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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

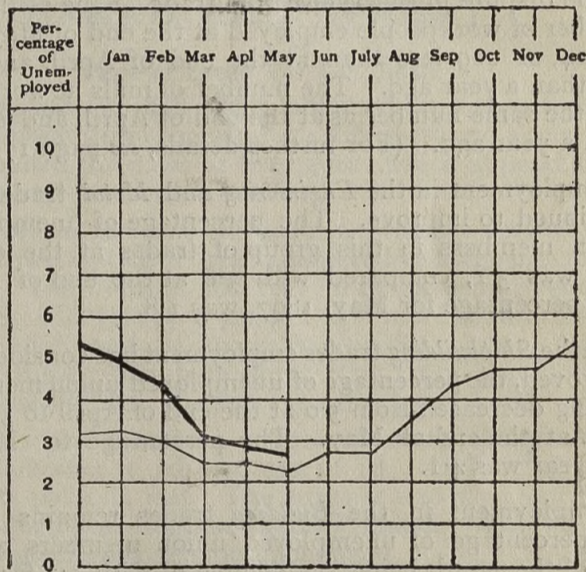
[Based on 2,453 returns, viz.: 1,680 from Employers, 570 from Trade Unions, and 203 from other sources.]

APART from the industries affected directly or indirectly by the stoppage in the South Wales coal trade, the returns indicate some improvement in the state of employment during the month of May.

In the 116 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 467,982, 12,425 (or 2·7 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, compared with 2·9 per cent. at the end of April, and with 2·3 per cent. in the 113 unions, with a membership of 460,685, from which returns were received for May, 1897.

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

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



The table below classifies the membership of the 116 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of May, 1898.		Corresponding Percentages for	
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Under 1 per cent. ...	34	180,554	38·6	34·1
1 and under 2 per cent. ...	15	34,941	7·5	11·9
2 " 3 " " ...	10	30,369	6·5	4·0
3 " 5 " " ...	26	169,641	36·2	35·3
5 " 7 " " ...	15	38,367	8·2	8·4
7 " 10 " " ...	6	7,562	1·6	4·2
10 per cent. and upwards	10	6,548	1·4	2·1
Total	116	467,982	100·0	100·0

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.
—In South Wales and Monmouthshire employment has been greatly affected by the coal dispute. In other districts employment was rather better in May than a

Average Price of British Wheat per Quarter. In connection with the above figures it may be of interest to repeat, with additions, the table in the May GAZETTE giving the average price of British wheat per quarter at about the same dates in 1896-8 as those to which the returns of bread prices relate:—

Table with 6 columns: Week, 1st week, 2nd week, 3rd week, 4th week, Mean Price. Rows for 1896 (Sept, Oct, Nov), 1897 (Aug, Sept), 1898 (April, May, June).

It will be seen from the table that the average price of British wheat rose from 42s. 4d. in the first week of May to 48s. 1d. in the third week, since which time there has been a gradual fall to 45s. 4d. in the second week of June. The mean price in September, 1896, was 23s. 9d., and in September, 1897, 33s. 7d.

Imports of Foreign and Colonial Wheat and Flour.

The imports of wheat and flour last month amounted to 1,638,590 quarters, or about the same as in May, 1897, and considerably more than in May, 1896. There was a decline in the quantities arriving from European countries, which was more than counterbalanced by an increase in the imports from the United States, British North America, the Argentine, and India.

The following tables summarise the imports of wheat-meal and flour in May and in the nine months since last harvest, the figures for the two previous years being added for comparison.

I.—IMPORTS IN MAY (1000'S OF QUARTERS).

Table showing imports in May for 1896, 1897, and 1898, with columns for countries from which imported and increase/decrease over previous years.

II.—IMPORTS IN NINE MONTHS—SEPTEMBER TO MAY. (1,000'S OF QUARTERS.)

Table showing imports in nine months (Sept-May) for 1895-6, 1896-7, and 1897-8, with columns for countries from which imported and increase/decrease over previous years.

The imports from European countries, as compared with 1896-7, have declined by over 3,000,000 quarters, a decline which has only been partly met by increases of 1,430,000 quarters from the States, of 332,000 quarters from Canada, and of 168,000 quarters from other countries.

IRISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE fifth annual Irish Trades Union Congress met at Belfast on May 30th and 31st and June 1st, under the presidency of Mr. Richard Wortley, and was attended by eighty-seven delegates. Amongst the subjects discussed were resolutions relating to the Factory and Workshop Acts, boy labour in the flax industry, night work in bakeries, the encouragement of home manufactures, federation of trades unions, the settlement of labour disputes, fair wages in public contracts, and work for the unemployed. The next Congress will be held in Londonderry.

* Fifth week.

THE DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE.

THE record of the chief incidents arising in connection with the dispute in the Coal Trade of South Wales was, in the last number of the LABOUR GAZETTE (p. 131) brought up to May 14th. In accordance with the desire of a large majority of the men a conference of delegates from the collieries affected by the dispute was held at Cardiff, on Monday and Tuesday, May 16th and 17th, under the presidency of Mr. W. Abraham, M.P. The principal question to be decided was, whether or not the provisional committee or other representatives of the men should be granted plenary powers to meet the employers and settle the matters in dispute. It was resolved by votes representing 59,154 men that the conference should itself decide this question, against 35,528 votes cast for another ballot of the men. At the Monday sitting it was decided by 63 votes to 43 that the provisional committee should be invested with plenary powers, but on the following day it was resolved by a majority of 9,289 votes to appoint a special committee consisting of one delegate from each colliery, including those at which men were working at advanced rates, which should be available for consultative purposes by the provisional committee during negotiations with the employers. It was also resolved by the conference that the committee should ask for an immediate advance of 10 per cent. Proposals for a joint conference on this basis were addressed to the employers. On May 21st a reply was received by the provisional committee, in which the employers declined to agree to representatives of workmen engaged at collieries not belonging to the members of the association being present or taking part in any discussion affecting the associated collieries. The employers also refused to concur in the proposal that the negotiations should be conducted by persons having no power whatever to arrive at a settlement.

A further conference of delegates from the collieries was therefore held in Cardiff on May 26th, when it was resolved that the provisional committee should be vested with plenary powers to negotiate and settle with the employers.

The employers met the representatives of the men on this basis on May 31st. The employers stated that the associated collieries were open to the men on the terms notified to the collieries on April 11th (See LABOUR GAZETTE, March, 1898, p. 99). They were now willing to consider suggestions from the workmen, but any arrangement entered into must not be merely a temporary settlement, but for the regulation of wages for a fixed period. The men's representatives proposed—

(1) That there should be an immediate advance of wages of 10 per cent., to continue in force until December 31st, 1898; (2) That in the meantime a conciliation board be formed to regulate the general wage rate, to be composed of an equal number of representatives of employers and employed, an arbitrator to be mutually agreed to decide in the event of the respective representatives failing to agree; the board to remain in force until June 30th, 1899, subject to the termination thereafter by six months' notice.

No agreement was arrived at, however, and the conference adjourned until June 4th, when the men varied their second proposal by suggesting that the conciliation board should have power to formulate a scheme to regulate wages according to the selling price of coal.

In reply, the coalowners made the following statement:—

With respect to Proposal No. 1 the employers regret that the circumstances necessitate their again declining to grant the 10 per cent. advance, but they are still prepared to continue the working of their collieries upon the terms set forth at all the collieries, dated the 11th of April last, by which the workmen were entitled to an immediate advance of 3.16 per cent. above the wages paid in the month of March, 1898, and no higher advance can be entertained.

With respect to Proposal No. 2 that a permanent joint board, consisting of an equal number of employers and employed, be established with an automatic arrangement for wages, being controlled by the selling prices obtained from time to time

according to a scale to be now agreed upon, and also that the same board shall settle differences arising hereafter in the same way as the late joint committee formerly did.

With respect to Proposal No. 3, the employers are unable to alter their previously-expressed decision declining to adopt the proposal for the appointment of an arbitrator.

The above terms are subject to a satisfactory agreement being arrived at for a term of four years certain, and terminable afterwards by a six months' notice on either side given on the 1st of July or the 1st of January, the whole agreement to be upon the basis of the terms put up at all the collieries in the association on the 11th of April last.

The men's representatives rejected the employers' proposals and the rejection was confirmed by a meeting of delegates held at Cardiff on June 7th. Another conference was held between the parties on Saturday, the 11th inst., at which, however, no agreement was arrived at.

In the meantime the local industries indirectly affected by the dispute are very largely interrupted, and the amount of distress is continually extending.

The number of seamen shipped in May at Cardiff, Swansea and Newport was only 2,210 compared with 7,525 in May 1897. The number of blast furnaces at work in the district, so far as covered by the returns received by the Department, was only 3 at the end of May, compared with 16 a year ago.

COAL PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD.*

FROM the fourth number of the Annual Statement prepared by the Board of Trade, showing the production and consumption of coal, and the number of persons employed in coal production in the principal countries of the world in each of the years 1883-96, the following table is given:—

Production.

Table showing the production of coal in the years 1886 and 1891-96 of the seven largest coal-producing countries, in millions of tons:—

Table showing coal production in millions of tons for 1886, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896 for seven countries: United Kingdom, United States, German Empire, France, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, Russian Empire.

The following table shows the amount of coal produced in the largest coal-producing British Colonies and Possessions in 1886, and from 1891 to 1896, in millions of tons.

Table showing coal production in millions of tons for 1886, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896 for four colonies: New South Wales, British India, Canada, New Zealand.

Numbers Employed.

The figures which follow show the number of persons employed in the coal mining industry, and the estimated number of tons of coal produced per person employed in the countries named in the two preceding tables in 1886 and in 1896. It is pointed out that by far the largest number is employed in the United Kingdom, but that the circumstances under which persons are so employed, and whether they are employed in haulage above ground or as clerks and timekeepers, or whether,

* Coal Tables [P.P. No. 126 of 1898]. Price 5d. Eyre & Spottiswoode. † For the United Kingdom and United States the tons used are 2,240 lbs.; in other cases they are metric tons of 2,204 lbs. ‡ The output in the United Kingdom was very much reduced in 1893 by the great coal disputes of that year. § The ton referred to in this table is of 2,240 lbs. in each case, except in Canada, where the ton contains 2,000 lbs.

again, they are employed during the whole of the week or only on certain days, vary very greatly in the various countries.

Table showing coal production and consumption in millions of tons for 1886 and 1896 for various countries: United Kingdom, United States, German Empire, France, Belgium, Austria (not including Hungary), Russian Empire, New South Wales, British India, Canada, New Zealand.

The countries, which export coal in excess of the amount which they import, are the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, and, to a small extent, the United States and Japan; while the British colonies which export coal are New South Wales and Natal. The excess of coal exported from the United Kingdom over the amount imported was in 1896 44½ million tons (including coal for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, but not coal for steamers in the home or coasting trade), Germany (where bunker coal is excluded from the import and export amounts) coming next with an excess of 6 million tons.

The following table shows the percentages of British and other coal consumed in 1896 in the foreign countries in which the excess of coal imported over coal exported is the largest:—

Coal Consumption.

Table showing coal consumption in millions of tons and percentages of coal consumed for Home Produce, British, and All other for various countries: France, Austria-Hungary, Russian Empire, Italy, Spain, Sweden.

Petroleum.

An addition has this year been made to the tables by appending statistics of petroleum production and trade in Russia and in the United States for a series of years. The figures for 1894 (the latest available) as to the production of petroleum in Russia show an increase from 177 million gallons in 1881 to 1,380 millions in 1894.

THE CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS AT PETERBOROUGH.

THE 30th annual Co-operative Congress was held at Peterborough, on May 30th, and two following days when 932 delegates, representing 414 co-operative societies and districts, were present. Mr. Duncan McInnes (Secretary of the Lincoln Co-operative Society) presided, and an inaugural address was delivered by the Bishop of London.

Among the subjects discussed were co-operative agriculture and the possibility of applying co-operative management to the purchase of land and the letting of small holdings, and the disposal of their produce; the establishment of rural co-operative credit banks in agricultural districts in the United Kingdom; and the alleged boycotting of co-operators by manufacturers in Scotland.

Resolutions were passed: (a) instructing the Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Union to endeavour to secure such alteration in the law as may

* The number of persons employed given for the United Kingdom for 1886 is the estimated number. † In 1889; earlier information not available. ‡ In 1893; later information not available. § In 1894; later information not available. ¶ In 1887; information for 1886 not available. ¶ Metric tons of 2,204 lbs. ** In 1895; later figures not available.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MAY, 1898.

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

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during May affected about 140,000 workpeople, and the net effect on the weekly wages of these workpeople was an increase of about 9½d. per head. About 131,700 received advances averaging 10½d. per head, and 8,300 sustained decreases averaging 1s. per head.

Increases.—The increases affecting the largest number of persons were 5 per cent. to 90,000 coal miners and other colliery workers in Durham, and of 3d. per ton to 1,600 puddlers, and 2½ per cent. to 4,400 millmen in the North of England iron trade. In the building trades there were 91 increases, affecting 15,745 workpeople.

Decreases.—The principal decreases were that of 5 per cent. to 5,000 coal miners in the Forest of Dean, and a reduction ranging from 2½ to 10 per cent. to 2,000 cotton weavers in Radcliffe and district, arising out of a revised list of prices.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 134,875, or 96 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected, were settled without cessation of work, the wages of 9,600 being changed under sliding scale, of 410 by arbitration, and of 900 by conciliation. Changes affecting 5,125 persons, or 4 per cent. of the total number affected, were preceded by strikes.

Totals for First Five Months of 1898.—For the five months, January to May, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 387,800 compared with 337,100 for the corresponding period of 1897. The net effect of all the changes in the weekly wages of these workpeople is estimated at an increase of about 1s. 5¼d. per head, as compared with 1s. 1d. in the first five months of 1897.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week. Includes sub-sections for BUILDING TRADES and MINING AND QUARRYING TRADES.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MAY, 1898—(continued).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week. Includes sub-sections for BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING TRADES, IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE, and METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively. ‡ The coal miners at the Dysart collieries, whose wages have, since 1895, been governed by a sliding scale, have given three months' notice to their employers to terminate the same.

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

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date, Approximate Number of workpeople, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages, Increase or Decrease.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date, Approximate Number of workpeople, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages, Increase or Decrease.

Table with columns: Port, Voyage, Occupation, No. shipped at new Rate during May, Particulars of Change, April, May, Increase, Decrease.

Rise in Agricultural Wages.—A considerable number of agricultural labourers in the Midland, Eastern, Home, and South and South-Western Counties have received an advance in wages.

ALLOTMENTS AND SMALL HOLDINGS. A RETURN has recently been issued of the number of instances in which, between December 27th, 1894, and June 24th, 1897, local authorities acquired land for allotments and small holdings by (1) Compulsory purchase; (2) Purchase by agreement; (3) Compulsory hiring; (4) Hiring by agreement.

Exclusive of overtime. Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MAY.

The changes in hours of labour reported in May affected 6,524 workpeople, their working hours being reduced in the average by 1.11 hours per week. The principal decrease was that of one hour per week to 800 shipjoiners at Liverpool, and the principal increase was the reversion of 2,500 stonemasons in Edinburgh and Leith to the hours worked previous to February last.

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

INCREASES.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date, Approximate number of workpeople, Hours of labour, Extent of change.

DECREASES.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date, Approximate number of workpeople, Hours of labour, Extent of change.

Inspectors of Factories.—Appointment.—Mr. J. H. Parker, of 73, Hardcastle-road, Edgeley, Stockport, has been appointed Inspector's Assistant under the Factory and Workshop Acts.

DANGEROUS TRADES.

The Home Secretary, by an Order* dated May 7th, 1898, has declared that processes in the manufacture and decoration of earthenware and china are processes dangerous or injurious to health within the meaning of Section 8 of the Act of 1891.

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. † Summer hours. ‡ Winter hours. § Statutory Rules and Orders No. 349. Price 3d. Eyre & Spottiswoode.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE monthly accounts of trade and navigation show that the value of the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions for the month ended 31st May, 1898, was £37,706,378, as against £36,346,348 for May, 1897, showing an increase of £1,360,030, or 3.7 per cent.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for May, 1898, as compared with May, 1897:—

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date, Approximate number of workpeople, Hours of labour, Extent of change.

The principal increase in the value of the imports for May, 1898, as compared with May, 1897, is under the category of articles of food and drink, wheat alone showing an increase of £1,129,430 in the value imported, although the quantity shows a decrease of 83,450 cwts.;

Exports.—With regard to the exports for the month, the following table shows the values for May, 1897, and May, 1898:—

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date, Approximate number of workpeople, Hours of labour, Extent of change.

The decrease in the value of yarns and textile fabrics is made up chiefly of decline in the values of the exports of woollen and worsted tissues (£470,029), linen piece goods and manufactures (£123,743), and cotton piece goods and manufactures (£188,539).

Taking now the trade for the first five months of 1898, as compared with the corresponding period of 1897, the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions amounted to £196,987,003, as compared with £189,031,470, showing an increase of £7,955,533; the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures were valued at £93,094,483, as against £98,320,455, a decrease of £5,225,972; and the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted in value to £26,356,559, as compared with £26,912,849, a decrease of £556,290.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports of the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions during May amounted to 2,716,653 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,142,128 tons, as compared with 3,011,271 tons entered and 3,513,819 tons cleared in May, 1897.

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information, obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.) Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have been omitted, except when the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100

Number and Magnitude.—Fifty-six fresh disputes were reported as beginning in May, 1898, compared with 44 in April, and 101 in May, 1897. In these 56 disputes 6,541 workpeople were directly, and 3,177 indirectly affected, a total of 9,718, which compares with 130,528 in April, and 16,638 in May, 1897.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 33 disputes took place, involving 5,025 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 6 disputes, involving 1,273 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 8 disputes, involving 2,226 workpeople; textile trades, 3 disputes, involving 784 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 6 disputes, involving 410 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 56 new disputes, 45 were chiefly on wages questions, 2 on the matter of working hours, 5 on questions of working arrangements, and 4 arose from other causes.

Results.—Thirty-four new disputes, involving 6,688 workpeople, and 13 old disputes, involving 1,998 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 47 new and old disputes terminated, 20 involving 3,216 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 5 involving 1,150 persons, in favour of the employers; and 22 involving 4,320 persons, resulted in a compromise. At the end of May there were 36 unsettled disputes, involving about 106,915 workpeople (including 100,000 Welsh miners).

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in May owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 2,844,300, compared with 2,332,000 in April, and 450,000 in May, 1897.

Total Disputes for First Five Months of 1898.—For the five completed months of 1898 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 234 disputes which commenced in those months was 157,178, as compared with about 99,000 in the 451 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1897. The number of working days lost was about 6,868,400, as compared with 1,760,000 for the same period of 1897. The engineering trade dispute, which continued through January of the present year, and the present coal mining dispute in South Wales largely account for the preponderance of working days lost in the first five months of 1898 over those of 1897.

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

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY, 1898.

Table I: Disputes which began in May, 1898. Includes sub-sections for Building Trades (33 Disputes, 5,025 Workpeople affected), Textile Trades (3 Disputes, 784 Workpeople affected), and Miscellaneous Trades (6 Disputes, 410 Workpeople affected).

* The occupations in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected." The statement of cause and result does not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY—(continued).

Table with 7 columns: Locality, Occupation, Date when Dispute began, Alleged Cause or Object, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY, 1898.

Table I: Disputes which began in May, 1898. Includes sub-sections for Building Trades (Continued) and Mining and Quarrying (6 Disputes, 1,273 Workpeople affected).

Table I: Disputes which began in May, 1898. Includes sub-sections for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (8 Disputes, 2,226 Workpeople affected).

Table I: Disputes which began in May, 1898. Includes sub-sections for Textile Trades (3 Disputes, 784 Workpeople affected) and Miscellaneous Trades (6 Disputes, 410 Workpeople affected).

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

Table II: Disputes which began before May and were settled in that month. Includes sub-sections for Building Trades, Textile Trades, and Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected." The statement of cause and result does not apply to those persons.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY—(continued.)

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

Table listing trade disputes in Manchester, Swansea and Neath Valleys, and Glasgow.

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

The following 16 disputes which have been previously reported were still unsettled at the end of May. The number of workpeople then involved was about 104,085, including 100,000 Welsh miners.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected." The statement of cause and result does not apply to these persons.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during May was 16,149, as compared with 20,336 in May, 1897.

British and Irish.—Of the 16,149 passengers, 11,146 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 3,136 as compared with a year ago, due to a falling off in the numbers bound for the United States.

Table showing emigration statistics by destination (United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places) for May 1898 and 1897.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 16,149 passengers in May, viz., 5,003, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 1,051 less than in May, 1897.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during May was 8,820. Of these, 3,217 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom.

Table showing alien immigration statistics by destination (Aliens not stated to be en route, Aliens en route to America, Total) for May 1898 and 1897.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,316 in May, 1898; 984 in May, 1897; and 5,288 and 4,731 respectively in the five months ended May 31st, in each year.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during May show an increase as compared with May of both 1897 and 1896, very largely due in both cases to increased imports of American cotton.

Table showing cotton statistics: Imports, Exports, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns for May 1898, 1897, and 1896.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended June 4th amounted to £8,019,179, an increase of £212,027 (or 27 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1897.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during May numbered 385, being 89 more than in May, 1897, 37 more than in May, 1896, and 11 more than in May, 1895.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

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

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

DURING May, the 13 bureaux furnishing returns, registered 2,013 fresh applications for work, as compared with 2,001 in May, 1897, an increase of 12. Work was found for 980 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 995 in May, 1897.

(I.) Work Done in May.

Table showing work done in May by 13 bureaux, including London, Provincial, and Glasgow.

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

Table showing occupations of workpeople on registers at end of May, categorized by Men and Women and Girls.

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

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland. On one day in the second week of May 329,059 persons were relieved in the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom.

Compared with April, 1898, there is a decrease of 3,458 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000. Twenty-three of the districts show a decrease, the most marked falling off being in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (14 per 10,000), Central London (13), Stockton and Tees district (10), and Hull (7).

Compared with May, 1897, the number relieved has increased by 8,747, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 4. Increases are shown in 23 districts, the most noticeable being in the Galway district (234 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees district, Cardiff and Swansea district, and Dublin (19 each), Central London, Manchester and Leicester districts (15 each), Belfast (13), and Newcastle (11).

Table showing pauperism statistics for selected urban districts, including In-door, Out-door, Total, and Rate per 10,000.

Table showing pauperism statistics for England & Wales, including Metropolitan and Other Districts.

Table showing pauperism statistics for West Ham.

Table showing pauperism statistics for Other Districts, including Newcastle, Stockton & Tees, Bolton, Wigan, Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Hull, North Staffordshire, Nottingham, Leicester, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff & Swansea.

Table showing pauperism statistics for Scotland, including Glasgow, Paisley & Greenock, Edinburgh & Leith, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie.

Table showing pauperism statistics for Ireland, including Dublin, Belfast & Limerick, Galway.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; or Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. † Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MAY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*†

Nature of Offence.	Informations laid.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-				
Neglecting to Limewash	9	9	£ s. d. 6 15 0	£ s. d. 3 12 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	6	6	14 16 0	4 4 3
Allowing Children or Young Persons to clean machinery in motion, &c.	3	3	0 12 6	1 9 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	42	42	22 14 0	17 7 0
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour	74	74	36 16 0	32 2 10
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	82	77	10 6 0	28 19 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	15	15	9 9 0	8 14 10
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays	10	10	8 1 0	1 15 0
At night	29	29	28 12 0	10 4 9
Outside factory or workshop, after employment therein before and after dinner	14	14	6 5 0	8 17 6
Other	2	2	2 1 0	1 0 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers	16	15	29 0 0	6 10 4
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	11	10	9 7 0	3 11 9
Not sending Notices required by Act	5	5	6 17 0	1 18 11
Failure to send correct Annual Return	5	5	5 2 6	2 3 0
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars	15	15	21 10 0	8 14 0
Prosecutions under Cotton Cloth Factories Act, 1889	4	4	30 0 0	1 11 0
Prosecutions under Truck Act, 1896	13	13	0 17 6	2 14 0
Other offences	2	2	5 0 0	2 6 6
By Workmen :-				
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty	5	5	—	2 15 0
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules	7	7	8 0 0	2 18 6
Employment before or after legal hours, or at night	16	16	3 3 6	11 3 9
Other offences	3	3	0 15 0	1 15 9
By Parents :-				
Allowing children to be illegally employed	2	2	0 15 0	0 10 0
Total for May, 1898	390	383	266 18 0	167 0 2
Total for May, 1897†	338†	340	264 19 6	133 5 7

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.*†

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-					
Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c.	1	1	—	—	£ s. d. 0 5 0
Fencing	2	2	—	—	0 13 0
Ventilation	2	1	—	1	10 0 0
Miscellaneous	11	8	—	3	6 0 0
By Workmen :-					
Safety Lamps	12	12	—	—	15 0 4
Shot-firing and Explosives	2	2	—	—	3 8 6
Timbering	4	2	—	2	3 18 0
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	6	6	—	—	3 16 0
Riding on Trams	4	4	—	—	3 4 0
Miscellaneous	18	16	—	2	21 5 6
Total for May, 1898	62	54	—	8	67 10 4
Total for May, 1897	44	42	2	—	45 9 4
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c. :-					
Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children	3	3	—	—	3 8 2
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	3	3	—	—	3 0 0
By Workmen :-					
Explosives and Blasting	2	2	—	—	1 2 0
Total for May, 1898	8	8	—	—	7 10 2
Total for May, 1897	7	6	—	1	2 18 6

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Penalties.	Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships :-				
Submerging Disc	1	1	£ s. d. 15 0 0	£ s. d. 1 13 2
By Boarding-House Keepers :-				
Illegal boarding	1	1	5 0 0	—
Soliciting seamen to become lodgers	1	1	5 0 0	—
Total for May, 1898	3	3	25 0 0	1 13 2
Total for May, 1897	8	8	21 10 0	16 14 3

* Supplied by the Home Office.

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

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

§ In default of payment of penalties amount to be recovered by pouncing and sale of defendant's effects.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MAY.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in May it will be seen that 6 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 3 Co-operative Associations for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 30 new Friendly Societies, 10 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 2 Building Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Excluding Ireland, for which information has not been received, 1 Trade Union, 22 Building Societies, 18 Friendly Societies, and 6 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registry cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Amalgamated Soc. of Screw Makers, The Criterion, Hurst-street, Birmingham; United Glovers' Mutual Aid Soc., Victoria Hall, Yeovil; London Furniture Japanners' Trade Union, 193, City-road, E.C.; Newcastle-on-Tyne, Gateshead, and District Builders' Labourers' Union, Corn Exchange, Newcastle-on-Tyne. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Operative Stonecutters of Stepaside and its Locality, Mr. Henry Reilly's, Stepaside, co. Dublin; Belfast Operative Glaziers' Protective Soc., Typographical Hall, College-street, Belfast.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Hedgeley Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Ingram School, Glanton, R.S.O., Northumberland; South Tottenham Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 471, Seven Sisters-road, South Tottenham. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Cullybackey Co-op. Soc., Cullybackey, co. Antrim.

(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—None. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Pallas Co-op. Poultry Soc., Tynagh, co. Galway; Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Societies at Boherlahan, Ardmayle, co. Tipperary, and at Derrybrien, co. Galway.

(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Servants' Mutual Employment Soc., Ltd., 19, Maida Vale, N.W.; Sawley Freehold Land Soc., Ltd., "Nook," East End, Sawley. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Dividing, 4; Female, 1; Juvenile, 1; Medical, 2; Collecting, 1; Specially authorised, 3; Working Men's Clubs, 6. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Specially authorised, 8.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—4. **Scotland.**—6. **Ireland.**—None.

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

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Chesterfield Builders' Labourers' Protective, Accident, and Burial Society, 10, Saltergate, Chesterfield. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—No information.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Resolution to wind-up received:—Trades Union Co-operative Society, Limited, 161, Barking Road, E.; Macclesfield Co-operative Fustian Cutters' Society, Limited, Charles Street Mill, Macclesfield; Mold Co-operative Society, Limited, 79, High Street, Mold. Final returns received:—Cobden Industrial Co-operative Society, Limited, 22, Oak Street, Crewe; Rainton Gate Co-operative Society, Limited, Rainton Gate; Ystradyfrdwy Co-operative and Industrial Society, Limited, Station Street, Ystrad Rhondda. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—No information.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 13 (including one branch); registration cancelled, 4; dissolved otherwise, 1. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—No information.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 8; notice of commencement of dissolution, 1; notice of termination of dissolution, 12; **Scotland.**—By instrument of dissolution, 1. **Ireland.**—No information.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Yorkshire and Lincolnshire District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on June 20th. The Secretary to the Examination Board is Mr. John R. Jeffery, 5, Piccadilly, Bradford.

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