. '09	- ½
Bristol ...	6 & 6½	...	...	April '09	+ ½
Cardiff ...	6 & 6½	...	+ 1	April '09	+ ½
Derby ...	6	...	+ 1	April '09	+ ½
Hull ...	6	- ½	+ 1	Sept. '09	- ½
Ipswich ...	6	- ½	...	Sept. '09	- ½
Leeds ...	7	...	+ 1	April '09	+ 1
Leicester ...	5½	- ½	+ ½	Sept. '09	- ½
Liverpool ...	6	- ½	+ ½	April '09	- ½
Manchester ...	6 & 7	- ½	+ 1	Sept. '09	- ½
Middlesbrough ...	6 & 7	...	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Norwich ...	5½	- ½	+ ½	Sept. '09	- ½
Nottingham ...	6	...	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Oldham ...	6	...	+ 1½	Aug. '09	- ½
Plymouth ...	6½	...	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6½	...	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Potteries ...	5½ & 6	...	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Southampton ...	5½ & 6	+ ½	+ ½	Sept. '09	+ ½
Wolverhampton ...	5½	- ½	+ ½	Sept. '09	- ½
Aberdeen ...	6½	...	+ 1	July '09	+ ½
Dundee ...	6	...	...	May '09	- ½
Edinburgh ...	7	...	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Glasgow ...	6½	...	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Belfast ...	6½	...	+ ½	April '09	+ ½
Dublin ...	6½	...	+ ½	June '09	+ ½

As compared with September 1st, the predominant price of bread has fallen ½d. per 4 lbs. in Birmingham, Bolton, Hull, Ipswich, Leicester, Manchester, Norwich, and Wolverhampton. In London the fall amounted to ½d. per 4 lbs. At Southampton the predominant price per 4 lbs. at October 1st was 5½d. and 6d.; at September 1st it was 5d. and 6d. per 4 lbs. As compared with a year ago, Bolton, Ipswich, and Dundee show no change. The remaining towns show increases. In London the increase was ½d. per 4 lbs.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September, 1909, amounted to 11,198,040 cwts., or 2,959,740 cwts. more than in September, 1908. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in September, 1909, amounted to 953,400 cwts., or 27,610 cwts. less than in September, 1908.

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

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price. (England and Wales).	(Average Declared Value.)	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1908.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	
September ...	7 3	8 6	10 7½	11 4½	
1909.					
August ...	9 10	9 8½	11 9½	13 2½	
September ...	7 11	9 5½	11 11½	12 6½	

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Appointment of Certifying Surgeons during September, 1909.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.
Chorley ...	James Lea, 10, Park Road	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Creighton ...	D. Wallace, St. John Street	Do.
Emo ...	J. J. Emerson	Emo and Ballybrittas Dispensaries
Fyvie ...	C. C. Greig, Bridgend	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Hoddesdon ...	J. E. B. Wells, 34, High St.	57, High Street, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Llangefni ...	J. R. Prytherch, Llangefni	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
South Shields Gas Co.	H. F. Shepherd, 46, Charlotte St.	Do.
Tralee ...	M. Brick, Eagle Villa	Weekdays, 10 a.m.—12 noon

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

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for nine months ended September.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

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

	Nine months ended September.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) during Jan.-Sept., 1909, as compared with same period in	
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1908.	1907.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 179,830,812	£ 179,173,547	£ 186,031,336	+ 6,851,789	+ 6,200,524
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	176,554,560	146,713,695	154,583,593	+ 5,869,893	- 23,970,567
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	116,938,527	108,215,219	109,244,178	+ 1,028,959	- 7,694,349
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	1,838,974	1,669,960	1,918,500	+ 248,540	+ 109,535
Total value of Imports	478,132,873	438,778,431	449,777,616	+ 13,009,185	- 28,358,287

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

	Nine months ended September.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) during Jan.-Sept., 1909, as compared with same period in	
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1908.	1907.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 16,078,571	£ 15,312,321	£ 16,614,176	+ 1,241,855	+ 535,605
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	40,219,938	39,052,777	37,023,081	- 2,069,696	- 3,196,902
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	258,451,223	226,979,994	219,069,938	- 7,910,066	- 39,381,235
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	4,531,387	4,217,910	4,630,069	+ 412,159	+ 99,683
Total value of Exports of British produce.	319,281,164	288,663,002	277,337,144	- 2,325,858	- 41,942,850

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £67,377,601 in the nine months ended September, 1909, an increase of £9,662,821 on the corresponding period of 1908, but a decrease of £4,869,459 as compared with the first nine months of 1907.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended October 2nd, 1909, amounted to £5,506,444, a decrease of £25,770 (or 0.5 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

During the thirty-nine weeks ended October 2nd, 1909, the receipts amounted to £40,669,991, a decrease of £366,394 (or 0.9 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1908.

	5 weeks ended Oct. 2nd, 1909.		39 weeks ended Oct. 2nd, 1909.	
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1908.	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1908.
English Lines:—	£	£	£	£
L. & N.W., Midland, N. London, and N. Staffs.	1,739,549	- 19,758	12,768,462	- 278,882
Gt. Northern, Gt. Central, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	866,082	- 19,453	6,437,629	- 143,484
Lancs. and Yorks., and N. Eastern	1,009,972	+ 31,07	7,553,770	+ 32,416
L. & S.W., and Gt. Western	818,500	- 5,200	6,483,600	+ 7,100
L. B. & S.C., and S.E. & C.	159,576	- 9,630	1,451,965	+ 12,364
Scottish Lines:—				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	671,969	- 9,805	4,970,514	- 6,161
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern	166,796	+ 6,969	1,174,051	+ 24,453
Total ...	5,506,444	- 25,770	40,669,991	- 366,394

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metals and leather, chemicals, &c.
‡ Coal, wool, oil, seeds, &c., hides and skins.
§ Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during September, 1909, was 42, consisting of 38 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of arsenic poisoning, and 3 cases of anthrax. One death due to lead poisoning was reported during September. In addition to the above, 28 cases of lead poisoning (4 of which were fatal) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During January-September, 1909, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 465, as compared with 563 in the corresponding period of 1908. The number of deaths during the same period was 30 in 1909 and 28 in 1908. In addition there were 177 cases of lead poisoning (including 36 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first nine months of 1909, as compared with 158 cases (including 27 deaths) in the corresponding period of 1908.

Analysis by Industries.

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

Industry.	CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Month of Sept., 1909.	Nine Months ended Sept., 1909.		Month of Sept., 1909.	Nine Months ended Sept., 1909.			
		1909.	1908.		1909.	1908.		
Lead Poisoning.								
Smelting of Metals	3	51	59	—	4	2	—	—
Brass Works	—	4	5	—	—	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	—	8	11	—	1	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	3	21	22	—	—	—	—	—
Printing	1	18	22	—	1	1	—	—
File Cutting	—	5	7	—	—	—	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware	—	11	5	—	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works	1	23	55	1	2	—	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	1	5	7	—	—	—	—	—
China and Earthenware*	4	38	95	—	3	9	—	—
Litho-Transfer Works	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	4	2	—	2	1	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	2	21	22	—	1	1	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	1	29	19	—	1	—	—	—
Coach Making	13	73	61	—	5	1	—	—
Shipbuilding	1	29	8	—	1	—	—	—
Paint used in other Industries	3	28	30	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	5	48	55	—	2	5	—	—
Total in Factories and Workshops	38	409	491	1	23	21		
House Painting and Plumbing	28	177	158	4	36	27		
Other Forms of Poisoning.								
Mercurial Poisoning—								
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	3	9	—	—	—		
Phosphorus Poisoning—								
Lucifer Match Works	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	3	1	—	—	—		
Arsenic Poisoning—								
Fats, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	1	4	16	—	—	1	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	4	22	—	—	1		
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	1	10	32	—	—	1		
Anthrax.								
Wool	3	22	15	—	1	2	—	—
Handling of Horsehair	—	7	10	—	2	1	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	15	11	—	3	1	—	—
Other Industries	—	2	4	—	1	2	—	—
Total, Anthrax	3	46	40	—	7	6		

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A Return of Deaths of Seamen reported to the Board of Trade is issued by the Registrar-General of Seamen each month, and copies may be seen at all Free Libraries, Mercantile Marine Offices, and Sailors' Homes throughout the country.

* Of the 4 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry 2 were females.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during September, 1909, was 219, an increase of 10 as compared with August, 1909, and of 6 as compared with a year ago. The mean number for September during the years 1904-1908 was 239, the maximum year being 1907, with 276 deaths, and the minimum year 1908, with 213 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in September, 1909, was 117, compared with 94 in August, 1909, and 101 in September, 1908. The total number of accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in September, 1909, was 64, as compared with 77 in the previous month, and 74 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 36, 36, and 35 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in September 1909, was 52, as compared with 82 in August, 1909, and 115 in September, 1908.

During the nine months ended September, 1909, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 2,125, as compared with 2,176 in 1908. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 685 in 1909, and 917 in 1908.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1909, on a	
	Sept., 1909.	Aug., 1909.	Sept., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	3	3	2	—	+ 1
Engine Drivers	3	1	1	+ 2	+ 2
Firemen	5	1	1	+ 4	+ 4
Guards (Passenger)	—	—	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	2	10	9	— 8	— 7
Porters	5	4	4	+ 1	+ 1
Shunters	2	3	2	— 1	— 1
Miscellaneous	15	14	14	+ 1	+ 1
Contractors' Servants	1	—	2	+ 1	— 1
Total, Railway Service	36	36	38	—	+ 1
Mines—					
Underground	99	86	84	+ 13	+ 15
Surface	8	5	10	+ 3	— 2
Total, Mines	107	91	94	+ 16	+ 13
Quarries over 20 feet deep	10	3	7	+ 7	+ 3
Factories and Workshops—					
<i>Textile—</i>					
Cotton	2	1	5	+ 1	— 3
Wool and Worsted	—	2	4	— 2	— 4
Other Textiles	—	3	2	— 3	— 2
<i>Non-Textile—</i>					
Extraction of Metals	1	6	6	— 5	— 5
Founding and Conversion of Metals	15	7	2	+ 8	+ 13
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	—	3	2	— 3	— 2
Ship and Boat Building	3	9	11	— 6	— 8
Wood	—	1	3	— 1	— 3
Chemicals	1	1	3	—	— 2
Laundries	—	1	—	— 1	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	26	19	24	+ 7	+ 2
Total, Factories	48	63	62	— 5	— 14
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	7	14	6	— 7	+ 1
Warehouses	—	2	—	— 2	—
Buildings to which Act applies	9	8	6	+ 1	+ 3
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	16	24	12	— 8	+ 3
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894					
Total, exclusive of Seamen	219	209	213	+ 10	+ 6
Seamen—					
<i>On Trading Vessels—</i>					
Sailing	7	9	54	— 2	— 47
Steam	38	69	53	— 31	— 15
<i>On Fishing Vessels—</i>					
Sailing	1	1	—	—	+ 1
Steam	6	3	8	+ 3	— 2
Total, Seamen	52	82	115	— 30	— 63
Total, including Seamen	271	291	328	— 20	— 57

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Nineteen disputes began in September, 1909, as compared with 39 in August, 1909, and 15 in September, 1908. By the 19 disputes, 5,340 workpeople were directly, and 7,152 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before September, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 21,988 workpeople involved in trade disputes in September, 1909, as compared with 32,527 in August, 1909, and 137,188 in September, 1908.

New Disputes in September, 1909.—In the following Table the new disputes in September are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining	14	4,254	7,142	11,396
Engineering and Shipbuilding	2	530	10	540
Other Trades	3	556	—	556
Total, September, 1909	19	5,340	7,152	12,492
Total, August, 1909	39	8,393	11,114	19,507
Total, September, 1908	15	115,276	10,236	125,512

Causes.—Of the 19 new disputes, 3 arose on demands for increased wages, 1 on an objection to reduction in wages, 5 on other wages questions, 2 on questions of hours of labour, 3 on details of working arrangements, 3 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 2 on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 17 new disputes, directly involving 4,341 persons, and 13 old disputes, directly involving 3,858 persons. Of these 30 new and old disputes, 10, directly involving 1,770 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 13, directly involving 5,256 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 7, directly involving 1,173 persons, were compromised. In the case of 3 other disputes

terminating during the month work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in September of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 108,000 working days. In addition, 52,100 working days were lost during September owing to disputes which began before that month, and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in September of all disputes, new and old, was 160,100 working days, as compared with 261,200 in the previous month, and 1,266,800 in the corresponding month of 1908.

Summary for the First Nine Months of 1908 and 1909.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the nine months, January—September, 1908 and 1909, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.-Sept., 1908.			Jan.-Sept., 1909.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	18	2,783	71,200	12	1,507	18,700
Mining and Quarrying... ..	99	47,015	867,400	147	239,026	1,828,800
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	40	57,126	3,782,900	37	7,038	142,700
Textile	54	130,911	1,506,800	41	4,925	117,700
Clothing	25	3,772	65,500	21	2,233	18,000
Transport	14	2,247	16,700	18	4,809	91,700
Other Trades	35	3,091	58,300	30	1,698	40,100
Total	284	246,975	6,369,300	306	261,286	2,257,700

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began in 1909.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.‡				
Coal Mining—							
Putters, Hewers, &c.	Durham ...	70	710	3 Sept.	1	Demand that wages of three putters should be increased	Work resumed on old conditions.
Underground and Surface Workers	Barnsley ...	1,500	300	14 July	35	Dispute as to hours of labour on the introduction of Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908	Hours of descending and ascending pit fixed by arbitration.
Pit Lads, Hewers, &c.	Barnsley ...	186	1,061	16 July	45	For advance in wages	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Miners, &c., and Surface Workers	Barnsley ...	850	260	2 Sept.	12	Alleged inability to earn standard wages	Colliery closed.
Miners	Newport (nr.)	1,200	—	1 June	75	Refusal of men to allow winding to effect the clearance of pit bottom, after coal miners had ceased work	Company allowed to resume winding coal after pit hours.
Enginemmen, and other Colliery Workpeople	Merthyr Vale	36	2,464	13 Sept.	3	Refusal to work eight hours instead of seven on Saturdays	Work resumed on employer's terms.
Engineering—							
Ironmoulders	Scotland ...	500	—	9 Sept.	5	Against proposed reduction of 2½ per cent. off piece rates	Matter referred to Court of Arbitration under the Conciliation Act, 1890, which decided that no reduction should be made.
Jute Manufacture—							
Piecers and Shifters, other Jute Operatives	Dundee ...	59	405	9 Aug.	38	Against reduction in number of employees in spinning department	Matter referred to Mr. W. B. Yates, Arbitrator appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1890.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.

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

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

Passengers to and from Places out of Europe.—48,727 passengers left the United Kingdom for, and 22,069 arrived from, places out of Europe in August, 1909; the corresponding figures

for August, 1908, were 44,396 and 27,019 respectively. The outward balance to British North America was 8,256 as compared with 4,142 in 1908, and to the United States, 14,434 in August 1909, as compared with 11,506 in August, 1908.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Wages.

Changes taking effect in September.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in September, 1909, was a decrease of £67 per week, as compared with a decrease of £421 per week in August, 1909, and one of £19,136 per week in September, 1908. The number of workpeople affected was 13,097, of whom 7,947 received advances amounting to £238 per week, and 5,150 sustained decreases amounting to £305 per week. The total number affected in the previous month was 13,088, and in September, 1908, 395,111.

One change, affecting 400 workpeople, was settled by arbitration; two changes, affecting 4,450 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and one change, affecting 1,260 workpeople, took effect under sliding scale. The remaining changes, affecting 6,987 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for the nine completed months of 1909.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, during the nine months ended September 30th, 1909, was 1,117,876, as compared with 898,883 in the corresponding period of 1908. The changes arranged gave 9,195 workpeople a net increase of £372 per week and 1,108,271 workpeople a net decrease of £69,457 per week, whilst the remaining 410 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes was thus a decrease of £69,085 per week, as compared with one of £54,794 per week in the corresponding period of 1908.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople

affected by these changes, and the net effect on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—September.			
	1908.		1909.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	11,141	+ 179	10,501	- 561
Coal Mining	651,750	- 41,592	847,201	- 55,843
Iron, &c., Mining	14,318	- 2,870	7,721	- 280
Quarrying	2,413	- 253	2,051	- 71
Pig Iron Manufacture	17,050	- 1,990	14,381	- 491
Iron and Steel Manufacture	51,584	- 6,330	24,078	- 1,054
Engineering and Shipbuilding	99,533	- 3,878	43,812	- 2,438
Other Metal Trades	1,573	- 205	3,357	- 368
Textile Trades	12,205	+ 1,107	153,727	+ 8,221
Clothing Trades	1,453	+ 66	677	+ 65
Printing, &c., Trades	10,828	+ 944	1,074	+ 66
Glass, &c., Trades	6,210	+ 249	37	+ 1
Other Trades	5,781	+ 434	1,679	+ 76
Employees of Local Authorities	2,633	+ 214	579	+ 51
Total	898,883	- 84,794	1,117,876	- 60,085

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported as taking effect in September, 1909, affected 650 workpeople, whose working time was reduced by 2,525 hours per week. The total number reported as affected by changes in hours of labour during the nine months ended September 30th, 1909, was 58,289 (exclusive of those affected on account of the adoption of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908). Of these, 621 had their aggregate working time increased by 1,140 hours per week, and 57,668 had reductions amounting to 103,853 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in September.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN SEPTEMBER.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1909.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	

I.—RATES OF WAGES.

Building	Preston	18 Sept.	Carpenters and Joiners	350	Decrease of ½d. per hour (9½d. to 9¼d.).
	Blackburn and District	27 Sept.	Carpenters and Joiners	400	Decrease of ½d. per hour (9½d. to 9d.).
Coal Mining	Bristol	24 Sept.	Hewers, Other Underground Workers and Banksmen	2,500	Increase of 2½ per cent., making wages of Hewers on the Gloucestershire side 40 per cent., and on the Somersetshire side 45 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
	Radstock District	24 Sept.	Hewers, Other Underground Workers Banksmen, Enginemn & Stokers	4,100	Increase of 2½ per cent., making wages 40 per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Eston	5 Sept.	Steel Workers	1,250	Increase, under sliding scale, of 4½ per cent., making wages 19 per cent. above the standard.
Ironmoulding ...	Scotland	9 Sept.	Ironmoulders (Time Work)	4,400	Decrease of ¼d. per hour, or 1s. per week.

II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

Transport ...	Manchester (one firm)	1 Sept.	Draymen, &c.	400	Decrease of 6 hours per week (60 to 54)
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NOTES.—(1) *Engineering Trade*.—Since the publication of the last GAZETTE, it has been decided, after ballots of the Trade Unionists concerned, that the wages of engineers shall remain unaltered for three years in the Manchester District, and for five years in the London District.
(2).—Full particulars will appear in the November GAZETTE of the following important changes which have been arranged to take effect in October:—
Coal Mining.—Increases of 1½ per cent. in the wages of miners in Northumberland, and of 2½ per cent. in Cumberland.
Pig Iron Manufacture.—Increases of 1 per cent. in the wages of blast-furnacemen in Cleveland and Durham, of 2½ per cent. in West Cumberland, and of ½ per cent. in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and a decrease of ½ per cent. in North Staffs.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Increase of ½ per cent. in the wages of iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

Information respecting rates of wages agreed upon at the principal hiring fairs for farm servants held in Scotland in the spring and summer months of this year has been received from a correspondent who made special inquiries on behalf of the Board of Trade.

The report shows that though on the whole there was little variation in rates from the previous year, wages showed a slight downward tendency in certain districts.

As in past years, men remaining in their places generally got their previous rates of wages. Servants changing places, however, had in some cases to submit to reductions of about 10s. for the half-year, such reductions being most frequent in the Midland Counties and in Aberdeen and Banff. Some difficulty in finding places was reported for men who could not provide women workers in the Eastern Border Counties. Women farm servants generally were still scarce, and their wages remained steady.

PAUPERISM IN SEPTEMBER.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.)
The number of paupers relieved on one day in September, 1909, in the 35 urban districts mentioned below, corresponded to a rate of 221 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with August, 1909, the total number of paupers increased by 2,905 (0·7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The number of indoor paupers increased by 2,314 (1·3 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 591 (0·3 per cent.). There were decreases in 6 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees District (37 per 10,000). Increases occurred in 25 districts, the greatest being in the North Metropolitan District (6 per 10,000). In 4 districts there was no change.

Compared with September, 1908, the rate per 10,000 increased by 1. The number of indoor paupers increased by 1,729 (1·0 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 3,905 (1·8 per cent.). In 15 districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees District (28 per 10,000) the Coatbridge and Airdrie District (24 per 10,000), and the Leicester District (23 per 10,000). Decreases occurred in 17 districts, the most marked being in the Galway District (25 per 10,000) and the East Metropolitan District (14 per 10,000). In 3 districts there was no change.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Sept., 1909.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population on a	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		Month ago.	Year ago.

ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District	11,525	3,302	14,827	173	+ 2	- 2
North District	16,306	9,911	26,217	241	+ 6	...
Central District	6,537	2,210	8,747	481	+ 5	- 2
East District	15,729	7,674	23,403	323	+ 1	- 14
South District	26,040	18,801	44,841	232	+ 2	- 2
Total, Metropolis	76,137	41,893	118,035	247	+ 3	- 3
West Ham	4,788	11,198	15,986	212	+ 2	- 6
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,925	6,008	8,927	194	+ 3	+ 4
Stockton & Tees District	1,574	8,097	9,671	431	- 37	+ 25
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,612	6,871	11,483	147	+ 5	+ 9
Wigan District	2,365	5,803	8,168	199	- 2	- 3
Manchester District	11,411	11,242	22,653	231	+ 4	+ 15
Liverpool District	13,259	11,894	25,153	235	+ 3	+ 1
Bradford District	2,043	4,373	6,416	118	...	- 7
Hull District	1,268	3,975	5,243	143	+ 2	- 4
Leeds District	3,014	4,888	7,902	158	+ 4	+ 2
Barnsley District	817	2,588	3,405	148	- 1	+ 3
Sheffield District	3,434	3,687	7,121	154	...	- 6
Hull District	1,686	5,693	7,379	255	- 1	...
North Staffordshire	4,433	7,504	11,937	255	- 1	+ 10
Nottingham District	4,236	6,049	10,285	192	+ 2	- 5
Leicester District	1,619	5,313	6,932	287	...	+ 23
Wolverhampton District	4,067	12,214	16,281	241	- 7	+ 11
Birmingham District	5,283	4,966	10,249	171	+ 5	+ 11
Bristol District	3,097	6,223	9,320	331	+ 3	...
Cardiff & Swansea	2,403	7,865	10,268	250	+ 4	+ 1
Total, "Other Districts"	69,604	123,654	193,258	207	...	+ 5
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	5,862	18,316	24,178	236	+ 1	- 1
Paisley & Greenock District	935	2,335	3,270	207	+ 1	+ 9
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,768	5,513	7,281	172	...	- 10
Dundee & Dunfermline	929	2,759	3,688	181	+ 1	+ 2
Aberdeen	755	3,188	3,943	231	+ 4	- 3
Coatbridge & Airdrie	456	1,792	2,248	226	+ 4	+ 24
Total for the above Scottish Districts	10,665	34,403	45,068	214	+ 2	...
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	6,845	5,636	12,481	309	+ 2	- 8
Belfast District	3,717	1,161	4,878	113	+ 3	- 4
Cork, Waterford & Limerick } District	4,230	5,001	9,231	379	+ 3	- 11
Galway District	287	341	628	181	+ 4	- 25
Total for the above Irish Districts	15,079	12,139	27,219	248	+ 3	- 8
Total for above 35 Dis-	178,273	223,292	399,565	221	+ 2	+ 1

* 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.
† Register closed to new applicants.
‡ No employment-relief was provided by the Distress Committee, but the Municipality found work for some of the men. § Some not registered under Act

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN SEPTEMBER.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 356.

The Table given below summarises the information received from the various Distress Committees as to their operations in September, 1909. Committees at Edmonton and Maidstone reported their registers as closed during the month.

On September 20th the registers of 29 London Committees were re-opened for the season. In the provinces registration was resumed at Leeds, Norwich, Plymouth, Smethwick and South Shields.

Distress Committees.	Net No. of Applicants on Registers at end of Sept., 1909.	No. given Employment-relief.	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.	Total Amount of Wages paid.
			Days.	£
London Central Unem- ployed Body	12,170*	349	6,511	780
Outer London:				
Erith	156	35	156	34
Leyton	1	35§	435	76
West Ham	1,184	109	1,897	220
Wood Green	132	...	...	...
Total, Outer London ...	1,412	179	2,488	330
Provincial Towns in England and Wales:				
Northern Counties:				
Hartlepool	504	215	545	92
Middlesbrough	534	45	644	120
South Shields	671	...	...	...
Stockton	215	...	...	...
Sunderland	1,669	18	79	15
West Hartlepool	720	49§	584	135
Total, Northern Counties	3,713	327	1,852	362
Lancashire and Cheshire:				
Birkenhead	829	...	...	...
Bootle	418	...	...	...
Liverpool	1,181	14	97	6
Manchester	2,746	...	...	...
Oldham	305	...	...	...
Salford	541	...	...	...
Other Towns (3)	383	...	...	...
Total, Lancashire and Cheshire	6,403	14	97	6
Yorkshire:				
Bradford	489	...	...	...
Halifax	663	...	...	...
Hull	444	...	...	...
Leeds	1,414	...	...	...
Sheffield	1,159	49	302	52
York	1,159	...	...	...
Other Towns (2)	166	...	...	...
Total, Yorkshire	4,355	43	302	52
Midlands:				
Derby	413	...	...	...
King's Norton & Northfield	1	94	305	51
Leicester	1,461	...	...	...
Other Towns (4)	746	...	...	...
Total, Midlands	2,620	94	305	51
Rest of England and Wales:				
Devonport	347	...	...	...
Norwich	885	...	...	...
Plymouth	420	...	...	...
Southampton	481	...	...	...
Swansea	1,481	41	882	184
Other Towns (5)	470	58	35	13
Total, Rest of England and Wales	4,085	46	917	197
Total, Provincial Towns ...	21,176	524	3,473	668
Total, England and Wales	34,758	1,032	12,472	1,778
Scotland				
Aberdeen	347	8	75	7
Dundee	1,580	237	4,236	793
Edinburgh	2,067	198	4,010	543
Glasgow	1,560	1,118	12,947	1,482
Other Towns (4)	472	...	...	...
Total, Scotland	5,926	1,561	21,268	2,823
Total, United Kingdom	40,744	2,593	33,740	4,603

The total number who received employment-relief was 2,593, of whom 508 were in London and "Outer London," 524 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, and 1,561 in Scotland. The average number of days' employment-relief provided was 13·0 per man employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 35s. 6d. per man, or nearly 2s. 8½d. per day. Work was found for 317 workpeople by Local Authorities and for 445 with private employers.

* The number on the registers of 29 London Committees.
† Register closed to new applicants.
‡ No employment-relief was provided by the Distress Committee, but the Municipality found work for some of the men. § Some not registered under Act

WORKS SERVICES—(Continued.)

- Provision of Annexes to Families' Hospital, Netley—J. Hunt, South Wharf, Cleveland Road, Gosport.
 Provision of Annexes to Married Quarters, Cork Barracks—T. Kelleher, 4, Millend Street, Cork.
 Rebuilding part of Ross Barracks, Shorncliffe—G. Lewis & Sons, Widred Road, Dover.
 Reconstruction of Drainage, Ayr Barracks—D. and J. Milligan, 46, Kyle Street, Ayr.
 Reconstruction of Drainage, Warrington Barracks—W. P. Meikle, 67, Dale Street, Liverpool.
 Reconstruction of Drainage, Perth—Beat Bros., 63, Canal Street, Perth.
 Reconstruction of No. 3 Store, H.M. Gunwharf, Portsmouth—Kleine Patent Fire Resisting Flooring Syndicate, Ltd., 136, High Holborn, E.C.
 Repair of Roof to Drill Shed, Blenheim Barracks, North Aldershot—G. R. Speaker & Co., 29, Mincing Lane, E.C.
 Slate Beds to Sewage Farm, Curragh—L. A. Dibdin, Howick Place, Victoria Street, Westminster.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

- BOXES, PARCEL POST—Watt, Torrance & Company, Muirhouse Saw Mills, Glasgow.
 CABLE, PAPER CORE—
 British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Lennox House, Norfolk Street, W.C.
 Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Charlton, S.O., Kent.
 CABLE, SUBMARINE—Telegraph Construction & Maintenance Co., 38, Old Broad Street, E.C.
 CORD, FINE LAID—J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Universe Works, Millwall, E.
 DETECTORS AND LEATHER CASES—General Electric Co., Ltd., 71, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
 GENERATORS—International Electric Co., Kilburn, N.W.
 MATERIALS FOR UNIFORM CLOTHING—
 Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.
 Buttons, Ltd., Alma Street Button Works, Birmingham.
 J. Cawthra & Co., Ltd., 7, Swaine Street, Bradford.
 J. Parkyn & Co., 70, Mosley Street, Manchester.
 R. & J. Partington, Ltd., Portland Street, Manchester.
 Richards, Ltd., Broadford Works, Aberdeen.
 Ritchie & Eason, 26, Dickinson Street, Manchester.
 S. Simpson, Aveham Road Works, Preston.
 Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Linfield Factory, Belfast.
 Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Luddenden Foot, S.O., Yorks.
 PIPE, W.I.—J. Brotherton, Ltd., Imperial Tube Works, Wolverhampton.
 POLE DRESSING—R. Wade, Sons & Co., Hull.
 UNIFORM CLOTHING—G. Day, 3 Montague Place, Poplar, E.
 WHEATSTONE PAPER—Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Paul Street, Finsbury, E.C.
 WIRE, COPPER, HARD DRAWN—
 T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., 88, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.
 British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Lennox House, Norfolk Street, W.C.
 Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak Works, near Birmingham.
 R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Bradford Iron Works, Manchester.
 Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Wellington, Salop.
 F. Smith & Co., incorporated with the London Electric Wire Co. and Smiths, Ltd., Anaconda Works, Salford, Manchester.
 Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Liverpool Street, Birmingham.
 LAY AND JOINT LINES OF CAST IRON PIPES—
 In Glasgow—Greig & Matthews, 35, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
 Between Penzance and Porthcurno—Woodman & Son, Bartholomew Street East, Exeter.
 Near Stockton—Bennie & Thompson, 80, Liverpool Road, Warrington.
 LAY AND JOINT LINES OF CAST IRON PIPES AND EARTHENWARE DUCTS in Paddington—Fry Brothers, Lion Wharf, Greenwich, S.E.
 PNEUMATIC PLANT at G.P.O. (West), London, E.C.—Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ranelagh Works, Ipswich.
 EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW MOTOR MAIL SERVICE—Scottish Motor Traction Co., Ltd., 9, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh.
 CONVEYANCE OF MAILS IN LONDON BY MOTOR VANS—Messrs. Leyland Motors, Ltd., Cecil Chambers, East Strand, W.C.
 CONVEYANCE OF MAILS IN LONDON BY MAIL CARTS—Messrs. Birch Bros., Ltd., 20, Cathcart Street, Kentish Town, N.W.

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- PAPERS OF VARIOUS DESCRIPTIONS—
 Arnold & Foster, Ltd., Eynsford Mill, Kent.
 C. E. Ashdown, Loudwater, Bucks.
 Brown, Stewart & Co., Ltd., Dalmarnock Mill, Bridgton, Glasgow.
 E. Collins & Sons, Kelvindale Mill, Maryhill, near Glasgow.
 A. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Valleyfield Mill, Penicuik, N.B.
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 T. H. Saunders & Co., Ltd., Rye Mill, High Wycombe.
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- Binding "Musketry Regulations, Part I., 1909," Davison, Adams & Co., Ltd., 26-28, Underwood Street, Shepherdess Walk, N.
 Binding "Instructions in Army Telegraphy and Telephony, Vol. II.," M. Bell & Co., Temple Works, Cursitor Street, E.C.
 Binding "Recruiting Regulations, 1909," E. Symmons & Sons, Ltd., Belvedere Works, Hermes Hill, Pentonville, N.
 Leather, &c., Binding, Ireland, Browne & Nolan, Ltd., Denzille Street and Nassau Street, Dublin.
 Mounting Meat Inspection Diagrams: Printing, binding, &c., 1,000 "Army Book 42"; 1,200 "Army Book 325"; 1,000 "Army Book 36"; 5,000 "Sub-Office Postal Order Stock and Sale Book"; Duplicate Assessment Books, Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Finsbury, E.C.
 15,000 Portfolios "Army Book 234," Cartwright & Rattray, Ltd., Caxton Works, Hyde.
 Printing Inland Revenue Special Works (London Tender, Group 38), Henderson & Spalding, Sylvan Grove, Old Kent Road, S.E.
 Printing, Binding, &c., 1,500 "Counter Balance Books"; 1,000 "Ships Rotation Books"; 6,000 Books "England," Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5; 15,000 Books, "Certificate of Posting of Regd. Postal Packets No. 1A," McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton.
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 Erection of New Post Office, Winchester—W. E. Blake, Plymouth.
 Extension of G.P.O., Edinburgh (4th Contract)—James Millar & Son, Millar Place, Edinburgh.
 New Roofs, Victoria and Albert Museum—Hall, Beddall & Co., Pitfield Wharf, Waterloo Bridge, S.E.
 New Staircase, Royal Courts of Justice—Foster & Dicksee, Ltd., Rugby.
 Extension of Lavatories, London University—J. and M. Patrick, Point Pleasant, Wandsworth, S.W.
 Extension of Director's Office, Natural History Museum—J. Simpson & Son, 45, Paddington Street, W.
 CHAIR LETTING, Royal Parks—M. W. Shanly, 33, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
 FIREPROOFING, National Gallery—W. Moss & Sons, Ltd., Queen's Road, Loughborough.
 FITTINGS, British Museum—Hall, Beddall & Co., Pitfield Wharf, Waterloo Bridge, S.E.
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- FLOUR—John White & Sons, Scotstoun Mills, Partick, Glasgow.

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- CANVAS FOR MAIL BAGS—Messrs. Samuel Sadler, Son & Co., 24, Ironmonger Lane, London, E.C.

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