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LABOUR GAZETTE.

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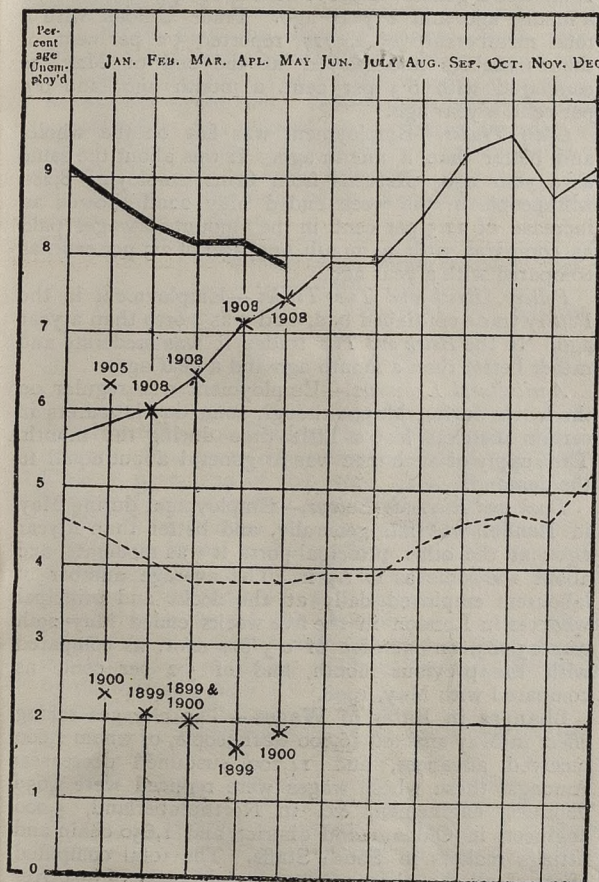
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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 May, 1909, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 699,779 members in the following trades:—

Building...	60,826	Paper, Printing & Book-binding	60,165
Coal Mining	139,676	Woodworking and Furnishing	34,727
Engineering	172,043	Miscellaneous	16,990
Shipbuilding	58,529		
Other Metal Trades	41,169		
Textiles	115,654		
			699,779

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MAY.

[In addition to the 2,884 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,663 were received from employers relating to 1,108,114 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 6,547 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 in May was, on the whole, somewhat better than in April. There was a seasonal decline in coal mining owing to the lessened demand for house coal, and a seasonal improvement in the building, wood-working and clothing trades. After allowing for the effect of the Whitsuntide holidays, the percentage unemployed in the engineering and shipbuilding trades remained about the same. Employment in the pig iron, iron and steel, and tinplate trades showed some improvement. In the cotton trade it continued moderate, but in the other textiles generally it again improved.

As compared with a year ago, there was a decline in the coal mining, engineering and printing trades; but most of the other industries showed some improvement on May, 1908—a time of bad employment.

In the 416 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 699,779 making Returns, 55,473 (or 7.9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, 1909, compared with 8.2 per cent. at the end of April, 1909, and 7.4 per cent. at the end of May, 1908.

Coal Mining.—Employment was fair, on the whole, during May, but showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended May 22nd, 1909, was 5.07, as compared with 5.48 a year ago. Comparison with April, 1909, is affected by holidays in that month.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued fairly good, and showed little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended May 22nd by the mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.82 as compared with 5.74 a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during May continued moderate. It was slightly better than a year ago. The dispute in Lincolnshire affected employment during April and the first half of May. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing nearly 22,000 workpeople showed 289 furnaces in blast at the end of May, 1909, as compared with 280 in April, 1909, and 287 in May, 1908.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, and was about the same as a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended May 22nd, 1909, at the works from which Returns were received was 2.2 per cent. more than in the week ended April 24th, 1909, and 0.4 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during May was very good. It was better than a month ago and a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns, 450 tinplate and sheet mills were working, as compared with 438 in both April, 1909, and May, 1908.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continued slack on the whole, and showed little general change as compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 12.5, as compared with 12.4 a month ago, and 9.6 at the end of May, 1908.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment during May continued bad; compared with a year ago it showed a slight improvement. Branches of Trade Unions, with 58,529 members reported 23.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 23.3 per cent. a month ago, and 26.1 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued moderate during May; as compared with a year ago there was some improvement in the weaving branch. Short time and slackness were reported in the principal districts. Returns received from firms paying wages to 115,346 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 29,077 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,749 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 12.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment during May was fairly good on the whole, and better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,902 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 17.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment was fair and rather better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,956 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment was fair; it was better than both a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,355 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 2.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment though still moderate showed some decline as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,077 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed a decline of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 12.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was good and better than a month ago; it was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,563 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 10.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the bespoke branch showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was better than a year ago. In the ready-made branch it was fairly good, and about the same as a year ago.

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

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment generally continued fair, and showed little change compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 65,590 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 2.9 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 Leather Trades.—Employment was moderate. It was better than both a month ago, and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,265 reported 5.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 7.0 per cent. a month ago, and 8.0 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades was fairly good. It showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and a decline (in the Northern Counties) compared with a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was slack on the whole. It was slightly better than a month ago, and rather worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in the printing trades at the end of May was 5.5, as compared with 5.7 a month ago and 5.2 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages were 9.3, 9.7, and 7.9 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment continued slack; it was better than in April, and showed little general change compared with a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment was, on the whole, quiet. It continued good with brushmakers, and was fairly good with coachmakers. It showed a general improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 34,727, reported 5.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6.3 per cent. a month ago, and 6.5 per cent. a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,280 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 11.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 2.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery, Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was moderate and rather better than a month ago and a year ago.

Agricultural Labourers.—Employment was regular on the whole during May, although some day labourers in certain districts lost a little time during the month. The supply of such men was in general about equal to the demand.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during May in London was fair generally, and better than a year ago; at the other principal ports it was moderate, and about the same as in April. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London in the five weeks ended May 29th was 13,083, an increase of 0.5 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and of 5.2 per cent. as compared with May, 1908.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in May affected 16,800 workpeople, of whom 2,600 received advances, and 14,200 sustained decreases. Amongst those whose wages were reduced were 3,650 deputies, enginemens, &c. in Northumberland, 5,000 engineers in Oldham and district, and 1,650 chain and fittings makers in South Staffs. The total computed effect of all the changes was a net decrease of just over £1,000 per week.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-six disputes began in May, 1909, as compared with 24 in the previous month, and 29 in May, 1908. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during May, 1909, was 11,670, or 2,707 more than in April, 1909, and 43,606 less than in May, 1908.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 109,300 working days, or 2,600 more than in April, 1909, and 1,081,800 less than in May, 1908.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

THE Local Government Board have published a volume* of statistical memoranda and charts designed to illustrate various matters of importance in the study of existing social conditions.

Section I. deals with the growth and distribution of population of the United Kingdom. In the middle of the year 1908, the population was estimated at 44,539,593, while the enumeration obtained at the census of 1851 was 27,368,736. Thus in the 57 years the population of the United Kingdom has increased by 63 per cent.

The birth rate in each section of the United Kingdom was at its maximum in the period 1870-76, and since that date has shown a material decline, the average annual crude birth rate per 1,000 of total population having fallen from 35.3 for the period 1876-80 to 28.1 for the period 1901-1905, or a drop of 20 per cent. The corrected birth rate per 1,000 of the female population aged 15-45 years shows a materially greater decline from 153.3 to 112.5, or a decrease of 27 per cent.

With a view to illustrating the real growth of the urban population, the population in (a) London, (b) 84 of the largest towns, (c) 14 rural counties, and (d) the rest of England and Wales in 1851 and 1908, are compared with the following result:—

For every 100 persons living in 1851 in ...	London there were approximately... 203 in 1908
84 large urban areas ...	282 in 1908
14 rural counties ...	95 in 1908
The rest of England and Wales ...	184 in 1908

Section II. deals with the subject of Public Health, and shows that the average annual death rate in England and Wales has declined from 22.2 per 1,000 for the period 1851-60 to 15.8 for the period 1901-1907, or a decrease of 29 per cent. Infant mortality has fluctuated considerably, but showed no persistent decrease until about 1900. A fairly steady decline in the death rate of children under five years, and a more marked diminution in the case of children between five and 10 years are manifest.

	Death-rate per 1,000 living in England and Wales.		
	0-5 years.	5-10 years.	10-15 years.
1857 ...	67.8	7.8	4.7
1907 ...	40.9	3.4	2.0

The section goes on to describe the Public Health Administration of England and Wales, and gives an account of the operations under the Housing of Working Classes Acts, and of the work done by the Medical Service of local Sanitary Authorities.

The third section of the volume illustrates the principal facts as to the employment of the population, the changes in the classes of occupation, and the increase in the general level of wages.

The operation of the Factory Acts and of the Education Acts have resulted in a persistent decrease in the numbers of young children employed, illustrated by the following figures:—

	Percentage occupied to total population of the same age.			
	Boys.		Girls.	
	5-10 years.	10-15 years.	5-10 years.	10-15 years.
1851 ...	1.8	36.6	1.3	19.9
1901 ...	...	21.9	...	12.0

Comparable figures as to the occupied population at ages over 65 are not obtainable for the same period, but only 60.6 per cent. of the male population over 65 was occupied in 1901 as compared with 64.8 in 1891.

A short account is given of the measures adopted for the relief of unemployment in the successive periods of industrial depression during the half century. The following tables show the total number of applicants to the Distress Committees constituted in England and

* Public Health and Social Conditions. Cd. 4671. Price 5s. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

Wales under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, and the number who renewed their applications in successive years.

	Total Number of Applicants.			
	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-Nov. 30th, 1908.
London ...	39,728	28,181	32,624	37,573
Rest of England and Wales ...	71,107	58,823	57,433	*
Total ...	110,835	87,001	90,057	*

	Number who renewed their applications in successive years.		
	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-Nov. 30th, 1908.
London ...	8,204	10,825	15,162
England and Wales ...	16,900	19,432	*
Total ...	25,104	30,257	*

Section IV. sets out the principal facts relating to the past and present position of public relief to the poor through the medium of the Poor Law. In the year ended 30th September, 1907, 1,709,436 paupers were relieved in England and Wales, of whom 743,131 were persons chargeable for periods amounting to six months or over, and may be regarded as permanent paupers, while 760,935 were persons chargeable on one occasion only for less than six months.

The average daily number of poor relieved in 1850 in England and Wales was approximately 992,000 or 56.5 in every 1,000 of the population. In 1908 the number was 772,000, or 22.1 per 1,000. In London in 1850 the average number receiving poor relief is estimated to have been approximately 105,000, or 45.9 per 1,000. In 1908, though the number was higher—116,000—the rate per 1,000 of the population was only 24.4.

Section V. illustrates the development of local government in England and Wales by reference to local finance, as exemplified in the growth of local rates and of local debt.

The increase of local rates is indicated by the following figures:—

Year.	Amount raised. £.	Per cent. of valuation.
1867-8 ...	16,503,000	3s. 3.4d.
1889-90 ...	27,713,000	3s. 8.4d.
1905-6 ...	58,256,000	6s. 1.4d.

The aggregate debt of local authorities increased between 1874-5 and 1905-6 from £92,820,000 to £435,545,000 without reckoning the capital of the recently formed Metropolitan Water Board.

Section VI. contains miscellaneous statistics bearing on education, thrift and wealth, and crime.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Building Trades.

Application has been made to the Board of Trade on behalf of the employers and workpeople in the building trades at Southampton for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle certain matters upon which the parties are unable to agree. The Board of Trade, on June 11th, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Hudson, who was the arbitrator appointed in the dispute in the Carpenter and Joiner Trade of Glasgow (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for May, p. 147), issued his award on May 21st. The employers had given notice of a reduction in wages from 9.4d. to 8.4d. per hour, and the men had given counter notice of an advance to 10d.; the arbitrator awarded that the rate should be 9d.

Mr. Hudson has also issued his award in the Paisley Slaters' case (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for

* Not ascertained.

May, p. 147). The award altered the existing rule as to payment for commencing work at the job instead of at the shop, and reduced the working hours in the winter months.

Mr. Hudson has also issued his award as arbitrator in the dispute between the Master and Operative Painters at Southport (*see* BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for May, p. 147). The operatives had given notice for an advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, but the arbitrator decided that the rate of wages should remain unchanged.

Coal Miners, Brynamman.

Mr. J. T. Robson, who was appointed umpire in this case (*see* BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for May, p. 147), issued his award on May 22nd.

The workpeople had claimed an increase in their piece-work wages owing to the compulsory use of locked safety lamps and of "permitted explosives" instead of naked lights and compressed gunpowder respectively. The umpire decided that the workpeople are not entitled to the increase claimed.

Coal Miners, Fife.

A dispute as to working hours having arisen between the management and the workpeople at the Bowhill Colliery, Fifeshire, the parties, on May 21st, made joint application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator.

The Board of Trade, on May 24th, appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act in that capacity.

Quarrymen, Penderyn.

Mr. Ralph V. Bankes, the arbitrator appointed in this case (*see* BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for May, p. 147), issued his award on May 24th. The arbitrator was asked to determine whether there should be any change in the existing rate of wages, and, if so, at what figure, within certain limits, the new rate should be fixed. Mr. Bankes decided that there should be no change in the rate. The award, by consent, is to remain in force until March 31st, 1910.

Copper Smelters, Briton Ferry.

The award of the Court of Arbitration, consisting of Mr. W. B. Yates (chairman), Mr. C. G. Hyde, M.P., and Mr. J. Hodge, M.P., appointed to deal with this dispute (*see* BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for May, p. 147), was issued on May 25th. The award, which fixed the tonnage rate to be paid to furnacemen employed at the works, is to remain in force for 12 months and is then to continue in force from year to year and to be terminable only by either side giving three months' notice.

Carters, Londonderry.

A strike of carters employed by certain firms in Londonderry, which occurred in April last, was terminated by the men resuming work pending a decision upon the questions in dispute by arbitration. In accordance with the wishes of the parties, the Board of Trade, on June 11th, appointed J. Brice Mullin, Esq., D.L., and J. R. Hastings, Esq., J.P., to act as arbitrators. The Board also appointed the Right Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., to act as umpire.

RECENT COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Printing Trade.

A Permanent Board of Conciliation for the printing trade of the United Kingdom has been formed by agreement between the Federation of Master Printers and Allied Trades and the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation. The whole of the societies affiliated to the latter Federation have become parties to the Board, with the exception of the London Society of Compositors, the London Consolidated Society of Bookbinders (which is a party to an arbitration board in London), and the London Society of Machine Rulers.

The rules of the Board (which is to be composed of 9 representatives of each of the Federations concerned) provide that questions of dispute shall be referred to it

with a view to amicable settlement, and that there shall be no strike or lock-out until the matter in dispute has been referred to the Conciliation Board.

London Tailoring Trade.

A dispute between certain employers and their workpeople in the tailoring trade in the West-end of London, which began on May 5th, was terminated by a joint agreement signed on May 14th by representatives of the firms involved and of the Trade Union, and approved by the Masters' Association. The terms of the agreement are as follows:—

1. Fifty working hours' week.
2. Wages: rs. 1½d.; rs. 11d. per hour.
3. Classification in separate rooms.
4. Overtime at the rate of time and a quarter from closing time of workshop until 9.30 p.m. From 9.30 p.m. until 6 a.m., 2s. 6d. per hour.
From 6.0 a.m. until opening hour of workshop at the rate of time and a quarter.
5. Workmen not to be compelled to work overtime in the morning if he has worked overtime until late the previous evening.
6. Saturday, overtime at the rate of time and a quarter from 2.0 p.m. until 4 p.m. After 4 p.m., 2s. 6d. per hour.
7. No holidays to be paid for.
8. Men working overtime after 9.30 p.m. to have the option of taking not more than half an hour for meal at their own expense.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY AWARD.

The Sectional and Central Conciliation Boards in connection with the Great Western Railway Co. having been unable to arrive at a settlement of the proposals for modification of wages and other working conditions which had been submitted to them referred the questions to the arbitration of Mr. H. E. Duke, K.C., who issued his award on June 11th.

The principal features of the Award are as follows:—

Whereas it was agreed by the parties before me upon my proceeding in the said reference that, pending the determination of the said questions, the Company had suspended the operation of certain scales of wages heretofore in use in the Company's service, under which scales of wages, increments of wages would, except for such suspension, have accrued to certain of the Employees, and it was agreed by the parties that I was at liberty to deal in my Award in this Arbitration with the questions raised by the suspension of the operation of the said scales of wages.

Whereas it was proved or admitted before me, and I was invited on behalf of the Employees to embody in my Award as facts proved or admitted that:—

- (a) The employment in the several grades of the Company's service in which the said questions have arisen is employment upon weekly wages.
- (b) The work by which a week's wages is earned in the said grades, with certain exceptions not material to be enumerated has been and is work comprised in six successive days' work or turns of work.
- (c) The Employees generally who are engaged on regular duties are deemed by the Company to be entitled to count toward the day's work, or turn of work, all time except allotted meal times from first booking on until the completion of the day's work or turn of work, and not to be required to book on twice for such day or turn of work. The case of horse-keepers is an exception, and employment upon emergency duty (as for instance "fogging") is dealt with in each instance apart from general rule.
- (d) The Company's practice is to require that each Employee shall have not less than nine hours' rest after each of the said successive days or turns of work.
- (e) The Company's practice is, as far as possible, to appoint to each Employee, at or about the week end, an interval of not less than 24 consecutive hours free from duty.
- (f) The Company's practice is that any man temporarily working in a grade which carries higher wages than his current rate of wages, is paid at the minimum rate of the higher grade for each completed day he so works.
- (g) London allowances which are not affected by this Award are paid to the Employees in certain grades, and the Company, by its representatives, affirmed before me that the wages of the Employees in London and elsewhere have been and are fixed with regard to, among other matters, local cost of living.

AS TO SCALES OF WAGES SUSPENDED.

The said scales of wages respectively are to be brought again into operation subject to any alteration made in the same by this Award and as to future increments, the date at which each shall become due shall be the date at which such increment would have become due if no suspension of the said scales of wages had taken place.

EXAMINERS AND GREASERS.

Overtime and Sunday Duty.

(I.) Overtime shall be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-quarter in respect of all time worked in excess of 10 hours in any day's work or turn of duty.

(II.) In case a week's work ends on Sunday within 24 hours of the commencement of the next week's work or begins on Sunday within 24 hours of the completion of the previous week's work payment shall be made at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for all time at work within either such period of 24 hours.

SIGNALMEN AND SIGNAL PORTERS.

Booking on.—The hours of each day's duty or turn of duty shall be reckoned continuously from the time of first booking on for that day or turn of duty, without interruption except for any appointed interval for meals.

Overtime.

(I.) Payment shall be made at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for all time worked in each day or turn of duty at any cabin or post in excess of the allotted hours of the day or turn of duty at such cabin or post.

(II.) In case the last turn of duty in a week's work ends on Sunday within 24 hours of the commencement of the first turn of duty of the next week's work, and in case the first turn of duty in a week's work commences on Sunday within 24 hours of the completion of the last turn of duty of the previous week's work, payment shall be made at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for all time at work within such period of 24 hours.

Wages.

As from Saturday the thirty-first day of July, 1909, the scales of pay of Signalmen employed in the classes of cabins hereafter mentioned, where the turn of duty in such cabins then exceeds eight hours of continuous duty, shall be amended so that (so long as the turn of duty in such cabins exceeds eight hours of continuous duty)—

(I.) Signalmen in Principal Main Line Special Cabins with three years' satisfactory service in such cabins at wages of 30s. per week shall be entitled to receive wages of not less than 31s. per week.

(II.) Signalmen in Secondary Main Line Special Cabins with three years of satisfactory service at wages of 29s. per week shall be entitled to receive wages of not less than 30s. per week.

(III.) Signalmen in Principal Main Line First Class Cabins, with three years' satisfactory service at wages of 27s. per week shall be entitled to receive wages of not less than 28s. per week, and Signalmen in such cabins with five years' satisfactory service at wages of 27s. per week or more shall be entitled to receive wages of not less than 29s. per week.

"Satisfactory service" in the three preceding directions shall be such service as qualifies a Signalman for his advance of wages in the ordinary course under existing scales of wages.

GOODS GUARDS, BRAKESMEN AND SHUNTERS.

Overtime.

(I.)—(i.) Goods Guards and Brakesmen shall be entitled to reckon the time of each week's work for the purpose of ascertaining what overtime, if any, is to be paid upon such week's work by adding the following items, that is to say, (a) time from booking on to booking off during the week's turns of work, and (b) one-third of all time not exceeding ten hours in one day during which the guard or brakesman is booked as "waiting orders" or otherwise required to be at the disposal of his officers, and for all time whereby the sum total of the said items exceed sixty hours, payment shall be made at the rate of time-and-a-quarter.

(ii.) Further, in any case where the last turn of duty in a week's work ends on Sunday within 24 hours of the commencement of the first turn of duty of the next week's work, or the first turn of duty in a week's work commences on Sunday within 24 hours of the completion of the last turn of duty of the previous week's work, payment shall be made at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for all time at work within either such period of 24 hours.

(iii.) And in any case when the first turn of any week's work has commenced on Sunday before two o'clock in the afternoon, and in the next succeeding week the first turn of the week's work again commences on Sunday before two o'clock in the afternoon, payment in addition to the week's wages shall be made in the latter week at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for all time at work on the Sunday in that week before two o'clock in the afternoon.

(II.)—(i.) Shunters working in shunting yards where shunting is carried on by means of engines or gradients or by both such means, and the standard working day exceeds eight consecutive hours shall be paid in addition to and at the rate of their standard wages for all time in the week's work exceeding 54 hours and not exceeding 60 hours. This direction does not apply to foremen whose duties are mainly supervisory or to men not mainly employed in shunting work.

(ii.) All Shunters shall be paid at the rate of time-and-a-quarter (a) for all time in the day's work exceeding 10 hours exclusive of allotted time for meals, and (b) in cases where the last turn of duty in a week's work ends on Sunday within 24 hours of the commencement of the first turn of duty of the next week's work, or the first turn of duty in a week's work commences on Sunday within 24 hours of the completion of the last turn of duty of the previous week's work, for all time at work within either such period of 24 hours.

PASSENGER GUARDS, PLATFORM STAFF AND PASSENGER SHUNTERS.

Overtime.

(I.) Passenger Guards shall be paid at the rate of time-and-a-quarter (a) for all time in excess of 60 hours in the week's work; and (b) in cases where the last turn of duty in a week's work ends on Sunday within 24 hours of the commencement of the first turn of duty of the next week's work, or the first turn of duty in a week's work commences on Sunday within 24 hours of the completion of the last turn of duty of the previous week's work for all time at work within either such period of 24 hours.

(II.) Passenger Shunters shall be paid at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for all time in excess of 54 hours in the week's work, exclusive of any allotted meal times; and in cases where a week's work begins or ends on Sunday, for all time at work within any such period of 24 hours, as is with regard to Passenger Guards above defined.

Wages.

To Passenger Guards whose present scales of wages give a maximum wage or fixed wage of 27s. per week, increased wages shall be paid on the following scale, that is to say:—To Guards with three years' satisfactory service at the said rate, 28s. per week. To Guards with five years' satisfactory service at the said rate, 29s. "Satisfactory Service" shall be such service as qualifies a Guard for his advance of wages in the ordinary course under existing scales of wages.

PLATELAYERS AND OTHERS.

Wages.

The scales of wages for Platelayers shall be amended to provide for, and there shall be paid:—

(a) In the case of Platelayers with four years' service and upwards, whose wages do not exceed 17s. 6d. per week, 1s. 6d. per week of increased wages.

(b) In the case of Platelayers with four years' service and upwards, whose wages exceed 17s. 6d. but do not exceed 18s. per week, 1s. per week of increased wages.

Overtime.

Payment shall be made at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for all time of work in excess of the standard hours of the week's work.

GOODS WORKERS AND OTHERS.

Overtime.

(I.) Payment shall be made to Carmen at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for the time occupied on a week-day by any duty or duties required of them in addition to the turns of duty comprised in their standard week's work, which is computed at sixty hours, exclusive of any time allotted for meals, and not more than 72 hours, inclusive of any times so allotted.

(II.) Payment for overtime shall be made to Goods Workers other than Carmen, at the rate of time-and-a-quarter; (a) for all time exceeding 60 hours in the week, or 11½ hours in any day, exclusive of allotted meal times; and (b) in cases where the last turn of duty in a week's work ends on Sunday within 24 hours of the commencement of the first turn of duty of the next week's work, or the first turn of duty in a week's work commences on Sunday within 24 hours of the completion of the last turn of duty of the previous week's work, for all time at work within either such period of 24 hours.

General.

As to proposals made before the several Sectional Boards of Conciliation which are not hereinbefore specifically determined, I AWARD AND DIRECT that the several specific determinations which are herein comprised shall not be taken to alter any of the terms or conditions of the Company's service further or otherwise than is necessary to give effect to the said determinations respectively, and existing terms and conditions which were the subject of the proposals in the said Agenda and are not specifically altered by this Award, are to remain in force subject to the right of the Company to make changes of conditions which do not increase the hours of labour or reduce the wages of the Employees.

This Award is to take effect (save as is otherwise hereinbefore mentioned) as from Saturday, the 26th day of June, 1909, and is to continue in force until Saturday, the 28th day of June, 1913.

As regards Sunday duty the Award specifies that work in addition to the usual week's work required to be done between Saturday midnight and Sunday midnight shall be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-half, in most cases a minimum payment of three-eighths of a standard day's wages being guaranteed. The Award also states that employees working on Christmas Day shall, if they have also been called upon to work on Good Friday, be paid for the Christmas Day's duty one day's pay at the rate of and in addition to the usual weekly wages.

EARNINGS IN THE WOOLLEN, WORSTED AND LINEN INDUSTRIES.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED.

IN connection with the enquiry into the earnings and hours of labour of workpeople in the textile trades*, returns were received from 770 separate establishments engaged in the woollen and worsted industry, at which the number of workpeople employed amounted to nearly 110,000.

The average earnings of all workpeople, including those who worked less or more than full time in the last pay week of September, 1906, were found to have been 15s. 9d., men earning on an average 25s. 11d., lads and boys 8s. 11d., women 13s. 4d., and girls 8s. 2d. The average full time earnings in the same week were for all workpeople 15s. 9d., for men 26s. 10d., for lads and boys 8s. 11d., for women 13s. 10d., and for girls 8s. 4d. The coincidence of the averages for all workpeople is due to changes in the proportions of men, lads and boys, women and girls returned in the two sets of figures.

The average full time earnings of operatives classified by districts and according to age and sex distribution were as follows:—

District.	Average Earnings of Operatives working Full Time in the last Pay-week of September, 1906.							
	Men.	Lads and Boys.		Women.	Girls.		All Workpeople.	
		Full Timers.	Half Timers.		Full Timers.	Half Timers.		
Huddersfield...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Leeds ...	27 4	11 2	3 2	17 1	9 8	3 3	20 1	
Dewsbury and Batley ...	20 2	10 5	3 7	13 9	9 0	3 8	15 11	
Halifax ...	27 2	11 3	3 4	15 0	9 11	3 0	17 11	
Bradford ...	26 0	9 7	3 2	12 4	9 0	3 3	13 10	
Keighley ...	27 2	10 3	3 10	13 6	10 2	4 1	14 0	
Rest of West Riding of Yorkshire ...	27 0	9 8	3 5	12 11	7 9	3 6	15 9	
All Yorkshire ...	27 3	10 3	3 8	13 10	9 6	3 8	15 9	
West of England ...	21 9	9 4	3 6	11 3	8 6	—	13 11	
Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles ...	27 7	10 6	—	18 6	8 6	—	19 8	
Rest of Scotland ...	23 11	8 11	3 0	11 8	7 4	3 2	14 9	
Rest of United Kingdom ...	24 10	9 8	3 2	12 11	7 9	3 2	14 11	
United Kingdom ...	26 10	10 2	3 8	13 10	9 3	3 8	15 9	

In comparing the district averages given above, it should be remembered that the classes of workpeople employed in the different districts differ greatly, and that the proportion of the total number employed in any particular class varies. For these reasons it will be understood that differences in the general averages do not necessarily imply similar differences in the wages in each occupation. The high average earnings for women, for instance, in the Roxburgh, Selkirk, and Peebles district is largely due to the high proportion of women weavers.

Weavers.—The occupation which gives employment to by far the greatest number in the woollen and worsted industries is weaving. Weavers are nearly all piece-workers and are paid for completed lengths of cloth and not for the actual amount of cloth woven in any one week. On that account the payments received by them in any one week frequently do not correspond with the actual earnings in that week. Details were therefore obtained of the payments made to each weaver in four successive weeks, and the particulars given represent the average earnings over this period.

Comparatively few men weavers were employed, except in the Huddersfield district where they were about equal in number to the women. In that district the piece-work earnings for full time of men weavers tending one power loom were 26s. 4d. per week on wool and 26s. 1d. on worsted. For all districts the average piece-work earnings for full time of men weavers, whether on one or two woollen or worsted power looms, were 25s. 4d. and on hand looms 24s. 7d.

In the following Table the average weekly piece-work earnings of women weavers working full time are shown for each of the principal districts:—

* Report of an enquiry by the Board of Trade into the Earnings and Hours of Labour of Workpeople of the United Kingdom. I.—Textile Trades. Cd. 4545. 2s. 7d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

District.	Woollen Weavers.		Worsted Weavers.		All Weavers.
	1 loom.	2 looms.	1 loom.	2 looms.	
Huddersfield...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Leeds ...	19 6	—	19 11	—	19 8
Dewsbury and Batley ...	14 0	—	17 3	—	14 6
Halifax ...	15 4	—	—	—	15 4
Bradford ...	14 11	14 10	14 1	14 3	14 5
Keighley ...	—	—	13 5	13 10	13 10
Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles ...	20 1	—	13 11	14 6	15 7
All Districts (including those not specified above)	15 10	15 4	16 7	14 0	15 3

It will be noticed that the average earnings in Huddersfield are much higher than in the other Yorkshire districts, though they are exceeded by the average for the Roxburgh, Selkirk, and Peebles district.

Of all the weavers represented in the returns, 17,000 were one-loom weavers and 8,000 were two-loom weavers. Of the latter no less than 5,500 were women weavers in the Bradford worsted trade.

Annual Earnings in 1906.

Details are given in the report as to the number of workpeople paid wages by firms furnishing returns in a week, free from holidays or other exceptional circumstances, in each month of 1906, together with their aggregate earnings for the year. The average weekly wages bill for these 12 ordinary weeks was £87,581, and the aggregate wages bill for the year £4,418,385, or 50.4 times the weekly average. It would appear therefore that in a year like 1906 from 9 to 10 working days would be lost owing to holidays and other occasions when the factories were closed. The average earnings of all employed, on the basis of the particulars obtained for 12 ordinary weeks in 1906, were about 15s. 10d. a week, an amount which, multiplied by the number of ordinary weeks already found, would yield an average of about £40 for the year.

Changes in Average Wages, 1886-1906.

The differences between the average wages for full time in 1906 and the results of the former enquiry in 1886 reflect not only changes in rates of wages but also changes in conditions of employment, which may have had an important effect on the average earnings of the operatives employed. Thus the diminution in the number of half-timers which has taken place during the 20 years has tended to raise the general average for all workpeople; again, in the case of piece workers, for example, earnings may increase as a result of improvements in machinery.

The approximate percentage increase in the average full time earnings of men, women, all males, all females, and all workpeople respectively, is shown in the following Table. In this Table two half-timers have been counted as one unit in order to obtain a more accurate comparison. One of the effects is slightly to raise the general average wage for "all workpeople" above that shown for 1906 in the preceding Tables:—

	Average Earnings for Full Time.		Percentage Increase.
	1886.	1906.	
Men ...	Per week. s. d. 23 3	Per week. s. d. 26 10	15
All Males* ...	18 7	21 10	17
Women ...	12 7	13 10	10
All Females† ...	11 7	12 9	10
All Workpeople† ...	14 4	16 2	13

The Report states that judging from the information available it would appear that 1906 is typical of the period 1905-7, while the year 1886 is also fairly representative of the years immediately preceding and following it. At the same time employment in 1906 was on the whole better than in 1886, and it is probable that the earnings of piece-workers, though given for a full nominal week in each case, reflect to some extent the state of employment in the two years.

* Only a small number of woollen weavers were returned in this district.
† Counting two half-timers as one full-timer.

In the following Table a comparison is given of the changes in average full time wages in certain of the leading occupations.

Occupation.	Per week. s. d.	Per week. s. d.	Per cent. increase.	Occupation.	Per week. s. d.	Per week. s. d.	Per cent. increase.
Men:—	Per week. s. d.	Per week. s. d.		Women—contd.	Per week. s. d.	Per week. s. d.	
Wool Sorters ...	26 0	29 8	14	Combers ...	10 7	12 4	17
Teazlers and Willeyers ...	19 9	21 11	11	Finishers ...	9 6	10 11	15
Scribblers or Fettleers ...	19 9	22 5	14	Drawers ...	10 0	11 0	10
Combers (Day Work) ...	15 8	17 6	12	Worsteds (Women and Girls) ...	11 11	14 0	17
Wool Spinners ...	22 4	24 7	10	Doublers ...	8 3	9 5	14
Warpers ...	27 7	32 7	18	Worsted ...	9 8	10 11	13
Beavers ...	24 6	28 9	17	Winders ...	12 3	14 6	18
Woollen Weavers (Power Loom) ...	22 2	24 6	11	Weavers (Power Loom) ...	9 8	10 11	13
Woolen Weavers (Worsted) ...	21 0	25 8	22	Burlers and Knotters ...	11 10	13 9	16
Woolen Weavers (Power Loom) ...	25 6	27 1	6	Menders and Fine Drawers ...	13 4	14 11	12
Woolen Weavers (Worsted) ...	25 6	27 1	6	Menders and Fine Drawers ...	13 4	14 11	12

The report points out that it is not possible to say that the increases shown are due to changes in rates of wages only. In the case of men weavers, for example, the proportion returned for the Huddersfield district was considerably greater in 1906 than in 1886, a fact which, apart from any other changes, would have resulted in an increase in the average for all districts in 1906, as compared with that for 1886, owing to the comparatively high earnings of weavers in that district.

LINEN.

In the linen industry returns were received relating to 44,493 workpeople or 46.4 per cent. of the total number employed in 1904. The average amount earned by all workpeople, including those who worked less or more than full time in the last pay week of September, 1906, was 11s. 11d. The average full time earnings in the same week were 12s. 0d. The average full time earnings of the various classes of operatives in the different districts are shown in the following Table:—

District.	Men.	Lads and Boys.		Women.	Girls.		All Workpeople.
		Full Timers.	Half Timers.		Full Timers.	Half Timers.	
Belfast ...	s. d. 26 2	s. d. 8 11	s. d. 3 8	s. d. 10 10	s. d. 7 11	s. d. 3 7	s. d. 11 9
Rest of Ireland ...	18 8	7 6	2 11	19 9	6 11	2 11	11 0
Fifeshire ...	24 9	8 8	3 6	11 11	6 11	3 9	13 5
Forfarshire ...	21 8	8 11	4 0	11 6	7 8	3 6	12 4
Rest of Scotland ...	24 6	8 11	5 0	11 9	8 4	3 6	13 9
England ...	22 9	8 5	—	10 10	6 7	—	12 2
United Kingdom ...	22 4	8 5	3 4	10 9	7 4	3 5	12 0

It will be noticed that in Belfast the average earnings of men working full time are higher than in any of the other districts included in the above Table. For women, however, the average earnings are lower than in the Scottish districts and the same as in England. The average earnings of lads and boys (full timers) in Belfast were only equalled by those for Forfarshire and the "Rest of Scotland" and for girls (full timers) the average in Belfast was higher than in any district except the "Rest of Scotland."

Men form less than 20 per cent. of the total number of workpeople returned. The percentage numbers of roughers, weavers, and of all men whose full time earnings fell within certain limits are given in the following Table:—

Occupation.	Under 20s.	20s. and under 30s.	30s. and under 40s.	40s. and over.
Roughers ...	37.6	12.2	0.2	—
Weavers ...	90.4	9.3	0.3	—
All Men ...	44.4	56.7	13.6	5.3

Women.—The various women's occupations account for over 58 per cent. of the total number returned, the principal classes being preparers, spinners, reelers, winders and weavers, who together form nearly 88 per cent. of the total number of women returned.

In the following Table the earnings of women working full time are shown for each of the principal districts:—

District.	Average Earnings of Women working Full Time in the last Pay-week of September, 1906.							
	Line Spreaders.	Tow Carders.	Drawers and Backminders.	Rovers.	Spinners.	Reelers.	Winders.	Weavers.
Belfast ...	s. d. 9 10	s. d. 9 11	s. d. 9 4	s. d. 9 11	s. d. 10 5	s. d. 11 3	s. d. 11 3	s. d. 11 6
Rest of Ireland ...	8 2	8 3	7 4	7 11	9 5	9 10	9 5	10 1
Fifeshire ...	—	8 3	9 2	—	9 10	9 11	13 7	12 1
Forfarshire ...	10 2	9 9	9 7	10 2	10 0	11 4	12 11	12 2
All districts ...	9 3	9 0	8 8	9 3	10 1	10 9	11 2	11 5

Annual Earnings in 1906.

The average weekly wages bill based on 12 ordinary weeks in 1906 was £26,784 and the aggregate wages bill for the year £1,343,835 or 50.2 times the weekly average. It would appear therefore that in 1906 rather less than a fortnight was lost owing to holidays, breakdowns, strikes and other stoppages. The average earnings were found to have been approximately £29 10s. od. for the year.

Changes in Average Earnings 1886-1906.

In comparing the general average wages of full time workers in 1886 and 1906, the considerations to which attention has been drawn in the case of the woollen industry must be borne in mind. The change which has taken place in the relative importance of the different localities represented is of special importance in the linen industry. The proportion of the total number employed has increased in Ireland from 55 per cent. to 64 per cent., while it has fallen in Scotland from about 35 per cent. to 29 per cent., and in England from about 10 per cent. to less than 7 per cent.

In the following Table the average full time wages of men, all males, women, all females, and of all workpeople are given for 1886 and 1906 respectively:—

	Average earnings for Full Time.		Percentage Increase.
	1886.	1906.	
Men ...	Per Week. s. d. 19 9	Per Week. s. d. 22 4	13
All Males* ...	15 2	17 11	18
Women ...	8 11	10 9	21
All Females* ...	8 11	10 2	24
All Workpeople... ...	10 1	12 3	21

The particulars given in the Table below show the changes in full time earnings which have taken place in certain of the principal occupations in Belfast.

Occupation.	Average Earnings for Full Time.		Percentage Increase.
	1886.	1906.	
Men:—	Per week. s. d.	Per week. s. d.	
Roughers ...	18 6	21 8	17
Sorters ...	23 1	26 3	14
Women:—	Per week. s. d.	Per week. s. d.	
Drawers and Backminders ...	6 10	9 4	37
Spinners ...	8 5	10 5	24
Reelers ...	8 11	11 3	25
Winders ...	9 3	11 3	22
Weavers ...	9 5	11 6	22

The advances shown in the case of roughers, sorters and spinners are in agreement with the changes in rates of wages recorded during the 20 years.

* Counting two half-timers as one full-timer.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN DENMARK: SPECIAL LEGISLATION.

A DESPATCH to the Foreign Office from H.M. Legation at Copenhagen, dated May 10th, transmits the text of two laws recently passed by the Rigsdag with a view to relieving the conditions arising out of the severe unemployment in Denmark. At the close of last year the number of unemployed in Denmark, and especially in Copenhagen, assumed serious proportions, and continued to increase during the opening months of the present year. According to statistics compiled by the General Federation of Trade Unions, 20,445 members of such Unions were unemployed at the end of January, while the number of non-Unionists without work was estimated at 15,000. It is calculated that this total had increased by 5,000 during February.

Owing to the great drain on the resources of the State-subsidised associations (Unemployed Benefit Funds and Charitable Funds), the Government, in addition to affording indirect relief by the initiation of public works, such as the Esbjerg harbour extension and the new Post Office buildings in Copenhagen, furnished direct assistance by authorising the communes to increase their social expenditure, and by voting increased State subventions. Thus, on March 30th, the Rigsdag passed a law which authorised the communes to contribute to the Unemployed Benefit Funds in the financial year 1909-10 sums exceeding the maximum prescribed by the law of April 9th, 1907 (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1909, p. 48). It also authorised those communes in which unemployment was exceptional to increase their contributions to the Charitable Funds beyond the amount fixed by the law regulating those funds. Provision was also made for an increased grant from the State to the Charitable Funds for the year 1909-10. Finally the town of Copenhagen was authorised to raise the municipal income tax from 2½ per cent. to 2¾ per cent. of assessable incomes for the year 1909-10. On May 4th, the Rigsdag voted a further law providing that, until April 1st, 1910, where a person has exhausted the benefits allowed by his Unemployed Benefit Fund, and, being still destitute and without employment, receives relief from his commune, such relief shall not count as poor relief (which entails the loss of civil rights) provided it does not exceed the amount of benefit drawn by him from his Unemployed Benefit Fund.

By the end of April the number of unemployed in Denmark had considerably declined. Thus, on May 1st, the total membership of the organisations for which returns of unemployed were available was 79,227. Of these 9,918, or 12·51 per cent., were out of work, the great bulk (7,027) being in Copenhagen. Eight organisations with a joint membership of 11,531 had no unemployed, and 32 organisations with a joint membership of 16,193 furnished no returns.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN MAY, 1909.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 214.

The Table given below summarises the information received from the various Distress Committees as to their operations in May, 1909. Committees at Croydon, Willesden, Barrow-in-Furness, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Burton-on-Trent, Cardiff, Dartford, Grimsby, King's Norton, Middleton, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Smethwick, Tynemouth, Kilmarnock and Belfast reported their registers as closed. As regards the number of applicants the Committees were requested, in making up their returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work or to have left the neighbourhood since registration, and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified. Those engaged on relief-works are, however, included. The particulars as to relief relate to employment provided by the London Central Unemployed Body, and by the various Distress Committees, or towards the provision of which the Distress Committees are expected to contribute. Works provided and entirely

paid for by the Local Authorities, without any contribution from the Distress Committees are, as far as possible, excluded:—

Distress Committees.	Net No. of Applicants on Registers at end of May, 1909.	No. given Employment-relief.	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.	Total Amount of Wages paid.
London Central Unemployed Body	..*	1,421	16,904	2,378
Outer London:				
East Ham	1,699	365	2,140	454
Barrow	255	176	2,904	580
Eritih	200	103	490	106
Leyton	1,512	214	1,498	262
Tottenham .. .. .	..†	1,475	4,020	704
West Ham	595	237	3,126	429
Wood Green	326	...	...	...
Total, Outer London	5,298	2,570	14,278	2,335
Provincial Towns in England and Wales:				
Northern Counties:				
Gateshead	428	42	240	41
Middlesbrough	412	135	1,944	361
South Shields	1,076	84	448	99
Sunderland	1,254	89	732	134
West Hartlepool	1,148	541	2,875	465
Other Towns (5)	1,106	218	1,077	179
Total, Northern Counties	5,424	1,109	7,316	1,270
Lancashire and Cheshire:				
Barrow-in-Furness	2,171	...	...	...
Birkenhead	764	...	...	...
Bootle	386	...	...	...
Gorton	336	65	195	44
Liverpool	551	118	1,600	183
Manchester	1,445	43	582	62
Preston	528	...	...	...
Rochdale	361	...	...	...
Salford	389	156	853	158
Other Towns (5)	582	213	2,480	429
Total, Lancashire and Cheshire	7,513	595	5,710	876
Yorkshire:				
Bradford	894	24	131	21
Birkehead	286	288	104	20
Hull	3,156	260	1,068	214
Leeds	3,349	146	2,317	420
Sheffield	3,011	558	7,169	1,127
York	1,083	...	...	...
Other Towns (2)	302	38	350	65
Total, Yorkshire	12,641	1,054	11,169	1,868
Midlands:				
Coventry	410	40	212	39
Derby	505	...	...	...
Dudley	490	146	430	57
King's Norton & Northfield .. .. .	..†	56	939	157
Leicester	1,291	119	1,186	239
Loughborough	393	120	660	113
West Bromwich	450	510	2,200	352
Wolverhampton	382	355	1,366	225
Other Towns (3)	434	35	571	78
Total, Midlands	4,265	1,421	7,566	1,240
Rest of England and Wales:				
Brighton .. .. .	..†	23	136	24
Bristol .. .. .	..†	147	1,287	307
Hastings .. .. .	..†	32	610	142
Maidstone	772	49	702	104
Portsmouth	590	...	...	...
Southampton	568	...	...	...
Swansea	1,432	183	2,339	469
Swindon	339	90	935	142
Other Towns (8)	1,944	197	2,097	386
Total, Rest of England and Wales	4,745	721	8,096	1,571
Total, Provincial Towns	34,582	4,900	39,857	6,828
Total, England and Wales	39,866	8,891	71,039	11,741
Scotland				
Aberdeen	390	415	2,507	313
Clydebank	147	...	...	...
Dundee	1,157	186	1,395	243
Edinburgh	1,362	640	8,800	1,174
Glasgow	1,112	1,217	18,965	2,326
Govan	650	79	458	83
Greenock	294	351	4,602	476
Leith	728	...	...	...
Partick	570	101	1,428	213
Pollokshaws	325	64	1,792	144
Total, Scotland	6,935	3,053	33,647	4,912
Ireland:				
Dublin .. .. .	..†	28	444	67
Galway	150	46	753	53
Total, Ireland	150	74	1,197	120
Total, United Kingdom	46,971	12,018	111,883	18,803

It will be seen that the net total number of applicants remaining on the registers (after deduction of persons

* The registers of the London Committees were closed for ordinary purposes (i.e., except for women, emigration cases, and special "colony" cases) as from March 6th.
 † 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.

disqualified, those who had found work, &c.) was 46,971, of whom 5,298 were in "Outer London," 34,588 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 6,935 in Scotland, and 150 in Ireland. As usual the great majority of applicants to the Distress Committees were general labourers, or labourers in the building trades.

The total number who received employment-relief was 12,018, of whom 3,991 were in London and "Outer London," 4,900 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 3,053 in Scotland, and 74 in Ireland. The average number of days' employment-relief provided was 9·3 per man employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 27s. 11¼d. per man, or 3s. 0d. per day.

The following Table affords a comparison between the work done by Distress Committees in May, 1909, and April, 1909, and May, 1908. No satisfactory comparison can be given of the number of applicants remaining on the registers at the end of each month.

	No. of Distress Committees in operation.			No. of applicants given Employment-relief.		
	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.
London:—						
County .. .. .	..*	..*	..*	1,421	2,509	1,807
Outer	7	11	5	2,570	3,890	2,125
Other Places in England and Wales						
.. .. .	59	76	23	4,900	15,269	3,315
.. .. .	10	12	7	3,953	3,828	2,303
Scotland	2	3	1	74	1,993	54
Ireland†	..†	..†	..†	..†	..†
United Kingdom	78	102	36	12,018	27,527	9,584
	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.			Total Amount of Wages Paid.		
	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.
London:—						
County	16,904	35,350	25,350	2,378	6,329	5,670
Outer	14,278	29,285	13,586	2,535	5,303	2,443
Other Places in England and Wales						
.. .. .	39,857	119,415	24,727	6,228	19,693	4,142
.. .. .	39,647	53,412	34,576	4,912	6,661	4,115
Scotland	1,197	26,841	..†	120	2,984	26
Ireland†	..†	..†	..†	..†	..†
United Kingdom	111,883	284,323	99,239	16,803	40,973	16,405

BOY LABOUR.

The Royal Commission on the Poor Laws have published a Report prepared for them by Mr. Cyril Jackson on the main occupations followed by boys on leaving public elementary schools and the extent to which such boys subsequently obtain regular employment as adults.

Mr. Jackson states that he is impressed by the enormous proportion (between 70 and 80 per cent.) of boys who are leaving school and entering unskilled occupations and considers the evidence as to the difficulty which such boys find in getting into permanent work of a satisfactory kind to be overwhelming. Boys of 13 or 14 easily find unskilled work involving long hours of deteriorating routine, which lasts for a few years and then leaves the boy unfitted for, or unable to enter a skilled occupation.

Among the remedies suggested is the extension of State regulation of boy labour by further raising the age of school attendance, or by a system of compulsory continuation schools. Mr. Jackson remarks that the removal of the supply of cheap boy labour under 15 would probably lead to useful readjustments of industry, and to the substitution of mechanical labour for some of their work, and to a greater employment of adult labour and that the establishment of labour exchanges for boys leaving school would be of value in securing good openings to the more intelligent boys.

Appendices to the Report contain charts and tables relating to the occupations entered by a considerable number of boys in different centres, together with memoranda on various aspects of boy labour, contributed by local investigators.

The Report concludes with a memorandum from the General Post Office on the conditions of employment of telegraph messengers.

* Registers closed.
 † Royal Commission on the Poor Laws. Appendix Volume XX. Cd., 4632, Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price, 3s. 6d.
 ‡ All on piecework.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN GERMANY IN 1908.

The official statistics of strikes and lock-outs published in the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department) for April, show that the number of labour disputes terminated in Germany in 1908 was 1,524 (1,347 strikes and 177 lock-outs). Compared with 1907 there was a decrease of 988, or 39·3 per cent., the strikes in that year numbering 2,266, and the lock-outs 246. The decline in the number of workpeople affected by disputes was even more marked, the figures having fallen from 286,016 in 1907 to 119,781 in 1908, or by 58·1 per cent.

The following Table shows the extent to which various groups of trades were affected by disputes in the two years:—

Trade Group.	No. of Disputes terminated.		No. of Workpeople directly or indirectly affected by such Disputes.	
	1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.
Building	595	788	30,016	90,890
Mining, Smelting, &c., Salt, Turf	43	95	8,601	24,346
Metal and Engineering	197	365	51,332	49,114
Textile	57	103	17,064	16,970
Clothing and Cleaning	108	174	6,086	24,414
Transport	33	102	2,055	8,630
Printing and Paper	26	53	1,331	2,643
Stones and Earths, Chemical, &c.	182	237	10,155	15,819
Woodworking, &c.	173	225	6,591	23,987
Food Preparation	106	186	3,162	11,628
Leather, &c.	40	56	7,707	4,399
Commerce	35	94	1,107	11,225
Other	19	34	573	1,971
Total	1,524	2,512	119,781	286,016

Thus, as regards frequency of disputes, the decline in 1908 was common to all the trade groups, while, as regards the number of workpeople affected, the textile group alone showed a slight increase in that year, as compared with 1907.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, 1908.

According to the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1908,† the total number of factories under inspection, including laundries with power machinery, was 110,691, and of workshops, including laundries without power machinery, 149,398. These figures represent increases of 415 and 2,481 respectively as compared with the previous year.

The total number of accidents reported in 1908 was 122,154, a decrease of 2,171 as compared with 1907. Of these 1,042 were fatal accidents, a decrease on the previous year of 137. Higher speed, increased use of machinery, and better reporting have all had a tendency of recent years to keep up the number of recorded accidents and to obscure to a certain extent the fact that working conditions are relatively safer now than they were some years ago. In the great industries of the north, however, the combined effects of depression in trade and of strikes and lock-outs have resulted in a big drop in the returns of both fatal and non-fatal accidents in those districts.

There were 727 cases of poisoning and anthrax, an increase of 74 over 1907, the number of deaths being 40 in each of the two years. The deaths from anthrax fell from 11 to 7.

The number of children and young persons medically examined during 1908 for certificates of fitness to work in factories and workshops was 370,809, a decrease of 56,266 as compared with 1907; 360,610 were certified, and of the remaining 10,199 6,213 were rejected on medical grounds and 4,242 on account of insufficient age or of want of evidence of age. The following table shows the number certified in 1906, 1907 and 1908:—

	1906.	1907.	1908.
Children under 14 (half-timers)	20,790	21,948	18,336
Young Persons between 13 and 14 (full-timers)	21,259	22,364	18,156
.. .. .			
.. .. .			
.. .. .			
.. .. .			
Total	35,049	44,312	36,492

Factories and Workshops. Cd. 4632. Price 1d. Cd. 4664; price 2s. 4d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

Of the total number of half-timers employed, 36,492, Lancashire and Cheshire account for 23,273 and Yorkshire for 8,579. As regards young persons who were full timers, 77,625 were employed in Lancashire and Cheshire, and 45,785 in Yorkshire.

The number of prosecutions for offences against the various acts was 3,441 a reduction of 1,033 as compared with 1907. The decrease is stated to be due to the fewer number of cases of time cribbing and to slackness of trade generally.

The report contains detailed information with regard to industrial accidents and diseases as well as reports from the various divisional and other inspectors.

CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS, 1909.

THE Forty-first Annual Co-operative Congress was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne during Whit-week, when about 1,700 delegates were present from co-operative societies in the United Kingdom, together with deputations from co-operative organisations in Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

Mr. W. R. Rae, of Sunderland Co-operative Society, presided over the Congress, which was convened by the Co-operative Union. The report of the Union stated that 1,251 societies were now members, comprising an aggregate membership of 2,376,126, or 94.4 per cent. of the total membership of societies eligible for membership of the Union.

Statistics relating to 1,548 co-operative societies were submitted to the Congress, and showed that in 1908 the aggregate membership was 2,516,194, the share capital £33,244,980, the trade for the year £107,550,654, and the profit £11,728,647. Among the resolutions discussed and adopted by the Congress were those in favour of the removal of the restrictions upon the importation of live Canadian cattle; of a minimum wage for co-operative adult male employees of 24s. per week and of 17s. per week for adult female labour, with a sliding scale according to age for young people under 21 years of age; of the adoption of means for preventing overlapping of societies in certain districts; the promotion by co-operative societies of garden suburbs and villages in connection with their factories and workshops; and in support of the international alliance of co-operative societies.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

THE only persons for whom there is an active demand in Canada now, are experienced farm labourers, farmers financially able to take homesteads or to purchase lands, and female domestic servants. There has this year been a marked increase in the general industrial activity, and the building, engineering, lumbering, mining, clothing, and many other trades are favourably reported upon. The coal mining industry at Crows Nest has been seriously interfered with by disputes. The Canadian Government have, for the present, ceased to pay a bonus for men to undertake work upon railway construction, from which it may be inferred that there is at present no marked demand for such men. Mechanics and unskilled labourers are not advised to go to Canada now, unless they go to assured employment upon arrival or land with enough money in their pockets to live upon until they can obtain work. 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. od.)—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

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

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, goal, prison, or hospital, or other charitable institution, he or she may, under the existing Canadian law, be deported, after investigation of the facts, together with all those dependent on him or her.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Farm labourers and female domestic servants can obtain assisted passages to New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia. In New South Wales employment in the country districts in most trades has been reported as fair, but the indications suggest that the usual seasonal slackness is likely to prevail during the winter months. The serious wages disputes at the Broken Hill silver mines have now ceased. Employment in Sydney and its suburbs is reported upon as follows:—The building trades, from fair to good; the iron trades, with the exception of blacksmiths and moulders, quiet; in the sawmill and timber yards, very good; and the furniture trades, good. The demand for mechanics or labourers is not, however, large. Neither is there any special demand for such men in other parts of Australia, and mechanics and general labourers should not, therefore, emigrate unless they are able to land with sufficient money upon which to live until employment can be obtained.

New Zealand.

Emigrants are not advised to go to New Zealand until August, when the busy season commences. According to the latest published Journal of the Department of Labour, the condition of trade and employment in New Zealand for the month ending March 31st, in the majority of districts reported upon, was as follows:—Agricultural operations, fair or busy; cycle and motor trades, coachbuilding trades, printing trades, leather trades, and clothing trades, fair; wood-working trades, fair or quiet; building trades, fair, quiet, or slack; engineering trades, fair or quiet. The best openings in New Zealand are for farmers, agricultural labourers, shepherds, men able to milk cows, and female domestic servants. Reduced passages are offered to these classes. 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.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—There is some demand for approved female domestic servants, who should apply to the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. Other persons are warned against going out 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. 181 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 April.—In the building and allied trades the revival was complete in April. The metal trades continued moderately well employed. In the textile trades employment appeared to have improved on the whole in the Nord, while the activity in the cotton centres of the Vosges and Normandy continued unabated. In the smaller districts of Maine-et-Loire and Vendée employment was again satisfactory. In the silk trade, both in the Loire Department

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

and the Lyons district, the revival was almost general, especially in the velvet branches. The tailoring and dressmaking trades were in their busy season, and in the printing trades employment showed no perceptible decline. Dockers, coopers and leather dressers reported a good deal of unemployment. There was an appreciable increase in employment among vineyard workers in the South of France, and woodmen easily found work as agricultural labourers while awaiting the bark-peeling season. Employment among gardeners around Paris continued good.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed on a given date in April were received by the French Labour Department from 1,006 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 240,659. Excluding returns from the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 6.4 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 8.4* per cent. in the previous month and 9.6 per cent. in April, 1908. (As regards these figures see note above under "Labour Abroad.")

Labour Disputes in April.—One hundred and twenty-five disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in April, compared with 90 in the previous month and 123* in April, 1908. In 119 of the new disputes, 10,089 workpeople took part, compared with 10,469 who took part in the 90 March disputes, and 8,626 who took part in 101 of the disputes of April, 1908. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (45), textile (31), metal (11), transport (9), woodworking (8), and stones and earth group (7). Of 108 new and old disputes which were reported to have terminated, 18 ended in favour of the workpeople and 33 in favour of the employers, while 57 were compromised.

Coal Mining in April.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during April was 5.96, as compared with 5.94 in the preceding month, and 5.99 in April, 1908. Taking surface and underground workers together, 88.44 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 10.91 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 84.31 and 14.92, and in April, 1908, 95.88 and 4.12.

Conciliation and Arbitration in April.—Thirteen instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in April. In 2 cases the employers refused to take part in any proceedings. Committees of conciliation were formed in 11 cases, resulting in the settlement of 7 disputes, an eighth being afterwards settled by arbitration; in the remaining 3 cases no agreement was arrived at by the committee.

Strike of Seamen at Marseilles.—Despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Marseilles, dated May 25th and 26th, report a strike of seamen at that port. The dispute arose out of the interpretation of certain clauses in the law of April 17th, 1907, on the manning and labour conditions of the French mercantile marine (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, May, 1907). Although a partial agreement had been arrived at in the case of several shipping companies and their crews, a strike was decided upon by the Marseilles seamen on May 24th. The strikers demanded (1) an uninterrupted rest of twenty-four hours every seven days, or, failing that, an additional day's pay; (2) that no crew should be paid off unless the vessel should remain in port over thirty days; and (3) that no Arab firemen or trimmers should be engaged on French vessels.

Newspaper reports of June 5th and June 7th state that the dispute was practically at an end at Marseilles on those dates. It was estimated that at the end of May the strikers numbered 4,000.

GERMANY.

Employment in April.—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour

* Revised figure.

Department) for the month of May:—"Lack of uniformity continued to characterise the aspect of the labour market. Compared with the previous month certain of the large industries showed little or no improvement. There was some revival in the Ruhr coal market, but this was partly due to the deliveries of coal at summer prices, the ordering of which had been held over from the previous month in anticipation of lower rates. On the other hand the mild weather caused a decline in the market for house coal and briquettes. The engineering trades were in general better employed than in March, but the improvement was by no means universally felt, the state of the heavy machinery industry of Upper Silesia, for example, being still unfavourable. In the electrical trades a partial decline set in, chiefly affecting the manufacture of accumulators and dynamos. Cable works were better employed. In certain branches of the textile trades activity increased, but spinning mills were still insufficiently employed. As is usual in April the general aspect of the labour market was affected by the revival of activity in certain seasonal trades. Chief among these were the building trades, which, however, were not fully employed, and the various branches of the clothing trades. The warmer weather had a favourable effect upon employment in the brewing trades, while the printing trades entered on their slack season."

*Wages and Hours of Labour of Cigar-Sorters and Cigar-Boxmakers in Germany.**—In October, 1907, the German Federation of Cigar-Sorters and Cigar-Boxmakers carried out an investigation as to the wages and hours of labour in these trades throughout the Empire. Returns were obtained from 131 localities, giving information with regard to 3,465 cigar-sorters (2,265 men and 1,200 women) and 2,214 cigar-boxmakers (981 men and 1,233 women) working for 492 firms. It was found that, of the 5,679 workers whose wages were investigated, 4,090 were employed on piecework, the proportion so employed being about 93 per cent. among the sorters and 39 per cent. among the boxmakers. The following Table, summarises the information obtained as to the earnings of pieceworkers:—

Range of Weekly Earnings of Pieceworkers.	Cigar Sorters.				Box Makers.			
	Men.		Women.		Men.		Women.	
	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
14s. 6d. and under ...	187	9.0	650	57.7	56	26.3	505	76.5
Over 14s. 6d. up to 17s. 8d.	330	15.8	277	24.6	61	28.6	97	14.7
" 17s. 8d. " 20s. 8d.	417	19.9	117	10.4	37	17.4	46	7.0
" 20s. 8d. " 23s. 7d.	397	19.0	57	5.1	29	13.6	11	1.7
" 23s. 7d. " 26s. 7d.	337	16.1	17	1.5	19	8.9	1	0.1
" 26s. 7d. " 29s. 6d.	220	10.5	8	0.7	8	3.8	...	...
" 29s. 6d. " 32s. 5d.	124	5.9	...	...	2	0.9	...	...
" 32s. 5d. ...	79	3.8	...	...	1	0.5	...	...
Total ...	2,091	100.0	1,126	100.0	213	100.0	660	100.0

It appears, therefore, that among men nearly 40 per cent. of the cigar-sorters earned between 17s. 8d. and 23s. 7d. per week, while the earnings of male boxmakers were lower, nearly 55 per cent. receiving 17s. 8d. or less for a week's work. Among women, over 82 per cent. of the cigar-sorters received 17s. 8d. or less per week, while three-fourths of the boxmakers earned 14s. 6d. or less.

Both among sorters and boxmakers the 10-hours day was the rule for nearly one-half of the workpeople investigated, and only 3.8 per cent. of the former and 5.9 per cent. of the latter worked more than 10 hours.

BELGIUM.†

Employment in April.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 3.0 per cent. of the 49,177 members of 223 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of April, as compared with 3.8 per cent. in the preceding month, and 3.1 per cent. in April, 1908. The last figure excludes returns relating to Antwerp diamond workers, who were suffering an exceptional degree of unemployment a year ago.

* Statistische Aufnahme über die Arbeits- und Lohnverhältnisse der Zigarrensortierer und Kistenkleber Deutschlands, aufgenommen im Oktober, 1907. Hamburg: Verlag von Carl Arnold, 1908.

† Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

Labour Disputes in April.—Twelve strikes, affecting 1,267 workpeople (1,111 directly and 156 indirectly) were reported to have commenced in April. Of 12 strikes, including 10 of the above, which were stated to have terminated, 11, affecting 1,197 workpeople, ended in favour of the employers, and one, affecting 300 workpeople, was compromised.

SWEDEN.

Hours of Labour and Working Conditions in Sawmills.—A despatch from H.M. Consul at Stockholm, dated May 27th, gives the text of an agreement recently concluded between the Sawmill Owners and the Association of Swedish Sawmill Labourers. The usual daily working hours are fixed at 10, with an hour less on Saturdays and eves of holidays. Special rates of wages are fixed for overtime, ranging from 25 to 100 per cent. above the ordinary rates. The agreement also contains provisions intended to supplement those of the Swedish Workmen's (Accident) Compensation Law of 1901. Under that law no daily cash allowance is payable to a workman incapacitated by an accident in respect of the first 60 days of his incapacity. Under the present agreement it is provided that the statutory allowance of 1s. 1½d. per day shall commence from the fourth day of incapacity. Labourers and their families domiciled in the locality are to receive free medical attendance, and labourers are also to receive free nursing at the local hospital, and, in case of accident, free medicine.

Lock-out in Building Material Trades.—Despatches from H.M. Minister and H.M. Acting-Consul at Stockholm, to the Foreign Office, and to the Board of Trade respectively, report that a lock-out of about 3,500 men employed in cement, chalk and brick works in the south and centre of Sweden was declared on May 17th. This was soon brought to an end through the intervention of the government arbitrator, whose proposals were accepted by the workpeople. The result has been almost wholly in favour of the employers, as six out of the seven points at issue were decided in their favour.

NORWAY.*

Employment in April.—The following table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed in certain Trade Unions which made returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics for each of the three months, April and March, 1909, and April, 1908:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.	April, 1909.	Mar., 1909.	April, 1908.
Carpenters	840	843	932	5.6	13.2	3.8
Painters	450	430	550	0.4	20.7	0.4
Metal Workers	5,065	5,334	5,332	3.7	3.8	1.3
Boot and Shoe Makers	551	554	540	1.3	5.6	...
Printers	1,579	1,579	1,483	2.2	2.4	1.3
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers	786	783	761	2.2	...	...
Sawyers and Planers	407	425	691	8.1	5.6	19.7
Cabinet Makers	392	392	335	3.1	2.0	1.2
Bakers	270	250	200	6.7	9.6	13.5
Total	10,340	10,400	10,604	3.5	5.0	2.7

(As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 190.)

SPAIN.

New Law on Labour Disputes and Combinations.—H.M. Ambassador at Madrid, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated May 12th, supplies a translation of a law of April 27th, 1909,† on the subject of collective labour disputes and associations of employers or workpeople in Spain. The following are among the main provisions of the new law:—Employers and workpeople may combine or declare a strike or lock-out for the purpose of their respective interests, without prejudice to rights arising out of contracts into which they may have entered. Persons who endeavour to bring about, maintain or prevent such combinations or such stoppages of work by violence or threats or by pressure "sufficient to constrain or force the mind of workpeople or employers in the

* *Arbeidsmarkedet*, published by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.
† The text of this law appears in the *Boletín del Instituto de Reformas Sociales*, the Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, for May.

free and legal exercise of their industry or work" are to be punished by imprisonment or fine, and disturbers of the public peace, and those who assemble with the recognised intention of violently compelling anyone to strike or suspend work, or of obliging anyone to desist from such strike or suspension of work, are liable to imprisonment. Persons inducing others to commit any of the above acts shall receive the maximum penalty provided. When a strike or lock-out tends to bring about a stoppage of the supply of light or water or the suspension of the working of railways, or when, as a result of a dispute, the inmates of the infirmaries or asylums of a town would be left without assistance, notice must be given to the authorities eight days in advance. In cases where a strike or lock-out would tend to suspend the working of tramways, or would result in all the inhabitants of a town being deprived of some article of general and necessary consumption, five days' notice must be given. Where the notice is not given within the time allowed, the leaders and promoters of strikes or lock-outs are to be punished by imprisonment.

Legally constituted associations may form or maintain unions, strikes or lock-outs, in conformity with the provisions of this law, but they may not oblige members to adhere to a union, strike, or lock-out, through means incompatible with the free exercise of their rights.

UNITED STATES.

Unemployment in Massachusetts: End of First Quarter of 1909.—Advance proofs of the *Massachusetts Labour Bulletin* for May, kindly forwarded by the director of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics, give statistics of unemployment among members of Trade Unions in the State on March 31st, based on returns from 777 Unions with 105,059 members. The statistics for December 31st, 1908, were based on returns from 770 Unions with 102,941 members, and those for a year ago, (when they were published for the first time by the Bureau), on returns from 256 Unions with 66,968 members

The figures are summarised in the following Table:—

Cause of Unemployment.	Members of Trade Unions returned as Unemployed.					
	Number.			Percentage.		
	Mar. 31st, 1909.	Dec. 31st, 1908.	Mar. 31st, 1908.	Mar. 31st, 1909.	Dec. 31st, 1908.	Mar. 31st, 1908.
Lack of Work or Material...	9,980	11,302	10,832	9.50	10.98	16.18
Unfavourable Weather...	138	554	113	0.13	0.54	0.17
Strikes or Lock-outs	172	765	487	0.16	0.68	0.73
Disability	1,354	1,254	512	1.29	1.23	0.76
Other Causes... ..	353	530	43	0.34	0.51	0.06
Total	11,997	14,435	11,987	11.42	13.94	17.90

Thus the percentage unemployed on March 31st, taking account of all causes was 11.42, as compared with 13.94 on December 31st, and 17.90 a year ago. Excluding unemployment due to strikes or lock-outs and disability, the percentages at these dates were 9.97, 12.03 and 16.41 respectively.

Strike on Great Lakes.—A despatch from H.M. Consul at Philadelphia to the Foreign Office, dated May 21st, reports that on May 1st a strike was declared against the Lake Carriers' Association by the Trade Unions of the engineers, firemen, cooks and stewards, and deck-hands engaged in navigation on the Great Lakes. Of the approximate total membership of these organisations (24,600) the number affected by the strike was 18,550, of whom 12,000 were deck-hands, 4,000 firemen, 1,050 engineers, and 1,500 cooks and stewards. The cause of the strike was the policy adopted by the carriers of employing men irrespective of whether they were unionists or not. The Lake Carriers' Association represents 80 per cent. of the tonnage of the Great Lakes. Of the 136 vessels which the association had in commission when the strike was declared a number were delayed; but the carriers claimed that they could obtain all the men they wanted

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES

IN MAY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 503 Returns—446 from Employers, 43 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry was fair on the whole during May, but showed a decline as compared with both a month and a year ago. Comparison with April, 1909, is affected by the Easter holidays.

Returns relating to 1,350 pits employing 669,077 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended May 22nd, 1909, was 5.07 as compared with 4.86, in April, 1909 (when 0.59 of a day per week was lost on account of holidays) and 5.48 in May, 1908.

Of the 669,077 workpeople covered by the Returns 445,764 (or 66.6 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended May 22nd, 1909, while 352,803 (52.7 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended May 22nd was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.69), and the lowest in Derbyshire (3.90).

The following Table shows the average number of days per week worked by the pits during the four weeks ended May 22nd, 1909, together with the figures for similar periods in April, 1909, and May, 1908:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in May, 1909, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+ or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with	
		May 22nd, 1909.	April 24th, 1909.*	May 23rd, 1908.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	45,799	5.32	5.17	5.45	+ 0.15	- 0.13
Durham	116,470	5.41	5.05	5.47	+ 0.36	- 0.06
Cumberland	7,350	5.32	5.18	5.26	+ 0.14	+ 0.06
South Yorkshire	71,753	5.23	4.85	5.74	+ 0.38	- 0.51
West Yorkshire	27,977	4.82	4.67	5.47	+ 0.15	- 0.65
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,435	4.61	4.62	5.15	- 0.01	- 0.54
Derbyshire	42,795	3.90	4.31	5.22	- 0.41	- 1.32
Nottingham and Leicester	34,979	3.98	4.11	4.96	- 0.13	- 0.98
Staffordshire	29,532	4.71	4.76	5.43	- 0.05	- 0.72
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop	8,714	4.46	4.61	5.57	- 0.15	- 1.11
Gloucester and Somerset	8,012	4.54	4.53	5.12	+ 0.01	- 0.58
North Wales	10,670	4.75	4.76	5.66	- 0.01	- 0.91
South Wales and Mon.	152,102	5.69	5.14	5.65	+ 0.55	- 0.17
ENGLAND AND WALES	613,887	5.09	4.86	5.61	+ 0.23	- 0.52
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland	24,752	4.80	4.90	4.99	- 0.10	- 0.19
The Lothians	4,302	4.66	4.60	5.17	+ 0.06	- 0.51
Fife	25,761	4.88	4.73	5.35	+ 0.15	- 0.47
SCOTLAND	54,815	4.63	4.60	5.14	+ 0.03	- 0.51
IRELAND	575	4.83	5.10	4.46	- 0.27	+ 0.37
United Kingdom	669,077	5.07	4.86	5.48	+ 0.21	- 0.41

Compared with April (after making allowance for the holidays in that month) there was a decline, which was most marked in Yorkshire, the Midland Counties and in North Wales. In West Scotland and the Lothians employment remained about the same; in Fife there was a slight improvement. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease in the average number of days worked per week in every district except Cumberland and Ireland. The decreases were greatest in Derbyshire (1.32 days per week), Warwick, Worcester and Salop (1.11 days per week), Nottingham and Leicester (0.98 of a day per week), and in North Wales (0.91 of a day per week).

* 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.

This period includes Easter Holidays.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged:—

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in May, 1909, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in the Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with	
		May 22nd, 1909.	April 24th, 1909.*	May 23rd, 1908.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite	8,147	Days. 5.85	Days. 5.13	Days. 5.71	+ .76	+ .12
Coking	34,788	5.37	5.11	5.54	+ .26	- .17
Gas	43,229	5.24	4.86	5.39	+ .38	- .15
House	82,723	4.41	5.15	5.19	- .74	- .78
Manufacturing and Steam	279,633	5.27	4.94	5.61	+ .33	- .34
Mixed	220,557	4.96	4.82	5.43	+ .14	- .47
All Descriptions	669,077	5.07	4.86	5.48	+ .21	- .41

Compared with a year ago there was an improvement at pits producing anthracite coal. In all other cases there was a decline, which amounted to 0.78 of a day per week at pits producing house coal.

The **Exports** of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in May, 1909, amounted to 6,146,481 tons, or 994,264 tons more than in April, 1909, and 156,337 tons more than in May, 1908.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 80 Returns—60 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good in iron mines, and, after making due allowance for holidays, showed little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. At shale mines it showed some decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

At tin, copper and lead mines employment was moderate. In quarries, employment, though still dull generally, showed some improvement as compared with a month ago. With setmakers it continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended May 22nd, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.82, as compared with 5.60 in April, 1909, and 5.74 a year ago. In April, however, about a quarter of a day per week was lost on account of holidays.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in May, 1909, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with	
		May, 22nd, 1909.	April, 24th, 1909.*	May, 23rd, 1908.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland... ..	7,701	Days. 5.95	Days. 5.76	Days. 5.80	+ 0.19	+ 0.15
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,536	5.88	5.52	5.75	+ 0.36	+ 0.13
Scotland	828	5.79	5.67	5.08	+ 0.12	+ 0.71
Other Districts	2,124	5.26	5.21	5.72	+ 0.05	- 0.46
All Districts	15,429	5.82	5.60	5.74	+ 0.22	+ 0.08

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 94.7 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended May 22nd, as compared with 87.6 per cent. a month ago, and 83.0 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,265 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended May 22nd, as compared with 3,320

* Easter Holidays are included in this period, and affect the comparison with a month ago.

in April, and 3,363 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended May 22nd was 5.29, as compared with 5.51 a month ago, and 5.71 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment was still bad in the Calstock district; it continued fair in the Camborne district; on the whole, it was not so good as a year ago.

Lead Mining.—Employment in North Wales was bad, and worse than a month ago. In Weardale it was fair. In Derbyshire it was good.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was slack, and rather worse than a month ago in North Wales. At Ballachulish (Argyllshire) it continued quiet. In both districts much short time was worked.

Granite.—In the macadam branch in Leicestershire employment was good, and better than a month ago. On Dartmoor it continued dull; but in Cornwall it was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Aberdeenshire it showed an improvement as compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago.

Limestone.—Employment was slack and worse than a month ago in the Buxton district. It was fair in North Wales. In Upper Weardale it was fairly good, and rather better than a month ago. In the Cleveland district employment continued fair, but short time was still worked at some quarries. Employment continued quiet in the Plymouth district. In the Somerset blue lias quarries it was moderate and rather better than a month ago.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good in the Cleve Hill road material quarries. In the "Bath" stone quarries it continued slack. In the sandstone quarries in North Wales and in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries it was fair. In freestone quarries at Gateshead it was moderate. In the grindstone quarries at Wickersley employment continued slack. In Forfarshire it was bad and worse than a month ago. Employment was fairly good and better than a month ago in the chert quarries at Bakewell.

Settling.—Employment was fairly good generally in North Wales, in the Sheffield district and in Scotland. In Leicestershire it continued good. It was on the whole better than a year ago.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district; at Lee Moor it was quiet.

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 May continued moderate. It was about the same as a year ago. The dispute in Lincolnshire affected employment during April and the first half of May.

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with	
	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland	77	77	78	...	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs. ...	29	27	25	+ 2	+ 4
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	12	12	11	...	+ 1
Derby & Nottingham	30	32	34	- 2	- 4
Leicester, Lincoln, & Northampton	25	14*	16	+11*	- 1
Stafford & Worcester	34	34	31	...	+ 3
S. Wales & Monmouth	8	9	13	- 1	- 5
Other districts ...	5	6	6	- 1	- 1
England & Wales	220	211	224	+ 9	- 4
Scotland	69	89	63	...	+ 6
Total	289	280	287	+ 9	+ 2

* Eleven furnaces damped down owing to a dispute; they were relit in the middle of May on the termination of the dispute.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of May, 1909, was 289, as compared with 280 in April, 1909, and 287 in May, 1908. Fourteen furnaces were re-lit during the month (11 in Lincolnshire, on the termination of the dispute which began in April, 2 in Lancashire, and 1 in Cumberland), and 5 were either damped down or blown out (2 in Derbyshire, and 1 each in Cumberland, Monmouthshire and Flintshire).

The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 21,700 in May, 1909; an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The Imports of iron ore in May, 1909, amounted to 494,442 tons, or 6,777 tons more than in April, 1909, but 17,426 tons less than in May, 1908.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in May, 1909, amounted to 114,761 tons, or 8,643 tons more than in April, 1909, and 138 tons more than in May, 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 was very good. It was better than a month ago and a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 398 tinplate mills were working at the end of May, 1909, as compared with 392 a month ago, and 387 a year ago. The number of sheet mills working at the same dates were 52, 46, and 51 respectively.

The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,500 workpeople.

	Number of Works open.*		Number of Mills in operation.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	At end of May, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	At end of May, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Year ago.	
					Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate Works	75	+ 2	398	+ 6	+ 11	
Steel Sheet Works	8	- 1	52	+ 6	+ 1	
Total	83	+ 2	450	+ 12	+ 12	

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

	May, 1909.			April, 1909.			May, 1908.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Year ago.		
							Month ago.	Year ago.			
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.											
To United States	6,250	6,401	7,692	151	1,442						
British East Indies ...	4,692	4,408	3,748	- 284	- 844						
Germany	2,589	2,742	3,612	+ 247	+ 623						
France	1,895	1,572	2,471	+ 333	- 576						
Netherlands	3,752	2,280	2,133	+ 1,472	+ 1,619						
Other Countries	19,685	19,628	16,451	+ 57	+ 3,234						
Total	39,263	37,031	38,107	+ 2,232	+ 3,156						
Black Plates for Tinning.											
Total	5,683	5,198	6,981	- 115	- 1,298						

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 216 Returns—197 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 5 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago.

* 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 actually in operation.

The volume of employment during the week ended May 22nd, 1909 (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked), was about 470,600, showing an increase of 10,200 shifts (or 2.2 per cent.) as compared with April, 1909, and a decrease of 2,000 shifts (or 0.4 per cent.) as compared with May, 1908.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	In week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		In week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
IRON						
Puddling Forges	9,574	+ 260	- 260	4.62	+ 0.02	+ 0.09
Rolling Mills	3,915	+ 55	+ 38	4.71	+ 0.24	+ 0.06
Forging	459	+ 16	+ 31	4.84	- 0.38	- 0.70
Founding	1,828	- 64	+ 12	5.77	...	- 0.22
Other Departments ...	650	+ 19	...	5.82	+ 0.15	+ 0.02
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,692	- 16	- 150	5.41	...	- 0.02
Total, Iron	18,118	+ 270	- 309	4.88	+ 0.08	+ 0.03
STEEL						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	7,581	+ 218	- 62	5.81	+ 0.07	+ 0.02
Crucible Furnaces ...	549	- 2	+ 6	5.01	+ 0.09	+ 0.20
Bessemer Converters ...	1,990	+ 236	+ 303	4.99	+ 0.03	- 0.19
Rolling Mills	14,943	+ 725	+ 1,286	5.03	...	+ 0.03
Forging and Pressing ...	2,617	- 39	- 219	5.24	- 0.06	+ 0.06
Founding	6,888	- 73	- 479	5.78	- 0.01	- 0.05
Other Departments ...	6,768	+ 60	+ 208	5.75	- 0.03	...
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,474	+ 9	+ 117	5.92	+ 0.01	- 0.02
Total, Steel	48,770	+ 1,014	+ 1,160	5.80	...	- 0.02
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished)						
Rolling Mills	10,323	+ 293	- 691	4.88	+ 0.09	- 0.01
Forging and Pressing ...	681	+ 31	- 57	5.48	+ 0.32	+ 0.09
Founding	685	- 44	- 53	5.73	...	- 0.09
Other Departments ...	3,379	+ 31	+ 201	5.74	+ 0.02	- 0.06
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,595	+ 63	- 525	5.72	- 0.08	- 0.06
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	21,463	+ 380	- 1,108	5.31	+ 0.02	- 0.03
Grand Total	88,381	+ 1,664	- 284	5.33	+ 0.02	...
Districts.						
Northumberland & Durham	9,693	+ 201	- 776	4.98	- 0.15	- 0.12
Cleveland	7,895	+ 50	- 42	5.60	+ 0.10	- 0.18
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	15,036	+ 138	- 557	5.51	- 0.09	+ 0.04
Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns	4,127	+ 43	- 387	5.36	+ 0.27	+ 0.03
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	9,441	+ 810	+ 403	5.17	+ 0.04	...
Staffordshire	10,175	+ 549	+ 93	5.30	+ 0.11	+ 0.02
Other Midland Counties ...	4,745	- 29	+ 63	5.22	+ 0.04	- 0.02
Wales and Monmouth ...	10,465	+ 16	+ 698	5.33	- 0.22	- 0.14
Total, England and Wales	72,177	+ 1,778	- 691	5.34	+ 0.01	- 0.02
Scotland	16,174	- 114	+ 437	5.28	+ 0.07	+ 0.08
Total	88,381	+ 1,664	- 284	5.33	+ 0.02	...

Compared with a month ago, there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in all districts except "Other Midland Counties" and in Scotland; the increases were greatest in Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire, and in Staffordshire. The departments chiefly affected by these increases were the steel rolling mills, puddling forges, open hearth melting furnaces and Bessemer converters.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.33 as compared with 5.31 in April. There was an improvement in the Leeds, Bradford, &c., district, but in Wales and Monmouth there was a decline. In the departments there were increases at iron rolling mills and at iron or steel forges. There was not much change in any of the other principal departments.

Compared with a year ago there were increases in the number employed in Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, Wales and Monmouth, and in Scotland; while there were decreases in the Northumberland and Durham, Sheffield and Rotherham, and Leeds and Bradford districts.

As regards departments the most marked increases in the numbers employed were at steel rolling mills and Bessemer converters; the largest decrease was at iron or steel rolling mills.

The average number of shifts worked was the same as in May, 1908, and there was little change in any of the principal districts or departments.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during May, 1909, amounted to 86,197 tons, or 10,511 tons less than in April, 1909, but 7,446 tons more than in May, 1908.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during May, 1909, amounted to 198,670 tons, or 13,109 tons less than in April, 1909, and 26,870 tons less than in May, 1908.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,008 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 960 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 40 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued slack on the whole, and showed little general change as compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago. The usual Whitsun holidays were extended in many cases.

Returns from Trade Unions having a membership of 172,043 show that at the end of May the percentage unemployed was 12.5, as compared with 12.4 per cent. a month ago, and 9.6 per cent. at the end of May, 1908. Compared with a month ago there was a slight improvement in employment in ten districts, and a decline in four districts. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement on the North-East Coast (where employment last year was affected by disputes) and also in the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry district; all the other districts, except Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester (which showed no change) showed a decline in employment, which was specially noticeable in the Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn district and in the East of Scotland.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of May, 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for May, 1909, as compared with a	
		May, 1909.	Aprl, 1909.	May, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		May, 1909.	Aprl, 1909.	May, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	15,212	20.4	19.8	30.7†	+ 0.6	- 10.3
Manchester and Liverpool	19,131	13.1	11.3	8.3	+ 1.8	+ 4.8
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,607	15.6	16.8	7.1	- 1.2	+ 8.5
West Riding Towns	12,577	13.4	14.2	10.9	- 0.8	+ 2.5
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,951	7.8	8.4	6.4	- 0.6	+ 1.4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,413	6.8	7.6	7.8	- 0.8	- 1.0
Notts. Derby and Leicester District	4,142	8.5	10.0	5	- 1.5	...
London and Neighbouring District	11,854	6.9	7.2	6.6	- 0.3	+ 0.3
South Coast	4,484	6.8	6.6	3.6	+ 0.2	+ 3.2
South Wales and Bristol District	6,670	7.2	7.4	4.1	- 0.2	+ 3.1
Glasgow and District	15,302	20.2	21.3	18.3	- 1.1	+ 1.9
East of Scotland	3,937	24.0	25.7	16.7	- 1.1	+ 7.9
Belfast and Dublin	3,560	13.7	13.3	12.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.6
Other Districts	5,577	8.4	8.7	8.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	172,043	12.5	12.4	9.6	+ 0.1	+ 2.9

On the North-East Coast employment continued slack, and one-fifth of the Trade Union members were unemployed. At Newcastle a decline was reported at ordnance works; but some overtime was still being worked. At railway locomotive works at Gateshead short time was worked. On the Wear employment continued very bad, with much short time.

In Lancashire employment generally continued slack, with considerable short time, and with makers of textile machinery it continued to decline. Employment was moderate at Horwich, Leigh and Newton.

In the West Riding of Yorkshire employment remained slack, and short time continued to be worked. At Hull employment was still slack, but at Lincoln it was good, with much overtime; at Grimsby it was fair, and at Doncaster it was moderate.

In the Midland Counties employment generally was slack, but better than a month ago. In the cycle and motor industries employment was moderate on the whole. At Nottingham it was good with lace machinery

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.
† Exclusive of Members on Strike.

builders and with bobbin and carriage makers, with whom overtime was reported. At Derby and Stoke-on-Trent employment was moderate.

Employment continued slack in London; at the Royal Dockyards it showed a decline on the previous month. In the Bristol and South Wales district employment continued slack, except with ironfounders, with whom it was fair.

In Scotland employment continued bad, and more than one-fifth of the Trade Union members were unemployed. It was, however, rather better than a month ago, except at Dundee, where a decline was reported.

At Belfast employment continued bad, except with brassfounders, with whom it was fair. At Dublin it continued bad.

The **Imports** of machinery in May, 1909, amounted to £456,752, or £64,169 more than in April, 1909, but £25,181 less than in May, 1908.

The **Exports** of machinery in May, 1909, amounted to £2,415,312, or £3,825 less than in April 1909, and £483,613 less than in May, 1908.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 373 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 351 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May continued bad. Compared with a year ago it showed a slight improvement.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,529 members had 13,701 (or 23.4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, 1909, as compared with 23.3 per cent. a month ago, and 26.1 per cent. a year ago.

Compared with a month ago there was an improvement in seven districts, of which the most noticeable were on the Mersey and Wear, and in the Tees and Hartlepool district. In five districts there was a decline, which was most marked at the British Channel Ports and in the Tyne and Blyth district. As compared with May, 1908, there was a marked improvement on the North-East Coast, but this comparison is affected by the dispute which was then in progress. In the Belfast district and at the British Channel Ports there was a considerable decline.

District.	No. of Members* at end of May, 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for May, 1909, as compared with a	
		May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,680	34.6	28.9	40.2†	+ 3.7	- 7.6
Wear	4,331	36.2	39.3	50.5†	- 3.1	- 14.3
Tees and Hartlepool	4,819	29.7	32.2	45.1†	- 2.5	- 13.4
Humber	2,725	15.7	16.3	16.8†	- 0.6	- 1.1
Thames and Medway	4,147	10.6	10.7	13.0	- 0.1	- 2.4
South Coast	4,670	7.5	6.7	4.1	+ 0.8	+ 3.4
British Channel Ports	4,776	21.8	15.2	13.6	+ 6.6	+ 8.2
Mersey	4,747	17.2	24.9	20.7†	- 7.7	- 3.5
Clyde	12,074	25.3	25.7	32.0†	- 0.4	- 6.5
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen	2,303	35.1	37.0	37.6†	- 1.9	- 2.5
Belfast	3,119	19.2	17.2	7.7	+ 2.0	+ 11.5
Other Districts	3,140	13.4	11.4	10.2†	+ 2.0	+ 3.2
United Kingdom	58,529	23.4	23.3	23.1†	+ 0.1	- 2.7

On the Tyne employment was bad, and worse than a month ago; at Jarrow, however, a slight improvement was reported. On the Wear employment continued very bad generally, but was rather better than a month ago.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was bad on the whole; with ship-repairers at Hartlepool it was fair, and at Middlesbrough moderate. On the Humber employment continued bad, but with shipwrights at Beverley at Selby it was fair.

In the Thames and Medway and on the South Coast employment continued slack generally, except

* Exclusive of superannuated members.
† Exclusive of members on strike or locked out.

with shipwrights at the Royal Dockyards, with whom it was good.

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

On the Clyde employment continued bad. On the east coast of Scotland employment continued very slack except with shipwrights at Aberdeen, with whom it was fair. Employment at Belfast continued dull.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 89 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 59 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull generally, and was, on the whole, rather worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 24,209 had 4.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, 1909, as compared with 4.3 per cent. a month ago and 4.2 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—At Birmingham employment was moderate with brassworkers, and bad with bedstead makers, short time being general.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment was quiet at Blackheath, Halesowen and Birmingham.

Wire.—With wire drawers employment was fair at Warrington, moderate at Sheffield and Halifax, slack at Middlesbrough.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment was fair in the enamelled hollow-ware branch, quiet but improving with hollow-ware tanners and turners; with hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich it was quiet. At Wolverhampton and Willenhall it was bad with lock and latch makers, and short time was worked.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was quiet at Rotherham; fair, and better than both a month ago and a year ago, at Falkirk.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—At Sheffield employment was moderate with edge tool grinders and in the file and saw branches; slack in other branches. At Birmingham it was moderate in the edge-tool trade. At Redditch it was fair in the needle trade, and better than a month ago. With fish-hook makers it was fairly good on the whole, and better than a month ago.

Tubes.—In South Staffordshire employment was poor; at Birmingham it improved, especially in the brazed brass and cased tube sections, where overtime was worked.

Chains, Anchors, and Springs.—Employment was bad in the chain and anchor trade at Cradley Heath, and with anchor smiths on the Wear. It was slack at Sheffield with railway spring fitters and vicemen. At Dudley anvil and vice makers continued working half-time.

Sheet Metal Workers.—With braziers and sheet metal workers employment was fairly good in the Midland towns, bad at Manchester, and quiet at Bolton. With tinplate workers it was fair at Oldham, good at Wolverhampton, Worcester and Nottingham, slack at Edinburgh and Leith, quiet at Birmingham. With iron plate workers it was good at the Lye, fair at Wolverhampton, Bilston and Dudley, quiet at Birmingham.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment was slack with goldsmiths, jewellers and silverworkers; good in the silver and electro-plate trade. With silversmiths at Sheffield it was bad. With jewellers, silversmiths and electroplaters at Birmingham it was quiet. With Britannia metal workers employment was quiet at Birmingham, slack at Sheffield. With watchmakers at Coventry it continued quiet.

Farriers.—Employment was reported as fair generally.

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

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Cutlery	£ 8,485	£ 15,761	£ 7,710	- 7,276	+ 775
Hardware	78,470	77,485	76,409	+ 985	+ 2,061
Exports:—					
Cutlery	48,107	48,248	50,103	- 141	- 1,993
Hardware	158,718	163,099	172,971	- 4,381	- 14,253
Implements and Tools	165,261	141,988	167,373	+ 23,273	- 2,112

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 428 Returns—336 received from Employers, partly direct, and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 85 from Trade Unions and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate during May; as compared with a year ago there was some improvement in the weaving branch. Short time and slackness were reported in the principal districts.

Returns from firms employing 115,346 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed, as compared with a month ago, no change in the numbers employed, and a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
			£	Per cent.
Departments.		Per cent.		Per cent.
Preparing	13,617	- 0.5	11,750	- 0.6
Spinning	24,130	+ 0.1	21,717	- 0.3
Weaving	53,439	+ 0.1	48,912	+ 1.1
Other	10,936	+ 0.8	11,350	+ 2.2
Departments not specified	14,124	+ 0.8	14,901	+ 0.6
Total	115,346	- 0.0	108,660	- 0.3
Districts.				
Ashton District	7,972	- 0.8	7,423	- 4.5
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,603	+ 0.5	5,874	+ 2.1
Oldham District	11,913	- 0.4	11,955	+ 3.5
Bolton and Leigh	11,904	- 0.0	11,118	- 0.3
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	7,784	- 0.1	7,286	+ 1.2
Manchester	8,953	- 0.6	7,210	- 3.1
Preston and Chorley	13,014	+ 0.6	11,569	+ 1.9
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	14,416	- 0.7	14,261	- 2.4
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	14,903	+ 0.3	16,332	+ 1.3
Other Lancashire Towns	5,059	- 0.2	4,384	+ 0.4
Yorkshire Towns	5,327	+ 0.9	4,739	- 2.6
Other Districts	7,498	+ 0.5	6,509	+ 1.4
Total	115,346	- 0.0	108,660	- 0.3

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago there was no marked change in the number employed in any of the departments. As regards the amount of wages paid there was, as compared with a month ago, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the weaving department and an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the "other" departments; as compared with a year ago the preparing and spinning departments showed decreases of 4.1 and 5.1 per cent. respectively, and the weaving department an increase of 7.3 per cent.

As compared with a month ago, the amount of wages paid showed an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the Oldham district and of about 2 per cent. in the Preston and

Stockport districts. There were decreases in the Ashton district (4.5 per cent.); in the Manchester district (3.1 per cent.); in the Blackburn district (2.4 per cent.); and in Yorkshire (2.6 per cent.). In the other districts there was not much change. As compared with a year ago the principal increases were 10.4 per cent. in the Burnley district; 8.0 per cent. in the Manchester district; and 5.8 per cent. in the Preston district. In the Ashton and Oldham districts there were decreases of 4.6 and 4.3 per cent. respectively; and in the Stockport and Bolton districts of 2.9 and 2.2 per cent. respectively. There was also a slight decrease in the Blackburn district.

Comparisons with a year ago in the amount of wages paid are affected by the reduction in wages in the spinning department which took place in March last.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of May the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.73d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5.95d. and the lowest 5.53d. per lb. The average price for April, 1909, was 5.40d. per lb., and for May, 1908, 6.04d. per lb. For the period from June 1st to 10th, 1909, the average price of "middling American" was 5.81d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during May, 1909, averaged 8.17d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8.5d. and the lowest 7.1d. per lb. The average price for April, 1909, was 7.80d. per lb., and for May, 1908, 7.04d. per lb. For the period from June 1st to 10th, 1909, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 8.21d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on June 11th, 1909, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,136,080 bales, as compared with 610,160 bales on June 12th, 1908.

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

Description of Cotton.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American	222,027	229,898	243,950	- 7,871	- 21,923
Brazilian	3,540	3,360	2,614	+ 180	+ 926
East Indian	3,747	5,086	4,675	- 1,339	- 928
Egyptian	31,623	34,500	28,767	- 2,877	+ 2,856
Miscellaneous	6,250	4,718	5,464	+ 1,532	+ 786
Total	267,187	277,562	285,470	- 10,375	- 18,283

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

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—					
Grey	15,051	14,682	14,062	+ 369	+ 989
Bleached and Dyed	2,573	2,669	3,378	- 96	- 805
Total	17,624	17,351	17,440	+ 273	+ 184
Cotton—					
Thread for Sewing	2,400	2,255	2,412	+ 145	- 12
	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey or Unbleached	161,142	186,563	149,673	- 19,425	+ 11,469
Bleached	125,481	124,832	133,194	+ 589	- 7,715
Printed	74,787	67,403	90,727	+ 7,384	- 15,940
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	79,492	70,285	82,374	+ 9,206	- 2,882
Total	440,902	443,149	455,968	- 2,247	- 15,066

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 402 Returns—372 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 19 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 29,077 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Huddersfield district employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; some overtime and night work were reported. In the Leeds district employment showed a slight decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district employment showed a slight improvement, but was not as good as a year ago. Employment was reported as good at Selkirk and Galashiels, and as fair at Hawick.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		
	No. employed in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Wool Sorting ...	651	+ 2.5	£ 628	+ 3.1	+ 15.2
Spinning ...	5,920	+ 1.6	5,314	+ 5.1	+ 3.0
Weaving ...	12,567	+ 1.7	10,888	+ 5.0	+ 2.6
Other Departments ...	8,031	+ 0.1	8,182	+ 0.9	+ 3.4
Unspecified ...	1,908	+ 0.1	1,653	- 0.7	+ 7.4
Total ...	29,077	+ 1.1	26,665	+ 3.3	+ 3.5

Worsted Trade.

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

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		
	No. employed in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,641	+ 3.1	5,641	+ 1.8	+ 18.7
Spinning ...	23,414	+ 0.1	14,324	+ 1.5	+ 9.2
Weaving ...	8,709	+ 1.8	7,974	+ 4.9	+ 16.4
Other Departments ...	4,678	+ 0.3	4,905	+ 2.3	+ 5.6
Unspecified ...	1,307	+ 4.1	1,312	+ 7.4	+ 17.0
Total ...	45,749	+ 0.9	34,156	+ 2.7	+ 12.1

Returns from firms employing 45,749 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago.

ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 12.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Bradford district employment with wool sorters and combers continued good, and was much better than a year ago; in the other branches of the trade it was fairly good. In the Keighley, Halifax and Huddersfield districts employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Prices of Raw Material.

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

	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.
Average Prices:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hogs ...	9 1/4	12 3/8	8 1/8
40's Crossbred tops ...	12 1/2	12 1/2	9 1/8
60's Super Botany tops ...	27 1/2	27 1/2	22 1/2
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs ...	9 3/4	9 1/4	8 3/8
40's Crossbred tops ...	12 1/2	12 1/2	8-10 1/8-10
60's Super Botany tops ...	27 1/2	27 1/2	21 3/8-24-23

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:—

Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)	34,227	49,190	45,367	- 14,963	- 12,140
British Exports	3,264	3,814	1,670	- 550	+ 1,594
Yarn:					
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	229	194	221	+ 35	+ 8
Worsted ...	4,813	4,269	3,570	+ 544	+ 1,243
Alpaca & Mohair ...	1,290	1,167	950	+ 123	+ 340
Total Yarn	6,332	5,630	4,741	+ 702	+ 1,591
Piece Goods:					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	4,463	3,412	5,122	+ 1,051	- 659
Worsted ...	4,695	4,277	4,423	+ 418	+ 272
Total Piece Goods	9,158	7,689	9,545	+ 1,469	- 387

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 118 Returns—107 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May was fairly good on the whole, and better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 48,902 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed increased by 5.4 per cent. and the amount of wages paid by 17.6 per cent.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.		
	No. employed in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Preparing...	4,286	+ 1.6	£ 2,760	+ 0.2	+ 4.0
Spinning ...	5,190	+ 1.6	3,179	+ 1.9	+ 1.6
Weaving ...	5,741	+ 1.7	4,311	+ 1.6	+ 1.5
Other ...	1,925	+ 1.5	1,916	+ 2.3	+ 0.2
Not specified ...	864	- 3.6	559	- 15.7	- 16.9
Total ...	17,956	+ 1.0	12,755	+ 1.2	- 2.7

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	Number paid wages in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	A month ago.	A year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Belfast ...	18,109	+ 1.9	£ 10,607	+ 5.0	+ 25.1
Other Places in Ireland	15,696	+ 0.4	8,241	+ 2.7	+ 17.3
Total, Ireland...	33,805	+ 1.2	18,848	+ 4.0	+ 21.5
Fifeshire ...	6,762	+ 0.8	4,384	- 0.1	+ 20.6
Other Places in Scotland	6,448	+ 0.4	3,994	- 1.0	+ 3.2
Total, Scotland	13,210	+ 0.6	8,378	- 0.5	+ 11.6
England ...	1,887	+ 0.3	1,193	+ 3.2	+ 4.2
United Kingdom	48,902	+ 1.0	28,424	+ 2.6	+ 17.6

In Ireland there was an improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago. The amount of short time worked in May was less than in the previous month. In Scotland employment continued good; in Fifeshire it was much better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and piece goods, for the months stated:—

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	12,798	6,773	13,093	+ 6,025	- 295
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	13,233	12,603	11,267	+ 630	+ 1,966
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	180,234	185,166	92,835	- 4,872	+ 87,459

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 33 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during May was fair, and rather better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,956 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 17,956 workpeople covered by the Returns, 15,454 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	Number paid wages in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), compared with	
	A month ago.	A year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Preparing...	4,286	+ 1.6	£ 2,760	+ 0.2	+ 4.0
Spinning ...	5,190	+ 1.6	3,179	+ 1.9	+ 1.6
Weaving ...	5,741	+ 1.7	4,311	+ 1.6	+ 1.5
Other ...	1,925	+ 1.5	1,916	+ 2.3	+ 0.2
Not specified ...	864	- 3.6	559	- 15.7	- 16.9
Total ...	17,956	+ 1.0	12,755	+ 1.2	- 2.7

As compared with a month ago there was no change in the number employed in the preparing department; there were slight increases in the spinning and weaving departments. The amount of wages paid also showed some increase in the spinning, weaving and in "other" departments. As compared with a year ago the number employed showed a decline in the preparing and weaving departments, and an improvement in the spinning and

"other" departments. The amount of wages paid showed a decline in every department.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and manufactured goods for the months stated.

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	9,597	13,141	23,846	- 3,544	- 14,249
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	45,102	50,444	34,514	- 5,342	+ 10,588
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	149,984	138,735	130,094	+ 11,249	+ 19,890

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 118 Returns—107 from Employers, 7 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT though still moderate showed some decline as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,077 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.6 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 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 12.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Levers ...	1,913	+ 1.6	£ 2,328	+ 6.0	+ 28.9
Curtain ...	2,559	+ 1.4	2,506	+ 4.6	+ 9.2
Plain Net ...	2,784	+ 0.3	2,199	+ 4.6	+ 2.2
Others ...	821	+ 1.8	581	+ 1.2	+ 6.6
Total ...	8,077	- 0.9	7,614	- 2.6	+ 12.0

At Nottingham employment continued bad in the levers branch, fair in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch; it showed little change as compared with a year ago. Some short time was reported, principally in the levers branch. In the Long Eaton district much short time was worked, and employment was worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. In the West of England employment was moderate. In Scotland it continued fairly good on the whole, and was better than a year ago.

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

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Cotton Lace ...	£ 226,995	£ 237,334	£ 201,202	- 10,339	+ 25,793
Silk Lace ...	15,729	19,352	9,955	- 3,623	+ 5,774
Exports:					
Cotton Lace ...	£ 307,654	£ 335,484	£ 249,740	- 27,830	+ 57,914
Silk Lace ...	8,742	8,558	7,109	+ 184	+ 1,633

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 57 Returns—53 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair; it was better than both a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,355 workpeople, and paying £5,552 in wages in the week ended May 22nd, showed that, as compared with April, there was an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended May 22nd, 1909.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing	1,041	+ 1.7	+ 1.2	395	- 2.9	- 1.3		
Spinning	2,534	+ 1.0	- 0.5	1,914	+ 2.1	+ 1.4		
Weaving	3,283	+ 1.6	- 2.4	2,196	+ 1.0	+ 1.2		
Other	1,497	+ 2.0	+ 11.8	1,047	...	+ 7.3		
Total	8,355	+ 1.5	+ 0.9	5,552	+ 0.9	+ 2.2		

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,081	- 0.1	+ 0.4	2,402	+ 2.0	+ 3.5
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	885	+ 1.6	+ 5.7	610	- 2.6	+ 3.9
Eastern Counties	2,513	+ 2.2	+ 4.4	1,441	- 2.8	+ 7.9
Other Districts, including Scotland and Leek	1,876	+ 3.1	- 4.6	1,099	+ 5.8	- 7.7
Total	8,355	+ 1.5	+ 0.9	5,552	+ 0.9	+ 2.2

With throwsters and spinners employment continued good at Macclesfield. At Congleton it was good with throwsters and fair with spinners. At Leek it was fair in both branches. In Macclesfield with hand-loom weavers in factories employment was good; with "outside" hand-loom weavers it was bad, and worse than a month ago; and with power-loom weavers it was moderate. Employment with trimming weavers at Congleton continued fair; at Leek it was bad. In the Bradford district employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago; in the Eastern Counties it was fairly good on the whole, and better than a year ago.

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

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk lbs	66,475	65,358	91,936	+ 1,137	- 25,461
Thrown Silk "	40,095	36,625	53,076	+ 3,470	- 12,981
Spun Silk Yarn "	23,325	31,166	36,415	+ 7,841	- 8,090
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	6,348,729	6,336,021	5,949,390	+ 12,698	+ 399,399
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk lbs	5,392	4,435	4,354	+ 957	+ 1,038
Spun Silk Yarn "	85,366	92,030	66,714	- 6,664	- 11,348
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	572,238	328,231	504,169	+ 44,007	+ 68,069

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 108 Returns—101 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 18,563 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number

employed increased by 2.8 per cent., and the amount of wages paid by 10.1 per cent.

At Leicester employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough it was fairly good. With power-frame workers at Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was good and better than a month ago and a year ago; with hand-frame workers in the country districts there was an improvement. At Hawick and Selkirk employment was good, and better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended May 22nd, 1909.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Leicester	9,102	+ 2.2	+ 3.2	7,586	+ 3.8	+ 10.0		
Leicester Country District	2,391	- 0.8	+ 1.8	1,896	- 0.4	+ 12.0		
Notts and Derbyshire	4,074	+ 0.4	+ 3.0	3,112	+ 2.7	+ 12.9		
Scotland	2,566	- 0.6	+ 2.8	1,604	- 0.6	+ 5.3		
Other Districts	730	- 3.9	- 0.5	495	+ 3.3	+ 3.6		
Total, United Kingdom	18,563	+ 0.8	+ 2.8	14,693	+ 2.5	+ 10.1		

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

	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports):					
Hosiery, Woollen	19,070	18,343	22,319	+ 727	- 3,249
Cotton	89,102	94,709	95,495	- 5,607	- 6,393
Exports:					
Hosiery, Woollen	62,898	74,460	70,116	- 11,562	- 7,218
Cotton	23,104	26,098	27,783	- 2,994	- 3,979

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 41 Returns—19 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

Carpet Trade.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed an improvement as compared with April, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 5,409 workpeople and paying £4,593 in wages on pay day in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.3 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 1.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 13.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

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

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

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

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

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester and Loughborough employment showed a further slight improvement; at Hinckley it was moderate, with much short time. With dyers at Nottingham employment was slack; at Basford and Bulwell it was moderate with

bleachers and fair with hosiery trimmers; on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was not so good as a month ago, and about the same as a year ago.

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

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 127 Returns—94 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 29 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was better than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it was fairly good, and about the same as a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during May showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was better than a year ago.

Firms paying £14,653 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended May 22nd showed an increase of 23.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 8.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment during the month was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment continued fair; the numbers employed showed a decline, but full time was more general. Returns from firms employing 7,726 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended May 22nd showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Jewish operatives reported a decided improvement.

Other Centres.—At Manchester employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Norwich it continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago. At Bristol it showed a slight improvement. At Glasgow it was fairly good.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in May, 1909, were valued at £331,102, as compared with £289,652 in April, 1909, and £241,540 in May, 1908; and the **Exports** for the same months at £316,135, £328,616, and £291,009 respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 490 Returns—474 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 6 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally continued fair, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 65,590 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester was moderate, and worse than a year ago. At Northampton employment showed an improvement. At Kettering it was fair, and much better than a year ago. With army bootmakers in Northamptonshire there was a decline compared with a month ago. At Bristol employment was bad, and much worse than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood employment was better than a month ago, but much short time was reported, and it was worse than a year ago. At Leeds employment was bad. In Scotland it continued fair, and was slightly better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.				Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended May 22nd, 1909.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
ENGLAND & WALES.								
London	2,673	+ 1.6	+ 0.8	3,066	+ 0.3	+ 0.4		
Leicester	13,866	- 0.2	- 1.6	15,147	+ 3.0	- 4.7		
Leicester Country District	3,233	- 1.9	+ 2.1	3,050	+ 0.7	+ 5.7		
Northampton	10,282	+ 0.4	+ 0.0	10,126	+ 2.3	+ 0.8		
Northampton Country District	8,811	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	8,354	+ 0.1	+ 2.6		
Kettering	3,975	+ 2.4	+ 2.3	4,142	+ 4.7	+ 10.2		
Stafford & District	2,791	+ 0.9	- 0.9	2,680	+ 12.9	+ 0.5		
Norwich & District	3,411	+ 2.9	+ 6.8	3,174	+ 9.0	+ 10.6		
Bristol & District	1,912	- 1.7	- 6.1	1,552	- 2.6	- 14.9		
Kingswood	1,808	- 0.5	- 1.4	1,540	+ 9.8	- 9.1		
Leeds & District	2,143	- 1.4	+ 0.3	1,883	+ 6.8	+ 3.6		
Manchester & District	2,655	- 0.3	+ 2.6	2,510	+ 0.4	+ 16.1		
Birmingham & District	1,023	...	- 5.0	817	+ 2.8	- 5.8		
Other parts of England and Wales	2,933	+ 0.6	+ 3.5	2,591	+ 3.6	+ 7.5		
ENGLAND & WALES	61,515	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	60,581	+ 3.0	+ 0.9		
SCOTLAND	3,792	- 0.1	+ 1.7	3,566	+ 1.1	+ 1.8		
IRELAND	283	+ 1.4	+ 1.8	217	+ 5.3	+ 14.2		
UNITED KINGDOM	65,590	+ 0.2	+ 0.6	64,364	+ 2.9	+ 1.0		

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported and exported for the months stated:—

	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)					
Quantity Dozen pairs	27,831	28,865	27,089	- 1,034	+ 742
Value £	74,584	85,889	72,817	- 11,305	+ 1,767
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity Dozen pairs	71,463	81,333	70,491	- 9,870	+ 972
Value £	167,150	174,694	163,031	- 7,544	+ 4,119

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

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 10 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, and 8 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during May in the *Silk* hat trade was moderate, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 4.3, compared with 8.2 a month ago, and 11.3 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade employment was quiet, slightly better than a month ago, and rather worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 3.3, compared with 4.3 a month ago, and 2.8 a year ago. Employment was reported as quiet at Denton and Stockport, with much short time at both centres. In Warwickshire an improvement was reported.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds	43,396	48,051	33,450	- 4,655	+ 10,146
Exports:					
Felt	28,291	33,281	29,686	- 4,990	- 1,395
Straw	37,387	38,908	40,065	- 1,521	- 2,678
Other Sorts	5,636	4,950	5,307	+ 746	+ 389
Total	71,374	77,139	73,058	- 5,765	- 3,684

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 35 Returns—20 from Trade Unions and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate. It was better than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,265 reported 5.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 7.0 per cent. a month ago and 8.0 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—With skinner employment was fair at Leeds and Birmingham. With curriers it was fair at Newcastle, bad in London, quiet but better than a month ago at Birmingham and Walsall. With leather workers generally it was fair at Bolton, Bury, and Wigan and Manchester; quiet at Leeds.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—At Walsall employment was quiet, but better than a month ago with saddlers, fair with harness makers. With saddlers at Glasgow and Dublin it was fair.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment was bad generally. With portmanteau makers in London it was fair, 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, for the months stated:—

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	39,105	56,292	27,505	+ 2,814	+ 11,601
Idto, wet	53,811	45,482	57,608	+ 8,329	- 3,797
Total hides, dry and wet	92,917	81,774	85,113	+ 11,143	+ 7,804
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	1,060,580	1,733,457	925,221	- 672,877	+ 132,359
Sheep skins, (value) £	270,630	224,900	167,351	+ 45,730	+ 103,279
Leather*	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
...	111,180	83,968	88,028	+ 27,812	+ 23,152
Exports:—	£	£	£	£	£
Saddlery and harness (value)	29,129	30,161	31,533	- 1,032	- 2,404

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 172 Returns—167 from Employers, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trade was good with retail firms, and better than a year ago; with court dressmakers it was fair, and not so good as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades it was good, and better than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was fair, and in the corset trade fairly good.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,838 dressmakers in the week ended May 22nd, showed an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 7.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good. Court dressmakers employing 1,068 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. With milliners in the West-End employment was good.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,350 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 9.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good.

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

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 1,806 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.1 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 6,551 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,753 in wages, in the week ended May 22nd, showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fair.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,030 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 466 Returns—135 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 311 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago, except in the Northern Counties, where it was worse than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 21,412 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed by them compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of May, 1909, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,701	- 0.1	- 3.2
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	1,500	- 0.4	- 3.5
Southern Counties	6,835	+ 1.4	+ 1.6
Scotland	5,634	- 0.3	+ 1.1
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	20,670	+ 0.3	- 0.5
Hand-made Paper	742	- 0.4	- 1.9
Total	21,412	+ 0.3	- 0.5

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 1,654 members had 3.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 3.3 per cent. a month ago, and 1.9 per cent. a year ago.

The imports of paper in May, 1909, amounted to £438,928, as compared with £461,451 in April, 1909, and £474,557 in May, 1908; and the exports for the same months amounted to £209,813, £203,186 and £194,828 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was slack on the whole and showed little general change compared with a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 5.5 as compared with 5.7 at the end of April, and 5.2 at the end of May, 1908.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		May, 1909.	Apr., 1909.	May, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	21,417	4.3	5.2	4.9	- 0.9	- 0.6
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,421	7.7	7.0	5.6	+ 0.7	+ 2.1
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,745	6.6	6.3	5.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,671	5.6	4.9	3.5	+ 0.7	+ 2.1
West Midlands	2,536	6.3	5.7	5.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.0
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,811	3.8	3.5	3.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Scotland	5,746	5.4	5.4	4.8	...	+ 0.6
Ireland	2,623	9.5	9.9	9.4	- 0.4	+ 0.1
United Kingdom	50,970	5.5	5.7	5.2	- 0.2	+ 0.3

London.—Employment was fair on the whole, and 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 4.3, compared with 5.2 at the end of April and 4.9 a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was good, however, at Plymouth and Dundee, and fair in the Eastern Counties. Employment improved at Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dublin, Belfast and Oxford, and with lithographic printers at Manchester and Nottingham; at Bradford and Leeds lithographic printers were fairly well employed. With lithographic artists employment was moderate generally.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad generally, with much short time, and was worse than a year ago. In London there was an improvement compared with a month ago, but in the provinces there was a further decline.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		May, 1909.	Apr., 1909.	May, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,576	9.3	10.7	8.9	- 1.4	+ 0.4
Other Districts	3,381	9.2	8.7	6.9	+ 0.5	+ 2.3
United Kingdom	6,957	9.3	9.7	7.9	- 0.4	+ 1.4

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,069 Returns—745 from Employers and Employers Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,270 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 54 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in May was slack generally, except with painters, who were fairly well employed. It was better than a month ago, and showed little change on the whole compared with a year ago.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of May was 8.8 as compared with 11.0 a month ago and 9.1 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 14.1, 14.0, and 14.3 respectively. In the case of carpenters and joiners the percentage unemployed showed a decline in every district as compared with a month ago, and in nearly every district as compared with a year ago. Returns received from bricklayers, masons, plasterers, and labourers' unions also report an improvement as compared with a month ago.

For London the Trade Union Returns show that 9.2 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 10.3 a month ago and 13.4 a year ago; the corresponding percentages for plumbers were 17.1, 11.7, and 16.2.

The general percentages were usually exceeded in the Northern Counties and Scotland, where many of the Trade Union members are engaged in the shipbuilding industry. In Yorkshire and in the Lancashire and Cheshire, Midland, and Southern districts the percentages were usually below those quoted.

Returns received from 688 firms employing 40,890 workpeople at the end of May show that, com-

pared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 10.7 per cent. in the total number employed by them in London, and an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the provinces. Compared with a year ago there were decreases of 8.3 per cent. in London, and of 11.5 per cent. in the provinces.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.		Labourers.	
	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of May, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of May, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.
London	6,059	- 768	3,707	- 410
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,300	+ 139	2,154	+ 241
Lancashire and Cheshire	3,849	+ 133	3,178	- 76
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,665	+ 81	2,646	+ 128
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	3,553	+ 186	2,203	+ 117
England and Wales	18,417	- 229	13,888	- 20
Scotland	2,564	+ 148	1,438	- 45
Ireland	292	+ 28	539	+ 25
United Kingdom	21,673	- 53	15,865	- 40

	Lads and Boys.		Total.	
	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of May, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of May, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.
London	352	- 32	10,109	- 1,210
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	490	+ 3	4,914	+ 363
Lancashire and Cheshire	968	- 3	7,995	+ 54
Midland & Eastern Counties	340	+ 4	5,681	+ 213
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	474	+ 12	6,230	+ 316
England and Wales	2,624	- 16	34,929	- 268
Scotland	688	- 18	5,090	+ 88
Ireland	40	+ 4	871	+ 49
United Kingdom	3,352	- 38	40,890	- 181

EMPLOYMENT remained slack, except with painters, in nearly every large centre, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago. It was fair with bricklayers at Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Stockport, Northwich, the Potteries, Wolverhampton, Ipswich, Plymouth and Paisley, with masons at Dundee, Aberdeen and Blackpool, and in South Wales, and with carpenters and joiners at Doncaster, Blackpool, Warrington, Chorley, Stockport, Derby, Mansfield, Newark, Lincoln, Cambridge, Ipswich, Swansea, Aberdeen and Cork. With carpenters at Hull it was good. It declined with plumbers in the Northern Counties, with carpenters at Leicester, and with masons at Plymouth.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 172 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 137 from Trade Unions, and 31 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May was, on the whole, quiet. It continued good with brushmakers, and was fairly good with coachmakers. It showed a general improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,727 reported 5.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6.3 per cent. a month ago and 6.5 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

EMPLOYMENT with cabinet-makers and french polishers showed an improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago. With upholsterers employment was fairly good. Trade Unions of cabinet-makers, french polishers and upholsterers reported 6.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 7.9 per cent. a month ago, and 7.7 per cent. a year ago.

The imports of furniture and cabinetware in May, 1909, were valued at £36,923, as compared with £36,250 in April, 1909, and £40,171 in May, 1908; and the exports for the same months were valued at £57,564, £52,164, and £50,812 respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

EMPLOYMENT generally was bad, though rather better than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 7.3 per cent. of their

members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 7.9 per cent. a month ago, and 7.2 per cent. a year ago.

Imports.—The Table below shows the quantities of hewn and sawn timber, and the values of house frames, &c., imported for the months stated:—

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	Loads. 89,972	Loads. 39,593	Loads. 87,564	Loads. + 50,379	Loads. + 2,408
" " sawn	269,903	138,294	303,277	+ 131,609	- 33,374
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 16,661	£ 14,831	£ 15,409	+ £ 1,830	+ £ 1,252

Coopers.

Employment was, on the whole, fair and showed an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. It was bad at Burton and Manchester and good at Dublin.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachmakers was generally fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, &c., reported 3.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 4.1 per cent. a month ago, and 4.2 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment continued good generally, and better than a year ago. At Dublin it was reported to be dull. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 2.6, as compared with 2.3 at the end of April, and 3.6 a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment generally was fair. At Bristol it was good. With basket makers it was good in London, and showed an improvement at Leicester. With skipmakers at Oldham it was fair.

The **Imports** of brushes and brooms in May, 1909, were valued at £29,688, as compared with £30,999 in April, 1909, and £32,258 in April, 1908; and the **Exports** for the same months at £14,927, £14,635 and £14,366 respectively.

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 22 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was moderate, and rather better than a month ago and a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire and in Scotland continued bad generally, and was, on the whole, worse than a year ago; much short time was worked. In Devonshire employment continued moderate. At Bristol it was good and better than a month ago; in the South Yorkshire and River Aire district employment was bad and worse than a year ago. Clay tobacco pipe makers reported employment as fair at Glasgow and as good Manchester.

Brick and Tile Trades.—In the Peterborough district employment continued slack. In Nottinghamshire it was moderate and showed little change as compared with a year ago. In South Staffordshire and North Wales employment was quiet. In Bedfordshire and the Eastern Counties it was fairly good and better than a month ago. In the Plymouth and Bristol districts it was dull generally.

The **Imports** of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in May, 1909, were valued at £87,906, as compared with £76,661 in April, 1909, and £88,315 in May, 1908; and the **Exports** for the same months at £186,292, £182,541, and £195,179 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 91 Returns—61 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 19 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,280 workpeople, and paying £10,440 in wages, in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 11.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid Wages in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended May 22nd, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
		A Month ago.	A Month ago.	A Month ago.
Glass Bottle	5,495	+ 2.7	7,287	+ 16.2
Plate Glass	719	+ 0.6	897	+ 2.0
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,712	- 1.3	1,855	+ 2.1
Other Branches	354	...	421	+ 1.9
Total	8,280	+ 1.6	10,440	+ 11.5
		A Year ago.	A Year ago.	A Year ago.
Glass Bottle	5,495	+ 1.1	6,019	+ 10.3
Plate Glass	548	- 3.7	653	- 0.3
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,207	+ 0.1	1,492	+ 2.6
Other Branches	733	- 0.5	945	+ 4.5
Scotland	330	- 0.9	327	- 2.1
Other parts of the United Kingdom				
Total	8,280	+ 1.6	10,440	+ 11.5

Employment with glass bottle makers in Yorkshire showed some improvement as compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago; at Mexborough it was moderate; at Castleford it was quiet; at Leeds it was moderate in the flint glass branch and fair in the other branches. In Lancashire employment was only moderate. Employment was good and better than a month ago at Seaham Harbour; at Sunderland and Portobello it was moderate; at Alloa and Bristol employment was good; at Dublin it was fair. Makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham reported employment as fairly good. With flint glass makers it was fairly good at Wordsley. With flint glass cutters employment continued fair generally, but was not so good as a year ago; at Wordsley employment was good; at Birmingham it was bad. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helen's employment continued moderate. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was bad, and much short time was worked. With bevellers and silverers at Birmingham employment was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. With London glass blowers it continued bad.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of the various descriptions of glass imported and exported during the months stated:—

Description.	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 93,344	cwts. 84,136	cwts. 86,773	+ 9,208	+ 6,571
Plate	18,305	26,041	25,851	- 7,736	- 7,546
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	51,253	51,860	51,811	+ 607	- 558
Manufactures, other sorts...	366	401	1,355	- 35	- 999
Bottles	gross 124,137	gross 149,093	gross 126,172	gross - 24,956	gross - 2,035
Exports:					
Plate	cwts. 15,914	cwts. 9,874	cwts. 13,462	+ 6,040	+ 2,452
Flint	5,904	5,770	4,624	+ 134	+ 1,280
Manufactures, other sorts	64,924	25,648	41,556	+ 39,276	+ 23,368
Bottles	gross 71,222	gross 59,792	gross 73,200	+ 11,430	- 1,978

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 220 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

FARM labourers were, generally speaking, in regular employment during May, although some day labourers in certain districts lost a little time during the month. The supply of such men was in general about equal to the demand.

Northern Counties.—According to reports from Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland, employment was generally regular during May, but in some districts the supply of day labourers was rather in excess of the demand, work being well forward. Men and boys were plentiful at the half-yearly hirings, and wages showed a downward tendency. Regularity of employment was reported from Lancashire, the supply of day labourers being about equal to the demand. In Yorkshire agricultural labourers are said to have been fully employed in most districts, although some day labourers lost a little time through rain.

Midland Counties.—Correspondents in Cheshire and Derbyshire state that potato planting, turnip hoeing and other work afforded regular employment during May. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire hoeing was somewhat hindered at the beginning of the month, owing to the backward state of the crops through the dry weather. Some difficulty was reported in obtaining capable men for permanent situations. Day labourers in Staffordshire were generally well employed in planting potatoes, preparing the ground for root crops and in other spring work. In the Leek Union the demand for such labourers is said to have been somewhat greater than the supply. There was a fair demand for extra labourers in Shropshire. Regularity of employment is reported from Worcestershire and Warwickshire, hoeing corn and planting potatoes affording a good deal of work for day labourers. Men for tending cattle and horses were said to be in request in certain districts. Owing to the favourable weather agricultural labourers in Northamptonshire were regularly employed. The supply of extra men was about equal to the demand, but difficulty is reported in obtaining men for permanent situations. Employment in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire was fairly regular during May. The supply of day labourers was in several districts in excess of the demand. Correspondents in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire state that the weather was favourable for work on the land, and in several districts day labourers were in demand for hoeing.

Eastern Counties.—Agricultural employment in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire was interrupted for one or two days by rain in most districts. The supply of extra men was sufficient. Regularity of employment is reported in Lincolnshire, day labourers finding a good deal of work in hoeing the corn, hoeing peas, and planting potatoes. At the May hirings some men did not secure engagements, and wages showed a tendency to fall. The demand for lads, however, was in excess of the supply. In Norfolk and Suffolk day labourers were regularly employed, the supply being about equal to the demand in most districts reported on. Employment has been good with farm labourers in Essex, the weather being favourable for hoeing and weeding.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Agricultural labourers in Kent have been, generally speaking, in regular employment. In Surrey and Sussex work has been a little interrupted by rain, and in certain districts day labourers lost time in consequence. The supply of such men was in general quite equal to the demand. In Hampshire employment was fairly regular, although hoeing was rather backward owing to the cold weather at the beginning of the month. There was as a rule no scarcity of day labourers. A report from the Droxford Union states that men for permanent situations were difficult to get. Similar reports come from Berkshire. Reports from Wiltshire and Dorsetshire state that outdoor work was generally regular during May. The dry weather at the beginning of the month, however, somewhat affected the employment of day labourers, the root

crops not being sufficiently forward for hoeing. In Somerset also there was some irregularity of employment, owing to weeding and hoeing being delayed, and the supply of day labourers was rather in excess of the demand. A scarcity of skilled men for permanent situations is mentioned in the Taunton Union. Employment was generally regular with farm labourers in Herefordshire, where weeding the corn, hoeing roots and potatoes, manure spreading and tending hops afforded a fair amount of work for day labourers. In Gloucestershire day labourers were not in much demand, farm work being reported as well forward. A scarcity of men for milking is mentioned in the Dursley Union. Agricultural labourers in Devon and Cornwall have been generally in full employment, the dry weather permitting outdoor work to be proceeded with uninterruptedly. A demand for capable men for permanent situations is reported from several districts.

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 May, 1909, showed a decrease both in quantity and value as compared with May, 1908.

At Yarmouth employment was good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. It was better than a month ago, and about the same as in May, 1908. At Grimsby it was good with fishermen and fish curers, though worse, on the whole, than a year ago. Fish dock labourers worked much short time. Employment was fair at Lowestoft, and better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. At Hull it was moderate with fishermen and fish curers, and fair with fish dock labourers. At Aberdeen employment continued good. At Peterhead it was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers. It was on the whole, however, better than both a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Fraserburgh and Macduff was moderate generally. Off the south-western coast of England fair catches were made during the month.

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

	Quantity.		Value.	
	May, 1909.	May, 1908.	May, 1909.	May, 1908.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales	999,122	1,003,567	521,972	612,317
Scotland	442,599	572,226	145,580	175,307
Ireland	141,467	148,115	35,754	55,173
Total	1,583,188	1,723,909	703,306	842,797
Shell Fish ... ..	...	...	36,377	36,581
Total Value... ..	...	...	739,683	879,378

The **Exports** of herrings, cured or salted, in May, 1909, were valued at £37,090, as compared with £26,091 in April, 1909, and £41,177 in May, 1908.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 139 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London was fair generally, and better than a year ago. At the other principal ports it was moderate, and about the same as in April.

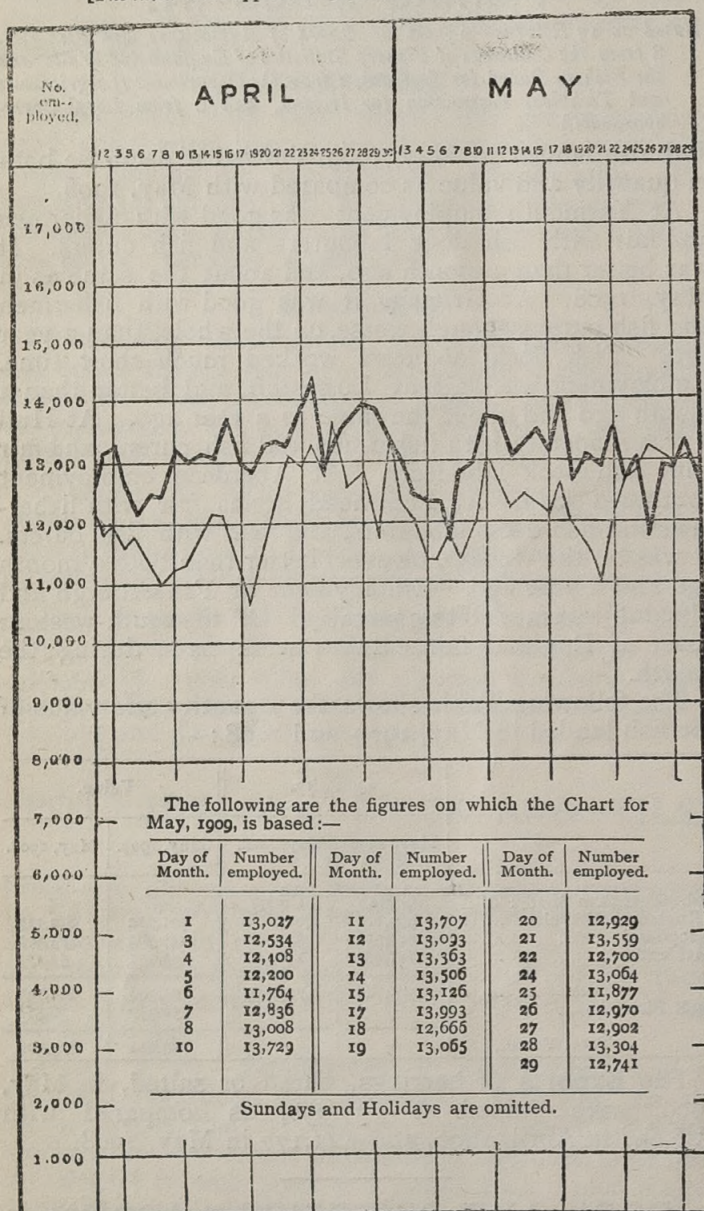
London.*—Employment was fair, and was favourably affected by the wool sales and by the arrival of vessels with timber; it was better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended May 29th was 13,083, an increase of 0.5 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and of 5.2 per cent. as compared with May, 1908. The daily numbers employed in May, 1909, ranged from 11,764 on the 6th to 13,993 on the 17th. During May, 1908, the numbers ranged from 11,168 on the 21st to 13,324 on the 1st.

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

Table showing Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. Columns include Period, In Docks* (By the Port of London Authority, By Ship-owners, &c., Total), At 110 Wharves making Returns, and Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

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 April and May, 1909. The corresponding curve for April and May, 1908, is also given for comparison.

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



The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,107 in May, 1909, as compared with 867 in the previous month and 1,077 in May, 1908.

Employment at Liverpool was moderate with dock labourers, and dull with quay and railway carters.

Other Ports. — On the Tyne and Wear employment with dock labourers was bad and worse than a month ago. At Middlesbrough with dock labourers it was moderate, better than a month ago but not so good as a year ago; with riverside labourers at Hartlepool employment was bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was moderate with dock labourers at Hull and Goole, and bad at Grimsby; with coal porters at Hull and Grimsby employment was fair. Employment continued fairly good at Yarmouth and

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

Lowestoft, but at Ipswich it was dull. At Southampton and Plymouth employment generally was moderate; at Bristol it was slack and worse than a month ago; at the South Wales ports it was good and better than in April; at Manchester it was bad. At Glasgow it was also bad. At Dundee employment was slack; at Leith and Aberdeen it was fair. At Belfast and Dublin it was dull.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MAY.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), show that during May 39,990* seamen, of whom 3,831 (or 9.6 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with May, 1908, there was a net decrease of 989. The principal decreases were at Liverpool and Newport (Mon.), and the greatest increases at London, Middlesbrough and the Tyne Ports.

For the five months ended May, 1909, the total number of seamen* shipped was 187,471, or 7,877 less than during the corresponding period of 1908. The largest increases were at Middlesbrough, London and Sunderland, and the most marked decreases at Liverpool (nearly 6,000), Glasgow, Cardiff, Bristol and Belfast. Lascars are not included in these figures.

Table showing Number of Seamen* shipped in Principal Ports. Columns include Principal Ports, May (1908, 1909), and Five months ended May (1908, 1909). Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Coal Mines : Removal of Explosives from the Permitted List. —By the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, power is given to the Home Secretary on being satisfied that any explosive is or is likely to become dangerous, by order to prohibit the use thereof in any mine or class of mines. An order was made dated December 17th, 1906, containing a list of permitted explosives. This was amended by several subsequent orders. Now, in virtue of the power given to him by the Act, the Home Secretary has made an order,† dated April 20th, 1909, and which came into force on May 3rd, 1909, by which he has removed the explosives "Geloxite" and "Saxonite" from the Permitted List of Explosives. The order contains a complete list of the explosives now permitted.

References under Section 1 (5) of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908: Procedure and Costs: Regulations.—The Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908, limits the hours of work for men employed underground, and prescribes that the interval between the times fixed for the commencement and for the completion of the lowering and raising of each shift of workmen to and from the mine shall be such time as may for the time being be approved by H.M. Inspector of Mines for the district as being reasonably required. In the event of the owner, agent or manager of the mine

* 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. § Statutory Rules and Orders, 1909. No. 456. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

feeling aggrieved by any such decision of the Inspector, the matter is to be referred to a person appointed by the County Court Judge of the district, whose decision is to be final. The Home Secretary has power to make regulations as to the procedure and costs of such references. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made Regulations,* dated May 15th, 1909, governing such procedure and costs. Rules are laid down as to the notices, &c., to be given and the powers of the referee. The Inspector may appear at the hearing, personally or by an Assistant Inspector, and the owner, agent or manager of the mine may appear personally or by an official of the mine, but neither party may appear by solicitor or counsel. Also a majority of the workmen affected may be represented by any person chosen by them, not being a solicitor or counsel. The hearing is to take place at the mine, unless otherwise agreed between the Inspector and the owner, agent or manager. The remuneration of the referee is, if the hearing takes place at the mine, to be the sum of five guineas in addition to travelling expenses: if the hearing takes place elsewhere, a sum of three guineas.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

THE following are among the more interesting legal cases affecting labour reported in May. The accounts are based principally on reports appearing in newspapers:—

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

WHAT IS "INJURY BY ACCIDENT"? INDIRECT RESULT OF ACCIDENT.

Compensation is payable to an injured workman under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, only where he has suffered an injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment.

A workman employed by a colliery company met with an accident in the course of his employment by which his knee was injured. He left work and went to his home, which was a mile and a quarter distant. It took him over two hours to reach his home, and it was a very cold day. Pneumonia intervened, and subsequently he was unable to work from bronchitis and chronic asthma. He claimed compensation; but the County Court judge decided that his condition was not the natural result of the accident, and that therefore he was not entitled to compensation. He appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the judge was wrong, as the test was not whether an injury was the natural or probable result of an accident, but whether it was a result of the accident, in the sense that the injury was due to the debilitated condition of the man at the time of the accident. In such cases it was proper to inquire whether the accident had not accelerated a disease already existing in the man's body. The case was therefore sent back to the County Court judge for re-consideration.—Griffiths v. Ystradowen Colliery Co., Court of Appeal, May 26th, 1909.

DEATH BY ACCIDENT: DEATH UNDER ANÆSTHETIC: SECOND OPERATION.

A workman received an injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, which made it necessary to amputate one of his fingers. He was put under anæsthetics and the operation successfully performed. As he was recovering from the effects of the anæsthetic the surgeons thought it was a good opportunity to remove a bad tooth from which he had been suffering. They accordingly administered further anæsthetics, and made an unsuccessful attempt to remove the tooth. Shortly afterwards the man died without having recovered consciousness. His widow claimed compensation, but her claim was resisted by the employers on the ground that the death was not caused by the accident. They admitted that they would have been liable if the man had died of the anæsthetic administered for the first operation, but contended that the second operation, which had nothing to do with the accident, was the real cause of death. The County Court judge held on the evidence that the man had died from failure of respiration caused by the anæsthetic; that it was at least as probable that the death resulted from a spasm induced by an attempt to swallow blood in his mouth caused by the second operation, as that his death was the result of the anæsthetic first administered; and consequently the widow had not discharged the burden, which was upon her, of proving that the death was the result of the accident. Compensation was therefore refused. The widow appealed, but the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the County Court judge and dismissed the appeal. Charles v. Walker, Limited, Court of Appeal, May 24th, 1909.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: ACCIDENT CAUSED BY COCKCHAFER.

A young woman who was employed as lady's-maid and sewing-maid in a private house was one evening in the summer of 1908 sewing by electric light. It being a hot night the windows were wide open, and a cockchafer flew into the room. The maid in throwing up her hand to prevent the insect striking her in the face, hit her right eye so violently with her thumb as to cause a very serious injury, which ultimately led to the entire loss of the sight of that eye. She claimed compensation under the Act, but the County Court judge held that though the accident had happened in the course of the employment, it had not arisen out of the employment, and therefore she was not entitled to compensation. On appeal the Court of Appeal upheld this decision.—Crashe v. Wigan, Court of Appeal, May 27th, 1909.

SUB-CONTRACT: WORKMAN MEMBER OF CONTRACTOR'S FAMILY: LIABILITY OF PRINCIPAL.

It is provided by the Act that where any person in the course of or for the purposes of his trade or business, contracts with any other person for the execution by him of any part of the work undertaken by the principal, the principal shall be liable to pay to any workman employed in the execution of the work any compensation which he would have been liable to pay under the Act if that workman had been immediately employed by him; but in such circumstances the principal is entitled to be indemnified by any person who would have been otherwise liable to pay compensation to the workman. The term "workman" as defined in the Act does not include a member of the employer's family dwelling in his house.

A timber merchant had in the course of his business contracted to buy and carry away some growing timber. He contracted with another man for the execution of part of the work—namely, the felling of the timber. This man employed his son, who was dwelling with him in his house, to help him in the felling. The son in the course of the work was injured by accident and claimed compensation from the timber merchant. The County Court judge held that his claim could not be maintained as he was expressly excluded from the benefits of the Act. The claimant appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that no man who was not a workman within the definition in the Act had a right to compensation. Generally in such a case the principal was entitled to be indemnified by the contractor, and his liability was measured by the liability of the contractor. The principal, however, was not liable to a man who had no claim against the contractor who was his real employer. The Appeal was therefore dismissed.—Marks v. Carne, Court of Appeal, May 26th, 1909.

BASIS OF CALCULATION OF COMPENSATION: AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: WEEKS WHEN WORK NOT POSSIBLE.

The amount of compensation payable under the Act in case of injury is a weekly payment during incapacity not exceeding 50 per cent. of the injured man's average weekly earnings during the 12 months preceding the accident. The Act further provides that average weekly earnings shall be computed in such manner as is best calculated to give the rate per week at which the workman was being remunerated.

A miner was totally incapacitated by injury in circumstances entitling him to compensation. He had worked for the same employers during the whole of the preceding 12 months. During that time he had earned a total sum of £68, but he had actually worked only 33 weeks. Of the remaining weeks of the year there were 14 in which all work at the colliery was stopped, two weeks of general holidays, two weeks when the man was ill and one week during which he was voluntarily absent on a holiday. The man could not agree with his employers as to the proper basis of calculation of the weekly sum to which he was entitled; and this question alone was litigated between the parties.

It was found as a matter of fact in the County Court that the 14 weeks of stoppage and the two weeks of holidays were normal and recognised incidents of the employment. The term "weeks" was used to express an aggregate of days amounting to weeks at the rate of 5 2/3 days per week. The County Court judge held that the true test is—what were the man's earnings in a normal week, regard being had to the known and recognised incidents of the employment. Where work is not continuous that element must be taken into consideration. Here the man actually worked 33 weeks, so that his earnings per week are got by dividing £68 by 33. But he could have worked 36 weeks and 36 weeks only. Therefore the true result is represented by the fraction 2/3 of 5/8, which gives the average weekly earnings within the meaning of the Act. This decision was upheld on appeal by the Court of Appeal and subsequently on further appeal by the House of Lords.—Onslow v. Carnock Chase Colliery Co., House of Lords, May 17th, 1909.

WHO ARE DEPENDANTS? POSTHUMOUS ILLEGITIMATE CHILD: STEPFATHER. Where a workman is killed by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, his dependants are entitled to compensation under the Act. "Dependants" means such of the members of the workman's family as were wholly or in part dependent upon his earnings at the time of his death, or would but for the incapacity due to the accident have been so dependent; and when the workman being the parent or grandparent of an illegitimate child leaves such a child so dependent upon his earnings, or being illegitimate leaves a parent or grandparent so dependent upon his earnings, the word includes such an illegitimate child and parent or grandparent respectively. "Member of a family" includes stepfather or stepmother.

A young woman became with child by a miner in the employment of a colliery company. The man admitted that he was the father of the child and promised to marry the woman, the marriage being fixed for 21st December, 1907. The banns were published on December 1st and on December 8th, but on the 10th the man was killed by an accident in the colliery. The child was born in May, 1908, and compensation was claimed on behalf of the child from the colliery company on the ground that he was a "dependant" of the deceased within the meaning of the Act.

The County Court judge decided that the child was a dependant, and made an award of compensation in his favour. On appeal, the Court of Appeal upheld this decision. On further appeal the House of Lords agreed with the lower Courts.—Schofield v. Orrell Colliery Company (Ltd.), House of Lords, May 14th, 1909.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1909. No. 516. Wyman & Sons. Price 1d.

In another case a woman who had an illegitimate son married a man who was not the father of the child. Subsequently, when the boy went to work he paid his wages into the common family fund as did his mother's husband. The boy was killed by accident in such circumstances as to entitle his dependants to compensation. Both the mother of the deceased and her husband claimed to be dependants of him, and the County Court judge allowed their claim, and made an award in favour of each. The employers appealed, contending, in the first place, that the male claimant could not be in law a dependant, and, in the second place, that the female was not, in fact, dependent upon her son's earnings. The Court of Appeal decided that the male claimant was not the "stepfather" of the deceased, and could not be a "dependant" within the meaning of the Act. They also decided that the female claimant was not in the circumstances dependent on her son's earnings, as she was wholly dependent on her husband's earnings, and living with him. The appeal was therefore allowed, and the award set aside.—*McLean and Wife v. Moss Bay Iron and Steel Co., Court of Appeal, May 29th, 1909.*

(2) Merchant Shipping Acts.

DEDUCTIONS BY WAY OF PENALTY FROM SEAMAN'S WAGES: LEGALITY OF AGREEMENT.

It is provided by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, that if a seaman neglects, or refuses without reasonable cause, to join his ship, or to proceed to sea in his ship, or is absent without leave at any time within 24 hours of the ship's sailing from a port, either at the commencement or during the progress of a voyage, or is absent at any time without leave and without sufficient reason from his ship or from his duty, he shall, if the offence does not amount to desertion, or is not treated as such by the master, be guilty of the offence of absence without leave, and be liable to forfeit out of his wages a sum not exceeding two days' pay, and in addition for every 24 hours of absence, either a sum not exceeding six days' pay or any expenses properly incurred in hiring a substitute; and also, except in the United Kingdom, he shall be liable to imprisonment for any period not exceeding ten weeks with or without hard labour. It is also provided that nothing in the sections relating to the offences of desertion or absence without leave shall take away or limit any remedy by action or by summary procedure before justices which an owner or master would, but for those provisions, have for any breach of contract in respect of the matters constituting an offence under those sections, but an owner or master must not be compensated more than once in respect of the same damage.

While a ship was loading at a Welsh port the master got together a crew of 27 hands, with whom he arranged for a foreign voyage upon the terms of an agreement which contained the following clause: "The said master shall be entitled to deduct from the wages of any member of the said crew the following amounts, viz., for not joining at the time specified in column II, two days' pay, or at his option any expenses which have been properly incurred in hiring a substitute and for absence at any time without leave from his ship or from his duty, a sum equal to two days' pay for any period of absence not exceeding 24 hours, and a further sum equal to four days' pay for each succeeding completed or uncompleted period of 24 hours' absence."

The master and crew then attended at the local Mercantile Marine Office for the purpose of signing the agreement before the superintendent. The superintendent, however, refused to allow the agreement to be signed so long as it contained the clause in question, stating that he was instructed by the Board of Trade that the stipulation was contrary to law. The shipowners and the master accordingly brought an action against the superintendent, the question for the opinion of the Court being whether the proposed stipulation was contrary to law.

The judge held that the stipulation must either be in addition to or in substitution for the provisions of the Act. In the latter case it would amount to a repeal of those provisions, which it was not competent for the parties to do; if it was in addition to the provisions, then the stipulation made the seamen liable not only to punishment under the Act, but also to other penalties besides; therefore the stipulation was inconsistent with the Act. The stipulation also went far beyond merely fixing the damages recoverable for breach of contract, as it enabled the master to deduct the amount from wages. The defendant was, therefore, justified in refusing to sanction the agreement, and judgment would be for the defendant.—*Mercantile Shipping Company and Dale v. Hall, King's Bench Division, 26th May, 1909.*

(3) Trade Union Acts.

SECEDING BRANCH: DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS CONTRARY TO RULES: INJUNCTION AT SUIT OF HEAD TRUSTEES.

It is provided by the Trade Union Act, 1871, that nothing in the Act shall enable any Court to entertain any legal proceedings instituted with the object of directly enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of any agreement for the application of the funds of a trade union to provide benefits to members.

A branch of a trade union seceded from the parent society, and subsequently passed a resolution to distribute the funds of the branch amongst its members. This resolution was contrary to the rules of the union. The head trustees of the union then brought an action against the trustees of the branch for an injunction to restrain them from acting upon the resolution and for an order for the payment of the funds to the plaintiffs.

The Court of Appeal upholding the decision of a Chancery judge, held that the funds in question did not belong to the branch, as distinguished from the society, and that the head trustees were entitled to bring the action, and were also entitled to an injunction to restrain the defendants from distributing the branch funds

amongst its members or dealing with them otherwise than in accordance with the rules; but the plaintiffs were not entitled to an order for payment of the money to them, as such order would amount to a direct enforcement of an agreement for the application of the funds to provide benefits to members.—*Cope v. Crossingham, Court of Appeal, May 21st, 1909.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies and Master Bakers' Associations in Great Britain, and from local correspondents, showing the price of household bread on June 1st, 1909.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 230 Returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 133 from Scotland:—

District.	Predominant price per 4 lbs. on 1st June, 1909.			Predominant price per 4 lbs. on 1st Mar., 1909.			Predominant price per 4 lbs. on 1st June, 1908.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire	7½	6	6:59	7	5½	6:12	7	5	6:03
Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5½	6:34	6½	5	5:86	7½	4½	5:76
N. Mid. Counties...	7	5	5:88	6	5	5:25	6	5	5:21
W. do. do. ...	7	5½	6:17	6	5	5:57	6	4½	5:50
S. do. do. ...	6½	5	5:90	6	4½	5:35	6	5	5:38
Eastern Counties...	6½	6	6:33	6	5	5:70	6	5	5:63
London ...	6½	6	6:44	6	5½	5:84	6	5½	5:85
S.E. Counties ...	7	6	6:49	6	5	5:92	6½	5½	5:94
S.W. Counties, } Wales & Mon. }	7	5½	6:14	6½	5	5:53	6½	5	5:59
England and Wales ...	7½	5	6:22	7	4½	5:63	7½	4½	5:63
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	7	6	6:56	7	5½	6:07	7	5½	6:11
Eastern Counties	7½	5	6:53	7	4	6:22	7	4	6:24
Lanarkshire ...	7	6½	6:37	6½	6	6:07	6½	5½	6:03
Other Southern Counties...	7	6½	6:76	7	6	6:39	7	6	6:38
Scotland ...	7½	5	6:55	7	4	6:22	7	4	6:23
Great Britain ...	7½	5	6:33	7	4	5:88	7½	4	5:85

The mean of the prices for June, 1909, shows a rise of a halfpenny as compared with that for 1st March. As compared with 1st June, 1908, a rise of ½d. per 4 lbs. is shown.

Other Returns.

Returns showing the predominant price of 4 lbs. of bread on June 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 are shown, together with the mean of all the predominant rates in each district:—

District.	1st June, 1909.			1st May, 1909.			1st June, 1908.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	6½	6	6:1	6½	6	6:2	5½	5	5:4
E. & N.E. ...	6½	6	6:1	6½	6	6:1	5½	5	5:3
S.E. ...	6	6	6:0	6	6	6:0	6	5½	5:6
S.W. ...	6½	6	6:3	6½	6	6:4	6	5½	5:6
W. & W.C. ...	6½	6	6:4	6½	6	6:4	6	5½	5:7
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5½	6:3	7	5½	6:3	7	5	5:7
Midlands ...	6½	5½	6:0	7	5½	6:0	6	4½	5:4
Eastern Counties ...	6½	6	6:2	6½	5½	6:1	6	5	5:4
Southern Counties	7	5½	6:5	7	5½	6:5	6½	4½	5:9
S. Western Counties and Wales	7	5½	6:3	7	5½	6:2	6	5	5:5
Scotland ...	7	5½	6:6	7½	5½	6:6	7	5½	6:2
Great Britain ...	7	5½	6:3	7½	5½	6:6	7	4½	5:6

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices shows but little change. As compared with 1st June, 1908, an increase of 7d. 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 June 1st, 1909	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.		
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs	
		d.	d.	d.	d.	
London ...	6 & 6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Birmingham ...	6	— ½	+ ½	— ½	May '09	— ½
Bolton ...	6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Bristol ...	6 & 6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Cardiff ...	6 & 6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Derby ...	6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Hull ...	6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Ipswich ...	6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Leeds ...	7	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Leicester ...	6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Liverpool ...	6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Manchester ...	6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Middlesbrough ...	6 & 7	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Norwich ...	6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Nottingham ...	6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Oldham ...	6½	+	+	+	May '09	+ ½
Plymouth ...	6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Potteries ...	5½ & 6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Southampton ...	5½ & 6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Wolverhampton ...	6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Aberdeen ...	6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Dundee ...	6	— ½	...	...	May '09	— ½
Edinburgh ...	7	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Glasgow ...	6	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Belfast ...	6½	...	+	+	April '09	+ ½
Dublin ...	6	...	...	...	Mar. '08	— ½

As compared with a month ago, the price of bread has risen ¼d. per 4 lbs. in Oldham. In both Birmingham and Dundee, though no actual fall has occurred, the predominant price is now 6d. per 4 lbs., as compared with 6d. and 6½d., and 6d. and 7d., respectively, a month ago. As compared with 1st June, 1908, Dundee and Dublin show no change. The remaining towns show increases. In London the increase was from ½d. to 1d. per 4 lbs.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during the period September, 1908-May, 1909, amounted to 65,899,085 cwts., or 4,948,725 cwts. less than in the corresponding period of 1907-8. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1908-May, 1909, amounted to 3,880,609 or 2,209,217 cwts. less than in September, 1907-May, 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. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports. (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
May 1908.	Per cwt.* s. d. 7 8	Pencwt. s. d. 8 3½	Per cwt. s. d. 10 9½	Per cwt. s. d. 11 6½
April 1909.	9 1	9 2½	11 4½	13 2½
May 1909.	9 9	9 9	11 7½	13 6½

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom for the first quarter of 1909 show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £7,830,620, a decrease of 4.0 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1908 and an increase of 25.1 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1904 (i.e., five years ago).

* In accordance with Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882 the rate of conversion from cwts. to quarters is made at the rate of 60 imperial pounds = 1 bushel of wheat.

The sales and transfers from the productive to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £2,182,437, an increase of 2.7 per cent. on the first quarter of 1908 and of 59.6 per cent. on that of 1904.

The following Table gives details for the three societies:—

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales.*				
	In the first quarter of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	1909.	1908.	1904.	A year ago.	Five years ago.
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	£ 6,049,034	£ 6,204,843	£ 4,644,798	- 2.5	+ 30.3
Productive ...	1,545,628	1,468,514	869,492	+ 5.3	+ 77.8
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	£ 1,735,674	£ 1,912,688	£ 1,578,437	- 9.3	+ 10.0
Productive ...	599,091	621,328	461,694	- 3.6	+ 29.8
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE:—					
Productive Departments ...	£ 37,718	£ 35,883	£ 36,043	+ 5.1	+ 4.6
IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments†	£ 45,012	£ 36,647	£ 34,373	+ 22.8	+ 31.0
Totals—Distributive Depts. ...	£ 7,830,620	£ 8,154,178	£ 6,257,608	- 4.0	+ 25.1
" Productive ...	2,182,437	2,125,725	1,367,429	+ 2.7	+ 59.6
Grand Total ...	10,013,057	10,279,903	7,624,837	- 2.8	+ 31.3

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

THE results of the latest ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron, being the prices upon which wages are regulated, are given in the Table below. The paragraphs following the Table show that no changes in wages resulted from these ascertainment:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.	Decrease of last Audit as compared with			
			Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Durham:— (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth).	1909. Jan.-Mar.	7 6:91	0 7:91	1 6:40	
Pig Iron.					
West of Scotland ...	Feb.-April	53 3:547	1 7:936	3 5:308	
Manufact'd Iron.					
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	Mar.-April	127 9:42	3 9:90	9 8:69	
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, etc.)		125 0:52	0 4:36	15 2:82	
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)		118 9:74	0 9:05	11 8:21	

Coal.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Durham coal, Lord Collins, the umpire appointed by the Conciliation Board, decided that the wages of underground and surface workers should remain unaltered for the ensuing three months.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland remain unaltered.

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

* The amounts given for the productive departments represent sales and transfers to distributive departments.

† This Society has no productive departments.

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 May, 1909, was 54, consisting of 50 cases of lead poisoning, and 4 cases of anthrax. Three deaths were reported during May, two caused by lead poisoning, and one by anthrax. In addition to the above, 12 cases of lead poisoning (3 of which were fatal) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During January - May, 1909, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 248, as compared with 292 in the corresponding period of 1908. The number of deaths during the same period was 17 in 1909, and 18 in 1908. In addition there were 84 cases of lead poisoning (including 19 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first five months of 1909, as compared with 75 cases (including 11 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 May, 1909.	Five Months ended May, 1909.	Month of May, 1908.	Five Months ended May, 1908.		
					1909.	1908.	1909.	1908.
Lead Poisoning.						
Smelting of Metals ...	11	33	28	—	1	1
Brass Works ...	—	1	3	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	4	7	—	1	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	—	1	12	—	—	—
Printing ...	1	11	7	—	1	1
File Cutting ...	—	1	5	—	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware	2	9	1	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	2	12	31	—	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	—	3	5	—	—	—
China and Earthenware* ...	6	20	57	1	2	5
Litho-Transfer Works ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	3	9	13	—	1	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	2	16	10	—	1	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	12	36	28	—	3	1
Coach Making ...	4	10	4	1	1	—
Shipbuilding ...	2	16	16	—	—	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	4	28	29	—	1	4
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total in Factories and Workshops	80	226	261	2	13	14
House Painting and Plumbing ...	12	84	75	3	19	11
Other Forms of Poisoning.						
Mercurial Poisoning—						
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	1	—	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	2	1	—	—	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—						
Lucifer Match Works	—	2	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	2	—	—	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—						
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	1	13	—	—	1
Other Industries	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	—	1	14	—	—	1
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"						
	—	5	18	—	—	1
Anthrax.						
Wool ...	2	11	10	1	1	1
Handling of Horsehair	—	2	10	—	1	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	2	7	7	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	2	4	—	1	2
Total, Anthrax	4	22	31	1	4	4

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 6 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry 3 were females.
† Including 1 Dock Labourer.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY.

(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 May, 1909, was 204, a decrease of 32 as compared with April, 1909, and of 23 as compared with a year ago. The mean number for May in the years 1904-1908 was 215, the maximum year being 1907, with 231 deaths, and the minimum year 1904, with 195 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in May, 1909, was 104, as compared with 89 in April, 1909, and 112 a year ago. The total number of accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during May, 1909, was 74, as compared with 99 in the previous month, and 79 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 23, 47, and 34 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in May, 1909, was 40, as compared with 69 in April, 1909, and 59 in May, 1908.

During the five months ended May, 1909, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 1,297, as compared with 1,291 in 1908. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 402 in 1909, and 545 in 1908.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, as compared with a	
	May, 1909.	April, 1909.	May, 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	2	3	- 1	- 2
Engine Drivers	1	2	1	- 1	—
Firemen	2	1	1	+ 1	+ 1
Guards (Passenger)	1	—	—	+ 1	+ 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	6	10	6	- 4	—
Porters	2	5	5	- 3	- 3
Shunters	1	6	2	- 5	- 1
Miscellaneous	8	20	15	- 12	- 7
Contractors' Servants	1	1	1	—	—
Total, Railway Service	23	47	34	- 24	- 11
Mines—					
Underground	85	72	95	+ 13	- 10
Surface	15	11	7	+ 4	+ 8
Total, Mines	100	83	102	+ 17	- 2
Quarries over 20 feet deep	4	6	10	- 2	- 6
Factories and Workshops—					
<i>Textile—</i>					
Cotton	4	6	3	- 2	+ 1
Wool and Worsted	2	1	2	+ 1	+ 1
Other Textiles	2	—	1	+ 2	+ 1
<i>Non-Textile—</i>					
Extraction of Metals	3	3	7	—	- 4
Founding and Conversion of Metals	8	9	7	- 1	+ 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	5	3	—	+ 2	+ 5
Ship and Boat Building	6	5	4	+ 1	+ 2
Wood	2	3	1	- 1	+ 1
Chemicals	1	7	3	- 6	- 2
Laundries	—	—	1	—	- 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	24	32	21	- 8	+ 3
Total, Factories ...	57	69	50	- 12	+ 7
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	8	9	10	- 1	- 2
Warehouses	1	7	2	- 6	- 1
Buildings to which Act applies	8	14	17	- 6	- 9
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	17	30	29	- 13	- 12
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Total, exclusive of Seamen	204	236	227	- 32	- 23
Seamen—					
<i>On Trading Vessels—</i>					
Sailing	8	13	18	- 5	- 10
Steam	30	47	39	- 17	- 9
<i>On Fishing Vessels—</i>					
Sailing	1	4	—	- 3	+ 1
Steam	1	5	2	- 4	- 1
Total, Seamen	40	69	59	- 29	- 19
Total, including Seamen	244	305	286	- 61	- 42

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-six disputes began in May, 1909, as compared with 24 in April, 1909, and 29 in May, 1908. By the 26 disputes, 4,302 workpeople were directly, and 3,623 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 11,670 workpeople involved in trade disputes in May, 1909, as compared with 8,963 in April, 1909, and 55,276 in May, 1908.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building ...	2	411	100	511
Mining ...	9	2,189	2,415	4,604
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	4	614	1,040	1,654
Clothing ...	4	847	—	847
Transport ...	3	82	62	144
Other Trades ...	4	159	6	165
Total, May, 1909 ...	26	4,302	3,623	7,925
Total, April, 1909 ...	24	5,049	979	6,028
Total, May, 1908 ...	29	3,997	193	4,190

Causes.—Of the 26 new disputes, 8 arose on demands for increased wages, 2 on objections to reduction in wages, 7 on other wages questions, 2 for decrease in the hours of labour, 2 on details of working arrangements, and 5 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 16 new disputes, directly involving 2,261 persons, and 8 old disputes, directly involving 1,423 persons. Of these 24 new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 138 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 11, directly involving 1,172 persons, were decided in favour

of the employers; and 9, directly involving 2,374 persons, were compromised. In the case of one other dispute, terminated during the month, work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in May of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 83,500 working days. In addition, 25,800 working days were lost during May owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in May of all disputes, new and old, was 109,300 working days, as compared with 106,700 in the previous month, and 1,191,100 in the corresponding month of 1908.

Summary for the First Five 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 five months, January—May, 1908 and 1909, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.—May, 1908.			Jan.—May, 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 ...	14	2,858	65,300	5	568	5,000
Mining and Quarrying ...	42	13,550	468,500	47	25,974	423,900
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	26	53,075	2,789,600	22	5,897	131,600
Textile ...	31	9,165	363,700	23	2,010	41,800
Clothing ...	19	1,669	41,700	11	1,310	10,600
Transport ...	10	1,963	15,200	10	1,552	7,600
Other Trades ...	22	2,295	39,700	17	864	27,300
Total ...	164	84,573	3,783,700	135	38,175	647,800

Principal Disputes.—Particulars of the principal disputes which began, or were settled, in May are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress during May 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.	Duration in Working Days	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Di-	Indi-				
		rectly.	rectly.†				
Building Trade—							
Builders' Labourers, Carpenters, Masons, Plasterers, &c.	Cork ...	300	100	1909 3 May	4	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	Advance of 1s. per week granted.
Coal Mining—							
Coal Miners, &c.	Clydach Vale	561	—	1908 1 Oct. 1909	173	Against proposed reduction in wages	Change in system of working adopted.
Bankmen, Underground and Surface Workers							
Bankmen, Underground and Surface Workers	Rotherham ...	30	1,540	13 May	2	Against change from piece to day work	Rate of payment amicably settled.
Miners and Pit Boys, Mechanics, Enginemen, &c.							
Miners and Pit Boys, Mechanics, Enginemen, &c.	Alfreton ...	1,590	304	18 May	—	For increase in price list ...	No settlement reported.
Iron and Steel Manufacture—							
Sheet Rollers and Other Workpeople in Mills	Shotton ...	350	1,000	10 May	8	Claim for ten minutes' interval between each heat	Work resumed on employer's terms.
Jute Manufacture—							
Jute Weavers and Other Workpeople	Forfar ...	205	145	9 Mar.	54	Against proposed reduction in wages	New system of work and new scale of pay adopted.
Tailoring Trade—							
Tailors and Tailoresses ...	London ...	700	—	5 May	9	For reduction in hours of labour, increase in rates for overtime and night pay, payment for holidays, &c.	For terms of settlement see p. 184.
Woodworking—							
Coopers ...	Edinburgh ...	350	—	1908 10 Aug.	247	Against employment of "headers-up" on work claimed by coopers.	Some firms granted men's terms; at others men resumed work on old conditions.

* 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.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in May.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in May, 1909, was a decrease of £1,018 per week, as compared with a decrease of £4,099 per week in April, 1909, and one of £3,624 per week in May, 1908. The number of workpeople affected was 16,786, of whom 2,607 received advances amounting to £87 per week, and 14,179 sustained decreases amounting to £1,105 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 85,136, and in May, 1908, 147,566.

Two changes, affecting 500 workpeople, were settled by Arbitration; and one change, affecting 1,240 workpeople, took effect under sliding scale. The remaining changes, affecting 15,046 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives; three of these changes affecting 539 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the five completed months of 1909.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, during the five months ended May 31st, 1909, was 1,079,519, as compared with 823,688 in the corresponding period of 1908. The changes arranged gave 4,962 workpeople a net increase of £293 per week and 1,070,688 workpeople a net decrease of £54,768 per week, whilst the remaining 3,869 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 £54,475 per week, as compared with an increase of £978 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—May.			
	1908.		1909.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	1,938	+ 171	2,382	- 67
Coal Mining	637,150	+ 7,837	836,750	- 42,806
Iron, &c., Mining	13,993	+ 1,291	7,660	- 152
Quarrying	2,202	- 217	4,014	- 36
Fig Iron Manufacture	16,720	- 1,739	14,191	- 470
Iron and Steel Manufacture	50,458	- 3,484	11,585	- 2,204
Engineering and Shipbuilding	73,574	- 2,527	43,397	- 8,062
Other Metal Trades	1,419	+ 134	3,357	+ 368
Textile Trades	6,125	+ 831	154,649	+ 33
Clothing Trades	1,182	+ 59	350	+ 50
Printing, &c., Trades	9,939	+ 870	1,241	+ 1
Glass, &c., Trades	5,045	+ 354	15	- 53
Other Trades	2,186	+ 76	1,462	+ 39
Employees of Local Authorities	1,775	+ 172	466	+ 39
Total	823,688	+ 978	1,079,519	- 54,475

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in May, 1909, affected 12,444 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 25,312 hours per week. The total number reported as affected by changes in hours of labour during the five months ended May 31st, 1909, was 16,789, the net decrease in their working hours being 42,010 per week.

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

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	Glasgow, Greenock, Johnstone, Hamilton, Airdrie and Coatbridge	1 & 3 May	Slaters	515	Decrease of 3d. per hour (gd. to 8 1/2d.).
			Cork	10 May	Builders' Labourers 450 ... Advance of 1s. per week (1fs. to 1gs.).
Coal Mining ...	Northumberland	3 & 10 May	Deputies	1,100	Decrease of 5d. per day (6s. 8d. to 6s. 3d.).
			Mechanics	1,600	Decrease of 5d. per day (5s. 6d. to 5s. 1d.).
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Eston	2 May	Enginemmen	700	Decrease of 5d. per day. Wages after change: Winding Enginemmen, 5s. 10d.; Hauling and Pumping Enginemmen, 5s. 3d.
			Firemen	250	Decrease of 7 per cent., leaving wages 23 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Engineering	Manchester and District	1 May	Steel Workers	1,240	Advance, under sliding scale, of 1 1/2 per cent., making wages 10 1/2 per cent. above the standard.
			Coremakers and Dressers	470	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: Coremakers, 35s.; Dressers, 50s.
Other Metal Trades	Ashton-under-Lyne	14 May	Engineers	500	Decrease of 2 1/2 per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates. Rates after change: Fitters, Turners, Smiths, 37s.; Patternmakers, 39s.
			Engineers in Machine Shops	320	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rate after change: Fitters, Turners and Erectors, 34s.
Transport	Blackburn and District	14 May	Engineers	700	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: Fitters, Turners, Smiths (machine shops), 34s.; (engine shops), 35s.
			Engineers	5,000	Decrease of 2 1/2 per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates. Rates after change: Fitters and Turners (millwright and tool shops), 36s. (machine shops), 33s. and 35s.; Smiths (millwright and tool shops), 37s. (machine shops), 35s.; Patternmakers, 38s.
Transport	Oldham and District	17 May	Ironmoulders	615	Decrease of 2 1/2 per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates (40s. to 39s.).
			Fitting and Socket Makers (Tube Trade)	900	Decrease of 2 1/2 per cent.
Transport	South Staffs. District	10 May	Endwelded Chain Makers (Factory)	750	Decrease of 10 per cent.
			Wharf Labourers engaged in discharging iron ore	600	Decrease of 3d. per ton. Rates after change: 4d. and 4 1/2d. per ton.

II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

Building	Wigan & District	1 May	Carpenters and Joiners	400	Average reduction of 4 1/2 hours per week.
			Bricklayers, Masons, Carpenters and Joiners, Plasterers and Labourers	6,210	Re-arrangement of hours, resulting in an average reduction for the year of 2 hours per week to Bricklayers, Plasterers and Labourers, and of 3/4 hour per week to Masons and Carpenters and Joiners.
Clothing	London, W.	17 May	Ladies' Tailors	700	Decrease of 2 1/2 hours per week (52 1/2 to 50).
			Compositors, Machinemmen, &c.	5,000	Decrease of 2 1/2 hours per week (52 1/2 to 50).

NOTE.—Full particulars will appear in the July GAZETTE of the following important changes which have been arranged to take effect in June. Coal Mining.—Decrease of 7 1/2 per cent. in the wages of coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire. * Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for five months ended May.

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.

	Five months ended May.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, compared with	
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1908.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	95,721,953	98,561,823	96,823,297	- 1,738,526	+ 1,121,344
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	116,461,386	91,537,769	93,387,470	+ 1,849,701	- 23,075,916
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	67,364,987	61,173,204	58,776,602	- 2,396,602	- 8,588,385
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	1,030,885	914,482	981,945	+ 67,463	- 48,940
Total value of Imports	280,588,111	252,187,278	249,989,314	- 2,217,964	- 30,591,897

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.

	Five months ended May.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1909, compared with	
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1908.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	7,379,274	7,529,097	8,080,435	+ 551,338	+ 701,161
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	20,902,678	21,551,832	19,866,160	- 1,685,672	- 1,036,518
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	142,506,771	129,628,861	116,681,089	- 12,947,772	- 25,825,682
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	2,417,677	2,330,466	2,588,691	+ 258,225	+ 171,014
Total value of Exports of British produce.	173,206,400	161,040,256	147,216,375	- 13,823,881	- 25,990,028

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended May 29th, 1909, amounted to £4,243,297, a decrease of £61,145 (or 1.4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1908. During the twenty-one weeks ended May 29th, 1909, the receipts amounted to £21,933,279, a decrease of £565,387 (or 2.5 per cent.) as compared with 1908.

	4 weeks ended May 29th, 1909.		21 weeks ended May 29th, 1909	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1908.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1908.
English Lines:—	£	£	£	£
L. & N. W., Midland, N. London, and N. Staffs.	1,314,555	- 37,754	6,963,589	- 322,963
Gt. Northern, Gt. Central, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	650,670	- 27,572	3,467,176	- 127,820
Lancs. and Yorks., and N. Eastern	807,115	+ 7,546	4,046,492	- 67,570
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	672,400	- 7,200	3,403,200	- 20,800
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	148,741	+ 4,223	764,383	+ 15,659
Scottish Lines:—	£	£	£	£
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	527,742	+ 780	2,659,469	- 50,021
Irish Lines:—	£	£	£	£
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G. W., and Gt. Northern	122,074	- 1,168	628,665	+ 8,128
Total	4,243,297	- 61,145	21,933,279	- 565,387

* 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.

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in May, 1909, in the 35 urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 226 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with April, 1909, the total number of paupers decreased by 7,034 (1.7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 3. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 4,679 (2.5 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 2,355 (1.0 per cent.). There were decreases in 24 districts, most marked in North Staffordshire (19 per 10,000). Increases occurred in 9 districts, and in the Bolton and Wigan districts there was no change.

Compared with May, 1908, the rate per 10,000 increased by 6. The number of indoor paupers increased by 4,098 (2.3 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 9,228 (4.2 per cent.). In 18 districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (79 per 10,000); and decreases occurred in 17 districts.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of May, 1909.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District	11,914	3,159	15,073	176	- 6	- 2
North District	16,521	9,742	26,263	241	- 4	- 3
Central District	6,826	2,419	9,245	508	- 12	- 5
East District	16,198	7,924	24,122	333	- 7	- 7
South District	27,357	19,336	46,693	242	- 8	- 3
Total, Metropolis	78,816	42,580	121,396	264	- 7	- 4
West Ham	4,799	11,456	16,255	216	- 4	- 11
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,861	5,870	8,731	190	- 3	- 6
Stockton & Tees District	1,574	8,369	9,943	443	- 9	+ 79
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,545	6,852	11,397	143	...	+ 12
Wigan District	2,368	5,943	8,311	202	...	- 1
Manchester District	11,311	13,566	24,877	233	+ 4	+ 50
Liverpool District	13,190	12,770	25,960	242	- 3	+ 14
Bradford District	2,069	2,482	4,551	122	- 4	- 3
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,307	4,195	5,503	180	- 5	+ 3
Leeds District	3,734	4,829	7,963	189	- 8	- 3
Barnsley District	832	3,161	3,993	155	+ 2	+ 7
Sheffield District	3,546	3,903	7,449	161	+ 3	+ 8
Hull District	1,805	5,843	7,648	268	+ 1	+ 9
North Staffordshire	2,480	7,401	9,881	283	- 19	+ 10
Nottingham District	2,304	6,008	8,312	193	+ 1	- 7
Leicester District	1,540	4,762	6,302	261	+ 6	+ 21
Wolverhampton District	4,135	12,428	16,563	245	+ 2	+ 8
Birmingham District	5,457	4,746	10,203	170	- 8	+ 12
Bristol District	3,054	6,253	9,307	280	- 3	- 4
Cardiff & Swansea	2,327	7,637	9,964	261	- 5	- 7
Total, "Other Districts"	69,839	126,959	196,798	211	- 2	+ 12
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	6,327	18,770	25,097	245	- 1	+ 8
Paisley & Greenock District	943	2,738	3,681	202	- 2	+ 8
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,772	5,519	7,291	173	- 7	- 2
Dundee & Dunfermline	944	2,695	3,639	179	- 6	+ 3
Aberdeen	739	3,185	3,924	221	- 5	+ 2
Coatbridge & Airdrie	408	1,780	2,188	220	+ 5	+ 24
Total for the above Scottish Districts	11,133	34,687	45,820	217	- 3	+ 5
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	6,921	5,459	12,380	307	- 10	- 8
Belfast District	3,973	1,055	5,028	117	- 1	+ 7
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District	4,280	5,032	9,312	383	- 10	- 5
Galway District	343	364	707	204	+ 7	- 1
Total for the above Irish Districts	15,517	11,910	27,427	247	- 6	- 2
Total for above 35 Districts in May, 1909	180,104	227,692	407,686	226	- 3	+ 6

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

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