

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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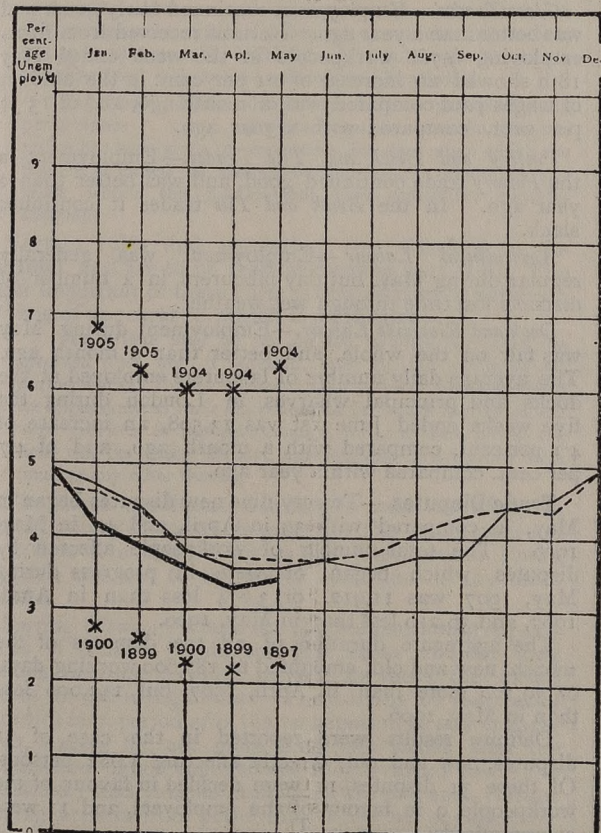
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF  
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1907.      ——— Thin Curve=1906.  
..... Dotted Curve=Mean of 1897-1906.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, 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, 1907, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 624,993 members in the following trades:—

Building...	65,288	Printing & Bookbinding	54,246
Coal Mining ...	120,186	Woodworking and Fur-	
Engineering ...	159,474	nishing ...	35,239
Shipbuilding ...	60,113	Miscellaneous ...	21,356
Other Metal Trades ...	29,886	Total ...	624,993
Textiles ...	79,205		

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MAY.

[In addition to the 2,686 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,887 were received from employers relating to 1,125,867 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 6,573 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 good except in the building trades. It showed, on the whole, little change as compared with the previous month.

As compared with a year ago, all the principal industries, except shipbuilding and engineering, showed some improvement.

The changes in rates of wages reported during May resulted in a net weekly rise in wages of over £20,000. During the first five months of 1907 the net increase in wages amounted to £100,000, as compared with a net increase of £24,000 in the corresponding period of 1906.

In the 273 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 624,993, making Returns, 21,081 (or 3·4 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, 1907, compared with 3·3 per cent. at the end of April, 1907, and 3·6 per cent. at the end of May, 1906.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in May was dull, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 56,217 workpeople at the end of May showed a decrease in the number employed of 1·0 per cent. as compared with a month ago.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry remained very good. The average number of days worked per week at the pits during the four weeks ended May 18th was 5·57, compared with 5·37 a year ago. Comparison with a month ago is affected by holidays.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment on the whole continued good, and showed some improvement compared with a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry during May continued good. It showed a slight decline as compared with April, but was rather better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 25,000 workpeople, showed 346 furnaces in blast at the end of May, as compared with 349 in April, and 342 a year ago.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Employment at iron and steel works continued very brisk, and, though not quite so good as a month ago, was much better than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended May, 18th, 1907, at the 202 works from which Returns were received, was 0·4 per cent. less than in the week ended April 27th, 1907, but 5·4 per cent. greater than a year ago.



**Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.**—Employment continued good during May, and was better than a year ago. A number of sheet mills were still idle owing to a dispute. At the works covered by the Returns 437 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of May, 1907, as compared with the same number in April, 1907, and 415 in May, 1906.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment in May continued good, but showed a slight decline compared with a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 2.9, as compared with 2.8 a month ago and 2.5 a year ago.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment was fair on the whole, showing little general change compared with April, but was not so good as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 6.7, as compared with 6.6 per cent. in April and 6.0 per cent. in May, 1906.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 129,753 workpeople in the week ended May 18th, showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 28,319 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 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 47,733 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Flax (Linen) Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,892 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 8.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment was good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,088 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but an increase of 5.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,145 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed increases of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 7.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment, on the whole, was good in England, and better than a month ago and a year ago; in Scotland it was quiet, and showed a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 9,721 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed an increase in the amount of wages paid of 0.9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 7.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment on the whole continued good, and better than a year ago. Firms employing 15,869 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but an increase of 5.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal improvement in London, and was fairly good; it was not so good as a year ago. In the Provinces it was good. In the *ready-made* branch it was good, and better than a year ago.

**Hat Trades.**—Employment during May in the *Silk Hat* branch was quiet; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was fairly good; on the whole it was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of May in the *Silk Hat*

trade was 7.3, compared with 5.1 at the end of April, and 10.7 a year ago. The corresponding percentages in the *Felt Hat* trade were 2.5, 2.1, and 4.0.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment, on the whole, was fairly good, and slightly better than a month ago; compared with a year ago little change was shown. Returns from firms employing 61,954 workpeople showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment was quiet, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,710 had 5.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 5.8 per cent. in April, 1907, and in May, 1906.

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

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment remained fair on the whole. In the printing trade it was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 4.0, as compared with 3.8 in April, and 4.7 in May, 1906. In the bookbinding trade there was a decline. The percentages unemployed were 6.2 for May, 1907, 5.4 for April, 1907, and 5.1 for May, 1906.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in the furnishing and woodworking trades was fairly good, about the same, on the whole, as a month ago, and better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,239 reported 2.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with the same percentage a month ago, and 3.6 per cent. in May, 1906.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 9,768 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 13.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment in the *Pottery* trade continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it continued slack.

**Agricultural Labour.**—Employment was generally regular during May, but day labourers in a number of districts lost time through wet weather.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment during May was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended June 1st was 13,508, an increase of 4.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty-nine new disputes began in May, as compared with 39 in April, and 42 in May, 1906. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during May, 1907, was 11,912, or 3,674 less than in April, 1907, and 36,210 less than in May, 1906.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 187,600 working days, or 39,100 more than in April, 1907, but 142,000 less than in May, 1906.

Definite results were reported in the case of 31 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 4,682 persons. Of these 31 disputes, 11 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employers, and 11 were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes reported in May affected 282,500 workpeople, of whom 282,250 received advances, and 250 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were increased included 270,000 coal miners in England and Wales, about 4,000 shale miners in Scotland, and 3,900 steel melters, &c., in various parts of England and in Scotland. The total computed effect of all the changes was a net advance of £20,400 per week.

† The comparison with a year ago is affected to some extent by an advance in rates of wages in the glass bottle making trade, which took effect in January-February, 1907.

## MUSIC HALL DISPUTE.

MR. G. R. ASKWITH, the Arbitrator appointed under the Conciliation Act, issued his final award on June 14th, interim awards having been made in February and March. (See GAZETTE for February, p. 35, and March, p. 71.)

The award is to come into operation one month from the 14th June.

The following is a summary of the principal provisions of the award, which is applicable to all Theatres of Varieties in Great Britain and Ireland:—

### Artistes.

**Existing Contracts.**—Clauses in existing contracts relating to questions of transfer of artistes, non-payment of salary on closing of theatre, closing at the discretion of the management, matinees, and variation of times of appearance, are harmonised with the rules laid down for future contracts. (See below.) Existing contracts, if renewed, extended, or prolonged, shall be subject to the terms of the award.

**Future Contracts.**—Mr. Askwith drew up a model form for use in future contracts, and decided that, in all future contracts where clauses are inserted dealing with matinees, transference of artistes, and notice of closing theatres, the form of contract set out by him should be obligatory. These obligatory provisions are as follows:—

**Matinees.**—The artiste agrees to appear at any matinees required by the management, and shall be paid at the rate of one-seventh of the weekly salary in one-show-a-night houses, and one-twelfth in two-shows-a-night houses, for each matinee.

**Transfers.**—The artiste may be transferred during the whole or any part of the engagement (not less than one week) to any other theatre owned or controlled by or associated with the management, with the consent of the artiste, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld. If such transfer is made in the provinces, reasonable expenses shall be allowed.

**Two Months' Notice.**—No salary shall be payable for any performance . . . provided that two months previous notice has been given to the artiste, for days upon which the theatre is closed for alterations, decorations, repairs, or any cause which the management may reasonably consider adequate.

Certain rules and regulations are attached to the contract, and are to be read as forming part of it. The most important of these rules is that relating to variation of time of appearance, which is as follows:—

The artiste may be put on ten minutes later than the specified time, and, if required, must do the whole of his performance. The management may vary the times specified for appearance at their discretion, on or before Friday in the week previous to the performance, but not later, unless the time can be varied without unreasonable interference with times at any other theatre.

The above conditions, relating to variations of times, are obligatory in contracts made for the performance of an artiste at a theatre within the Metropolitan Police District, and not to the entire exclusion of any other theatre.

**Barring Clauses.**—These are clauses restricting appearances of artistes within specified areas and for long periods of time. With respect to these the award makes the following limits:—The barring of theatres of varieties for a period after the termination of any engagement, except for not more than two weeks after the termination of an engagement in provincial towns, is abolished; and various limitations are put upon clauses barring artistes from performing before an engagement, according as the theatre is (i.) in the West End; (ii.) in the Metropolitan Police District, but not in the West End; (iii.) in the Provinces.

The Arbitrator decided that the limitations fixed in his award should constitute the maximum bars, but that nothing contained in this part of the award is to prevent artistes and managements from agreeing to a relaxation of conditions, either in the contract itself or subsequently in writing.

**Future Disputes** are to be settled by conference between the parties, or by arbitration (for which a scheme is provided in the award), and not by strikes or stoppages.

Six months' notice must be given for an alteration in the rules or conditions contained in this award; such notice to terminate on the 30th June in any year, and not to be given in any case before the 1st January, 1912.

### Musicians (London).

**Minimum Wage in London.**—The minimum wage is fixed at 32s. for musicians (30s. for drummers) in London, except at theatres where the average wage in January, 1907, was less than 30s., in which case the wage shall be 30s. and 28s. respectively. Matinees to be paid extra at the rate of not less than 5s. in one-show-a-night houses and 3s. in two-shows-a-night houses.

### Employees (London).

**Daymen.**—The minimum wage is fixed at 27s. 6d. a week, exclusive of overtime. Overtime on Sundays, Good Friday, and Christmas Day, or after 12 (midnight), to be paid for at the rate of 11d. per hour.

**Nightmen.**—This includes all men engaged for stage work during a performance. The minimum rates of pay are fixed at 2s. per performance (or matinee) in one-show-a-night houses, and 2s. 3d. a night (1s. 6d. a matinee) in two-shows-a-night houses. Rehearsals to be paid at the rate of 7d. an hour, with a minimum of 1s. 9d.

**Carpenters** to be paid 10½d. an hour, or the London rate; and to work 8½ hours before charging overtime. Overtime: time-and-a-half between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.; after 8 p.m., and after 1 p.m. Saturdays, double time.

**Stage Managers and Electricians.**—Stage managers (foremen) are to be paid a minimum of 36s. a week, and electricians (switchboard attendants) a minimum of 30s. a week: hours as for daymen, with overtime (after midnight or on Sundays) at the rate of 1s. and 11d. an hour respectively. No order is made as to a minimum wage for chief or master electricians.

### Musicians and Employees.

**Future Disputes.**—Any complaint that the award is not being complied with is to be referred to Mr. Askwith, or to some other arbitrator to be appointed by the Board of Trade.

Three months' notice must be given for any alteration in the rules or conditions fixed in the award, such notice to terminate on the 31st March or the 30th September in any year. Notice must not be given in the year 1908, until Mr. Askwith has examined such proposal and declared it to be satisfactory. The award provides a scheme for settling all future disputes and differences by means of conferences between the parties, and failing agreement at the conferences, by arbitration.

### Interpretation of Award.

Any questions as to the construction or interpretation of this award are to be referred to Mr. Askwith for decision.

## OTHER CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

### Boot and Shoe Operatives, Wolverhampton.

On May 22nd a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by representatives of the Wolverhampton Boot and Shoe Manufacturers, and of the local branch of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, for the appointment of an umpire to deal with the question of the price to be paid for pulling over on the "dilly jack."

On May 27th the Board of Trade appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, to act in that capacity.

The manufacturers had offered to pay at the rate of 7d. per dozen, while the operatives claimed 9d. per dozen.

Mr. Smith issued his award on June 10th, fixing the price at 8d. per dozen. This price was fixed on the understanding that the operatives should be constantly supplied with work, and should have a sufficient quantity of lasts provided in an easily accessible position. Any breach of this condition is to entail the payment of an extra sum to cover the operatives'



loss of time. The umpire also determined that the extras should be the same as those in the Kettering piecework statement for lasting men's work, dated June 22nd, 1906.

#### Tinplate Workers, Glamman.

On May 30th an application was made to the Board of Trade by the Secretary of the Welsh Artizans' United Association, through the General Federation of Trade Unions, for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle certain matters in dispute between the Raven Tinplate Company, Limited (who concurred in the application), and the stokers, picklers, and bar-cutters, in their employment.

On June 6th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

#### Printers, Glasgow.

On June 6th application was made to the Board of Trade by the proprietors of certain Glasgow newspapers and the Glasgow Branch of the Scottish Typographical Association for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle certain outstanding points of difference in a scale of prices for the production of newspapers which had otherwise been agreed upon.

On June 10th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

#### Boot and Shoe Operatives, Stafford.

Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, the umpire appointed in this case (*see* GAZETTE for May, p. 131), presided at two meetings of the representatives of the parties to this dispute (including the arbitrators) on May 10th and 14th, at the latter of which two meetings the following terms were agreed to:—

The minimum rate for efficient adult male clickers, lasters and finishers, is fixed at 30s. a week; for pressmen or roughstuff cutters who cut soles, insoles, and stiffeners, 29s. a week; and for pressmen or roughstuff cutters who cut boards, paper socks, or other inferior material, 27s. a week. Pressmen or roughstuff cutters entitled to the 29s. minimum, but temporarily employed on inferior materials, are to be paid the 29s. minimum. (The rates previously in force were 28s. for clickers, lasters and finishers, and 25s. for pressmen). Where quantity statements exist, or conditions have been mutually agreed upon prior to the agreement, such statements or conditions shall not be affected thereby, but may be subject to readjustment on the application of any employer or workman, or of the Operatives' Union.

Subsequently a dispute arose at one firm as to the payment of the minimum wage to certain lasters, who were working at a minimum wage of 28s. a week, but on a quantity statement existing before the date of the agreement; and the Umpire was requested, in accordance with the agreement, to determine the meaning of certain portions of the agreement, and particularly of the clause relating to quantity statements. Mr. Smith issued his award on May 30th, to the effect that the 30s. minimum was intended to apply to all efficient adult male clickers, lasters, and finishers. He ruled that, under the terms of reference, he was not called upon to determine the amount of work to be done for the minimum wage; the clause relating to quantity statements had been inserted, by consent of the parties, in order to meet any difficulty that might arise in putting into operation the minimum wage where the operatives worked under quantity statements, conditions, or on piecework rates agreed upon or recognised prior to the date of the agreement.

#### Carpenters and Joiners, Glasgow.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the conciliator appointed in this case (*see* GAZETTE for May, p. 131) issued an award on June 10th.

The questions at issue were (1) hours of labour, (2) rate of wages, (3) insertion of word "competent" before the word "workmen" in the rule relating to rate of wages, and (4) length of notice before dismissal ("grinding time").

On the question of hours of labour, the parties agreed to make 12 noon, instead of 1 p.m., the stopping-time on Saturdays during the months of June, July, and August. An amicable settlement was also reached on the rule relating to "grinding time." On the other two questions the parties were unable to agree, and Mr. Hudson ruled that no reduction should be made in the rate of wages, and that the word "competent" should be deleted from the rule in which it appeared.

#### Boot and Shoe Operatives, Kettering and Rothwell.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, the umpire appointed in this case (*see* GAZETTE for May, p. 131) issued his award on June 13th.

The workpeople had applied for an advance in the minimum rate of wages for clickers and pressmen to 30s. per week.

The umpire decided that the minimum rate for clickers should be 30s. per week, for pressmen (sole-makers) 28s., and for pressmen (ordinary) 26s.; these rates to come into operation in the last full week in June. (The rates previously in force were 27s. for clickers and 24s. for pressmen). By consent of the parties he further decided that these rates should continue for not less than two years, subject thereafter to the usual three months' notice on either side.

### REPORT OF MINERS' EIGHT HOUR DAY COMMITTEE.

THE Departmental Committee appointed "to inquire into the probable economic effect of a limit of eight hours to the working day of coal miners," have presented their Report.\*

The Committee draw attention to a preliminary difficulty as to the manner of calculating the eight hours' limit, even when qualified by the expression "bank to bank." It was found that the time taken in lowering the whole of the men included in one shift was about half-an-hour, and in raising them about the same or a little longer. If, therefore, the eight hours were reckoned from the time when all of the shift were down to the time when they began to be raised again to the surface, the average length of the time spent below ground would be 8½ hours; if, on the other hand, the time were reckoned from the moment when the first cage went down to the moment when all the shift had been brought to the surface again, the average time spent below ground would be only 7½ hours. The Committee, therefore, have interpreted the expression as meaning "8 hours, from the first man down to the first man up."

The Committee found that the average time, bank to bank, of all underground workers on a full day was 9 hours 3 minutes, or 8 hours 36 minutes for hewers, and 9 hours 28 minutes for other underground workmen. The hours vary widely from district to district: thus, in Durham, the average time for hewers was only 6 hours 49 minutes; whereas in Monmouthshire the time was 9 hours 54 minutes. These times are subject to a further deduction on account of (i.) time spent in going to and from the working places, estimated at about one hour for hewers, and 30 minutes for other underground workmen; and (ii.) time spent in taking meals, calculated at 39 minutes.

The weekly hours of labour under present conditions are further reduced by three causes, some of which would not operate to the same extent under an eight hours' system:—

- (i.) Losses by customary "idle" or "stop" days, and by customary "short" days;
- (ii.) Losses due to strikes, accidents, bad trade, shortage of wagons, &c.;
- (iii.) Losses due to voluntary absenteeism.

The actual average time spent underground, under present conditions, is reduced by these causes to 43 hours 13 minutes in a normal week.

The custom of having "idle" or "short" days, or both, is practically universal. The practice varies in almost every district, and even within the same

\* Cd. 3505. Price 9d.

district; but, broadly speaking, it may be said that the practice in Northumberland and Durham is to have 1 idle day, 1 short day, and 10 full days per fortnight; in Yorkshire and the Midlands, 2 short days and 10 full days; in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 4 short and 8 full days. The average length of the short day was found to be 6 hours 13 minutes. The proportion of time lost by these "idle" and "short" days is 6½ per cent. of the theoretical maximum; but the Committee do not consider that there is any possibility of using the time lost by "idle" days as a reserve which could be drawn upon to mitigate the effect upon production of a compulsory eight hours' day, and very little possibility of using the "short" days for this purpose.

The time lost by stoppages due to accidents, bad trade, shortage of wagons, &c., amounts to 7¼ per cent. of the theoretical maximum. The Committee think that some of this lost time, especially that due to want of orders, would tend to disappear in the event of an 8 hours' day causing a shortage, and consequent increased demand.

"Voluntary absenteeism" accounts on the average for a loss of 6.6 per cent. of the available time. It should be noted that this percentage of absenteeism is calculated not on the total number on the colliery books, some of whom on any one day would be absent owing to illness, accident, &c., but on the attendance actually attained on the best days of four selected weeks, viz., one week each in June and December, 1899, and June and December, 1905, respectively.

The Committee found that the proportion of "voluntary absenteeism" was, broadly speaking and with some exceptions, greatest in the districts where the average hours are longest, and least where they are shortest. The Committee also had evidence that, at least in some districts, there was a certain weekly output which the hewer by custom did not exceed; so that, if he reached that limit early in the week, he would "play" for the rest of the week.

The Committee consider that "voluntary absenteeism" would be reduced in many districts under an eight-hours system, especially in the case of hewers, who are paid by the piece.

The Committee consider, however, in spite of these mitigations, that the compulsory reduction of the working day would effect some temporary reduction in output, especially in South Wales and in Lancashire, where the hours at present are longest. They therefore discussed various means by which it was suggested that this reduction might be combated. These suggestions were:—

- (i.) Increased efficiency of the labour employed;
- (ii.) Improvements in the mechanical equipment of the collieries (improving winding and hauling machinery, sinking new shafts, &c.);
- (iii.) Increased use of coal-cutting machines and conveyors;
- (iv.) Extension of the multiple-shift system, which is at present general only in Northumberland and Durham;
- (v.) Introduction of fresh labour from other areas or from other industries.

The Committee think that "the probable cumulative effect of these influences must remain a matter of uncertainty and of opinion"; but express "the general conclusion that the total effect of all will tend towards the maintenance of an equilibrium between supply and demand."

The Committee dismiss the opinion expressed by some witnesses that the effect of a reduction of output would fall entirely upon the export trade; but express the opinion that any considerable advance in the price of British coal, which did not equally apply to foreign coal, would injure the trade to the nearer ports, carried on in collier steamers which after discharging their cargoes return in ballast to reload, *i.e.*, the export trade to ports from Hamburg to Nantes inclusive, and to some extent also the Baltic trade.

The Committee consider that some exceptions would have to be made in favour of certain seams or districts (*e.g.*, Forest of Dean and the Ten-Yard Seam in South

Staffordshire), and of certain classes of men, such as overmen, men working mechanical coal-cutters, &c.

The Committee lay great stress on the effect of a possible reduction in the output of coal upon other industries, which are all dependent upon the supply of coal to an extent unknown in any other country. They consider this aspect of the question a matter "of greater national importance than any immediate effects on the owners or workers in collieries." In view of the great interests involved, they suggest that when a special statutory protection is afforded to the workers in a special trade of so great a national importance, "it may be considered advisable in this country, as it has been considered advisable in all other countries which have enacted such laws, to reserve in the hands of the Department of the Government controlling mines certain powers of suspension and of exception in the public interest."

### COMPENSATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, applies, subject to certain conditions, where a workman contracts in the course of his employment any disease of the kind mentioned in the first column of the third Schedule to the Act, as if that disease were a personal injury arising out of, and in the course of, his employment. If the workman who contracts any such disease were, at or immediately before the date of being disabled or suspended from his usual employment by reason of the disease, employed in a process mentioned in the second column of the third Schedule opposite the name of the disease contracted, the disease shall be deemed to be due to the nature of the employment, unless the certifying surgeon certifies that it was not so due, or the employer proves, the contrary. Power is also given to the Home Secretary to extend, by Order, these provisions to other diseases and other processes, and to injuries due to the nature of any specified employment not being injuries by accident.

The Home Secretary accordingly appointed a Departmental Committee "to inquire and report what diseases and injuries, other than injuries by accident, are due to industrial occupations, are distinguishable as such, and can properly be added" to the Schedule; and this Committee have now issued their Report.\*

In their investigations, the Committee had to determine whether the disease proposed to be added to the Schedule (i.) was outside the category of accidents and diseases already covered by the Act; (ii.) incapacitated for work for a period of more than one week; and (iii.) was so specific to the employment that the causation of the disease or injury by the employment could be established in individual cases.

The distinction between "accidents" and "diseases" adopted by the Committee was, broadly speaking, that accidents were *momentary* occurrences, while diseases were *gradually contracted*. This distinction led them to the exclusion of hydrocyanic acid gas poisoning (among other maladies) from the Schedule; as this form of poisoning, which might occur in the manufacture of sodium cyanide and other cyanogen compounds, is sudden in its onset, and does not appear to be due to gradual poisoning consequent on exposure over a long period.

The second restriction as to the *period* of incapacitation was introduced in consequence of the provision of the Act that compensation shall not be given for any incapacitation which lasts less than a week. This restriction led to the exclusion of one or two diseases, such as "brassfounders' ague," which are transitory in their effects; also of some diseases, like boiler makers' deafness, which are chronic, but do not incapacitate the sufferer from continuing at his trade.

The third restriction, that the disease must be *specific* to a particular trade or occupation, presented great difficulties. Thus, bronchitis may be expected to be more prevalent among certain classes of workpeople (such as flax workers, tinplate workers, etc.), who are exposed to

\* Cd. 3495. Price 3d.



the inhalation of dust or noxious fumes, than among the general population. But the Committee found that there was no sufficient means of differentiating bronchitis so contracted from bronchitis otherwise contracted, and therefore excluded it from the Schedule. The same difficulty arises in the case of pneumonia contracted by slate workers and by basic slag workers. As regards "bottle makers' cataract," the Committee proposed to continue their inquiries in order to determine whether the incidence of this disease among glass-workers is much higher than among the general population, and they recommend that, if these inquiries prove a sufficiently high excess of cataract in that industry, the disease should be scheduled, although its trade origin cannot be differentiated in individual cases.

Two important classes of diseases which the Committee decided not to schedule may be mentioned. One occurs in the case of persons who, in the course of their employment, contract some widely-prevalent disease, e.g., labourers sent to disinfect a ship which has had small-pox on board, and contracting that disease. The Committee held that such diseases were not "industrial diseases."

Another class of diseases to which the Committee devoted a large part of their inquiry was "miners' phthisis," "stonemasons' phthisis," "potters' rot," "grinders' rot," and similar diseases. The Committee came to the conclusion that these were industrial diseases, and specific to their several trades; but they decided not to schedule them. These diseases all have a long preliminary period, in which the symptoms (cough, etc.) are indistinguishable from the symptoms of other diseases which would never declare themselves as the disease for which compensation is payable. There is therefore a danger that, if this fibroid phthisis were scheduled, there would be a wholesale dismissal of workpeople who showed doubtful symptoms, although the majority of these men might never suffer seriously from the disease if allowed to continue in their employment.

The diseases or injuries which the Committee recommend to be added to the Schedule, with the processes in respect of which such diseases or injuries are to be "deemed to be due to the nature of the employment," are shown in the following Table:—

Description of Disease or Injury.	Description of Process.
1. Poisoning by nitro- and amido-derivatives of benzene (dinitro-benzol, anilin, and others), or its sequelæ.	Any process involving the use of a nitro- or amido-derivative of benzene, or its preparations or compounds.
2. Poisoning by carbon bisulphide or its sequelæ.	Any process involving the use of carbon bisulphide, or its preparations or compounds.
3. Poisoning by nitrous fumes or its sequelæ.	Any process in which nitrous fumes are evolved.
4. Poisoning by nickel carbonyl or its sequelæ.	Any process in which nickel carbonyl gas is evolved.
5. Arsenic poisoning or its sequelæ.	Handling of arsenic or its preparations or compounds.
6. Lead poisoning or its sequelæ.	Handling of lead or its preparations or compounds.
7. Poisoning by <i>Gonioma Kamassi</i> (African boxwood) or its sequelæ.	Any process in the manufacture of articles from <i>Gonioma Kamassi</i> (African boxwood).
8. Chrome ulceration or its sequelæ.	Any process involving the use of chromic acid or bi-chromate of ammonium, potassium, or sodium, or their preparations.
9. Eczematous ulceration of the skin, produced by dust or caustic or corrosive liquids, or ulceration of the mucous membrane of the nose or mouth produced by dust.	—
10. Epitheliomatous cancer or ulceration of the skin or of the corneal surface of the eye, due to pitch, tar, or tarry compounds.	Handling or use of pitch, tar, or tarry compounds.
11. Scrofula epithelioma (chimney-sweep's cancer).	Chimney-sweeping.
12. Nystagmus.	Mining.
13. Glanders.	Care of any equine animal suffering from glanders; handling the carcass of such animal.
14. Compressed air illness or its sequelæ.	Any process carried on in compressed air.
15. Subcutaneous cellulitis of the hand (beat hand).	Mining.
16. Subcutaneous cellulitis over the patella (miners' beat knee).	Mining.
17. Acute bursitis over the elbow (miners' beat elbow).	Mining.
18. Inflammation of the synovial lining of the wrist joint and tendon sheaths.	Mining.

The Home Secretary has adopted these recommendations; and has made an Order,\* dated May 22nd, 1907,

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907, No. 407: price 1d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

extending the provisions of the Act to the diseases, injuries, and processes specified in the first and second columns, as if they were embodied in the corresponding columns of the third Schedule of the Act.

It will be noted that arsenic and lead poisoning are to give a claim for compensation when occurring in the handling of arsenic or lead, or their preparations or compounds, by dock labourers and others. They are already scheduled when occurring in any process involving the use of arsenic or lead.

### 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.

There has been a very large influx of emigrants into Canada this summer, so that the more pressing demand for men appears to have been fairly met. But there is still a scarcity of competent men at 1'75 dols. to 2'25 dols. a day, who are able to work on railway construction—such as permanent-way men, trackmen, plate-layers, pick and shovel men, navvies, carters, &c. There is also a good demand for experienced farm labourers, who will have no difficulty in getting work. Coal miners have been busy in Nova Scotia and Vancouver Island, asbestos miners in Quebec, and cobalt and silver miners in North Ontario. The serious strike of coal miners in the North-West and British Columbia has been settled, and a working agreement for two years has been effected. Manufactories are busy almost everywhere, and altogether Canada is having a prosperous time for emigrants. Wages have generally increased, and the hours of labour have decreased, but the cost of living has tended to rise also. The demand for female servants, both in towns and on farms, is still unsatisfied.

#### Commonwealth of Australia.

*New South Wales* grants assisted passages to persons skilled in rural pursuits, domestic servants and others, such as coalminers, who satisfy the Agent-General in London that they will make suitable settlers. In country districts there is an excellent demand for farm labourers, for general labourers, for men on sheep and cattle stations, and especially for dairymen. Emigrants should leave Sydney as soon as possible and make for these districts. Carpenters and bricklayers are wanted in many places. At the rich Broken Hill silver mines there is a scarcity of skilled miners, carpenters, blacksmiths, fitters, masons, firemen and engine-drivers, and wages have risen. Female servants are in demand throughout the State. There was a general increase in 1906 in the manufacturing industries, especially in the building trades, in metal works, and in establishments treating raw materials.

*Victoria*.—There is a very good demand for bricklayers, carpenters, and others in the building trades in Melbourne and suburbs. There is a good demand in country districts for competent farm and general labourers, for men accustomed to work in orchards and vineyards, and for men on sheep and cattle stations.

*South Australia*.—There is a good demand for first-rate carpenters and bricklayers, and between October and February for farm hands. Copper miners have been busy. Experienced fruit-growers with a capital of £500 to £1,000 should do well.

*Queensland*.—Free passages are given to men who are prepared to work on the sugar farms in the tropical portions of the State. Assisted passages are given to all families with a little capital whom the Agent-General considers desirable and likely to make good colonists in any part of Queensland. Nominated passages are given to relatives or personal friends of residents in Queensland. There is a good demand for general farm labourers, especially dairy hands, and for lads for milking and general farm work. Carpenters are wanted in some places, but the supply of miners is sufficient.

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

*Western Australia*.—Men who can plough, or work farm machinery, or are otherwise specially competent, are in demand in country districts. Settlers may obtain 160 acres of land free. The supply of mechanics is generally sufficient, but some country joiners may find work. Assisted and nominated passages are granted to eligible settlers.

*Tasmania*.—There is a fair opening for mechanics and miners on the West Coast, and for farm labourers in farming districts.

#### New Zealand.

The various trades have been well employed, and there has been a demand for carpenters in places, and both for male and female hands in the boot and clothing factories. Farm labourers can always get work in the season. Reduced passages are granted to farmers, farm labourers, shepherds, woodcutters, and men able to milk cows and manage live stock, if they have a capital of at least £25, and to female servants if they possess £2 on arrival in the Colony.

#### South Africa.

*Cape Colony*.—No one is allowed to land unless he possesses £20, or has secured employment beforehand. There is no demand for more men in any trade, though the engineering and printing trades have improved. The building trades are fully supplied, and the number of bricklayers and painters in particular is excessive. There is a demand for female servants at £2 to £4 per month.

*Natal*.—The supply of labour in Natal is ample.

*Transvaal*.—No one may enter the Transvaal unless he possesses £20 or has secured employment. No one in any case should emigrate there now. The great depression has not improved, though hundreds of persons have left the Colony, and the numbers of the unemployed are increasing. Some 300 persons have been sent to the Rustenburg Relief Works. Some of the miners have struck for better conditions of labour. The demand for female servants has declined, and assisted passages for this class are being stopped at the end of June.

*Orange River Colony*.—No one may enter the Colony unless he possesses £20, or has secured employment. There is no demand for male emigrants. There is some demand for female servants, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

## 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. 161 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (See also p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

#### FRANCE.\*

*Employment in April*.—Employment became more plentiful in the building and dependent trades during April. Metal workers continued well employed. In the textile trades a number of districts reported an improvement, but at Roanne employment was not so good as in March; in the Vosges and Marne departments and at St. Quentin, Sedan and the smaller western centres employment remained satisfactory. Work was more plentiful with velvet makers, but silk ribbon weavers were not so well employed. A slight decrease was reported by the power-loom silk weavers at and near Lyons. Coachbuilders continued fully employed. In the printing trades employment was about the same as in March, but with tanners it was not so good. There was an appreciable increase in the number of

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

unemployed vineyard workers in the south of France. Forestry work is over for the season, but woodmen found employment without difficulty in agricultural work. Gardeners in Paris and the surrounding districts were well employed.

*Coal Mining in April*.—The average number of days per week worked by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during April was 6.00, as compared with 5.99 in the previous month, and 5.41 (†) in April, 1906. Taking surface and underground workers together, 97.1 per cent. worked full time (6 days or over per week), and 2.9 per cent. from 5 to 6 days. The corresponding percentages for the preceding month were 95.53 and 4.43, and for April, 1906, 62.00 (†) and 24.5 respectively. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to about 169,000 workpeople.

*Labour Disputes in April*.—One hundred and eighty-two disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in April, compared with 114 in the previous month, and 239 in April, 1906. In 171 of the new disputes 30,034 workpeople took part, as compared with 16,702 who took part in 105 of the disputes in March, and 58,734 who took part in 189 of the disputes of April, 1906. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (55), textile (42), and metal (13). Out of 160 new and old disputes which came to an end in April, 19 resulted in favour of the workpeople and 58 in favour of the employers, while 83 resulted were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in April*.—Nineteen cases of recourse to the law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred during April. The initiative was taken by the Justices of the Peace in 9 cases, and by the workpeople in the same number of cases, while in the remaining dispute both employers and workpeople applied to the Justice of the Peace. In 4 cases the employers, and in one case the workpeople, refused the proffered mediation. Committees of Conciliation succeeded in terminating 7 disputes, but in the remaining cases no agreement was reached.

*Strike of Oil Mill Labourers at Marseilles*.—The strike of oil mill labourers at Marseilles (see May GAZETTE, p. 137) practically terminated on May 24th, the employers having granted an increase in wages, which was accepted by the majority of the strikers. A small number of men continued on strike, but their places were filled by fresh hands.

*Strike of Seamen*.—A strike of naval reservists and fishermen broke out at French ports on May 31st. These reservists are seamen in the mercantile marine, who are registered in the *Inscription Maritime* for service in the Navy when called upon. The cause of the strike was dissatisfaction with the new pension scheme, proposed by the Government last year. At present reservists' pensions are governed by the law of 1881, under which the minimum pension is £8 3s. per annum, with higher pensions for the superior grades, according to rating, class, and wage at the time of retirement. Reservists must, however, have reached the age of 50, and have completed 25 years' service, to be entitled to a pension. Reservists' widows receive half the maximum pension of the husband, with a supplementary allowance for each child.

The Government Bill of 1906 proposed to increase the minimum pension to £14 8s. if the pensioner had reached the age of 50; to £16 16s. if he had reached 60; and to £19 4s. if he had reached 70; but the qualifying period of service (25 years) was not reduced. The allowances to widows and orphans were also increased.

The seamen's Unions, however, demand that the lowest class of seamen shall receive a pension of £14 8s. after 15 years' service, rising to £24 after 25 years' service, and to a maximum of £30, and that the

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

† This low figure was due to strikes in various parts of France.

‡ Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Marseilles.



pension be paid to all persons engaged on French merchant ships, whether reservists or not. The strike was intended to enforce these demands.

The strike came to an end on June 6th at Marseilles, Havre and Nantes, and on June 7th at Dunkirk and Bordeaux, after conferences between representatives of the seamen and the Minister of Marine and the Naval Committee. The men are to be reinstated, and no proceedings are to be taken against them by the Naval authorities.

GERMANY.

*Employment in April.*\*—The general revival reported in the previous month in outdoor trades was maintained during April. Coalminers were well employed, and workpeople were in good demand; the insufficiency of railway trucks was less marked than in March. Employment was good in the building trades compared with the previous month; but at Berlin, owing to threatened labour disturbances, operations on some of the larger building works were temporarily suspended. The metal and engineering trades continued busy, and the textile, chemical, and electrical trades were fully employed. The relatively cold weather had an adverse effect upon employment in certain trades, especially in brewing and in some branches of the clothing trades. The disputes in the woodworking and tailoring trades, and among dock labourers at Hamburg also affected employment during part of the month.

*Strikes of Seamen and Firemen at Hamburg and Bremen.*†—On May 22nd, about 1,300 seamen and firemen at Hamburg and Altona struck work, demanding an increase in wages, and three days later the dispute spread to Bremen and Bremerhaven. It is still in progress.

*Dispute in the Woodworking Trades.*‡—The lock-out in the woodworking trades at Berlin, of which some account was given in the April GAZETTE, p. 105, spread from Berlin to a number of other towns in Germany, including Dresden, Leipzig, Halle, and Lübeck. After lasting 17 weeks it was terminated by the employers and workpeople accepting an award of the Berlin Industrial Court, in which such agreements as were already made in certain towns affected by the dispute were incorporated. This award is to remain in force until February 12th, 1910. Increases in wages and decreases in the hours of labour were granted in the majority of cases, some of these taking place at once, and some being reached by two or three instalments.

Thus, in Berlin, wages were to be advanced immediately by 5 per cent.; in Leipzig and Halle an increase of 2 pfennigs (½d.) per hour was granted at once, and a further increase of 1 pfennig per hour is to be made in 1908, and another in February, 1909; while in Dresden an increase of 2 pfennigs per hour is to be made on October 1st of this year, and an additional pfennig per hour is to be paid on and after February 15th, 1909.

In Leipzig the minimum wage was raised to 6½d. an hour for joiners, polishers and wood-stainers, to 5½d. for machinists, and to 6½d. for turners. In Dresden the rate of wages of joiners and machinists is to be increased from 6d. to 6½d. on October 1st next, and to 6¾d. in February, 1909. In Kiel joiners and machinists are to receive 6¾d. and 7½d. respectively from July 1st next, and 7d. to 7½d. after April 1st, 1908.

The hours of labour in Berlin were reduced from 52 to 51 per week. In Leipzig and Dresden the weekly working time is to remain at 53 hours until February, 1909, when 52 hours are to constitute a week's work. In Halle an immediate reduction from 57 to 56 hours per week was granted, and a further reduction to 55 hours is to be made in February, 1909. The hours of labour in Barmen are to be altered from 60 to 57

on July 1st next, and will remain at 57 until February, 1909, when a further reduction of an hour per week is to be made.

In the Trade Union journal *Correspondenzblatt* it is stated that 33,900 woodworkers receive an advance in wages under this award; five-sixths of these receive increases of from one to two shillings per week, and the remainder more than two shillings. A reduction of the hours of labour is obtained by 33,400 workpeople, 93 per cent. of these benefiting to the extent of one hour per week, and the remainder from two to four hours.

Work was resumed on May 15th.

*Disputes in the Metal Trades at Barmen.*\*—About the middle of May the Metal Workers' Union demanded a reduction of the number of working hours to 54 per week, and a holiday on Saturday afternoons, for workpeople engaged in the manufacture of textile machinery at Barmen. The employers not acceding to these terms, strikes took place in several factories, whereupon the employers locked-out the union men on May 25th, and the remaining workpeople on June 1st. The number of persons directly affected is 3,000.

Strikes in the metal trades of Germany also occurred at Solingen, Dresden, Magdeburg, Mannheim, Hanover, Schwenningen (where 1,700 are affected) and other towns.

*Dispute in the Building Trades of Berlin.*†—In reply to demands made by masons, bricklayers, carpenters and builders' labourers at Berlin, the most important of which was the introduction of an 8-hours' day, the employers declared a lock-out on May 18th. The plasterers struck in sympathy on June 3rd. It is estimated that the number of workpeople directly affected by these disputes is between 55,000 and 60,000.

*Strike of Bakers at Berlin.*‡—On May 27th the journey-men bakers at Berlin struck work owing to the refusal of the employers to grant the following demands:—(1) Abolition of the system of boarding and lodging with the employer, (2) Minimum wage of 23s. per week, (3) Joint administration of labour registry by workpeople and employers, (4) A working-day of 10 to 12 hours, and one day off per week. A number of employers accepted these terms, and it is stated that on June 12th the men held a meeting at which they decided to terminate the strike.

HOLLAND.‡

*Employment in April.*—In the building trades employment continued dull, and the improvement which usually characterises the month of April was confined to stucco workers, painters and decorators. In the greater metal and engineering establishments employment was not so good as in the preceding months, but in the shipbuilding trades it continued plentiful. The slackness in the textile trades which began in March continued. Employment in the garment-making trades remained good. With woodworkers employment declined somewhat, but in the printing and allied trades it was, on the whole, good. Employment was satisfactory in the cocoa, chocolate and confectionery trades and also with distillery workers, while with margarine makers it improved generally. With bulb growers employment was normal.

*Labour Disputes in April.*—Twelve strikes, 8 of which directly affected 374 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in April. Four of the strikes were in the building trades and 3 in the tobacco trades. A lock-out of 53 cigar makers also commenced in April. Ten of these strikes came to an end during the month, and in addition, 4, which began in previous months, also terminated in April. Two of the disputes resulted in favour of the workpeople and 2 in favour of the employers, while 6 were compromised.

\* Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Düsseldorf, dated June 8th.  
† Based on newspaper reports.  
‡ *Maandchrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (Journal of the Central Statistical Bureau).

*Strike of Seamen at Rotterdam.*\*—A strike of seamen at Rotterdam was declared on June 1st, the men demanding increased wages and the introduction of labour contracts. The strike came to an end on the 10th, the men accepting the employers' terms. Wages for all classes of men will be increased by 5s. per month.

BELGIUM.†

*Employment in April.*—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 0.9 per cent. of the 35,021 members of the 140 Trade Unions reporting, were unemployed towards the end of the month, as compared with the same percentage in March, 1907, and with 1.5 per cent. in April, 1906. (As regards the figures, which do not include particulars relating to miners, home workers, or agricultural labourers, see note under "Labour Abroad.")

*Labour Disputes in March.*—Thirty-five disputes, involving approximately 9,802 workpeople (9,218 directly and 584 indirectly), were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in April. In addition to these, 10 disputes which commenced in previous months, and which involved approximately 3,641 workpeople (2,565 directly and 1,076 indirectly), were in progress during the month. Of the 11,783 workpeople on strike during April, 2,937 were employed in the building trades, 2,638 in textile trades, 1,628 in metal and engineering trades, and 2,701 at collieries.

Twenty-three disputes came to an end during April. Of these, 13, directly affecting 1,300 workpeople, terminated in favour of the employers; 6, directly affecting 870 workpeople, in favour of the workpeople; while 4, directly affecting 325 workpeople, were compromised.

NORWAY.‡

*Employment in April.*‡—Of 19,443 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 610, or 3.1 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of April, 1907. The figures for April, 1907, March, 1907, and April, 1906, for certain Unions which made Returns for each of these months, are given for comparison. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad," on p. 167.)

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of month.		
	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.
Metal Workers and Moulders	6,002	6,054	4,672	0.6	1.3	1.3
Carpenters, etc.	806	793	654	5.7	6.3	8.6
Painters	550	450	250	...	7.6	0.4
Bakers	165	164	303	13.3	13.4	8.3
Printers	1,498	1,347	954	2.9	3.3	3.2
Boot and Shoe Makers	182	182	148	0.5	2.2	0.7
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers	672	648	359	...	...	...
Bookbinders	265	250	176	1.5	0.8	1.7
Cabinet Makers	250	254	190	2.8	...	2.1
Tota	10,208	10,142	7,706	1.5	2.3	2.3

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*Advance of Wages in Textile Trades.*§—Consequent upon the introduction of a new sliding scale, some 30,000 workpeople employed in the cotton mills of Fall River received an increase of 10 per cent. in wages on May 27th. On the same day the wages of 25,000 workpeople employed in the cotton mills at New Bedford, and nearly 30,000 employed in other towns in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut were advanced 10 per cent., the total number of workpeople thus receiving an increase of 10 per cent. in wages on May 27th being nearly 85,000. In the northern part of New England the wages of the majority of workpeople in the cotton mills were advanced by 5 per cent. early in the present month.

\* Based on newspaper reports.  
† *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).  
‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.  
§ Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Boston, and on newspaper reports.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN MAY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 502 Returns—450 from Employers, 40 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued very good during the four weeks ended May 18th, and was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,426 pits employing 613,631 workpeople show that the average number of days\* worked per week during the four weeks ended May 18th, 1907, was 5.57, as compared with 5.17 in April, and 5.37 in May, 1906. In April, however, 0.57 of a day per week was lost by holidays, while in May, 1907 and 1906, very little time was lost from this cause.

Of the 613,631 workpeople covered by the Returns, 552,249 (or 90 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended May 18th, 1907; while 470,387 (or 77 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest average numbers of days worked per week in May were in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.90), the Lothians (5.71), North Wales (5.66), and Cumberland (5.60); while the lowest averages were in Derbyshire (4.63) and in the Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire district (5.11).

Compared with a year ago, there was an increase in the average number of days worked in nearly every district, the increase amounting to 0.42 of a day per week in West Yorkshire and Staffordshire, 0.68 of a day per week in the Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Shropshire district, and 0.52 of a day per week in the Nottingham and Leicester district. In Derbyshire and West Scotland there were slight decreases.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in May, 1907, 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, 1907, as compared with	
		May 18th, 1907.	April 1907,†	May 26th, 1906.	A m'th ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	40,875	5.49	5.18	5.38	+ .31	+ .11
Durham ...	116,941	5.55	5.24	5.47	+ .31	+ .08
Cumberland ...	7,576	5.60	5.26	5.31	+ .34	+ .29
South Yorkshire ...	61,904	5.77	5.29	5.69	+ .48	+ .08
West Yorkshire ...	21,089	5.48	5.00	5.06	+ .48	+ .42
Lancashire and Cheshire	16,682	5.41	5.07	5.67	+ .34	+ .34
Derbyshire ...	38,558	4.63	4.72	4.69	- .09	- .06
Nottingham and Leicester	50,661	5.11	4.54	4.59	+ .57	+ .52
Staffordshire ...	27,910	5.45	4.94	5.03	+ .51	+ .42
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	10,472	5.53	4.84	4.85	+ .69	+ .68
Gloucester and Somerset	7,946	5.27	4.71	4.95	+ .56	+ .33
North Wales ...	11,187	5.66	5.24	5.52	+ .42	+ .14
South Wales and Mon. ...	128,072	5.50	5.42	5.80	+ .48	+ .10
ENGLAND AND WALES	559,873	5.58	5.15	5.36	+ .43	+ .22
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	26,603	5.33	5.38	5.34	- .05	- .01
The Lothians ...	5,902	5.71	5.68	5.66	+ .03	+ .05
Fife ...	20,661	5.54	5.40	5.50	+ .14	+ .04
SCOTLAND	53,166	5.45	5.42	5.45	+ .03	...
IRELAND ...	592	4.71	4.78	4.26	- .07	+ .45
United Kingdom ...	613,631	5.57	5.17	5.37	+ .40	+ .20

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. At pits employing 200,356 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they

\* 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.



are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in employment at all classes of pits except those producing anthracite coal. The improvement was most marked in the case of pits producing house coal.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in May, 1907, 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, 1907, as compared with	
		May 18th, 1907.	April 20th, 1907.	May 26th, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ... ..	8,267	5'41	5'31	5'64	+ '10	- '23
Coking ... ..	32,688	5'69	5'34	5'56	+ '35	+ '13
Gas ... ..	41,293	5'52	5'21	5'33	+ '31	+ '19
House ... ..	81,878	5'26	4'81	4'86	+ '45	+ '49
Manufacturing and Steam	249,149	5'69	5'25	5'54	+ '44	+ '15
Mixed ... ..	200,356	5'56	5'17	5'33	+ '39	+ '23
<b>All Descriptions ...</b>	<b>613,631</b>	<b>5'57</b>	<b>5'17</b>	<b>5'37</b>	<b>+ '40</b>	<b>+ '20</b>

The **Exports** of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in May, 1907, amounted to 5,686,313 tons, or 403,991 tons more than in April, 1907, and 141,792 tons more than in May, 1906.

## IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 80 Returns—66 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued good in iron and shale mines, and showed some improvement compared with a year ago.

Employment continued good in tin, copper, and lead mines, and fair on the whole in quarries.

### Mining.

*Iron Mining.*—During the four weeks ended May 18th the average number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5'88, as compared with 5'67 a month ago (affected by Easter holidays), and 5'79 a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in May, 1907, 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, 1907, as compared with	
		May 18th, 1907.	April 20th, 1907.*	May 26th, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland... ..	7,527	5'94	5'79	5'70	+ '15	+ '24
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,263	5'92	5'63	5'94	+ '29	- '02
Scotland... ..	1,012	5'52	5'67	5'67	- '15	- '15
Other Districts...	2,959	5'78	5'44	5'78	+ '34	+ '00
<b>All Districts ...</b>	<b>16,761</b>	<b>5'88</b>	<b>5'67</b>	<b>5'79</b>	<b>+ '21</b>	<b>+ '08</b>

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns, 95'3 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended May 18th, as compared with 86'0 per cent. a year ago.

*Shale Mining.*—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,205 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended May 18th, as compared with 3,210 a month ago, and 3,103 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked in the four weeks ended May 18th was 5'64, as compared with 5'69 a month ago, and 5'53 a year ago.

*Tin and Copper Mining.*—The steady improvement of late months was maintained in Cornwall, where there is still a demand for skilled miners.

*Lead Mining.*—Employment continued good in Denbighshire and Flintshire. It was fairly good in Weardale, though not quite so good as a month ago.

\* This period includes Easter Holidays.

### Quarrying.

*Slate.*—Employment continued slack in the North Wales quarries, and was reported as rather worse than a year ago in the Festiniog district. It continued fair at Ballachulish (Argyllshire).

*Granite.*—Employment was fairly good in Aberdeenshire, and better than a month ago. It was moderate in Leicestershire. In Devonshire and Cornwall it was generally dull, and worse than last month.

*Limestone.*—Employment continued good in Weardale and in South Durham. It was fair in the Buxton and Plymouth districts and in North Wales. In the Somerset blue lias quarries employment was dull.

*Other Stone.*—Employment was good, and better than a month ago, in the Cleve Hill road-material quarries. It was fair, and rather better than a month ago in the Gateshead district, and in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district (Derbyshire). In the Bath stone quarries employment was slack, but slightly better than a month ago. It continued dull in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries. In Forfarshire employment remained bad.

*Sett-making.*—Employment was fair and better than a month ago in Aberdeenshire. There was also an improvement at Glasgow, where employment was good. It was fair at Edinburgh and at Airdrie. In North Wales and Leicestershire employment, on the whole, was moderate. Employment was good and better than a month ago in the Cleve Hill district. At Rowley Regis it was fairly good.

*China Clay.*—Employment was good in the St. Austell district and moderate at Lee Moor.

## PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 114 Returns—108 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during May continued good. It showed a slight decline as compared with April, but was rather better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 25,000 workpeople, showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of May was 346, as compared with 349 in April, 1907, and 342 in May, 1906. During May 1 furnace was re-lit (in Cumberland), and 4 were either damped down or blown out, 2 in the Cleveland district, 1 in Cumberland, and 1 in Derbyshire.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with	
	May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>					
Cleveland ... ..	87	89	85	- 2	+ 2
Cumberland & Lancs.	38	38	37	...	+ 1
S. and S.W. Yorks.	16	16	16	...	...
Derby & Nottingham	42	43	42	- 1	...
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	27	27	29	...	- 2
Stafford & Worcester	36	36	35	...	+ 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	16	16	16	...	...
Other districts ...	6	6	6	...	...
<b>England &amp; Wales ...</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>+ 2</b>
<b>Scotland ... ..</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>+ 2</b>
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>+ 4</b>

The **Imports** of iron ore in May, 1907, amounted to 631,233 tons, or 41,645 tons less than in April, 1907, and 120,969 tons less than in May, 1906.

The **Exports** of pig iron from the United Kingdom during May, 1907, amounted to 191,394 tons, or 4,123 tons more than in April, 1907, and 42,757 tons more than in May, 1906.

## IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 220 Returns—202 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 6 from Trade Unions; and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very brisk, and though not quite so good as a month ago, was much better than a year ago.

The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended May 18th, 1907, at the 202 works from which Returns were received, was 0'4 per cent. less than in the week ended April 27th, 1907, but 5'4 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 558,000, as compared with 560,300 a month ago, and 529,300 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man	
	In week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago. A year ago.	In week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago. A year ago.
<b>IRON:</b>				
Puddling Forges ... ..	10,793	+ 1 + 428	5'19	...
Rolling Mills ... ..	4,607	+ 45 + 114	5'11	...
Forging ... ..	523	+ 12 + 78	5'58	+ '15
Founding ... ..	2,134	- 24 - 216	5'96	- '04
Other Departments ... ..	674	- 11 + 23	5'93	+ '02
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,682	+ 1 + 171	5'59	- '03
<b>Total Iron ... ..</b>	<b>20,413</b>	<b>+ 24 + 598</b>	<b>5'32</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>STEEL:</b>				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	9,221	+ 16 + 607	5'88	- '01
Crucible Furnaces ... ..	579	- 16 - 54	5'51	+ '07
Bessemer Converters ... ..	1,743	- 23 + 56	5'40	+ '03
Rolling Mills ... ..	16,684	+ 12 + 809	5'50	- '01
Forging and Pressing ... ..	3,102	+ 20 + 203	5'64	- '01
Founding ... ..	8,673	+ 63 + 222	5'88	...
Other Departments ... ..	6,658	- 120 + 18	5'85	+ '02
Mechanics, Labourers ...	9,997	- 156 + 286	5'93	+ '01
<b>Total Steel ... ..</b>	<b>56,848</b>	<b>- 204 + 2,147</b>	<b>5'74</b>	<b>- '01 + '06</b>
<b>IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):</b>				
Rolling Mills ... ..	11,273	- 100 + 127	5'38	+ '01
Forging and Pressing ... ..	731	- 2 + 51	5'63	+ '01
Founding ... ..	791	+ 14 + 64	5'95	+ '01
Other Departments ... ..	2,964	- 101 + 194	5'90	...
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,414	+ 10 + 185	5'80	+ '01
<b>Total Iron or Steel (not distinguished)</b>	<b>22,173</b>	<b>- 179 + 621</b>	<b>5'60</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Grand Total ... ..</b>	<b>99,234</b>	<b>- 359 + 3,366</b>	<b>5'62</b>	<b>- '01 + '10</b>
<b>Districts.</b>				
Northumberland & Durham	12,268	- 137 + 39	5'66	+ '02
Cleveland ... ..	8,045	- 69 + 271	5'61	- '06
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	19,351	- 168 + 538	5'74	+ '02
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,480	- 82 + 76	5'59	- '03
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	10,841	- 2 + 594	5'54	+ '01
Staffordshire ... ..	10,552	+ 16 + 742	5'50	- '04
Other Midland Counties ... ..	5,171	+ 32 + 17	5'60	- '03
Wales and Monmouth ... ..	10,271	- 21 + 457	5'71	+ '01
<b>Total, England and Wales</b>	<b>80,979</b>	<b>- 431 + 2,734</b>	<b>5'63</b>	<b>- '01 + '12</b>
Scotland ... ..	18,255	+ 72 + 632	5'57	...
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>99,234</b>	<b>- 359 + 3,366</b>	<b>5'62</b>	<b>- '01 + '10</b>

The total number of workpeople employed by firms making returns was slightly less than a month ago, the decrease being attributable chiefly to declines in Northumberland and Durham, and in Yorkshire. The number employed was, however, considerably greater than a year ago, increases being shown in every district and in every department except ironfoundries and crucible furnaces. The improvement was most marked in Staffordshire.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week varied from 5'96 at ironfoundries to 5'11 at iron rolling mills. The average, taking all departments together, was 5'62, or about the same as a month ago, and slightly greater than a year ago. There was no marked

change compared with last month in the average number of shifts worked in any department or in any district, but, compared with May, 1906, there was an increase of 0'65 of a shift at Bessemer converting departments, and of from 0'25 to 0'30 of a shift at puddling forges, iron rolling mills, iron forging, crucible furnaces, and steel foundries. The average number of shifts worked per man increased by 0'26 in Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire, and by 0'23 in "Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire towns." Cleveland was the only district in which any decline in the average number of shifts worked was recorded, and here the decline amounted to only 0'06 of a shift.

The **Imports** of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during May, 1907, amounted to 72,891 tons, or 8,795 tons more than in April, 1907, but 49,709 tons less than in May, 1906.

The **Exports** of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during May, 1907, amounted to 239,700 tons, or 5,947 tons less than in April, 1907, but 30,249 tons more than in May, 1906.

## TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 62 Returns—57 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good during May, and was better than a year ago. At the end of May, 1907, certain sheet mills were still idle owing to a dispute. The supply of and demand for labour continued fairly equal.

At the works covered by the Returns, 386 tinplate mills and 51 sheet mills were working at the end of May, the same numbers as for April. The numbers for May, 1906, were 361 and 54 respectively.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinplate and sheet mills reported to the Department as working in April and May, 1907, and May, 1906. The works to which these Returns relate are chiefly in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople:—

	May, 1907.		April, 1907.		May, 1906.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	76	386	76	386	71	361
Sheet Mills ...	8	51	8	51	9	54
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>415</b>

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

	May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</b>					
To United States ... ..	6,222	6,191	5,523	+ 31	+ 699
British East Indies ... ..	4,912	4,500	3,992	+ 412	+ 920
Germany ... ..	3,664	3,598	2,416	+ 66	+ 1,248
Other Countries ... ..	20,481	21,587	17,660	- 1,106	+ 2,821
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>35,279</b>	<b>35,876</b>	<b>29,591</b>	<b>- 597</b>	<b>+ 5,688</b>
<b>Black Plates for Tinning.</b>					
To all Countries ... ..	6,802	5,887	5,475	+ 945	+ 1,327



**ENGINEERING TRADES.**

(Based on 962 Returns—11 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 912 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 39 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued good, but showed a slight decline as compared with a year ago.

The following Table gives a summary of Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 159,474, and shows that at the end of May the percentage unemployed was 2.9, as compared with 2.8 a month ago and 2.5 a year ago. Compared with a month ago there was a slight improvement in four districts, while nine districts showed a slight decline. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in three districts, but a decline in ten districts.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of May, 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for May, 1907, as compared with a	
		May, 1907.	Apr., 1907.	May, 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,709	4.8	4.3	3.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.3
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,718	2.7	2.4	2.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,094	2.2	2.1	1.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
West Riding Towns ...	13,642	3.4	3.1	3.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
Hull and Lincolnshire District	2,821	2.4	1.4	1.5	...	- 0.1
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,403	2.2	1.9	1.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.9
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District	4,198	2.9	2.3	3.1	+ 0.6	- 0.2
London and Neighbouring District	12,276	3.7	3.3	2.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.5
South Coast ...	4,145	2.5	2.8	2.1	- 0.3	+ 0.4
South Wales and Bristol District	6,891	1.8	2.6	4.0	- 0.8	- 2.2
Glasgow and District ...	15,844	3.2	4.0	3.2	- 0.8	...
East of Scotland ...	3,950	4.6	3.6	2.8	+ 1.0	+ 1.8
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,595	3.9	4.0	3.0	- 0.1	+ 0.9
Other Districts ...	5,920	2.4	2.2	1.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
<b>United Kingdom</b> (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	<b>189,474</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>

On the North-East coast generally employment showed a slight falling-off as compared with a month ago, and was not so good as a year ago.

Employment on the Tyne continued fairly good generally; at some shops it was dull, with continuous suspensions of men; but at engine works, employment improved, and some overtime being worked. At Wallsend and Howdon employment was good, and overtime continued to be worked both in engine and boiler shops. At Jarrow and Hebburn employment showed a slight falling-off, and overtime was discontinued. In the Shields district it was good on new work, and night shifts were worked; on repairs it was fair. On the Wear employment continued good, with night shifts and overtime. With iron and brass moulders employment was fair on the whole.

In the Tees district employment continued fairly good on the whole, and some overtime was reported, but at Hartlepool it was only moderate. With ironfounders it was good. Employment with boilermakers was good at Darlington and Middlesbrough, but showed a decline in other centres. With pattern makers there was an improvement at Darlington and Hartlepool.

Employment in Lancashire continued good, especially with textile machinery makers, with whom overtime was reported at Blackburn, Bolton, and Burnley. In general engineering shops at Liverpool, St. Helens, Blackburn and Wigan it was fair. With boilermakers employment continued moderate at Manchester, Oldham, Blackburn, and Crewe. With ironfounders employment generally was good.

In the West Riding district employment generally continued good, except with patternmakers, who reported it as quiet. At Bradford and Shipley a slight decline on the previous month was shown. Overtime was reported with steel moulders at Sheffield, and with engineers at Leeds. In the Hull and Lincolnshire district employment continued good, and some overtime was reported.

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

At Birmingham employment with engineers and boilermakers was good; with ironfounders overtime was general; with patternmakers employment was reported as fair. At Wolverhampton employment was good; at Coventry fair, and not so good as a month ago. The cycle and motor industry continued good at Wolverhampton, with much overtime; at Birmingham and Coventry it showed a decline compared with a year ago.

In the Nottingham district there was a slight falling off as compared with a month ago. Employment continued good with lace and hosiery machine builders, but was moderate in general engineering shops. With patternmakers it was fair, with ironfounders moderate. At Derby employment continued good in railway shops, night shifts still being worked; in other shops it was fair on the whole. With boilermakers and ironfounders it was good. In the Leicester district employment generally was fairly good. In the Potteries district it continued moderate with engineers; with boiler-makers and iron-founders it was good.

Employment in the Norwich district continued good, as also with agricultural implement makers at Ipswich.

In London employment continued quiet, and was not so good as a month ago and a year ago. With brassfounders, however, it continued good.

At Southampton employment in marine engine and boiler works was fairly good, and better than a month ago; overtime was reported in engine shops. At Plymouth and Devonport employment was moderate on the whole. At Bristol it was fair with engineers, brassfounders and finishers; slack with boiler makers. At Swindon and Gloucester employment continued good, with some overtime. In South Wales it was fair, and rather better than a month ago.

In the Glasgow district employment continued good, and overtime was again reported. Employment was better than a month ago with brassfinishers and engineers. With ironfounders short time was still being worked in some shops. At Edinburgh employment was only fair, and not so good as a month ago; with brassfounders it continued bad. At Falkirk employment continued bad with pattern makers and moulders, and short time was general. At Dundee it continued good, and was better than in April, overtime being frequent. At Aberdeen there was a decline on the previous month.

Employment with engineers and pattern makers at Belfast was quiet; with ironmoulders and boilermakers it was good. At Dublin and Cork an improvement was reported.

**Imports and Exports.**

Description.	May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Steam Engines ...	£ 5,057	£ 8,338	£ 10,726	- 3,281	- 5,669
Other Machinery (including Electrical)	556,079	556,313	503,405	234	+ 52,674
<b>Exports:</b>					
Steam Engines ...	753,407	646,563	640,508	+ 106,844	+ 112,899
Other Machinery (including Electrical)	2,061,521	1,972,639	1,723,817	+ 88,882	+ 337,704

**SHIPBUILDING TRADES.**

(Based on 400 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 380 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, showing little general change compared with April. It was not so good as a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 60,113 members had 4,012 (or 6.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6.6 per cent. at the end of April, and 6.0 per cent. at the end of May, 1906.

Compared with a month ago increases in the percentage of unemployed members took place in six districts,

and decreases in six districts. Compared with a year ago there were increases in eight districts and decreases in four districts.

District.	No. of Members at end of May, 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for May, 1907, as compared with	
		May, 1907.	Apr., 1907.	May, 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	10,147	7.4	4.3	3.6	+ 3.1	+ 3.8
Wear ...	5,283	2.6	5.9	1.4	- 3.3	+ 1.2
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,148	11.1	9.6	6.2	+ 3.5	+ 4.9
Humber ...	2,772	6.2	3.8	4.8	+ 2.4	+ 1.4
Thames and Medway ...	4,556	11.2	9.4	9.7	+ 1.8	+ 1.5
South Coast ...	3,923	3.6	3.1	4.1	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,664	15.4	19.0	12.1	- 3.6	+ 3.3
Mersey ...	3,893	5.4	10.3	14.5	- 4.9	- 9.1
Clyde ...	13,566	4.6	3.7	5.3	- 1.1	- 0.7
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,377	5.7	6.3	7.7	- 0.6	- 2.0
Belfast ...	2,781	4.8	4.9	4.2	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Other Districts ...	3,023	7.4	7.3	6.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>60,113</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>

On the Tyne employment was fair generally, and overtime was worked at some of the yards, but with iron shipbuilders at Shields employment was slack. On the Wear it continued good on new work; repair work was reported as dull. On the Tees employment was reported as fair, but a large number of iron shipbuilders at Hartlepool were out of employment at the end of the month. On the Humber employment was bad on merchant shipbuilding, good on trawler building and marine boiler making, and moderate on ship and boiler repairs.

In the Thames and South Coast districts employment was fair with shipwrights, and at Devonport it was good. With iron shipbuilders in these districts it was slack. At the Bristol Channel ports it was slack generally; on the Mersey it was fair.

On the Clyde employment continued good, overtime and night-shifts being worked by iron shipbuilders. It was rather better, on the whole, than a month ago and a year ago, but at Greenock it remained bad. At Leith, Dundee, and Aberdeen it was fairly good.

At Belfast employment continued fairly good. It was fair with shipwrights at Dublin. At Barrow it was moderate, slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. With shipwrights at Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was good, overtime being worked at the latter town.

**MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.**

(Based on 55 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 27 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May continued fair, but was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 15,527 had 511, or 3.3 per cent., of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 3.2 per cent. in April, and 2.3 per cent. a year ago.

**Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.**—Employment with brass-workers was fair at Birmingham and Nottingham; good at Bolton, Bury and Wigan; bad in London. At Birmingham there was an improvement with bedstead makers.

**Tubes.**—Employment was good in South Wales; fair in South Staffordshire; fairly good at Birmingham.

**Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.**—At Cradley Heath employment was moderate with block chain makers, slack with cable, drolled and side-welded chain makers. At Dudley it continued good with anvil and vice makers. At Sheffield it continued fair with railway spring fitters and vicemen. At Birmingham and West Bromwich it was fairly good with spring makers, moderate with axle makers. With anchor makers it continued good on the Wear.

**Sheet Metal, etc.**—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers continued good at Manchester. With sheet metal workers it was fair in London, moderate at Glasgow, and good at Oldham. With iron plate workers it was quiet at Birmingham and in the Lye district. With tin-plate workers it was fair at Aberdeen and Nottingham; bad at Edinburgh.

**Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.**—At Birmingham employment was fairly good with nut and bolt makers; good with wire nail and shoe rivet makers. At Darlaston it was good with nut and bolt makers. At Blackheath it was good with bolt, rivet, etc., makers.

**Wire.**—Employment continued good generally.

**Locks, Keys and General Hardware.**—At Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment in the lock and latch trades continued bad. At Wolverhampton employment in the hollow-ware trade was good. It continued quiet with hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich; slack with hollow-ware stampers and buffers at Sheffield.

**Stoves, Grates, etc.**—Employment was quiet at Rotherham and Leeds; fair at Falkirk and Glasgow.

**Cutlery, Tools, etc.**—In the Sheffield district employment was slack with cutlers generally; but good with sawmakers, and in the file trades. At Birmingham it was fair in the edge tool trade. At Redditch employment in the needle and fish-hook trades continued good.

**Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.**—In London employment was slack with goldsmiths, and jewellers; fair with silver workers. At Birmingham it was quiet with jewellers, moderate with silversmiths and electro-platers. At Sheffield it was moderate in the machine-made watch trade; quiet in the hand-made watch trade.

**Farriers.**—Employment was good generally.

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

Description.	May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Cutlery ...	£ 10,799	£ 10,218	£ 14,752	+ 581	- 3,953
Hardware ...	85,994	84,056	92,402	+ 1,938	- 6,408
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Cutlery ...	71,693	62,917	59,483	+ 8,766	+ 12,210
Hardware ...	237,626	211,404	196,803	+ 26,222	+ 40,823
Implements and Tools ...	202,983	178,782	189,527	+ 24,201	+ 13,456

**COTTON TRADE.**

(Based on 485 Returns—400 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 76 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

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

In many districts the supply of labour was not equal to the demand, and there was a general deficiency of weavers and piecers.

In some of the weaving districts the usual Whitsuntide holidays were extended to a week or ten days in consequence of a difficulty in obtaining yarn. The chief districts affected were Blackburn, Accrington, Burnley and Bury.

The average price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool during May was 67d. more than in April, and 73d. more than in May, 1906. The average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 3d. less than in April, 1907, and 11d. less than in May, 1906.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended May 18th, was 129,753, being 0.2 per cent. less than a month ago, but 2.0 per cent. more than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the preparing and spinning departments there was a slight improvement in numbers employed and in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago; as compared with a year ago the improvement was more marked. In the weaving department there was a slight decline in numbers employed compared with a month ago, but the wages paid showed an increase; compared with a year ago there was an increase in both numbers employed and wages paid.



Compared with a month ago nine of the twelve districts covered by the Returns showed some improvement in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was a slight decline in the amount of wages paid in three districts, but an increase in all the other districts; the greatest increase took place in the Blackburn and Bolton districts.

Analysis by Departments and Districts.

Table with multiple columns: Description of Cotton, Workpeople (No. paid, Increase), Earnings (Aggregate Amount, Increase). Includes sub-tables for Departments and Districts.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Table with columns: Description, May 1907, April 1907, May 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1907 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of May the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.88d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.4d., and the lowest 6.56d. The price for April was 6.21d., and for May, 1906, 6.15d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of June, 1907, the average price of "middling American" was 7.42d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during May averaged 9.89d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 10d., and the lowest 9.11d. The price for April was 10.19d. per lb., and for May, 1906, 10d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of June, 1907, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.98d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on June 7th, 1907, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,131,720 bales, as compared with 798,790 bales on June 8th, 1906.

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

Table with columns: Description of Cotton, Bales (May 1907, April 1907, May 1906), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1907 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 373 Returns—365 received from Employers, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Woollen Trade.

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

Firms employing 28,319 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the Huddersfield district employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the Leeds district, and in the Dewsbury and Batley district, employment continued good. In Scotland a slight improvement was shown; employment was reported as good at Selkirk and Hawick, and fair at Galashiels.

Table with columns: Description of Cotton, Workpeople covered by returns, Earnings. Includes sub-tables for Departments and Districts.

Worsted Trade.

Employment in the worsted trade was good, slightly better than a month ago and better than a year ago.

Firms employing 47,733 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed no change compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 5.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment showed an improvement in every department, except the sorting and combing department, compared with both a month ago and a year ago, and was good in all the principal districts; a deficiency of spinners and weavers was generally reported.

Table with columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by returns, Earnings. Includes sub-tables for Departments and Districts.

Prices of Raw Material.

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

Table with columns: Description, May 1907, April 1907, May 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1907 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Table with columns: Description, May 1907, April 1907, May 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1907 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')

Table with columns: Description, May 1907, April 1907, May 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1907 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 103 Returns—98 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 46,892 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 8.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

From the following Table it will be seen that, compared with a year ago, every department showed an increase in the amount of wages paid, the increases in the preparing and spinning branches being specially marked. Every district showed an increase in the amount of wages paid compared with both a month ago and a year ago, the increase compared with a year ago being considerable in all districts except Fifeshire.

Table with columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings. Includes sub-tables for Departments and Districts.

Imports and Exports.

Table with columns: Description, May 1907, April 1907, May 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1907 as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 38 Returns—35 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,088 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the 19,088 workpeople covered by the Returns, 16,517 (or 87 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Table with columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings. Includes sub-tables for Departments and Districts.

From the above Table it will be seen that every department showed a slight decline in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago; every department showed an increase compared with a year ago, the increase being most marked in the spinning 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, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Jute ... .. Tons	10,499	19,422	25,585	- 9,123	- 15,286
<b>Exports:</b>					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	49,068	62,158	38,635	- 13,090	+ 10,433
Jute Piece Goods 100 Yds.	173,291	138,553	150,324	+ 34,738	+ 23,967

**SILK TRADE.**

(Based on 56 Returns—53 from Employers and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 10,145 workpeople and paying £6,891 in wages on the pay-day in the week ended May 18th, 1907, showed that, compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there were increases of 4.8 per cent. in the number employed and 7.3 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 on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Per cent.
Throwing ... ..	1,131	+ 2.2	+ 2.8	489	+ 0.7	+ 9.3
Spinning ... ..	2,674	+ 0.9	+ 8.2	1,664	+ 0.3	+ 6.9
Weaving ... ..	3,648	- 1.1	+ 2.9	2,493	+ 1.5	+ 4.9
Other ... ..	1,020	+ 0.5	+ 4.8	836	+ 2.3	+ 12.1
Not Specified ... ..	1,672	- 1.1	+ 5.5	1,109	+ 0.6	+ 7.3
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>10,145</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>+ 4.8</b>	<b>6,891</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>+ 7.3</b>

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Per cent.
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,448	+ 0.1	+ 3.6	2,580	+ 0.1	+ 4.4
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	789	- 1.5	+ 0.8	559	- 3.3	+ 9.2
Leek ... ..	1,652	- 0.7	- 0.5	1,144	+ 2.8	+ 8.6
Eastern Counties ... ..	2,501	+ 0.1	+ 4.6	1,465	- 0.6	+ 5.8
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,755	+ 0.1	+ 16.1	1,143	+ 3.3	+ 14.3
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>10,145</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>+ 4.8</b>	<b>6,891</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>+ 7.3</b>

At Macclesfield employment continued good with spinners and powerloom weavers; with handloom weavers it was bad, and worse than a month ago. At Leek it was good on the whole, and better than a month ago. At Congleton it was good with throwsters and dressers; moderate with spinners and trimming weavers. In the Bradford district employment was fairly good, and showed an improvement as compared with April. In the Eastern Counties employment continued fairly good.

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

Description.	May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Raw Silk ... .. Lbs	65,863	62,449	71,736	+ 3,414	- 5,873
Thrown Silk ... .. "	52,138	57,892	51,349	+ 5,734	+ 809
Spun Silk Yarn ... .. "	38,719	33,811	30,597	+ 4,908	+ 8,122
Silk Broad Stuffs yards	6,654,960	7,999,950	7,336,438	- 1,345,050	- 681,478
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Thrown Silk ... .. Lbs	2,069	3,529	918	- 1,460	+ 1,151
Spun Silk Yarn ... .. "	98,173	95,604	74,225	+ 2,569	+ 23,948
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	672,182	662,859	551,949	+ 9,323	+ 120,233

**LACE TRADE.**

(Based on 90 Returns—86 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was good in England, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland it was quiet, and showed a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 9,721 workpeople in the week ended May 18th, and paying £10,042 in wages, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 4.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment was good in the levers and plain net branches, fair in the curtain branch, and generally better than a year ago. In the Long Eaton district it was fairly good; in the West of England it was good. In Scotland employment in the curtain branch showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Per cent.
Levers ... ..	2,894	+ 0.8	+ 3.0	4,293	+ 3.4	+ 11.9
Curtain ... ..	2,683	- 0.2	+ 0.4	2,669	- 2.5	+ 1.5
Plain Net ... ..	2,821	+ 1.8	+ 8.8	2,336	+ 3.8	+ 10.7
Others ... ..	893	- 0.9	+ 5.8	513	- 5.2	+ 4.9
Not specified ... ..	430	- 0.7	- 0.7	291	- 13.3	- 4.9
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>9,721</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>+ 4.0</b>	<b>10,042</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>+ 7.8</b>

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Per cent.
Nottingham City ... ..	2,432	+ 1.3	+ 7.8	2,363	- 0.3	+ 10.4
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,853	+ 0.4	+ 3.4	2,593	+ 0.9	+ 7.7
Other English districts	3,466	+ 0.8	+ 4.8	3,395	+ 4.9	+ 12.5
Scotland ... ..	1,970	- 0.3	- 1.3	1,781	- 4.7	- 2.6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>9,721</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>+ 4.0</b>	<b>10,042</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>+ 7.8</b>

**Imports and Exports.**

Description.	May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Silk Lace ... ..	19,214	17,953	18,236	+ 1,261	+ 978
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Cotton Lace ... ..	422,219	384,793	356,278	+ 37,426	+ 65,941
Silk Lace ... ..	10,251	9,277	6,343	+ 974	+ 3,908

**HOSIERY TRADE.**

(Based on 91 Returns—87 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was good, slightly worse than a month ago and better than a year ago.

Firms employing 15,869 workpeople, and paying £12,503 in wages in the week ended May 18th, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 5.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago. At Loughborough it was good in the seamless hose branch, moderate in other departments; at Hinckley employment was worse than a month ago, except with those engaged in making shirts and pants. At Nottingham employment was good with power framework knitters; with hand frameworkers in the Nottingham country district it was fair; on the whole it was better than a year ago. In Derbyshire employment was good, and better than a year ago. At Selkirk and Hawick it was good.

District	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ending May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ending May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with a month ago.		
Leicester ... ..	8,230	+ 0.8	+ 7.3	6,738	- 0.1	+ 7.3
Leicester Country District ... ..	2,390	+ 0.4	+ 3.2	1,910	- 0.5	+ 4.7
Notts. and Derbyshire ... ..	2,632	- 0.1	+ 1.6	2,099	- 1.3	+ 4.5
Scotland ... ..	1,961	- 0.1	+ 5.9	1,343	+ 2.7	+ 1.7
Other Districts ... ..	656	+ 2.7	- 3.5	443		
<b>Total, United Kingdom</b>	<b>15,869</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>+ 5.1</b>	<b>12,503</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>+ 5.2</b>

The **Imports** of woollen and cotton hosiery in May, 1907, amounted to £24,279 and £100,297 respectively, as compared with £29,109 and £102,851 in April, 1907, and £32,135 and £100,826 in May, 1906.

The **Exports** of woollen and cotton hosiery in May, 1907, amounted to £87,856 and £34,551 respectively, as compared with £91,295 and £33,284 in April, 1907, and £66,135 and £31,625 in May, 1906.

**OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.**

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

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

**Cotton Dyers.**—Employment on the whole was fair, and slightly worse than a year ago.

**Silk Dyers.**—Employment at Macclesfield and Leek continued good, but a slight decline was shown at Macclesfield as compared with a month ago. At both places it was better than a year ago.

**Calico Printers, etc.**—Employment with calico printers at New Mills was brisk; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it was good, and better than a year ago. At Glasgow it was good with calico printers, engravers and block printers, and some overtime was reported in all three branches.

**Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.**—At Leicester the improvement reported last month became more general; at Hinckley a further decline was reported; at Loughborough employment continued fairly regular. With dyers at Nottingham and Basford employment was good, and overtime was worked by the majority of the workpeople; with bleachers it was fairly good; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell it was good; on the whole, employment was better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Calenderers, etc.**—At Glasgow employment continued good. At Dundee it was good with bleachfield workers, fair with calender workers, and, on the whole, slightly better than a year ago.

**TAILORING TRADE.**

(Based on 123 Returns—95 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal improvement in London, and was fairly good; it was worse than a year ago. In the provinces it was good. In the *ready-made* branch it was good, and better than a year ago.

**Bespoke Branch.**

**London.**—Employment showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was fairly good; it was worse than a year ago.

Firms paying £14,377 in wages during the four weeks ended May 25th showed an increase of 10.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

**Ready-made Branch.**

**London.**—Employment on the whole showed an improvement, and was good; it showed little change compared with a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported it as good on contract, better on shipping, and dull on stock work.

**Leeds.**—Employment during the month continued good, and was better than a year ago. Firms employing 7,721 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended May 18th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment in the Jewish workshops was reported as good, but as slightly worse than a month ago.

**Other Centres.**—Employment in Manchester, Norwich, and Glasgow continued good, and was better than a year ago; it was fairly good at Bristol.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in May, 1907, were valued at £299,629, as compared with £295,061 in April, 1907, and £321,234 in May, 1906, and the **Exports** for the same months at £369,623, £363,874 and £306,292, respectively.

**BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.**

(Based on 489 Returns—477 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 4 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fairly good, and slightly better than a month ago; it showed little change compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 61,954 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment at Leicester was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a year ago. At Northampton it continued good; at Kettering it was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Bristol was quiet, and worse than a year ago. At Leeds it was bad in the heavy boot trade. In Scotland employment showed an improvement as compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. employed during week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.		
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>						
London ... ..	2,516	+ 3.0	+ 4.3	2,889	- 2.7	- 1.9
Leicester ... ..	13,360	- 1.0	- 0.6	15,215	- 2.4	+ 0.7
Leicester Country District	3,191	- 1.1	+ 1.5	3,179	- 0.8	+ 3.7
Northampton ... ..	8,931	- 0.2	+ 0.2	8,856	+ 1.8	+ 1.4
Northampton Country District	8,503	+ 0.6	+ 4.0	8,180	+ 2.2	+ 5.3
Kettering ... ..	3,860	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	4,079	+ 3.3	+ 4.7
Stafford & District ... ..	2,597	+ 4.0	- 1.8	2,453	+ 6.1	- 4.7
Norwich & District ... ..	3,698	- 0.1	+ 0.1	3,284	+ 1.8	+ 2.4
Bristol & District ... ..	1,766	- 0.7	- 4.6	1,584	+ 4.3	- 2.0
Kingswood ... ..	1,615	+ 1.2	- 6.6	1,521	+ 19.4	- 0.9
Leeds & District ... ..	2,706	+ 0.2	- 5.4	1,982	+ 6.3	- 1.6
Manchester & District ... ..	2,590	+ 0.9	- 1.1	2,575	+ 1.7	- 1.5
Birmingham & District ... ..	841	- 1.2	- 7.8	747	+ 5.0	- 4.5
Other parts of England and Wales	2,539	- 1.6	- 3.1	2,241	+ 0.9	- 0.4
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES ... ..</b>	<b>58,203</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>58,785</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>
<b>SCOTLAND ... ..</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>- 6.7</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>+ 7.3</b>	<b>- 6.4</b>
<b>IRELAND ... ..</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>+ 2.6</b>	<b>+ 3.5</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>	<b>+ 11.2</b>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM ... ..</b>	<b>61,954</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>62,344</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>



Imports and Exports of Boots and Shoes.

Description	Unit	May, 1907	April, 1907	May, 1906	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a	
					Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports</b>						
Quantity	Dozen pairs	19,435	16,392	19,122	+ 3,043	+ 313
Value	£	80,835	67,111	76,955	+ 13,725	+ 3,881
<b>Re-Exports</b>						
Quantity	Dozen pairs	1,036	1,170	1,070	- 134	- 34
Value	£	2,830	2,771	3,009	+ 59	+ 179
<b>Exports (British and Irish)</b>						
Quantity	Dozen pairs	59,174	57,647	53,762	+ 1,527	+ 5,412
Value	£	153,737	154,693	157,722	- 956	+ 16,015

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 12 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 9 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during May in the *Silk* hat branch was quiet, in the *Felt* hat branch it was fairly good; it was, on the whole, better than a year ago.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 7.3, compared with 5.1 at the end of April and 10.7 a year ago. Employment generally was quiet.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 2.5, compared with 2.1 a month ago, and 4.0 a year ago. At Denton and Stockport employment was reported as good; in Warwickshire it was fairly good. On the whole it was better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description	Unit	May, 1907	April, 1907	May, 1906	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a	
					Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>						
Total	Dozens	50,650	45,005	39,492	+ 5,645	+ 11,158
<b>Exports:</b>						
Felt	Dozens	31,461	40,624	27,005	- 9,163	+ 4,456
Straw	Dozens	45,673	34,614	39,898	+ 11,059	+ 5,775
Other Sorts	Dozens	2,787	3,377	2,820	- 550	- 33
Total	Dozens	79,921	78,555	69,723	+ 1,366	+ 10,198

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 195 Returns—188 from Employers, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trade was good in the retail branch, and better than a year ago. With court dressmakers it was fairly good, and worse than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse, &c., trades, it was moderate, and worse than a year ago; in the shirt and collar trade it was good; in the corset trade fairly good.

**Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end, employing 1,849 dressmakers in the week ended May 18th, showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was good. Court dressmakers employing 1,243 workpeople showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.0 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good.

Employment with milliners in the West-end was good, and better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 4,281 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers), showed a decrease of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed a decrease in the demand for, and a slight increase in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago, the demand being much greater than the supply in both periods.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was fairly good; firms employing 2,379 workpeople in the week ended May 18th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers employing 7,033 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £5,093 in wages in the week ended May 18th, showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was good in London, Taunton, Londonderry and Belfast; fairly good in Manchester and Glasgow.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,157 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended May 18th, showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 36 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 20 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was quiet, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,710 had 5.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 5.8 per cent. in April, and 5.8 per cent. a year ago.

**Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.**—Employment with skinner was quiet at Leeds; fair at Birmingham and in London. With curriers it was fair generally; bad in London; quiet at Birmingham; good at Walsall. With leather workers generally it was good at Bolton, Bury, and Wigan; quiet at Leeds.

**Saddle and Harness Makers.**—Employment was good generally; at Glasgow it was fair; at Walsall it was quiet, but the improvement of April was maintained.

**Miscellaneous Leather Trades.**—With fancy leather workers employment was fair, but worse than a month ago. In London it was bad with fancy leather finishers; it continued fair with portmanteau and trunk makers in London and at Manchester.

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	Unit	May, 1907	April, 1907	May, 1906	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a	
					Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>						
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	cwts.	35,420	39,793	38,462	- 4,373	- 3,042
Ditto, wet	cwts.	42,924	41,966	60,819	+ 958	- 17,895
Total, hides, dry and wet	cwts.	78,344	81,759	99,281	- 3,415	- 20,937
Goat skins, undressed (No.)		2,085,657	1,497,678	2,064,100	+ 587,979	+ 21,557
Sheep skins, (value) £	£	261,282	341,943	227,929	+ 79,051	+ 34,353
<b>Exports:—</b>						
Leather*	cwts.	81,069	86,990	123,895	- 5,921	- 42,829
Saddlery and harness (value) £	£	52,285	45,540	47,544	+ 6,745	+ 4,741

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

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 376 Returns—128 from Employers' Associations, 230 from Trade Unions, and 18 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued fair on the whole. It showed a slight decline compared with April, but was better than a year ago.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades remained good, showing little change compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a considerable improvement, especially in the South of England. Returns received from firms employing 20,649 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Description	No. of Workpeople paid Wages in last week in May, 1907, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:</b>			
Northern Counties	5,924	- 1.5	- 0.3
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland	1,621	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Southern Counties	6,701	+ 0.2	+ 4.1
Scotland	5,535	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Total Machine-made Paper, &c.	19,781	- 0.3	+ 1.6
Hand-made Paper	868	...	+ 0.7
Total	20,649	- 0.3	+ 1.6

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,781 members had 2.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, compared with 2.0 per cent. in April, and 2.2 per cent. in May, 1906. In the *hand-made paper* trade, Trade Unions with 625 members had 6.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6.5 a month ago and 5.3 a year ago.

The *imports* of paper in May, 1907, amounted to £441,647, as compared with £494,267 in April, 1907, and £471,481 in May, 1906, and the *exports* for the same periods amounted to £207,949, £194,533 and £180,108 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Compared with a month ago there was some decline with *letterpress* printers, and a slight improvement with *lithographic* printers. Trade Unions with a membership of 47,250 had 4.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 3.8 in April and 4.7 a year ago.

The following Table shows the percentages for the various districts:—

Districts	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	19,049	3.6	3.2	3.6	+ 0.4	...
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,241	5.6	4.9	6.5	+ 0.7	- 0.9
Lancs. and Cheshire	6,446	5.2	5.3	6.2	- 0.1	- 1.0
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,340	3.8	3.9	3.5	- 0.1	+ 0.3
West Midlands	2,404	5.4	4.8	5.9	+ 0.6	- 0.5
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,339	2.8	2.7	3.5	+ 0.1	- 0.7
Scotland	5,480	2.4	2.5	3.9	- 0.1	- 1.5
Ireland	2,451	5.4	4.9	8.0	+ 0.5	- 2.6
United Kingdom	47,250	4.0	3.8	4.7	+ 0.2	- 0.7

**London.**—Trade Unions with a membership of 19,049 had 3.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 3.2 in April and 3.6 a year ago. Employment continued fairly good generally.

**Other Centres.**—Employment with letterpress printers in the Northern Counties and Yorkshire was slack on

the whole, and worse than a month ago. It was slack also at Nottingham and Bristol. At Bolton, Leicester, Ipswich and Oxford it was good; at Manchester, Derby, Birmingham and Plymouth it was fair. In Scotland and Ireland it was fairly good generally. At Edinburgh few Trade Union members were unemployed.

With lithographic printers employment was fairly good generally, and at Glasgow and Dublin it was better than a month ago and a year ago.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT showed a decline compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a considerable decline in London, but little change in the provinces. In London employment was very quiet, short time being still common; in the provinces employment was fair on the whole.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed in Trade Unions in the *Bookbinding Trades*:—

District	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,616	8.5	7.8	6.4	+ 0.7	+ 2.1
Other Districts	3,380	3.8	2.9	3.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.1
United Kingdom	6,996	6.2	5.4	5.1	+ 0.8	+ 1.1

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,882 Returns—918 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 913 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 51 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in May continued dull, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from 839 firms employing 56,217 workpeople at the end of May showed a decrease in the number employed of 1.0 per cent. as compared with a month ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns:—

District	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on the last pay-day of the month.							
	Skilled Tradesmen.		Labourers.		Lads and Boys.		Total.	
	May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1907.	April, 1907.	May, 1907.	April, 1907.
London	11,383	11,667	7,449	7,651	675	677	19,507	19,995
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	3,422	3,424	3,033	3,050	769	749	7,224	7,223
Lancashire and Cheshire	4,679	4,660	3,555	3,622	1,048	1,077	9,282	9,359
Midland and Eastern Counties	2,615	2,644	2,026	2,130	399	411	5,040	5,185
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,833	3,901	2,513	2,393	662	683	7,008	6,977
England & Wales	25,932	26,296	18,576	18,846	3,553	3,597	48,061	48,739
Scotland	3,330	3,293	2,054	2,014	817	844	6,231	6,151
Ireland	905	892	920	886	91	95	1,925	1,873
United Kingdom	30,167	30,481	21,569	21,746	4,481	4,536	56,217	56,763

EMPLOYMENT remained dull with most branches of the building trades, but continued good with painters, who frequently worked overtime. Compared with a month ago and a year ago little general change was shown by the returns.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners in the United Kingdom unemployed at the end of May was 4.4, as compared with 4.3 a month ago and 5.4 a year ago. Compared with a month ago, six districts showed a decline and five districts an improvement, while one district showed no change; compared with a year ago seven districts showed an improvement and five a decline. The percentages of Trade Union



plumbers unemployed for the same periods were 7.7, 7.1, and 7.9 respectively.

**London.**—Employment continued dull generally, and was worse than a month ago. Trade Union Returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 8.9 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 7.6 per cent. a month ago, and 8.2 per cent. in May, 1906. The percentages for plumbers were 12.5, 9.3, and 13.7 respectively.

**Northern Counties and Yorkshire.**—Employment continued dull generally (except with painters), but showed an improvement compared with a month ago. With carpenters and joiners at Leeds it was reported as better than in any former month during 1906-7. Builders' labourers at Newcastle reported employment as good.

**Lancashire and Cheshire.**—Employment was quiet generally.

**Midland and Eastern Counties.**—Employment continued dull, but was better on the whole than a month ago, partly owing to preparations for the holiday season on the East Coast. At Redditch employment was fair; at Coventry fair, but declining; at Worcester good. Bricklayers and carpenters at Derby were fairly well employed.

**Southern and Western Counties and Wales.**—Employment was dull, except with painters, and except also with bricklayers at Plymouth and masons at Cardiff, who were fairly well employed.

**Scotland.**—Employment was fair with carpenters and joiners and good with painters. With masons, plumbers, plasterers and slaters it was dull, and worse than a month ago. With bricklayers it was bad at Glasgow and fair at Edinburgh. At Dundee employment was fair generally, and better than a month ago.

**Ireland.**—Employment was dull at Dublin and Cork, and fair at Belfast. Painters generally were well employed.

## FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 152 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 120 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades was fairly good, about the same, on the whole, as a month ago, and better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,239 reported 2.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with the same percentage a month ago, and 3.6 per cent. in May, 1906.

### Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was fair, and, on the whole, about the same as a month ago, while rather better than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 3.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 2.7 per cent. a month ago, and 4.0 per cent. a year ago. Employment was fairly good in London. It was good generally at Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Belfast. It was still moderate at Newcastle.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in May, 1907, were valued at £46,855, as compared with £60,336 in April, 1907, and £68,240 in May, 1906.

The Exports of furniture and cabinet ware in May, 1907, were valued at £55,509, as compared with £59,219 in April, 1907, and £47,483 in May, 1906.

### Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was fair, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago, at Glasgow, while it was dull at Edinburgh and Nottingham, and bad at Hull, where there was much short time. Trade Unions reported 4.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, the same as a month ago, compared with 4.3 per cent. in May, 1906.

**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, 1907.		April, 1907.		May, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn ... ..	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.
" sawn ... ..	73,095	77,811	58,573	— 4,715	+ 14,523	— 13,927	— 13,927	— 13,927
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 15,326	£ 23,199	£ 24,290	— £ 7,873	— £ 8,964	— £ 8,964	— £ 8,964	— £ 8,964

### Coopers.

Employment with coopers was fairly good, showing a further improvement on the preceding month, while it was much better than a year ago. It was good at Peterhead and Fraserburgh and at Dublin. It continued dull, however, at Burton and bad at Edinburgh.

### Coachbuilding.

Coachmakers continued well employed. At Liverpool, however, employment was reported as moderate, while there was some dullness in London. Employment was moderate generally with wheelwrights and smiths. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., reported 1.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 1.7 per cent. a month ago, and 1.3 per cent. a year ago.

### Miscellaneous.

**Brushmakers.**—Employment with brushmakers continued good. Trade Unions reported 2.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 2.2 per cent. a month ago, and 2.9 per cent. in May, 1906.

**Other Trades.**—Employment with packing-case makers was fair, and much better than a month ago. With basket-makers employment continued good at Oldham, while it was reported as fair, and better than a month ago, in London; employment was moderate and slightly better than a month ago at Leicester.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in May, 1907, were valued at £33,585, as compared with £30,748 in April, 1907, and £29,885 in May, 1906.

The Exports of brushes and brooms in May, 1907, were valued at £16,174, as compared with £16,281 in April, 1907, and £14,264 in May, 1906.

## POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 24 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued good and was better than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued slack.

**Pottery Trade.**—Employment was good in Staffordshire, at Glasgow, and at Bristol. In Devonshire it was fair, and better than a month ago; it was also fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it was very good at Manchester, and fair at Gateshead, Waterford, and Glasgow.

**Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment was slack at Peterborough, Sheffield, Ruabon, Wrexham and at Nottingham, where short time was general. It was also dull at Bristol and in Devonshire and Shropshire. At Birmingham, Stourbridge, Ipswich, and in the South Staffordshire and Tees and Hartlepool districts employment continued fair. It was good at Oldham, and in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in May, 1907, were valued at £88,268, as compared with £83,091 in April, 1907, and £82,447 in May, 1906.

The Exports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in May, 1907, were valued at £227,616, as compared with £216,685 in April, 1907, and £196,830 in May, 1906.

## GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 88 Returns—63 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 13 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 9,768 workpeople in the week ended May 18th, and paying £11,835 in wages, showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in numbers employed, and an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. The decline in numbers employed was confined to the glass bottle branch, and this department was the only one to show a decrease in the amount of wages paid.

Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 10.1 per cent. in numbers employed, and an increase of 13.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the increases being shared by all the principal districts and departments, with the exception of the plate glass branch, which showed a decline both in numbers employed and the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 18th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.	
Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Glass Bottle* ... ..	6,434	- 1.3	+ 15.8	8,073	- 1.1	+ 20.6*
Plate Glass ... ..	846	+ 0.2	- 1.2	991	+ 4.9	- 0.5
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles) ... ..	2,106	+ 0.5	+ 2.1	2,350	+ 2.1	+ 1.0
Other Branches ... ..	382	...	- 4.5	421	+ 1.2	- 1.4
Total ... ..	9,768	- 0.8	+ 10.1	11,835	+ 0.1	+ 13.3
<b>Districts.</b>						
North of England	1,510	- 0.4	+ 28.1	1,723	+ 0.3	+ 37.1
Yorkshire ... ..	4,544	- 2.1	+ 8.7	5,847	- 1.4	+ 14.0
Lancashire ... ..	910	+ 1.8	+ 13.2	978	- 1.0	+ 13.5
Worcester and Warwick	1,512	+ 0.7	+ 3.7	1,814	+ 4.7	+ 0.7
Scotland ... ..	838	- 0.2	+ 5.1	1,045	+ 0.8	+ 9.2
Other parts of United Kingdom	454	+ 1.1	- 0.2	428	+ 2.6	- 2.1
Total ... ..	9,768	- 0.8	+ 10.1	11,835	+ 0.1	+ 13.3

Employment with glass bottle makers was generally good, but showed a slight decline on the previous month. At Leeds, Castleford, and Mexborough it was fair. Employment with medical glass bottle makers at Leeds was fair. It was generally fair with flint glass makers and cutters. At Birmingham and Barnsley, however, it was good. It was also good with cutters at Wordsley and Stourbridge. Employment with plate glass bevellers at Birmingham was fair. It continued good with sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens. It was good with London glass blowers. Employment with pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear was moderate, and short time was still being worked.

### Imports and Exports.

Description.	May, 1907.		April, 1907.		May, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with	
	A Month ago.	A Year ago.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>								
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	104,859	105,128	126,200	— 269	- 21,341			
Plate ... ..	38,674	43,249	30,498	- 4,575	+ 8,176			
Flint, plain, cut or ornamented, &c.	72,342	62,046	72,033	+ 10,276	+ 289			
Manufactures, other sorts...	1,691	1,369	3,138	+ 322	- 1,447			
Bottles ... ..	133,714	150,997	140,852	- 17,283	- 7,138			
<b>Exports:</b>								
Plate ... ..	14,281	12,404	14,504	+ 1,877	- 223			
Flint ... ..	5,926	5,175	4,779	+ 751	+ 1,147			
Manufactures, other sorts ... ..	55,494	33,361	53,302	+ 22,133	+ 2,192			
Bottles ... ..	80,001	72,588	73,039	+ 7,413	+ 6,962			

\* The comparison with May, 1906, is affected to some extent by an advance in rates of wages in the glass bottle making trade, which took effect in January-February, 1907.

## AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 178 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

AGRICULTURAL employment was generally regular in May. Rain, however, caused day labourers to lose time in a number of districts. There was, on the whole, a plentiful supply of this class of labour.

**Northern Counties.**—In Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire, wet and cold weather retarded work on the land. In Yorkshire employment was fairly regular until the latter part of the month, when day labourers lost time through wet weather, which interrupted hoeing and other field work. There was generally a full supply of day labourers in this county, and a surplus was reported in the Malton and Scarborough Unions.

**Midland Counties.**—Employment was generally regular in Cheshire and Derbyshire. A correspondent in the Hayfield Union (Derbyshire) states that the supply of day labourers was somewhat greater than a year ago. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire showery weather caused some interruption to the employment of day labourers. The supply of such men was generally about equal to the demand. A few men of this class also lost time in Staffordshire and Shropshire. Hoeing was somewhat considerably interfered with by the rain in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, day labourers losing time in consequence; in both counties some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported. Employment was fairly regular in Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire, but some time was lost by day labourers in certain districts engaged on hoeing corn. In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire rain somewhat hindered employment in the fields, and day labourers were consequently not in much demand.

**Eastern Counties.**—In Huntingdonshire out-door work suffered some interruption through the wet weather. A correspondent in the St. Neot's Union writes that while in some cases casual labourers have lost three or four days, in others the men have been kept on at odd work, so that they lost little except the extra money usually earned at this time of year on piece-work. In Cambridgeshire employment was somewhat irregular, owing to heavy storms. Outdoor work in Lincolnshire proceeded fairly regularly. At the May hirings there was generally no alteration in wages, but one correspondent states that youths obtained slight increases. Employment was also fairly regular, on the whole, in Norfolk and Suffolk, but in several districts rain interfered with such work as sowing swedes and turnips; there was generally a plentiful supply of extra men. A correspondent in the Freebridge Lynn Union (Norfolk) states that a few lads were not in regular employment. Rain caused but little interruption to employment in Essex. Farm work is reported to be well forward, and the supply of day labour was in excess of the demand.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Employment was regular, on the whole, in Kent and Surrey, though a little time was lost by day labourers through rain. In several districts the supply of this class of men was rather greater than the demand. Similar reports come from Sussex; a scarcity of men for permanent situations involving Sunday work was, however, reported. In Hampshire there was some irregularity of employment, hoeing being interfered with by rain; the supply of labour was generally plentiful, but in the Farnham Union a difficulty in getting men for piece-work (such as hoeing) was reported. The supply of and demand for labour were generally about equal in Berkshire and Wiltshire, but day labourers lost time on several wet days. Regularity of employment is reported from Dorset. In Somerset there was some slackness in employment on account of mangel sowing being interrupted by wet weather. Employment was fairly regular in Herefordshire. In Gloucestershire a few day labourers hoeing on piece-work lost time through wet weather. The supply of men for permanent situations in some districts is said to be more plentiful than of late years. Employment in Devonshire and Cornwall was interrupted in several districts by the rain.



DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 136 Returns—116 from Employers, 8 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

Employment during May was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago.

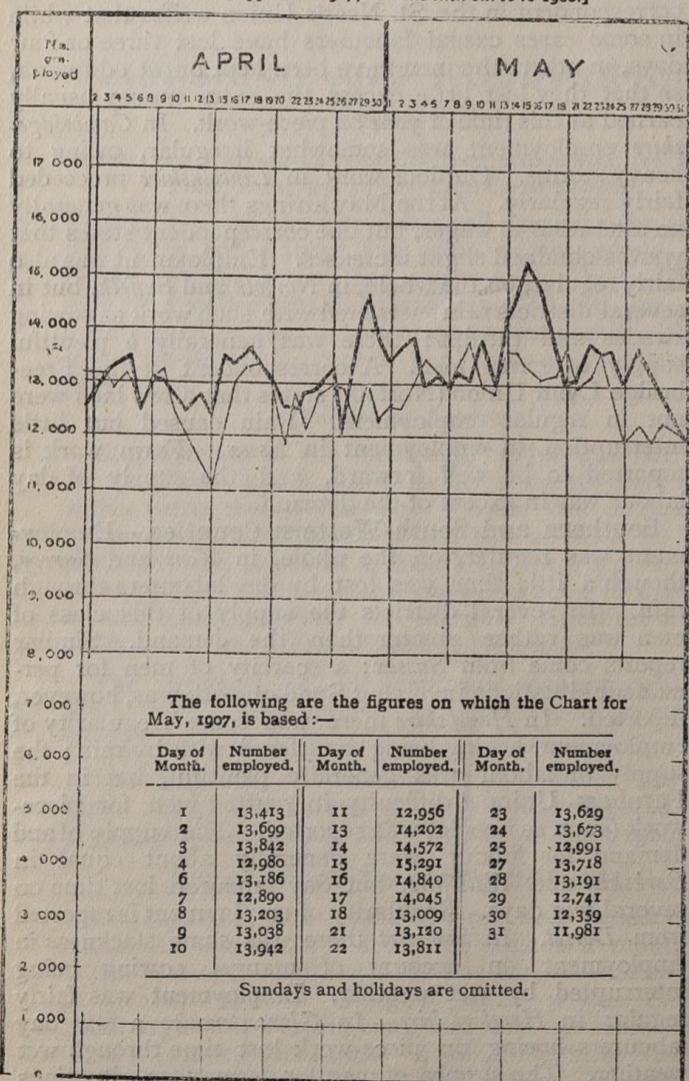
London.\*—Employment was generally fair, and better than a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended June 1st was 13,508, an increase of 4.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.

Table with columns: Period, In Docks\* (By Dock Companies, By Ship-owners, &c., Total), At 111 Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 111 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of April, 1907, and May, 1907. The corresponding curve for April, 1906, and May, 1906, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1907, and the thin curve to 1906.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for May, 1907, is based:—

Table with columns: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed.

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

\* Exclusive of Tilbury.

† Revised figures.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,140 in May, 1907, as compared with 1,429 in the previous month and 1,173 in May, 1906.

At Liverpool employment with dock labourers was fair, and better than a month ago. With quay and railway carters employment was also reported as fair.

Other Ports.—On the Tyne and Wear, with dock and quayside labourers employment was fair, and somewhat better than a month ago. Employment continued good on the Tees. At Hartlepool it continued good with riverside labour, slack with dock labour.

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 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during May, 43,789\* seamen, of whom 4,989 (or 11.4 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels.

For the five months ended May, 1907, the total number of seamen shipped was 197,127\* or 11,614 more than during the corresponding period of 1906, chiefly accounted for by large increases at Liverpool, Cardiff, Southampton, Glasgow, and Middlesbrough.

Lascars, who are engaged in Asia, are not included in these figures.

The following Table shows the number of persons\* shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom during the periods mentioned:—

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen\* shipped in (May 1906, May 1907, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1907, Five months ended May (1906, 1907, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1907).

\* 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.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 20 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for Engl. and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed in England and Wales and Scotland\* during May, 1907, showed an increase in both quantity and value as compared with May, 1906.

Employment at the principal ports was good on the whole, and better than a month ago. At Yarmouth employment was good with fishermen, but continued bad with fish curers. At Lowestoft it continued fair with fishermen, but was moderate and worse than a month ago with fish curers.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of fish landed in England and Wales and Scotland\* during May, 1907, and May, 1906, respectively:—

Table with columns: Quantity (May 1907, May 1906), Value (May 1907, May 1906). Rows include Fish (other than Shell), England and Wales, Scotland, Shell Fish, and Total Value.

The exports of herrings in May, 1907, were valued at £28,238, as compared with £26,375 in April, 1907, and £22,405 in May, 1906.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

WHAT IS A WAREHOUSE? PREMISES ANCILLARY TO RETAIL BUSINESS.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, applies to employment on, or in, or about a factory; and "factory" includes "warehouse."

A tradesman, dealing principally in antique furniture, had two shops. One of these was a two-storey building, over the door of which were the words "Reeve's Warehouse." The ground floor was used as a shop, and the room on the first floor was divided by partitions and used for various purposes subsidiary to the retail business of the shop.

INSURANCE: WRONG DESCRIPTION OF EMPLOYER: ALTERATION OF DESCRIPTION BY AGENT: LIABILITY OF COMPANY.

A man carrying on business as a builder and joiner was invited by the local agent of an insurance company to insure his workmen against accidents for which he would be liable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897. He consented; and the agent thereupon

\* The figures for Ireland were not available at time of going to press.

filled up a proposal form in which the proposer was described merely as a joiner. The proposer signed this form without noticing the mistake, but when in due course a policy was sent him by the insurance company he objected to its form, as he was described only as a joiner, when he should have been described as a builder and joiner. The local agent in having this objection made to him telephoned to the head office of the insurance company, and on the instructions of the chief clerk in reply added the words "and builder" to the description of the insured in the policy.

(2) Miscellaneous.

"COMMON EMPLOYMENT": YOUNG PERSON: DANGEROUS WORK: NEGLIGENCE.

By the common law of England an employer is not responsible for personal injuries caused to a servant by the negligence of a fellow-servant in a common employment with the injured servant.

A girl of fifteen years of age was employed by a company carrying on business as manufacturers of explosives and ammunition. She was engaged by a manager, and for the first few days was employed merely in weighing bullets. She was then told to go to the gauging shed where she was put under a forewoman, who told her what to do. The work done in this department was the testing of the gauge of loaded cartridges. The testing is done by putting the cartridge to be tested into a bore in a small block of iron, and then passing the block with the cartridge in it under a small bar supported by two upright bars fixed into a base of iron which is fastened to the table.

It was contended at the trial on behalf of the company that if the plaintiff was injured, as alleged, by the negligence of the forewoman in not giving her proper warning of the danger of acting as she had done, the company were not liable, as the forewoman and the plaintiff were fellow-servants in a common employment.

Against this decision the defendants appealed, and the High Court overruled the decision; holding that the case was governed by the general principle of common employment; that the servant takes the risk of negligence on the part of a fellow-servant; and that the master owes no duty to a young person in respect to dangerous work which he cannot delegate to others.

PAYMENT BY PIECE WORK: OBLIGATION OF WORKMEN TO WORK USUAL HOURS.

A firm of shipbuilders employed a large number of fitters and platers who were all members of the same trade union, and who were paid by piecework. In consequence of a notice issued by an official of the trade union these men left the shipbuilding yard for the space of three hours one morning to attend a meeting. The firm accordingly brought an action against this official and also against the union for inducing and procuring the men to break their contracts of service by deserting their work.



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 ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on June 1st, 1907.

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 131 from Scotland:—

Table showing present price (1st June, 1907) and price last quarter (1st Mar., 1907) for various districts including England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

It will be seen that the mean of the prices for June 1st is 1.6d. higher than that for March 1st, 1907. The increase in Scotland was 1/2d. per 4 lbs. As compared with a year ago the mean price shows a slight decrease. The decrease in London was nearly 1/2d. per 4 lbs.

The figures in the following Tables are based on the Returns received from Master Bakers' Associations and from other sources.

Table showing predominant prices for bread in various districts (London, N. & N.W., E. & N.E., S.E., S.W., W. & W.C., etc.) for 1st June, 1907, 1st May, 1907, and 1st June, 1906.

Compared with a month ago slight rises have occurred in the predominant price of bread in every district. As compared with a year ago the price shows but little change.

From the following Table it will be seen that, as compared with a month ago, the predominant price of bread per 4lb. loaf has risen 1/2d. in Liverpool, Plymouth, Manchester, the Potteries, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow; while in Oldham and Wolverhampton rises of 1d. have occurred. As compared with a year ago rises of 1/2d. are shown in four towns, and decreases of 1/2d. in two towns.

On June 3rd the price per 4lb. loaf was advanced 1/2d. at Bristol, Cardiff, Derby and Leicester, and a further 1/2d. rise occurred at Manchester. Rises of 1/2d. per 4 lbs. have since taken place at Middlesbrough, Norwich, Belfast and Nottingham.

Table showing predominant price at June 1st, 1907, increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a month ago and a year ago, and last change for various places including Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Cardiff, etc.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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.

Table showing British Wheat (Mean London Gazette Price) and Imports (Average Declared Value) for May, April, and 1906.

The imports of wheat from September 1st, 1906, to May 31st, 1907, amounted to 64,755,800 cwts., or 647,678 cwts. more than in the corresponding period of 1905-6. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during the same period amounted to 10,309,419 cwts., or 989,181 cwts. less than in September-May, 1905-6.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.

Pig Iron.—The ascertained average selling price of pig iron in the West of Scotland for the three months, February-April, 1907, was 62s. 2.9d. per ton, which showed a decrease of about 3s. 0.2d., as compared with the previous three months. As a result of this ascertainment the wages of blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland were reduced by 2 1/2 per cent. from 1st May.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the ascertained average selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in March and April, 1907, was 141s. 3.09d. per ton, which was 2s. 2.1/2d. higher than for the previous audit, and 12s. 1.1/2d. higher than a year ago. In the Midlands the selling for the same period of 1907 was 147s. 0.75d. per ton, which was about 4s. 4d. higher than for the previous two months, and 8s. 9.1/2d. higher than a year ago. In the West of Scotland the selling price in March and April, 1907, was 141s. 4.66d.

per ton, which was 2s. 2.1/2d. higher than for the previous audit, and 17s. 9.1/2d. higher than a year ago. As a result of these ascertainment the wages of puddlers and millmen in each of these districts remain unaltered.

The results of the latest ascertainment of the selling prices of pig iron in the West of Scotland, and of manufactured iron in the North of England, the Midlands, and the West of Scotland, are given below:—

Table showing price according to last audit, ascertained average price per ton, and increase (+) or decrease (-) of last audit as compared with previous audit and a year ago for Pig Iron and Manufactured Iron.

IRISH MIGRATORY LABOURERS IN 1906.

ACCORDING to a Report issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland the number of migratory agricultural labourers who went from Ireland to England and Scotland in 1906 may be estimated at approximately 25,000. This number is about the same as that for the preceding year (see GAZETTE for April, 1906, p. 105).

On the basis of figures, relating to 15,286 of the migratory labourers, which show the districts from which they came, it appears that 87 per cent. came from four counties, viz.: Mayo (55 per cent.), Donegal (16 per cent.), Roscommon (9 per cent.), and Galway (7 per cent.). Of these 15,286 labourers, 3372 (or 22 per cent.) had holdings in Ireland. In the great majority of cases the holding did not exceed 20 statute acres.

The report gives particulars as to the distribution of the migratory labourers in England and Scotland, their conditions of work and living, earnings and savings, and prospects for the coming season.

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Home Work.—It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1907, that in the case of persons employed in such classes of work as may from time to time be specified by Order of the Home Secretary, lists must be kept showing the names and addresses of all persons directly employed, either as workmen or contractors, in the business of the factory or workshop outside the factory or workshop, and the places where they are employed. Copies of these lists must be sent to the District Council of the district in which the factory or workshop is situated. If such District Council give notice to the occupier of any factory or workshop, or to any contractor employed by such occupier, that any place where any of such persons are employed is injurious or dangerous to the health of the persons there employed, it is an offence after the expiration of a month from such notice for any occupier or contractor to give out work to be done in that place. It is further provided that if any inmate of a house is suffering from a notifiable infectious disease, the District Council of the district may by Order forbid work of such class as may be specified by Order of the Home Secretary to be given out to any person living or working in that house. Disobedience to such Order is an offence. Under these provisions an Order has been made, dated August 15th, 1905, specifying certain classes of work to which these provisions shall apply. In pursuance of the powers conferred by the Act by a new Order, dated May 23rd, 1907, the Home Secretary has Ordered that the above provisions as to lists of out-workers, and employment in unwholesome premises shall, in addition to the

\* During the three months February-April, 1906, no transactions in cash for Scottish pig iron warrants took place in the Glasgow market. The prices are now regulated by a new sliding scale by which a settlement price can be taken when there has been no cash transaction. † Report on Irish Migratory Labourers. Cd. 3481. Price 2.3d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. ‡ Statutory Rules and Order, 1907. No. 408. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

classes of work specified in the former Order, apply to:—The making of artificial flowers; the making of nets other than wire nets; the making of tents; the making and repairing of sacks; the covering of racquet or tennis balls; the making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper, cardboard, chip, or similar material; pea-picking; feather sorting; the carding, boxing, or packeting of buttons, hooks and eyes, pins, and hair pins; the making of baskets; and any processes incidental to these. The Order further extends the provisions relating to the prohibition of homework in places where there is infectious disease to the same employments in addition to those specified in the previous Order.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for May.

Table showing imports of foreign and colonial merchandise for May, including Food, Drink, and Tobacco; Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; and Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Table showing exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom for May, including Food, Drink, and Tobacco; Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; and Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the five weeks ended June 1st, 1907, amounted to £5,273,567, a decrease of £85,820 (or 1.6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period in 1906.

Table showing railway goods and mineral traffic receipts for 5 weeks ended June 1st, 1907, and 22 weeks ended June 1st, 1907, for various railway lines including English Lines, Scottish Lines, and Irish Lines.

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



TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Twenty-nine new disputes began in May, 1907, as compared with 39 in April, 1907, and 42 in May, 1906. By the 29 disputes, 4,511 workpeople were directly and 1,274 indirectly affected, and these figures when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 11,912 workpeople involved in trade disputes during May, 1907, compared with 15,586 in April, 1907, and 48,122 in May, 1906.

**New Disputes in May, 1907.**—In the following Table the new disputes in May are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building ... ..	3	231	12	243
Mining ... ..	8	1,438	...	1,438
Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	3	563	500	1,063
Cotton Manufacture ... ..	3	692	47	739
Other Textile ... ..	3	418	712	1,130
Clothing ... ..	3	381	...	381
Tobacco ... ..	2	610	...	610
Other Trades ... ..	2	178	3	181
<b>Total, May, 1907</b> ... ..	<b>29</b>	<b>4,511</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>5,785</b>
<b>Total, April, 1907</b> ... ..	<b>39</b>	<b>8,084</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>9,790</b>
<b>Total, May, 1906</b> ... ..	<b>42</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>12,108</b>	<b>41,948</b>

**Causes.**—Of the 29 new disputes, 10 arose on demands for increased wages, 3 on objections to reduction in wages, 4 on other wages questions, 3 on questions of Trade Union principle, 3 on details of working arrangements, 4 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 2 on other questions.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in the case of 21 new disputes, directly affecting 2,627 persons, and 10 old disputes, directly affecting 2,055 persons. Of these 31 new and old disputes, 11, directly involving 1,621 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 1,290 persons, were decided in

favour of the employers; and 11, directly involving 1,771 persons, were compromised. In the case of 3 other disputes, directly involving 242 persons, work has been resumed pending further negotiations.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in May of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 93,500 working days. In addition, 94,100 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 187,600 working days, as compared with 148,500 in the previous month, and 330,500 in the corresponding month of 1906.

**Summary for the First Five Months of 1906 and 1907.**—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the five months, January to May, 1906 and 1907, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—May, 1906.			January—May, 1907.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ... ..	11	767	31,100	15	766	13,400
Mining and Quarrying... ..	28	16,296	395,700	40	16,441	226,300
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding ... ..	48	12,655	160,000	39	7,570	177,700
Textile ... ..	43	52,033	405,200	79	22,598	271,300
Clothing ... ..	21	1,300	22,100	18	2,751	28,500
Transport ... ..	3	249	4,400	11	2,555	10,500
Other Trades ... ..	17	714	13,100	28	2,623	51,300
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>84,014</b>	<b>1,032,600</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>55,104</b>	<b>782,000</b>

**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 Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1907.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object †	Result.‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.‡				
<b>Building—</b> Plumbers ... ..	Liverpool ...	168	...	1 May	...	Against alteration in hours during winter months	No settlement reported.
<b>Coal Mining—</b> Miners, &c. ... ..	Durham (near)	1,081	...	8 May	...	Dispute as to letting of colliery houses	No settlement reported.
<b>Cotton Weaving—</b> Weavers, Warehousemen, Overlookers, &c. ... ..	Bacup ...	278	29	8 May	15½	Irregular supply of material...	Work resumed unconditionally.
<b>Jute Weaving—</b> Weavers, Spinners, Preparers, Calendar-men, &c. ... ..	Dundee ...	218	607	17 May	20	Against substitution of two cotton selvage for four cotton selvage	Work resumed on employer's terms.
<b>Clothing Trades—</b> Boot and Shoe Makers ... ..	London, W.	800	...	27 Apl.	16	For advance in price for making boots	Advance granted.
Shirt and Collar Machinists ... ..	Taunton ...	260	...	30 May	3	Against proposed increase in price of cotton supplied to workers	Amicable settlement effected.
Veiners and Other Workpeople (Handkerchief Manufacture) ... ..	Lurgan ...	52	185	25 Apl.	9	For advance in price for stitching certain hems	Work resumed unconditionally.
<b>Pottery Trade—</b> Sanitary Pressers ... ..	North Staffs.	600	...	25 Mar.	47	For advance in making price for one article	Amicable settlement effected.
<b>Tobacco Trades—</b> Cigarette Makers and Cutters ... ..	Manchester ...	260	...	6 May	2	For advance in piece prices	Matter submitted to arbitrators who drew up a scale of prices.
Tobacco Workers ... ..	Belfast ...	350	...	16 May	1	Protest against dismissal of fellow workers	Work resumed unconditionally.

\* 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 affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute 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 reported in May.**—The net effect of all the changes reported in May was an increase of £20,389 per week, as compared with an increase of £12,053 per week in April, 1907, and one of £4,097 per week in May, 1906. The number of workpeople affected was 282,503, of whom 282,250 received advances amounting to £20,404 per week, and 253 sustained decreases amounting to £15 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 221,789, and in May, 1906, 170,762.

Three changes, affecting 264,100 coal miners in Durham, Somerset, and South Wales and Monmouthshire, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and seven changes, affecting 5,289 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 13,114 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives; three of these changes, affecting 203 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

**Summary for the Five completed Months of 1907.**—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, during the five months ended May 31st, 1907, was 991,898, as compared with 803,925 for the corresponding period of 1906. The changes arranged gave 991,071 workpeople a net increase of £100,044 per week, and 827 workpeople a net decrease of £43 per week. The net effect of all the changes was thus an increase of £100,001 per week, as compared with an increase of £24,173 per week in the corresponding period of 1906.

Summarised by trades the number of workpeople

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

Groups of Trades.	January—May.			
	1906.		1907.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building ... ..	2,465	- 131	2,340	+ 135
Coal Mining ... ..	308,250	+ 5,704	778,150	+88,225
Iron &c., Mining ... ..	8,472	+ 576	15,340	+ 1,375
Quarrying ... ..	3,808	- 55	2,441	+ 129
Pig Iron Manufacture ... ..	12,914	+ 953	16,119	+ 1,204
Iron and Steel Manufacture ... ..	48,987	+ 2,380	49,092	+ 2,974
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	77,456	+ 4,468	27,651	+ 1,407
Other Metal Trades ... ..	10	+ 1	533	+ 34
Textile Trades ... ..	338,075	+10,146	90,237	+ 3,752
Printing, &c., Trades ... ..	480	+ 35	4,420	+ 258
Glass, &c., Trades ... ..	201	+ 9	3,648	+ 361
Other Trades ... ..	2,877	+ 87	1,182	+ 103
Employees of Local Authorities ... ..	2,877	+ 87	745	+ 44
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>803,925</b>	<b>+ 24,173</b>	<b>991,898</b>	<b>+ 100,001</b>

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during May, 1907, affected 2,820 workpeople, of whom 420 had their working time increased by 1,680 hours per week, and 2,400 had their working time decreased by 3,695 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the five months ended May 31st, 1907, was 5,168, the net decrease in their working hours being 13,648 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in May.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES REPORTED IN MAY.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1907.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)	
					In-crease.	De-crease.

I.—RATES OF WAGES.

Building ...	Coventry ... ..	1 April	Bricklayers ... ..	400	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.).		
			Deputies ... ..	1,100	...	Advance of 3d. per day (6s. 1d. to 6s. 4d.).		
			Mechanics ... ..	1,600	...	Advance of 3d. per day (4s. 11d. to 5s. 1d.).		
Northumberland	6 & 13 May		Enginem ... ..	700	...	Advance of 3d. per day. Wages after change: Winding Enginem, 5s. 5d.; Hauling and Pumping Enginem, 5s. 4d.		
			Firemen ... ..	250	...	Advance of 4 per cent., making wages 24 per cent. above the standard of 1879.		
			Underground Workers, Banksmen, Cokemen, Enginem, and Mechanics ... ..	110,000	...	Advance of 3½ per cent., making wages 40 per cent. above the standard of 1879.		
Durham ... ..	6 & 13 May		Other Surface Workers ... ..	...	...	Advance of 3½ per cent., making wages 37 per cent. above the standard of 1879.		
			Bristol District ... ..	3 May	Hewers, other Underground Workers and Banksmen	2,500	...	Advance of 5 per cent.
			Somerset (Radstock District) ... ..	3 May	Hewers, other Underground Workers, Banksmen and Screenmen, Enginem and Stokers ... ..	4,000	100	Advance of 5 per cent., making wages 37½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 June		Miners, &c. ... ..	150,000	...	Advance of 1½ per cent., making wages 52½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.		
			Scotland ... ..	25 April	Miners ... ..	4,000	...	Advance of 6¼ per cent.
			Derbyshire ... ..	1 May	Oncostmen and Boys ... ..	818	...	Advance of from 1d. to 3d. per day.
Pig Iron Manufacture and Notts.	1 May		Blastfurnacemen ... ..	...	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent., making wages 12½ per cent. above the standard of 1905.		
			Great Britain ... ..	5 May	Steel Melters and Pitmen ... ..	3,900	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
			Gas Producers, Charge Wheelers, Enginem and Cranemen ... ..	...	...	Advance of 1½ per cent.		
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Great Britain ... ..	5 May	Engineers and Cranemen ... ..	...	...	Advance of 1½ per cent.		
			London ... ..	20 April	Ironfounders ... ..	600	...	Advance of 1s. per week, or of ½d. per hour.
			Johnstone ... ..	1 April	Flax Roughers, Spinners, &c. ... ..	468	...	Advance of 6d., or 1s. per week.

II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

Building ...	Wolverhampton ... ..	1 April	Carpenters and Joiners ... ..	350	...	Re-arrangement of winter working hours, and shortening of winter period, resulting in an average decrease of ½ hour per week.
Dundee ... ..		1 June	Stonemasons ... ..	560	...	Decrease of 1 hour per week (51 to 50) during summer period.
			Painters and Decorators ... ..	280	...	Decrease of 1 hour per week (51 to 50) during the 5 months—May to September inclusive.
Belfast ... ..	3 May		Engineers, &c. ... ..	420	...	Increase of 4 hours per week (50 to 54).
			Lancashire and Yorkshire ... ..	1st pay in June	Dyers, Bleachers, Sizers, &c. ... ..	434

NOTE.—Cotton Trade.—Early in June an advance of 5 per cent. to cotton spinners, piecers, doublers, card and blowing room operatives, and warpers, reelers and winders was arranged to take effect from the third pay-day in June.

\* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. 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, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.



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, 1907, was 231, an increase of 3 as compared with the previous month, and an increase of 25 as compared with May, 1906.

The mean number for May in the years 1902-1906 was 211, the maximum year being 1903 with 228 deaths, and the minimum 1904, with 195 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during May, 1907, was 92, as compared with 117 in April 1907, and 117 in May, 1906. The mean for the five years 1902-1906 was 100, the highest number being 151 in 1902, and the lowest 58 in 1904.

In the following Table the fatal accidents reported in May, 1907, are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year:—

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (May 1907, April 1907, May 1906), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1907, as compared with a) Month ago, b) Year ago.

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.

The Return shows the name of every seaman whose death has been reported during the month, together with his age, nationality, and last place of abode; the cause, date, and place of death; and the name, official number, and port of registry of the ship on which he was serving.

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 was 48, there being 40 cases of lead poisoning, 3 of arsenic poisoning, and 5 of anthrax. Two deaths were reported, one due to lead poisoning and the other to arsenic poisoning. In addition to these, 10 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported during May among house painters and plumbers.

During the five months ended May, 1907, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 209, as compared with 282 in 1906. The number of deaths during the same period was 16, as against 25 in 1906. In addition there were 57 cases of lead poisoning (including 17 deaths) among house painters and plumbers in the first five months of 1907, as compared with 65 cases (including 17 deaths) in the first five months of 1906.

[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.]

Analysis by Industries.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases (Month of May, 1907, Five Months ended May, 1907), Deaths (Month of May, 1907, Five Months ended May, 1906). Sub-sections include Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, and Anthrax.

\* Of the 6 cases in the china and earthenware industry 2 affected females. † Caused by arseniuretted hydrogen gas. ‡ Including 1 dock labourer.

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 1907, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £7,440,412, an increase of 8.2 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1906, and of 26.2 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1902 (i.e., five years ago).

Table with columns: Names of Societies and Nature of Business, Sales (In 1st quarter of 1907, 1906, 1902), Percentage increase in 1907 as compared with A year ago, Five years ago.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MINERS.

A ROYAL COMMISSION has been appointed to inquire into and report on certain questions relating to the health and safety of miners, and the administration of the Mines Acts, namely:—

Whether it is desirable to make compulsory the watering of the roads in dry and dusty mines. Whether it is desirable to prescribe the forms of safety lamp which may be used in mines, or to prohibit any of those now in use.

What steps could be taken for the better prevention of accidents, particularly those from the use and firing of explosives, from falls of roof and side, from underground haulage, and from winding; whether any special provision should be made to facilitate the work of rescue in the event of an accident; and whether any improvement can be made in the present system of investigation and inquiry into accidents.

Whether any steps should be taken to lay down a standard of ventilation in mines.

What steps should be taken to guard against the disease known as ankylostomiasis.

Whether the present system of special rules is adequate, and whether the method of establishing such rules could not be made simpler and more effective.

Whether any, and if so what, steps should be taken to improve the administration of the Mines Acts and the discipline in mines.

Whether any change is desirable in the present system of examination for Managers' and Under Managers' Certificates of Competency, whether the Managers of Metalliferous Mines should be compelled to hold such certificates, and whether certificates granted by Colonial Governments should not be accepted in this country.

And also to inquire and report what steps could be taken for the better prevention of accidents in quarries.

The chairman of the Commission is the Rt. Hon. Lord Monkswell; and the other members are Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart.; H. H. S. Cunynghame, Esq., C.B.; William Abraham, Esq., M.P. (Rhondda); F. L. Davis, Esq.; Enoch Edwards, Esq., M.P.; T. Ratcliffe Ellis, Esq.; J. Scott Haldane, M.D., F.R.S.; and Robert Smillie, Esq. The Secretary to the Commission is S. W. Harris, Esq., 31, Great George Street, S.W.

\* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments. † Decrease.

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, 1907, in the 35 selected urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 212 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with April, 1907, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 5,442 (1.4 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 4. In six districts there was no change, and in two districts there were increases, while in all the other districts there were decreases, the most marked being in the Leicester district (15 per 10,000). The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 3,248 (1.9 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers a decrease of 2,194 (1.0 per cent.).

Compared with May, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 5,642 (1.5 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 6. Decreases took place in 27 districts, the most marked being in the Leicester district (24 per 10,000). There were increases in 7 districts, and in the Belfast district there was no change. The number of indoor paupers increased by 1,363 (0.8 per cent.), but the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 7,005 (3.2 per cent.).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of May, 1907 (Indoor, Outdoor, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with A month ago, A year ago. Sub-sections include ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

\* 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.



LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 46 Labour Bureaux during May\* ; of these Bureaux 28 were in London (including West Ham), and 18 in the provinces.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 11,106, of which 9,754 were in London, and 1,352 in the provinces. The number of situations offered by employers was 4,102, and the number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 3,658, or 33 per cent. of the applications received, and 89 per cent. of the situations offered.

follows: building trades (artisans and labourers) 182; wood-working trades, 105; metal and engineering trades, 64; other skilled trades, 86; "transport and general," 285; other trades, men and boys, 412; women and girls, 445. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 86; metal and engineering trades, 76; carters and stablemen, clerks and warehousemen, porters and messengers, 313; general labourers, 59; bill distributors, 694; employees of local authorities, 153; charwomen and domestic servants, 310; other occupations, 87. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 301 men.

The number of applicants registered at the 10 Bureaux for which figures for both 1907 and 1906 can be given was 2,741 in May, 1907, as compared with 3,086 in May, 1906. Employers offered 1,906 situations during May, 1907, of which 1,631 were filled. In May, 1906, 2,088 situations were offered and 1,673 were filled. The number of workpeople on the Registers at the end of May, 1907, was 2,802, as compared with 4,311 in May, 1906.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING MAY.\*

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, New Applicants, Situations offered, Situations Filled (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, All Situations), Applicants Remaining on the Registers (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, Total).

\* The figures for the Central Employment Exchange and the 25 affiliated London Bureaux relate to the five weeks ended June 1st; the other figures relate to the calendar month. † For Bureaux exclusively concerned with women, see next page.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MAY.

DURING May 765 fresh applications (476 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 829 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 225 persons, of whom 133 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 225 situations found for applicants 168 were of a more or less permanent character, while 57 were temporary only.

The work done by the Bureaux during May is shown in the following Table:—

Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations. Tables showing applications, situations offered, and workpeople engaged by employers for various bureaux and occupations.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING MAY.

(Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in May was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 19; under the Friendly Societies Act, 20; under the Building Societies Act, 1: in all, 42.

Among the new Societies registered in May were the following:—

Trade Unions.—England.—1, viz., Tyldesley and Astley Miners' Association, Miners' Hall, 180, Elliott Street, Tyldesley, Manchester. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—1, viz., Kilmaloe Trade and Labour Benefit and Protective Society, Kilmaloe.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England.—14, viz., Co-operative Productive Society: (1) Co-op. Granite Quarries, Ltd., 59, Great Ormond Street, W.C. Co-operative Distributive Societies: (2) South Petherton and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., St. James Street, South Petherton; Nuneaton Railway Servants' Refreshment Soc., Ltd., Nuneaton Station. Co-operative Agricultural Societies: (3) Marlow Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Moor Farm, Lane End, High Wycombe; Nailsworth Poultry Soc., Ltd., Cossack Square, Nailsworth, Stroud; Water Orton and Dist. Co-op. Dairy Soc., Ltd., Justice's Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Church Hill, Coleshill, Birmingham. Miscellaneous: One Working Men's Club and 7 others.—Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—5, viz., Co-operative Agricultural Societies: (4) Drummagness Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Drummagness; Moynehall Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Moynehall; Drumcrow Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Drumcrow; Castlemahon Co-op. Dairy Soc., Ltd., Castlemahon. Miscellaneous: (1).

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—15, viz., Top Street Working Men's Club and Institute, Hemsworth, Yorks; Monmouthshire Perm. Money Soc., Newport, Mon.; Midland Re-afforesting Assn., Birmingham; Castle Perm. Money Soc., Birmingham; East Ham Friendly Dividing Soc., East Ham; Hope Collecting Soc., Warrington, Lancs.; Hearth and Home Benefit Soc., 83, Hatten Garden, E.C.; Home Benefit Soc., East Dulwich, S.E.; Old Crown and Cushion Helping Hand Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Hope and Anchor Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Alcester Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Aslockton Protection Friendly Soc., Aslockton, Nottingham; City and County Borough of

Sheffield Friendly Soc., Sheffield; North Eastern Railway Servants' Pension Soc., York. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—5, viz., Saint Gerrard Loan Fund, Dublin; Dublin Partnership Loan Fund, Dublin; Leenane Credit Soc., Leenane, Galway; Columbkille Credit Soc., Augnacliche, Longford; Castlereagh Credit Soc., Castlereagh, Roscommon.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Table with columns: Name of Society/Union, Notices Received in May of, Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up, Registry Cancelled.

NOTE.—In the above statement a Co-operative Society is entered under the heading (distribution, production, etc.) which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MAY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Mines and Quarries, 1906. Part I. Statistics of the Persons Employed, Output and Accidents at Mines and Quarries in the United Kingdom, arranged according to Inspection Districts. [Cd. 3478: pp. 48: price 7d.]

Mines and Quarries. Reports of H.M. Inspectors for 1906. Reports and statistics of accidents, output, days worked, persons employed, &c. Yorkshire and Lincolnshire District. [Cd. 3449—iv.: pp. 61: price 9d.] West Scotland District. [Cd. 3449—i: pp. 32: price 3d.] Durham District. [Cd. 3449—iii.: pp. 52: price 5d.] Newcastle District. [Cd. 3449—ii.: pp. 63: price 6d.]

Final Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the probable Economic Effect of a limit of Eight hours to the Working Day of Coal Miners. [Cd. 3505: pp. 87: price 9d.]

Inspectors of Mines. Return of the names and previous occupations or professions of the Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors who are now serving, with other information. [H.C. 157: pp. 5: price 1d.]

Report of the Departmental Committee on Compensation for Industrial Diseases. Report. [Cd. 3495: pp. 24: price 3d.] Minutes of Evidence, Appendices and Index. [Cd. 3496: pp. 409: price 4s.]

Report to Home Department on the Circumstances attending an Explosion of Fire-Damp and Coal Dust which occurred at Uppeth Colliery, near Birtley, in the County of Durham, on the 17th December, 1906. By J. B. Atkinson. [Cd. 3494: pp. 16, with plates: price 7d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1906. Report and Tables relating to Irish Migratory Agricultural Labourers for the year 1906. [Cd. 3481: pp. 41: price 2d.]

Allotments and Small Holdings. Memorandum of Evidence contained in Parliamentary Papers as to the Demand for Allotments and Small Holdings, and as to the difficulty of obtaining Land for those purposes. [Cd. 3468: pp. 15: price 2d.]

Irish Land Commission. Return of Proceedings under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883-1891 and other Acts during the month of February, 1907. [Cd. 3436: pp. 15: price 2d.]

Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1906, Part I. General Report. Number of persons engaged in the Scottish fisheries, casualties, boat building, loans to fishermen, &c. [Cd. 3484: pp. lix.+296: price 2s.]

Twelfth Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland, 1906. Proceedings under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905; action with regard to accommodation of workers engaged in the herring curing industry, &c. [Cd. 3470: pp. xcvi.+652: price 4s. 3d.]

Ninth Report of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland for the year, 1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907. Apprenticeship of boys from congested districts, aid to fishermen, home industries, &c. [Cd. 3471: pp. xxv.+26: price 5d.]

Building Societies. Eleventh Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1905. Part II. Abstract of Accounts. [H.C. 56-1: pp. 185: price 1s. 6d.]

Passengers to and from Places out of Europe. Return for April. [Cd. 3335—iii.: pp. 4: price 3d.]

Aliens Act, 1905. Return of Alien Passengers brought to the United Kingdom from Ports in Europe, or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ending March 31st, 1907; together with the number of Expulsion Orders made during that period. [Cd. 3517: pp. 8: price 1d.]

Pauperism (England and Wales). Monthly Statement for April, 1907. [H.C. 23—iii.: pp. 7: price 1d.]

Poor Relief (England and Wales). Statement of the Amount expended by Boards of Guardians for the half-year ended Michaelmas, 1906. [H.C. 315—i.: pp. 31: price 3d.]

Municipal Employees. Return showing the number of persons in the employ of the L.C.C. and the Council of each Metropolitan Borough and each County Borough in England and Wales at November 3rd, 1906. [H.C. 136: pp. 4: price 1d.]



*Metropolitan Police.* Accounts showing the sums received and expended for the purpose of the Metropolitan Police, and Police Pension Funds, April 1st, 1906, to March 31st, 1907. [H.C. 132: pp. 23: price 2½d.]

#### BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH COLONIES.

*Statement Exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India during the year 1905-06.* 42nd Number. Inspection of mines, numbers employed in mines and quarries; factory inspection, number of factories, employees, accidents, holidays, &c. [H.C. 149: pp. iii + 200: price 1s. 8d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

*New Zealand.* Awards, Recommendations, Agreements, &c., made under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Vol. VII., 1906. [Wellington, N.Z.: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. xxxix.]

*Journal of the Department of Labour, April 12th, 1907.* State of the Labour Market in March; disputes, awards, and recommendations under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

*Canada.* The Labour Gazette, April, 1907. Articles: The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act; False Representation to Induce Immigration—Mission to England of the Deputy-Minister of Labour; Investigation re Child Labour in Ontario.

#### FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

##### United States.

*Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1906.* 29th Number. Contains tables of the prices of commodities, statistics of population, agriculture, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 716.]

*Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour.* No. 60, March, 1907. Wholesale prices, 1890-1906.

*Labour and Industrial Chronology of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the year ending 30th September, 1906.* Strikes and lock-outs, wages and hours of labour, trade unions, industrial changes—new mills, &c. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 251.]

*Massachusetts.* Labour Bulletin. No. 48, April, 1907. Business of Free Employment Offices in quarter ended 31st March; industrial agreements, trade union notes, &c.

*Thirtieth Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics for the State of Ohio, 1906.* Statistics of manufactures, mining, prison labour, sweat shops, free employment offices, &c. [Springfield: Springfield Publishing Co., State Printers: pp. 671.]

*Annual Bulletin.* No. 5 of the State Bureau of Statistics of Nebraska. December, 1906. [Nebraska: Jason & Claffin: pp. 128.]

##### General.

*Journal of the International Labour Office,* July and August, 1906. Contains account of industrial legislation in various countries. [Paris: Berger Levrault et Cie.: 10 francs per annum.]

*Journal of the Permanent Committee of Congresses of Social Assurance (formerly the International Congress of Industrial Accidents).* January-April, 1907. Contains account of legislation on this subject in various countries. [Paris: Secrétariat du Comité permanent, 55, rue de Châteaudun: pp. 236: price 2s. 5d.]

##### Germany.

*Journal of the German Labour Department,* April and May, 1907. Contains articles on unemployment and labour disputes in first quarter of 1907, emigration in 1906, and Prussian factory inspection in 1906. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: price 1d. each.]

*Report for 1906 of the Nuremberg Workmen's Secretariat.* 1907. [Nuremberg: published by the Secretariat: pp. 120.]

*Statistical Yearbook of Berlin, 1905.* Statistical Office of Berlin, 1907. Contains articles on prices and poor relief in Berlin. [Berlin: Verlag von P. Stankiewicz' Buchdruckerei: pp. cxlix. + 431, with diagrams.]

*Annual Report for 1906, and Monthly Reports for January, February and March, 1907, of the Statistical Office of Königsberg.* Former contains statistics of prices, housing, &c., for a series of years.

*Inquiry relating to Hours of Labour in Inland Navigation.* German Labour Department, 1907. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: pp. 87.]

*Factory Inspection in Baden in 1906.* Baden Ministry of the Interior, 1907. [Karlsruhe: Buchdruckerei von Ferd Thiergarten: pp. 188.]

*Results of the Inquiry of 1905 of the Central Union of Wood and Stone Carvers of Germany, relating to Wages, Hours, &c., in this trade, 1906.* [Berlin: Druck von Carl Rosen, Berlin, S.W., Benthstrasse, 2: pp. xxix + 152.]

##### France.

*Journal of the French Labour Department,* April, 1907. Contains text of new law on Conseils de Prud'hommes. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie.: price 2d.]

##### Italy.

*Journal of the Italian Labour Department,* April, 1907. Contains article on wages and hours of labour of miners and metal workers in 1906. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana: price 3d.]

##### Belgium.

*Journal of the Belgian Labour Department,* April 30th and May 15th, 1907. Contain articles on employment and prices of articles of food in April. [Brussels: Imprimerie F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price of each part, 1d.]

*Industrial Monographs. The Pottery Trades.* Department of Labour and Industrial Inspection, 1907. [Brussels: J. Lebègue & Cie., Rue de la Madeleine, 46: pp. 242.]

*Statistics of Labour Disputes in Belgium, 1901-1905.* Labour Department, 1907. [Brussels: J. Lebègue & Cie., Rue de la Madeleine, 46: pp. xxiv. + 243.]

##### Austria.

*Journal of the Austrian Labour Department,* April, 1907. Contains articles on wages and hours of labour in the woodworking trade in 1906, and on workmen's sick funds in 1904. [Vienna: Alfred Hölder, K. K. Hof-und Universitäts-Buchhändler: price 2d.]

*Statistics of Insurance against (1) Accidents, (2) Sickness in 1904.* [Vienna: K. K. Hof-und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 237 + 169.]

*Farm Servants in Styria.* By Prof. Dr. E. Mischler and Dr. H. Wimbersky. 1907. [Graz, published by the authors: pp. 27.]

*Report on Work of the Austrian Labour Department for 1906.* [Vienna: Verlag der Kaiserlich-Königlichen Hof-und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 29.]

##### Holland.

*Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office.* April, 1907. Contains articles on employment and labour disputes in March. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante: price 2d.]

##### Switzerland.

*Statistics of Swiss Railways, 1905.* Post and Railway Department, 1907. [Berne: Buchdruckerei Hans Feuz: pp. 282.]

*Movement of Population in Switzerland in 1905.* Federal Statistical Office, 1907. [Berne: A. Francke: pp. 32.]

*Swiss Industrial Census of August 9th, 1905. Vol. I. Number of Establishments and Persons Employed. Part II. Canton Berne.* Federal Statistical Office, 1907. [Berne: A. Francke: pp. xvi. + 493: price 2s.]

*Report of the Swiss Union of Distributive Co-operative Societies for 1906.* [Basle: Imprimerie de G. Krebs: pp. 41.]

##### Sweden.

*Industrial Report for 1905.* Contains statistics of earnings. Department of Commerce, 1907. [Stockholm: Isaac Marcus' Boktr.—Aktieboldg: pp. xxxii. + 119.]

*Report on Swedish Public Assistance and Communal Finance in 1904.* Central Statistical Office, 1907. [Stockholm: Kungl. Boktryckeriet, P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. xxiv. + 112.]

##### Spain.

*Journal of the Spanish Labour Department.* April, 1907. Contains article on labour disputes in March. [Madrid: Imprimeria de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios: price 2½d.]

##### Bulgaria.

*Movement of the Population in 1902. Part II. Population grouped according to Arrondissements and Departments.* Statistical Department, 1906. [Sofia: Imprimerie Gabrovo: pp. liii. + 271, with diagrams: price 3s. 2d.]

*Foreign commerce and navigation of Bulgaria, and prices in the principal Bulgarian towns in the second quarter of 1906.* Contains wages of agricultural labourers. Statistical Department, 1907. [Sofia: Imprimerie de l'Etat: pp. xi. + 97.]

##### Japan.

*Twenty-second Statistical Report of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce of Japan.* Contains statistics of wages, mining accidents, and prices of articles of food. [Tokio, 1907.]

#### CONSULAR REPORTS.

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