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CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

	PAGE
Summary of the State of Employment in August	257
Special Articles and Reports—	
RECENT CHANGES IN SEAMEN'S WAGES	259
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES	260
NEW OLD AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE LAW IN GERMANY	259
THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS	261
LEGAL MINIMUM WAGES IN VICTORIA	262
REPORT ON CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1898... ..	263
IRISH MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN 1899	262
RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS	264
Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—	
REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.	
COAL MINING	268
IRON MINING	268
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	269
IRON AND STEEL WORKS	269
TINPLATE WORKS... ..	269
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	270
SEAMEN	271
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	271
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	272
DISTRICT REPORTS.	
LONDON	272
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	273
Lancashire	274
Yorkshire	275
Midland Counties	275
Eastern Counties	277
South Western Counties	277
WALES	278
SCOTLAND	278
IRELAND	279
Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—	
COLONIES... ..	266
FRANCE	266
GERMANY	267
AUSTRIA	267
DENMARK	267
ITALY	267
SPAIN	267
UNITED STATES	268
Miscellaneous Reports for August—	
RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION	263
LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR	264
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	288
FOREIGN TRADE	287
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..	282
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	287
Statistical Tables for August—	
TRADE DISPUTES	284
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	280
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR	282
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	283
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	288
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX	282
LABOUR BUREAUX... ..	286
PAUPERISM	286
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	282
Notes and Reviews—	
COTTAGE HOMES	258
TRADE UNIONS IN GERMANY IN 1898	261
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS IN FRANCE	281
DANGEROUS TRADES	285
BUILDING SOCIETIES	288
INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS	282
STATE ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION IN MASSACHUSETTS	281
EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES	285

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

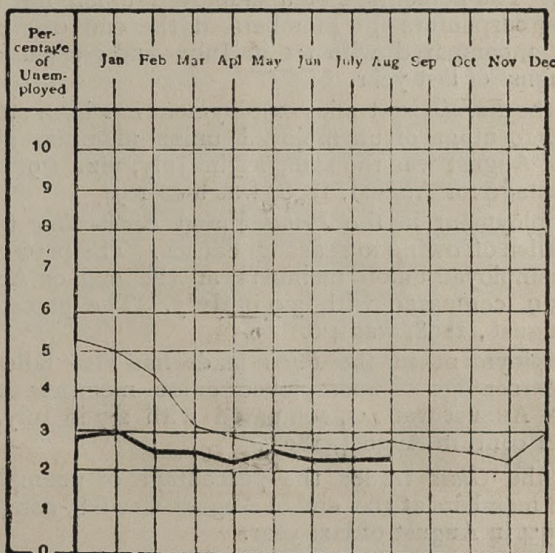
[Based on 2,361 returns, viz.: 1,679 from Employers, 542 from Trade Unions, and 140 from other sources.]

The general state of employment during August continued good with little change compared with July. The percentage of unemployed members returned by Trade Unions was the same as in the two previous months and lower than at any similar period since 1890.

In the 123 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 502,439, 11,573 (or 2·3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of August, the same percentage as in June and July, compared with 2·8 per cent. in the 117 unions, with a membership of 466,025, from which returns were received for August, 1898.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1898 and 1899. [The thick line applies to 1899, the thin line to 1898.]



Coal Mining.—The average number of days worked at coal mines in August was, on the whole, practically the same as in July, and in August, 1898. Returns relating to collieries, at which 387,376 workpeople were employed, show that the average number of days worked per week was 5·18 in the four weeks ended August 26th, as compared with the same number in July, and with 5·19 in August, 1898. The above statements do not include pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire, where a dispute was in progress in August, 1898. (For further details see page 268).

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good, the average time worked in August being, on the whole, practically the same as in July, and in August, 1898. At mines employing 16,853 workpeople, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended August 26th was 5·74, as compared with 5·72

days in July, and 5.76 days a year ago. (For further details see page 268.)

Fig Iron Industry.—Employment has improved in this industry, and is much better than a year ago, at which time the South Wales coal dispute was in progress. Returns relating to the works of 114 ironmasters show that they had 376 furnaces in blast at the end of August, or 4 more than at the end of July and 35 more than a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed was 25,209, or 378 more than at the end of July, and 2,463 more than at the end of August, 1898. (For further details see page 269.)

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment has remained good during August, and is better than a year ago, though it has been interrupted at some of the works by the hot weather, and also by local holidays. At the 223 works from which returns have been received, 81,655 workpeople were employed in the week ended August 26th, 80,863 in the week ended July 29th, and 76,587 in the week ended August 27th, 1898. The average number of shifts worked in these three weeks were 5.47, 5.53, and 5.50 respectively. (For further details see page 269.)

Tinplate Trade.—The improvement in employment has been maintained. It continues much better than a year ago. The number of mills working at the end of August was 390, employing an estimated number of 19,683 workpeople, compared with 396 mills employing 19,614 workpeople at the end of July, and 290 mills with 15,414 workpeople at the end of August, 1898.* (For further details see page 269.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has remained good in most branches. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of August was 2.6, compared with 2.5 in July. The percentage for August, 1898, was 3.0.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment has continued brisk, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August being 1.5, compared with 1.4 in July, and 4.2 per cent. in August, 1898.

Employment in the **Building** trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of August was 1.2, compared with 1.1 in July, and 0.9 per cent. in August of last year.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment has been steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was the same as in July, viz., 1.9. The percentage for August, 1898, was also 1.9.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has fallen off owing to seasonal causes. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 5.9, compared with 3.9 in July. The percentage for August, 1898, was 4.6.

Employment in the **Paper** trade has also fallen off. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 4.1, compared with 2.7 in July, and 5.3 per cent. in August, 1898.

In the **Glass** trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 6.8, compared with 9.4 in August of last year.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 2.5, compared with 3.1 in July, and 4.2 per cent. in August, 1898.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trade shows a further decline in most centres.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade is dull. In the ready-made branch it continues fairly good on the whole.

Employment continues very good in the **Spinning and Weaving** branches of the **Cotton** trade. Information respecting **Cotton** factories employing about 79,000 women and girls, shows that 97 per cent. of those in **Spinning** mills, and the same percentage of those in **Weaving** factories, were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 98 and 92 per

* In all these figures a few black plate mills are included.

cent. respectively in July, and with 90 and 75 per cent. a year ago. (For further details see page 271.)

Employment in both the **Woollen and Worsted** trades is very good. In the **Hosiery** trade also employment continues good.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment at the docks and wharves has been fairly steady during the month, and is better than a year ago. During the four weeks ended August 26th an average number of 14,460 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 14,486 in the preceding five weeks, and 13,813 in August, 1898. (For further details see page 272.)

Agricultural Labourers have been fully employed at harvest work during August. The scarcity of labour would have been more felt but for the extensive use of self-binding machines for the corn harvest and the small amount of hoeing in connection with the root crops. (For further details see page 270.)

Trade Disputes.—Thirty-three fresh disputes occurred in August, 1899, involving 10,232 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes in July was 51, involving 10,022 workpeople, and in August, 1898, 44, involving 10,457 workpeople. Of the 33 fresh disputes in August, 1899, 5 occurred in the building trades, 8 in mining, 6 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 6 in the textile trades, and 8 in other industries. Of the 43 new and old disputes, involving 11,639 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 14, involving 5,575 persons were decided in favour of the workpeople; 13, involving 1,929 persons, in favour of the employers; 15, involving 4,085 persons, resulted in a compromise, while in the case of the remaining dispute, involving 50 persons, work was resumed pending further negotiations. (For further details see page 284.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of 26,380 workpeople were reported during August, of which number 26,126 received advances averaging 1s. 3½d. per head, and 254 sustained decreases, averaging 2s. per head. The net result was an increase of about 1s. 3½d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases were mainly in the building trades (3,311), iron and steel manufacture (8,209), engineering and shipbuilding trades (5,626), and textile trades (6,174). Changes affecting 2,001 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. A change affecting 2,000 workpeople was arranged under a board of conciliation and arbitration, and the remaining changes, affecting 22,379 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or were conceded voluntarily by the employers. (For further details see page 280.)

COTTAGE HOMES.

The report of the Select Committee to whom the Cottage Homes Bill was referred has been published.* Dealing with the question of cottage homes in connection with workhouses, the committee makes the following recommendations:—

I. That it is desirable so to classify the inmates of workhouses that the aged and respectable poor shall not be forced to mix with those whose character or habits are bad or disagreeable.

II. That in order to make room for proper classification all children, other than infants, be provided for outside and apart from the workhouse premises.

III. That it should be the duty of the County Councils to provide suitable accommodation in separate institutions for the proper treatment of all pauper imbeciles and epileptics.

IV. That the aged and deserving poor, so far as it is possible, should receive adequate outdoor relief, and that where they are in the workhouse they should constitute a special class and receive special treatment and privileges.

V. That guardians should provide special cottage homes within the unions, or other suitable accommodation for married couples and respectable old persons whose poverty is not their own fault but the result of misfortune.

* P.P. 271; price 1s. 8d.

NEW OLD AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE LAW IN GERMANY.

A NEW law, repealing the previous law of 1889 on the subject of workmen's insurance against old age and invalidity, has been passed by the German Legislature, and received the assent of the Emperor on July 13th. One of the principal objects of this measure is to effect a more even distribution over the various parts of the Empire of the burdens entailed by the pensions prescribed by the law. It had been found that, owing primarily to the fact that persons of advanced age form a larger proportion of the insurable population in agricultural than in industrial or commercial districts, the financial position of the insurance institutions was much less satisfactory in rural districts than in the industrial and commercial centres. To meet this situation the new law provides that as from January 1st, 1900, two-fifths of the revenue accruing to each insurance institution from the contributions of employers and employed shall be credited in the books of the institution to the account of a general fund common to the whole Empire. Out of this general fund will be defrayed three-fourths of the cost of old age pensions and the fixed portion of all invalidity pensions.

Under the previous law, the fixed portion of every invalidity pension (exclusive of the Imperial subsidy of £2 10s.) was £3, irrespective of the wage-class to which the pensioner belonged, increased for each week of contribution by sums of 2, 6, 9, or 13 pfennigs (one pfennig being equivalent to 0.12d.) for the four wage-classes which then existed. In future, the fixed portion of the invalidity pension will be a different amount for each wage-class. It will be £3 for the first, £3 10s. for the second, £4 for the third, £4 10s. for the fourth, and £5 for the fifth (a new wage-class consisting of those whose earnings exceed £57 10s. a year). These several fixed amounts are to be increased for each weekly contribution by 3, 6, 8, 10 or 12 pfennigs, according to the wage-class of the insured. The State contribution to each pension will remain as before (£2 10s.).

Up to now the old-age pension has consisted of an amount equivalent to 4, 6, 8 or 10 pfennigs (according to the wage-class) multiplied by 1.410, that being (as explained below) the minimum number of weeks of contribution (exclusive of the addition from the State of £2 10s. to each pension). In future, the old-age pension is to amount to £3 for the first, £4 10s. for the second, £6 for the third, £7 10s. for the fourth, and £9 for the fifth class, supplemented in each case by the State contribution of £2 10s., the amount of which remains unchanged.

The amount of the weekly contribution is, for the first four classes, the same under the new as under the old law (14, 20, 24, and 30 pfennigs), and will be 36 pfennigs for the new fifth class.

Pensions under the law can be claimed only after the expiration of a certain period of contribution. Under the old law this period was for invalidity pensions, 5 years; for old-age pensions, 30 years; the year being reckoned for this purpose at 47 weeks, leaving a margin of 5 weeks as a sufficient average of time lost through want of work, or from other causes, without the means of paying the contributions. Under certain circumstances (e.g., a period of illness not brought upon the workman by his wilful act, or of service under arms) a person prevented from keeping up his insurance was, nevertheless, allowed to reckon such period as a period of contribution. By the law just passed invalidity pensions may be claimed after the expiration of 200 (instead of 235) "contributory weeks" (unless fewer than 100 actual weekly payments have been

NOTE.—An account of the above measure was given on pp. 22-24 of the Report on Provision for Old Age by Government Action in certain European Countries recently presented to Parliament. Owing, however, to the fact that the text of the law as finally passed was not available at the time of issue of that report, the information given therein was partly based on accounts of the Bill at an earlier stage, and the report, as published, requires to be amended as regards certain details in accordance with the particulars given above.

made, in which case 500 such weeks must have expired); and old-age pensions will be paid after a minimum period of 1,200 "contributory weeks" (instead of 1,410).

While under the former law persons, who, though not incapacitated for life, were so situated for an entire year, were accorded invalid benefit during the remaining duration of their incapacity, the new law gives this privilege to a man who has been in this position for 26 weeks.

RECENT CHANGES IN SEAMEN'S WAGES.

THE following information with regard to recent changes in wages of able seamen and firemen in foreign-going vessels is based partly on the Report, just issued by the Department, on Changes of Wages and Hours of Labour in 1898, and partly on the monthly returns and other information received for the purpose of the LABOUR GAZETTE.

In 1898 the average wages of A.B.'s and firemen and trimmers, employed on steamships engaged in the foreign trade, showed an increase as compared with 1897, while those of A.B.'s on sailing vessels showed a slight decrease. In the following table will be found the results of averaging the rates at which A.B.'s and firemen were shipped at the principal ports during 1897 and 1898, counting each seaman as often as he entered into an engagement:—

Class of Vessel and Rating.	Mean Number of Engagements in 1897 and 1898, at principal Ports.	Average Monthly Rate of Wages.*		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1898 as compared with 1897.
		1897.	1898.	
Steamships:—		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Able Seamen	68,497	77 9	79 2	+ 1 5
Firemen and Trimmers	82,821	82 10	84 1	+ 1 3
Sailing Vessels:—		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Able Seamen	8,958	57 6	56 7	- 0 11

Changes of Wages, 1895-8.—During the past three years the average wages of seamen on foreign-going steamships have shown a continuous rise, the aggregate increase per month being 4s. 1d. for A.B.'s, and 2s. 8d. for firemen and trimmers. Wages of A.B.'s on sailing vessels have not risen so much, and in the past year the average actually declined somewhat, as stated above. No doubt this fact is connected with the steady decrease in the number of engagements of seamen on foreign-going sailing vessels, the number of engagements at selected ports having fallen from 12,500 in 1895 to 8,484 in 1898. The recent course of seamen's wages is shown in the following table:—

Year.	A.B.'s on Steamships.		Firemen and Trimmers.		A.B.'s on Sailing Vessels.	
	Average Monthly Rate.*	Increase over previous Year.	Average Monthly Rate.*	Increase over previous Year.	Average Monthly Rate.*	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) over previous Year.
1895	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1896	75 1	—	81 5	—	55 6	—
1897	75 4	+ 0 3	81 7	+ 0 2	55 6	—
1898	77 9	+ 2 5	82 10	+ 1 3	57 6	+ 2 0
1898	79 2	+ 1 5	84 1	+ 1 3	56 7	- 0 11
Increase in three years	...	+ 4 1	...	+ 2 8	...	+ 1 1

The method adopted, of counting individuals as often as they entered into an engagement, has the effect of giving undue weight to the shorter voyages. The monthly rates of wages are therefore not quite true averages for any year. As, however, any error arising from the method adopted is common to all the years, the results serve to indicate the change in the rates of wages, which is the object in view.

Changes in 1898, classified by Ports.—The rise of wages of seamen on steamships in 1898 is mainly accounted for by the higher average wages obtained at the Tyne ports, Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Bristol Cardiff and Newport. This is shown in the following

* In addition to food.

table, in which the changes of wages are classified by ports:—

Ports.	Able Seamen on Steamships.			Firemen and Trimmers.		
	Average Monthly Rate.		Average rise (+) or fall (-).	Average Monthly Rate.		Average rise (+) or fall (-).
	1897.	1898.		1897.	1898.	
<i>England and Wales.</i>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
North East Coast—						
Newcastle ...	81 6	85 11	+4 5	81 7	85 10	+4 1
N. and S. Shields ...	81 6	86 2	+4 8	81 6	86 2	+4 8
Sunderland ...	81 5	85 10	+4 5	81 5	85 11	+4 6
Middlesbro' ...	81 1	85 5	+4 4	81 6	85 1	+3 7
Hull and Grimsby ...	79 10	80 3	+0 5	84 3	84 5	+0 2
Bristol Channel—						
Bristol ...	77 1	79 6	+2 5	81 5	83 7	+2 2
Newport (Mon.) ...	78 6	80 6	+2 0	79 4	80 11	+1 7
Cardiff ...	76 5	78 2	+1 9	78 3	79 2	+0 9
Swansea ...	80 11	79 10	-1 1	86 0	81 0	-2 0
Other Ports—						
Liverpool ...	76 11	77 3	+0 4	86 6	86 5	-0 1
London ...	76 2	76 9	+0 7	83 7	84 1	+0 6
Southampton ...	79 8	79 5	-0 3	87 10	88 3	+0 5
<i>Scotland.</i>						
Glasgow ...	76 0	76 7	+0 7	72 7	73 3	+0 8
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	81 6	82 6	+1 0	85 3	86 2	+0 11
<i>Ireland.</i>						
Belfast ...	79 6	79 5	-0 1	81 0	84 1	+0 1
Dublin ...	80 0	80 7	+0 7	84 10	85 8	+0 10
Average for above ports ...	77 9	79 2	+1 5	82 10	84 1	+1 3

Changes in 1898, classified by principal Voyages.—In the following table the changes are shown separately for some of the principal voyages:—

Principal Voyages.	Able Seamen on Steamships.			Firemen and Trimmers.		
	Average Monthly Rate.		Increase (+) or decrease (-).	Average Monthly Rate.		Increase (+) or decrease (-).
	1897.	1898.		1897.	1898.	
<i>North America, East Coast...</i>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
North America, East Coast and West Indies ...	81 2	82 1	+0 11	86 5	87 2	+0 9
Australia and New Zealand ...	70 5	70 1	-0 4	76 7	76 6	-0 1
East Indies and China ...	74 6	76 7	+2 1	79 2	80 7	+1 5
Cape, Natal and East Africa ...	76 8	79 0	+2 4	79 4	81 4	+2 0
Mediterranean ...	78 4	81 2	+2 10	80 4	83 1	+2 9
Running Agreements ...	77 9	79 2	+1 5	82 10	84 1	+1 3

Changes since October, 1898.—Towards the end of 1898 an upward movement of seamen's wages took place at several important ports, which, however has only been partially maintained since.

The following tables show, for a few of the chief voyages, the recent changes in the predominant monthly rates for able seamen engaged at some of the principal ports. It is to be noted that the rates quoted below are the rates most generally current, and not computed average rates like those given above:—

Period.	Steamships—Mediterranean.				
	N. & S. Shields.	London.	Liverpool.	Cardiff.	Glasgow.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1897 ...	85 0*	75 0	70 0	80 0	70 0
1898 (up to October) ...	85 0	75 0	70 0	80 0	70 0
Highest predominant rate since October, 1898 ...	100 0	85 0	70 0	90 0	80 0
August, 1899 ...	90 0	85 0	70 0	80 0	80 0

Period.	Steamships—N. America (East Coast).				
	N. & S. Shields.	London.	Liverpool.	Cardiff.	Glasgow.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1897 ...	85 0*	80 0	80 0 & 90 0	80 0	80 0
1898 (up to October) ...	85 0	80 0	80 0 & 90 0	80 0	80 0
Highest predominant rate since October, 1898 ...	100 0	90 0	80 0 & 90 0	80 0	81 0
August, 1899 ...	90 0	90 0	80 0 & 90 0	80 0 & 80 0	80 0

Period.	Sailing Vessels—Australia and New Zealand.				
	N. & S. Shields.	London.	Liverpool.	Cardiff.	Glasgow.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1897 ...	60 0	55 0	55 0	60 0	55 0
1898 (up to October) ...	—	55 0	55 0	60 0	55 0
Highest predominant rate since October, 1898 ...	—	60 0	60 0	60 0	60 0
August, 1899 ...	65 0	60 0	55 0	—	60 0

The changes of wages of firemen and trimmers corresponded closely with those of A.B.'s on steamships,

* This was the predominant rate during the last four months of 1897; during the earlier months it was 80s.

the highest rates reached being, however, somewhat higher in their case.

Changes in Weekly Rates.—As regards weekly rates for A.B.'s, the following table shows the changes at the principal groups of ports in 1898:—

	A.B.'s on Steamships.			Firemen & Trimmers.		
	Average Weekly Rate.		Increase (+) or decrease (-).	Average Weekly Rate.		Increase (+) or decrease (-).
	1897.	1898.		1897.	1898.	
<i>England and Wales.</i>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
East Coast Ports ...	29 0	29 4	+0 4	29 1	29 8	+0 3
Bristol Channel Ports ...	29 8	29 8	—	29 8	29 8	—
Other English Ports (Liverpool, London and Southampton) ...	28 1	28 4	+0 3	28 3	28 4	+0 1
Glasgow and Leith ...	29 3	29 7	+0 4	29 2	29 6	+0 4

Information received in 1899 shows that the average weekly rates have not materially changed during the present year.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES.

THE Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has issued his Report on friendly societies, workmen's compensation schemes, industrial and provident societies, and trade unions, for the year ending 31st December, 1898 [P.P. 79; price 9d.]. Particulars of the work done under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, are included for the first time. This Act imposed upon the Chief Registrar the following new functions:—

- Taking steps to ascertain the views of employer and workmen in respect of any scheme of compensation, benefit or insurance, for the workmen of an employer in any employment to which the Act applies.
- Certifying that any such scheme is, on the whole, not less favourable to the general body of workmen and their dependants than the provisions of the Act.
- Determining the period, not less than five years, at which any such certificate shall be limited to expire.
- Refusing a certificate to any scheme which contains an obligation upon the workmen to join the scheme as a condition of their hiring.
- Receiving complaints from or on behalf of the workmen of any employer:
 - That the provisions of any certified scheme are no longer, on the whole, so favourable to the general body of workmen of such employer, and their dependants, as the provisions of the Act; or
 - That the provisions of such scheme are being violated; or
 - That the scheme is not being fairly administered; or
 - That satisfactory reasons exist for revoking the certificate.
- Examining into such complaints.
- Requiring the cause of complaint to be removed if satisfied that the complaint has good cause.
- Revoking the certificate where the cause of complaint is not removed.
- Determining as to the distribution of the moneys or securities held for the purpose of any scheme, when the certificate is revoked or expires, and the employer and workmen differ in opinion as to such distribution.
- Making inquiries of the employer in regard to certified schemes.
- Requiring accounts to be furnished by employers in regard to certified schemes.
- Certifying a scheme to be framed by the Treasury with respect to employment by or under the Crown.

The first step taken by the Chief Registrar on receiving an application for the granting of a certificate has been to require the employer and such of the workmen as joined in the application to state their views in writing. Upon receipt of an application so supported the employer has been requested to take steps to ascertain the views of such of the workmen as may not concur in the scheme. For this purpose it has been intimated that an abstract of the scheme should be printed, and a copy suspended in each workshop, with a notification that any workman is at liberty within 28 days of the date of suspension to send to the Chief Registrar his observations on the scheme.

The investigation following these preliminary steps has been directed to two points:—

- Would the employer pay as much under the scheme as he would have to pay under the Act?
- Would the workman derive as much benefit under the scheme as he would derive under the Act?

It is pointed out that a common misapprehension has been that the Registrar should be guided by the opinion of the majority of the workmen, and in consequence the question whether a ballot has been fairly taken has been much discussed. As, however, the Act prescribes that no scheme shall "contain an obligation upon the workmen to join it as a condition of their hiring," the question how many workmen would be willing to join it is wholly immaterial.

The Chief Registrar reports that the result of the first six months' working of the contracting-out section has been "to show on the part of the employers who have applied for certificates to schemes, a desire to meet their workmen in the most handsome manner, and on the part of the workmen an excellent feeling of fairness and goodwill."

Fifty-five schemes have been certified in England and Wales, and two in Scotland. Of these, 38 are in operation at collieries.

The schemes certified affect 89,200 workpeople, of whom 34,933 are employed on railways, 17,862 in factories, 35,969 in mines, and 436 in quarries.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE Thirty-second Annual Congress of the Trade Unions of the United Kingdom was held on Monday September 4th and five following days at Plymouth, in the Guildhall, the use of which had been granted to the Congress by the Town Council. Mr. W. J. Vernon, of the Typographical Association, presided over the Congress.

Under the standing orders now in force, admission to the Congress is confined to delegates of recognised trade unions who must have been actually employed at their trade at the time of appointment, or be permanent paid working officials of their trade union. The unions may, if they choose, send one delegate for every 2,000 members or fraction thereof; but as voting is by card on the principle of one vote for every 1,000 members, few of the larger societies send the full number of delegates to which they are entitled. These rules have now been in operation for some years, so that the analysis given in the following table of the composition of the Congress and the trades represented is strictly comparable with the corresponding figures for 1898.

Groups of Trades.	1898.			1899.		
	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.
Building ...	10	16	146,890	10	23	161,618
Mining and Quarrying ...	5	59	246,072	6	58	240,045
Engineering ...	14	29	140,992	14	20	60,921
Shipbuilding (including Boiler Making) ...	4	20	60,465	4	23	63,365
Other Metal Trades ...	33	41	55,691	32	43	70,255
Textile Trades ...	15	73	146,488	10	72	136,774
Clothing ...	7	22	59,849	9	24	58,107
Transport (including Railway Workers, Seamen, Firemen, and Dock Labourers) ...	14	31	129,230	12	28	102,800
Agricultural, Chemical, Gas and General Labourers) ...	14	34	95,818	11	37	100,897
Printing, Bookbinding, &c. ...	15	20	42,566	10	19	43,338
Pottery and Glass ...	4	5	6,426	1	1	1,000
Cabinet Making and Furnishing Trades, &c. ...	9	14	25,211	11	14	29,720
Baking &c. ...	1	4	4,728	1	3	4,866
Engineers ...	7	7	16,000	6	6	16,629
Miscellaneous Trades ...	7	11	18,677	10	13	28,810
Total ...	159	406	1,176,396	147	385	1,120,164

NOTE.—Societies forming parts or branches of a general federation or amalgamation are not counted in this table as separate organisations, and double entries arising in this way have been deducted.

It will be seen from the above table that only 147 out of upwards of 1,200 trades organisations known to be in existence sent delegates to the Congress this year, but these were mainly the larger societies, the number of persons represented being 1,120,164 out of a total trade union membership of about 1,600,000.

The number of organisations represented at Plymouth was 12 less, the number of delegates 21 less, and the total number of members constituting the unions 56,732 less than in the previous year at Bristol, where the attendance of delegates was the largest yet recorded under the existing standing orders. The falling off is to a large extent due to the exclusion from Congress of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers for non-compliance with the decision of arbitrators appointed by the Parliamentary Committee, under a standing order of Congress, for the arrangement of disputes between trade unions. The building trades, though they send 9 fewer delegates show an increase in numbers represented. There was also a considerable increase in the number of miners represented, although the Durham Miners' Association is this year absent from the list.

The printed programme of business arranged for the meeting was a very full one, including 82 resolutions (many of them with amendments) arranged in 16 sections according to subjects. These resolutions were, however, considerably reduced by a suggestion of the Standing Orders Committee, that kindred proposals and amendments should be consolidated by agreement among representatives of the unions which had sent them in. Among the principal subjects on which resolutions were passed were:—the grievances of Government employees; the right of trade unions to deposit their funds to an unrestricted amount in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks; compulsory weighing in trades paid by weight; eight hours bills for miners and for certain other trades; the representation of labour in Parliament; amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Factory and Workshops Acts, the Merchandise Marks Act and the Truck Acts; the better housing of the people; restriction of Sunday trading; juvenile labour; the administration and amendment of the "Fair Wages" Resolution of the House of Commons; municipal bakeries; public education; co-operative production; regulation of hours for shop assistants; persons in charge, and inspection of boilers and engines; appointment of practical inspectors; and old-age pensions.

As usual, delegates were present representing the National Federation of Labour of the United States and the Co-operative Union. The Congress appointed two representatives to attend the Conference of the American Federation of Labour to be held in December next.

For the Parliamentary Committee, representatives of the following organisations were elected: Amalgamated Railway Servants, Miners' Federation of Great Britain, National Society Amalgamated Brassworkers, Gas Workers and General Labourers' Society, Boiler Makers and Iron Shipbuilders' Society, London Society of Compositors, Associated Shipwrights, Bargebuilders' Society, National Boot and Shoe Operatives, Amalgamated Card and Blowing Room Operatives, Northern Counties Weavers' Association, Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners.

The balance-sheet presented to Congress by the auditors showed a total income of £3,271 8s. 8d. (including a balance from previous year of £1,210 11s. 6d.); and an expenditure of £1,973 os. 4d., leaving a balance in hand of £1,298 8s. 4d.

Huddersfield was selected as the place of next year's Congress.

Trade Unions in Germany in 1898.—Recent issues of *Correspondenzblatt der General-Kommission der Gewerkschaften Deutschlands* give figures as to the position of the "Gewerkschaften" (social-democratic trade unions). The number of central federations at the end of 1898 was 57; the returns made by these organisations show that they included 6,756 branch societies, and that their total membership during 1898 was 494,742 (481,261 male, 13,481 female), while the non-federated local unions making returns as to membership comprised 17,500 persons, giving a grand total of 512,242. The 57 federations had, in 1898, a total income for trade union purposes of £275,433. Their expenditure for trade purposes was in the same year, £64,649; for unemployed, travelling, sick, superannuation and other similar benefits (including £191 spent for employment bureau purposes), £60,607; while the publication of trade union organs cost £25,947; and their office expenses (at head offices) came to £15,317. The funds in hand at the end of 1898 amounted to £218,666.

LEGAL MINIMUM WAGES IN VICTORIA.

THE report of the Chief Inspector of Factories of the Colony of Victoria for the year ended 31st December, 1898, contains an account of the decisions of the five Special Boards (appointed to determine the lowest rates of pay to be paid in certain trades) which were in operation in 1898. (See LABOUR GAZETTE, October, 1898, p. 318, and November, 1898, p. 328). These decisions came into force at various dates from April 3rd, 1897, to October 24th, 1898.

The Bread-making and Baking Board fixed 1s. an hour as the minimum wage for a journeyman. No piece-work rates were fixed. Apprentices must receive not less than 5s. a week. The determination of the Board applies only to the time the men are engaged in making bread, and there is no legal minimum wage for the time they are making pastry. As a result, in some cases the full rate is paid for the hours a man is engaged at bread making and little or nothing for the time he is making pastry. The Chief Inspector, therefore, recommends the inclusion of pastry-cooks under the provisions of a special board.

The Clothing Board fixed the wages as follows:—For men, 7s. 6d. per day of 8 hours; for women, 3s. 4d. per day of 8 hours; and a scale of wages for apprentices and improvers based on their experience, etc. In addition, piece-work rates were fixed for men making order garments, for women making order garments, and for women making ready-made garments. Very little difficulty has been experienced in enforcing the wages and prices fixed for order work. With regard to ready-made clothing, the manufacturers have found it possible by means of the task system to get a great deal more work done inside the factories at the minimum wage of 20s. a week than they could get done outside at piece-work rates for 20s. A number of home-workers have therefore been forced to go into factories, and a few who could not do so have been unable to obtain work. Also old and slow workers have been placed at a great disadvantage, and the Department has been compelled in a few instances to allow such persons to work for less than the minimum wage.

The Boot and Shoe Board originally fixed the minimum for men at 6s. per day, except for clickers, for whom the rate was 6s. 8d. For women the minimum rate was fixed at 20s. per week. A scale of wages was also provided for apprentices and improvers. On July 18th, 1898, the rate of wages of most of the male skilled workers was raised by the Board to 7s. per day, owing to the constant complaints of the workmen, and notwithstanding the opposition of a large number of the employers. The piece-work rates fixed by the Board have not been used by the manufacturers to any extent. Some allege that they are far too high as compared with the minimum time-wage; others that even if they had been lower, they would not have been adopted, as the advent of machinery in so many branches had rendered the system almost unworkable. With so high a minimum as 42s. per week, only the best and quickest men were employed. Some of the cases were met by the Department allowing the old or slow men to work at less than the minimum wage. There is no doubt that some men sign for the minimum wage and take less. Prosecutions for breaches of this nature have been undertaken successfully; but it is very difficult to get sufficient evidence for such prosecutions.

The Shirts, Cuffs and Collars Board applies to women and girls only. The minimum wage was fixed at 4d. per hour or 16s. per week of 48 hours with a scale of wages for apprentices and improvers. Piece-work rates were fixed for work done outside factories, and inside factories manufacturers were required to pay such rates as would enable an average worker to earn not less than 4d., 4½d. and 5d. per hour, according to the class of work done. The result is considered satisfactory, and there has been no difficulty with regard to old or slow workers in this trade, which has given work to many women really belonging to the clothing trade but no longer able to obtain work in it.

The Furniture Board raised the original minimum of 7s. 6d. per day of 8 hours to 1s. per hour, or 8s. per day. This minimum applies only to cities and towns, and only came into force in October 1898. No piece-work rates have been fixed. It is complained that the Chinese are undercutting the native manufacturers, and the Department is convinced that, as a rule, the Chinese are paid piece rates, although both Chinese manufacturers and workmen assert that the minimum time-wage is observed.

The Underclothing Board, appointed in February, 1897, resigned in May, 1898, without arriving at any determination. Another Board was appointed in August, 1898, but no determination has yet been gazetted.

The number of employees in factories affected by the decisions of the Boards is 10,135, in addition to about 500 outside workers also affected. The total number of persons employed in factories registered in 1898 in the colony was 45,844. Of those affected, 4,484 were engaged in making articles of men's and boys' clothing, 3,629 in the boot and shoe trade, 714 in breadmaking and baking, 629 females in making shirts, cuffs, and collars, and 679 (European males) in furniture making.

In spite of the difficulties met with, the Chief Inspector considers that the Act has been productive of good.

IRISH MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN 1899.

RETURNS furnished by the courtesy of the under-mentioned Railway Companies, and the Glasgow, Dublin and Londonderry Steam Packet Company, Ltd., show that the total number of migratory labourers booked from the Province of Connaught by rail and sea for harvest work in England and Scotland this year was 28,440, compared with 27,866 in 1898, and 25,962 in 1897. Of the total number booked in 1899, 21,322,* or 75 per cent., came from the County of Mayo, the same percentage as in 1898. The number who migrate from Mayo annually to Great Britain amounts to about 40 per cent. of the male population of 20 years of age and upwards in that county.

The following table shows the number of migratory labourers who left the province of Connaught for England and Scotland in 1898 and 1899, up to the end of August:—

Place of Booking.	1898.	1899.
By Rail.		
Midland Great Western Railway—		
From stations in Mayo (Connaught)	15,537	15,484
From other stations in Connaught in the Counties of Galway, Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim	5,565	5,943
Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway (Claremorris and Collooney Line)—		
From stations in Mayo	2,914	4,022
From stations in Sligo	185	459
Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway—		
From Collooney Station	2,422	1,433
Total by Rail	26,623	27,340
By Sea.		
By steamer from Westport (Mayo) to Glasgow and Liverpool†	987	860
By steamer from Ballina (Mayo) to Glasgow†	256	240
Total by Sea	1,243	1,100
Grand Total	27,866	28,440

In addition to the above, a small number (58 in 1898, and 99 in 1899) were booked from stations on the Midland Great Western Railway in provinces other than Connaught.

Particulars are given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1898, p. 259, as to the counties in England and Scotland in which the Irish labourers are mostly employed, and also as to their conditions of employment.

* In making this total it is estimated that about a half of the number booked from Collooney came from Mayo.

† The numbers booked by steamer are approximate, as no distinction is made between migratory labourers and ordinary passengers. The figures given in the table are calculated, as in previous years, on the basis of an estimate furnished by the Steam Packet Company. The number booked from Sligo is not given, as the Company state that it is impossible to distinguish them from other passengers. It is probable that some of those starting from Ballina come from Sligo.

‡ A few of these go to Liverpool.

REPORT ON CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1898.*

THE Sixth Annual Report of the Labour Department on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom, has been issued to-day.

As is well known, 1898 was a year of active employment, the proportion of unemployed workpeople being lower than has been the case for several years. It was therefore to be expected that it would be a year of rising wages, and the statistics given in the present report show that, both as regards extent and magnitude, the upward changes recorded far surpassed those returned for any of the previous five years.

No fewer than 1,015,169 workpeople were reported as affected by changes of wages in 1898, compared with 597,444 in the previous year. Of this number 1,003,290 received increases. Even this large total is exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants, with regard to whom, for reasons given in the report, the numbers affected cannot be exactly stated, though the statistics obtained show that wages in these employments shared in the general advance of the year. The net result of all changes was an aggregate rise of over £95,000 per week. During the previous year the net increase was £45,000 per week. It is interesting to observe from the preliminary figures relating to the changes of the first half of the present year, which are also given, that so far the upward tendency of wages shows no signs of diminishing. Up to the end of June, 1899, nearly a million persons had had their wages changed, the net effect of all the changes during the six months being not less than £50,000 per week in the wages of those affected.

The bulk of the increase recorded, both in 1898 and in the present year, is accounted for by the general upward movement of miners' wages in the principal coal fields, though there has also been a marked advance in the metal, engineering, shipbuilding and building trades. The recent increase of wages in the cotton trade belongs to the year 1899.

While the year 1898 shows so marked an advance of wages, the changes in hours of labour have been comparatively insignificant. Less than 40,000 persons are reported as having had their hours altered, the aggregate reduction being computed at about 82,000 hours per week, compared with over 285,000 in the previous year.

It is satisfactory to find that in the vast majority of cases the readjustment of wages took place without stoppage of work. Of all the persons affected in 1898, 95 per cent. appear to have had their wages changed without a strike. The proportion would be somewhat lowered if the rise in wages received by the South Wales coal miners on resuming work after the prolonged strike as to the re-establishment of the sliding scale, were ascribed to that dispute, but in any case the changes of wages following trade disputes formed but a small fraction of the whole.

Closely connected with this state of things is the fact that in the great majority of cases the changes were amicably arranged directly between the parties. Thus in the case of 78 per cent. of the workpeople affected the changes were the result of direct arrangement, while in 22 per cent. they were effected by Sliding Scales, Wages Boards, Conciliation, or Arbitration.

It may be added that during the first half of the present year only about two per cent. of the aggregate rise in wages resulted from strikes.

A new feature of the present Report is the addition of an Appendix containing a list of Piece Price Lists, Sliding Scales, and Wages Agreements of other kinds reported to the Department as operative in various districts and trades at the present time. The existence of such arrangements is a characteristic feature of many branches of modern industry. Although the list is doubtless incomplete, it embraces about a thousand documents, embodying for the most part agreements for the regulation of wages and other conditions of labour, signed by representatives of employers and employed.

* This Report can be obtained through any bookseller, price 1s. 5d. Its official number is C 9434.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 1,176 co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,489,643, show total sales for the second quarter of 1899 amounting to £10,728,190, as compared with £10,225,557 in the corresponding quarter of 1898.

Of these societies 784 show an increase, 389 a decrease, and 3 the same amount as in last year, the net increase being £502,633, or 4.9 per cent. The societies showing a decrease in nearly all cases attribute the decline to the low prices of flour and bread as compared with the corresponding period in 1898. The large increase shown in Wales and Monmouth is due to the depression in trade last year consequent on the coal dispute then existing.

Returns from the four wholesale federations for the same period show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £4,710,669, as compared with £4,191,856 in the corresponding quarter of 1898, an increase of 12.4 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £803,600, compared with £747,185 in the corresponding period of 1898, an increase of 7.6 per cent.

Sixty-one societies in England and Wales reported the opening of 88 new branches and departments, and 9 societies in Scotland reported 14 new branches and departments during the quarter.

The following table, based upon reports and balance-sheets supplied direct to the Department, shows the progress in trade of the wholesale and retail distributive societies, grouped by districts:—

Description of Societies and Districts.	Societies making Returns.		Sales of Societies making Returns.			
	No.	Member-ship.	In 2nd quarter of		Increase in 1899 compared with 1898.	
			1899.	1898.	Amount.	Per cent. on Sales.
Retail Distributive Societies.						
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Northern Counties	113	198,320	£ 1,770,644	£ 1,677,907	92,737	5.5
Yorkshire	186	301,872	2,068,124	2,022,930	45,194	2.2
Lancashire and Cheshire	169	354,348	2,334,630	2,442,203	92,427	3.8
North and West Midland Counties	151	159,343	904,987	860,600	44,387	5.2
South Midland and Eastern Counties	105	73,700	398,890	382,262	16,628	4.3
London (12 mile radius)	35	38,421	176,241	163,789	12,452	7.6
South Eastern Counties	52	42,109	213,039	200,823	12,216	6.1
Southern and Western Counties	52	47,688	211,156	200,811	10,345	5.2
Wales and Monmouth	46	17,574	139,627	119,658	19,969	16.6
Total—England and Wales	909	1,233,275	8,417,338	8,071,023	346,315	4.3
SCOTLAND—North	105	97,684	787,533	734,709	52,823	7.2
South	154	156,753	1,513,079	1,411,061	102,018	7.2
Total—Scotland	259	254,437	2,300,612	2,145,770	154,841	7.2
IRELAND	8	1,931	10,241	8,764	1,477	16.9
TOTAL RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES	1,176	1,489,643	10,728,190	10,225,557	502,633	4.9
Wholesale Societies.						
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Distributive Departments	1,071*	1,168,221†	£ 3,413,501	£ 2,970,302	443,199	14.9
Manufacturing Departments			460,059†	379,206†	80,853	21.3
SCOTLAND:—						
Distributive Departments	291*	228,456†	£ 1,233,810	£ 1,171,716	62,094	5.3
Manufacturing Departments			343,541†	367,979†	24,438†	6.6
IRELAND:—						
Butter Agency (Distribution)	49*	Not stated.	46,487	36,129	10,358	28.7
Agricultural (Distribution)	27*	..	16,871	13,709†	3,162	23.1

* Number and Membership of federated societies.
† Transfers from manufacturing to distributive departments.
‡ This amount is one half of the sales for six months ended June, 1898.
§ Decrease.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Bricklayers' and Labourers' Dispute at Leicester.

Early in April the bricklayers' labourers at Leicester struck work for an advance of wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour. The bricklayers at the same time resolved not to work with any labourer not a member of the Labourers' Union. In all, about 1,200 labourers and bricklayers were affected. On September 7th the representatives of the Leicester Master Builders and Bricklayers' Labourers forwarded to the Board of Trade a request for the appointment of an arbitrator under the Conciliation Act.

The Board have appointed Sir W. Markby, K.C.I.E., to act in that capacity.

Plasterers' Labourer's Dispute at Dundee.

On 3rd September the Department received an application from the Executive Committee of the National Labourers' Union to take action with a view to the settlement of a dispute between the Master Plasterers and Plasterers' Labourers in Dundee. The dispute arose out of a demand for an increase in wages of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6d.) and an increase of 1s. per week travelling allowance when working outside the radius (4s. to 5s.). An advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour was offered by the employers but declined, and on August 16th the men, to the number of 124, went on strike. In consequence of the application an officer of the Department visited Dundee and held interviews with representatives of both parties. On September 7th, at the request of both sides, he presided at a joint conference of three representatives of each of the parties, at which an agreement on the points originally in dispute was arrived at. The men's representatives, however, insisted on the dismissal of 13 men who had been engaged during the strike, and this being refused by the employers, the negotiations for a settlement fell through.

(b) OTHER CASES.

New Agreement in the Yorkshire Dyeing Trade.

An agreement has been drawn up between the "Bradford Dyers Association, Limited," and three Trade Unions, viz., the Amalgamated Society of Dyers, the Gas Workers and General Labourers' Union and the Huddersfield, Bradford and Barnsley Dyers' Association. The agreement embodies provisions with regard to a Wages Board, similar to those contained in a previous agreement in the piece dyeing trade (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1896, p. 82), except that the sum deposited as a guarantee by each of the parties is fixed at £500, instead of £100 as formerly, nor does the new agreement provide that the employers shall employ Union workmen only. It, however, contains the following provision with regard to the engagement of new men:—

On the engagement of new men, application shall first be made to the workmen's unions. The employer may refuse to set on any man sent by the workmen's unions, but he may be called upon by the Wages Board to give a satisfactory reason for rejecting him. The workmen's unions shall supply men with the least possible delay, and if they are not able to supply satisfactory men within twenty-four hours of receipt of requisition in writing, the employer shall be free to set on men who are not members of the society, and that such men shall be requested to become members of one of the men's societies. But any man who may have lost employment for drunkenness, or wilful and persistent breaking time, shall be so reported when sent as an applicant for a new situation.

Any workman ceasing to be a member of one or other of the men's unions shall be reported to the works director of the branch where he is employed, and the director shall at once call upon such person to resume his membership of the union.

Any firm starting men contrary to this arrangement shall be fined one pound per man for every man so started, and the man shall not be continued in employment.

On the other hand the workmen's unions shall be fined one pound for every man leaving his work without the consent of his employers or of the Wages Board.

These arrangements do not apply to foremen, women, or boys under sixteen years of age.

With regard to wages, it is provided that, during the continuance of the agreement, no higher rates than those specified in an appended list shall be demanded by the Unions, but that firms paying lower rates may be called upon by the Wages Board to give an advance (though not of more than 10 per cent. in one year) "provided the firm is making a profit of 5 per cent. on its capital, and has done so for the then last three years, and that the advance shall not be calculated to reduce the profit below 5 per cent."

The overtime regulations, which had no counterpart in the older agreement, are as follows:—

DAY TIME.—The regular time shall be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and workmen shall work till 7 p.m., when required at ordinary rates. Outside these hours time and half shall be paid.

NIGHT TURN.—Sixpence per night extra on the ordinary rates shall be paid to all men at nights. Apart from this, workmen shall work at ordinary rates between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Outside these hours time and a half shall be paid.

After 1 p.m. on Saturdays or before 6 a.m. on Mondays workmen shall be paid at the rate of time and a half.

If any workman is requested to leave his work during the day after 10 a.m. and return at night, he shall be paid time and a half for the first six hours of that night plus the usual extra 6d.; but any man who for the employers' convenience is requested to commence work after the usual starting time shall be paid time and a half after 6 p.m. if required to work after that hour.

It is reported that a few firms have not accepted the portion of the agreement dealing with the engagement of new men, but that the majority have, however, signed the agreement in its entirety.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act.

BREACH OF CONTRACT INVOLVING INJURY TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY.

Three furnace-keepers, employed by a firm of ironmasters, were charged under Section 5 of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875, which enacts that "Where any person wilfully and maliciously breaks a contract of service or of hiring, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the probable consequences of his so doing, either alone or in combination with others, will be to endanger human life, or cause serious bodily injury, or to expose valuable property whether real or personal to destruction or serious injury, he shall on conviction thereof by a court of summary jurisdiction, or on indictment . . . be liable either to pay a penalty not exceeding £20, or to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labour." The procurator-fiscal stated that the accused were skilled labourers, and were paid higher wages than ordinary labourers because their work involved a certain amount of danger and constant attention. One of the chief dangers involved in the working of the furnaces was in connection with the hot blast. A current of highly heated air was carried in pipes into the bottom of the furnaces. To keep those pipes from being fused, a current of cold water was kept circulating round them in tuyere pipes, which, being in the neighbourhood of extreme heat, were liable to be themselves fused, and, if that happened, the water might get into the furnaces, and by producing a volume of steam, cause an explosion. If such an explosion occurred, it might blow out the containing wells, and molten matter might come out, involving the lives of those engaged in the neighbourhood. The accused, without any reasonable cause, left their work, and by so doing created the risk of the consequences just described. They could not be unaware of the danger of their conduct, and they must have known its illegality, because the particulars relating to a conviction which was recently obtained under similar circumstances in another establishment had been circulated in the place in which the accused lived, and posted at the works.

On behalf of the accused it was stated that on the morning of the day on which they left their work the furnace-keepers found that they could not get on with their work because of the absence of pig-moulders, and there had been some hot words with the under-manager. The accused declared that they had been ordered off the ground, and, in any case, they gave notice that they were going off. They remained away one hour and a half, and during that period no real danger at any time existed, because, before going, they had cleared the furnaces, and given the signal for shutting off power. The sheriff fined each of the accused £2.—*Ayr Sheriff Court, August 25th.*

WATCHING AND BESETTING: JOINT ACTION.

A number of master builders at Hull, who were members of the Master Builders' Association of that town, brought an action against a number of persons who were officials of various trade unions at Hull and also of the Hull Building Trades' Federation, in which the plaintiffs claimed an injunction against the defendants in relation to their alleged conduct under the following circumstances:—A labour dispute having arisen in the building trade at Hull, in consequence of which a large number of men either struck or were locked-out, the plaintiffs, in order to fill the places of these men, imported men from Belfast, who entered into contracts with an agent of the masters that they would go to Hull and work as non-union men for 12 months for such firms, belonging to the masters' union, as the Masters' Association should specify. The plaintiffs stated that the defendants "with the intention of injuring the plaintiffs and the other members of the Masters' Association in their trade and business, and thereby compelling the plaintiffs and the other members of the association to accept the terms of the unions, and to conduct their respective businesses in accordance with the requirements of the unions, wrongfully and without lawful excuse, combined and conspired together to watch and beset, or cause and procure to be watched and beset, railway stations and other places where workmen brought to Hull by the Masters' Association as aforesaid, or other non-union men employed or about to be employed by the plaintiffs or some or one of them might happen to be, and the approaches thereto respectively, for the purpose of persuading or otherwise inducing such workmen not to work, or to cease working, for the plaintiffs or any of them, or any other member of the Masters' Association," and that "in furtherance and execution of the said combination and conspiracy, the defendants wrongfully and without legal authority did or caused to be done the several acts" of which particulars were given by the plaintiffs, for such purpose as mentioned above, "and did in fact persuade or induce many of such workmen to leave Hull, or refuse or cease to work for the plaintiffs or any of them, or any other member of the Masters' Association, by reason whereof the plaintiffs have been much hindered and interfered with in the lawful conduct of their respective businesses and have respectively suffered serious loss and damage."

The plaintiffs accordingly moved for an injunction restraining the defendants from watching or besetting any railway station in Hull or elsewhere, or the works of the plaintiffs, or any of them, or the approaches to any such station or works, or any place where any persons employed or about to be employed by, or working, or intending to work for the plaintiffs or any of them, resided or worked or happened to be, for the purpose of persuading or inducing such persons not to work, or to abstain from working for the plaintiffs or any of them, or for any other purpose than to obtain or communicate information.

At the hearing of the motion a preliminary objection was raised on behalf of the defendants that there were seven plaintiffs and eight defendants, and that the acts complained of could not be joined in one cause of action. The Court, however, ultimately decided that, having regard to the plaintiffs' statement of claim, what was complained of showed a joint cause of action, and enabled such an action to be brought by at least one plaintiff, and that if only some of the defendants were found guilty, judgment might be recovered against them, or even one of them; and, further, that the plaintiffs could properly combine in bringing such an action.

The Court held that as regards the general nature of the acts complained of the case was very similar to that of *Charnock v. Court* (see GAZETTE, May, 1899, pp. 135, 136). In that case all the members of the Masters' Association were made plaintiffs. They were all present. Here they were not. The contracts which were made with the workmen were made on behalf of the Masters' Association, and the workmen were to work for such members of that body as should be specified by the association or by some particular member thereof. The workmen were intercepted before they went to work, or any member had been specified, and it was contended that that did not give rise to damage to a plaintiff who had not been specified. This view did not commend itself to the Court, which held that the men being intercepted, so that a particular master lost the chance of employing those particular men who were intercepted, was a sufficient damage to enable the master to sue. The Court then considered the question whether there was any evidence that the plaintiffs had been guilty of the acts complained of. As regarded two of the defendants, the Court came to the conclusion that a case was made out against them of "attending" for the purpose of persuading or inducing men to abstain from working for the plaintiffs, and that what was done by them went beyond what was allowed by the Act, i.e., merely attending for the purpose of obtaining or communicating information; and accordingly against these two defendants the Court granted an injunction similar to that granted in *Charnock v. Court*. As to six of the eight defendants, the plaintiffs largely relied on the fact that those defendants were prominent members and officials of unions, which were organised bodies, and therefore the Court ought to conclude that the defendants were agents, and were all parties to the acts complained of. But the Court held that, trade unions being legal bodies, *prima facie*, their officers could not be

* In the case of *Charnock v. Court* the defendants were restrained from watching or besetting the landing stage at Fleetwood, or any other place where any person employed, or about to be employed by the plaintiffs, or any of them, might be brought, for the purpose of inducing such persons not to work for the plaintiffs or any of them, or for any purpose except merely to communicate information. The interlocutory injunction was, at the hearing of the action on August 8th, made perpetual, the defendants consenting, subject to certain additions and modifications agreed upon between the parties.

presumed to have authority to do or sanction anything other than what trade unions might lawfully do.—*Walters v. Green, Chancery Division, July 21st, August 3rd and 9th.*

(2) Truck Acts.

PAYMENT OF WAGES "IN CURRENT COIN."

A contractor at Belfast asked one of his workmen to go to Dublin to do some special work there. The workman consented to go, but said he could not stay more than one week, to which his employer made no objection. He accordingly went to Dublin, and at the end of the week informed his employer that he intended to return, when the employer, the job not being yet finished, objected, and said he would make the man pay his own train fare. The workman, however, carried out his intention to return, and when he came for his wages, the employer deducted from the money paid to him 7s. 11d., being one-half of the return fare from Belfast to Dublin. The workman commenced proceedings against his employer in respect of this deduction, complaining that he had infringed the Truck Acts by paying wages otherwise than in current coin of the realm, and suing for the recovery of the amount deducted. The magistrate gave a decree in favour of the complainant for the sum claimed and 20s. costs.—*M'Bride v. Mitchell, Belfast Custody Court, August 22nd.*

"FAIR AND REASONABLE" DEDUCTION FOR SPOILT WORK.

A firm of steel pen manufacturers were summoned by a factory inspector for contravening the Truck Acts by making, with one of their workwomen, a contract for a deduction from her wages, in respect of spoilt work, which was not a fair and reasonable deduction, having regard to all the circumstances of the case. It was shown that it was the practice in the defendants' works to deduct for all waste or spoilt work beyond a certain allowance at the rate of a penny for every shilling earned by the workwoman. Thus, a girl earning 8s. a week, who made 2s. waste, would have 8d. per week deducted until the amount was paid off.

The inspector said that the object of the proceedings was to obtain a decision as to what was a "fair and reasonable" deduction within the meaning of the law. The pens which the defendants manufactured were made by the piece. Each pen passed through at least seven processes, and each section was liable to waste. The "blanks" were given out in lots of 130 gross, and a deduction of 3d. per gross was made up to the grinding department, and 6d. afterwards. The contention on behalf of the prosecution was that the charge was greatly in excess of wages earned. In one case the waste charged amounted to more than the wages for the day and a half; and in another case a girl earning 12s. per week had a debt against her of £2, while others ranged from 5s. up to £5 or £10. It might be weeks or months before the girl knew the amount of waste she was being charged for at the rate of 1d. in the 1s. The workwoman, in respect of whom these proceedings were taken, stated that her wages ranged from 8s. to 10s. a week. She was paid at the rate of 3s. 6d. per lot of 130 gross. She did not know the dates on which the damage was done, but was being charged week by week. She said that, if she spoiled all her work, she would still receive 7s. 4d. per week. Another workwoman stated that she had been paying for waste since Christmas, and a girl receiving 5s. or 6s. a week said that she was indebted to the firm for 18s. 9d. For the defence it was pointed out that one of the witnesses had earned £5 12s. in several weeks, and the waste charge against her amounted only to 6s. 1d., and it was contended that the charge was not unreasonable, taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case.

In giving his decision the deputy-stipendiary said that, having fully considered the evidence, he was of opinion that the summons must be dismissed, for the following reasons:—In order to arrive at a decision as to whether or not the deduction was fair and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, the points which presented themselves as having importance were (1) the nature of the work to be done; (2) the loss to the employer from spoilt work; and (3) the actual wages received by the workwoman after all deductions were made. Now in the present case (1) the work of grinding the points of pens appeared to require no great amount of skill. It could be done by young persons, and with ordinary care and attention there should only be a small deduction from the weekly wages; (2) as to loss occasioned to the employer by spoilt work, no evidence on this point was given by the complainant. The defendants' price list, however, had by consent of both parties been put in, and on referring to it he found the prices for pens which had been ground ranged from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6s. 4d. per gross. He was not, therefore, prepared, in the absence of any direct evidence to the contrary, to find that the sum of 6d. per gross was an unreasonable sum at which to estimate the loss to the employer of spoilt work; and he was confirmed in this opinion by the fact that, if that had been part of complainant's case, the defendants might have been summoned under Sub-section (1) (b) of Section 2 of the Truck Act, 1896 (which provides that the deduction or payment to be made under a contract such as that in question must "not exceed the actual or estimated damage or loss occasioned to the employer by the act or omission of the workman, or of some person over whom he has control, or for whom he has by the contract agreed to be responsible"). As they had not been so summoned, he thought he was entitled to assume that the complainant did not rely upon this fact. (3) In considering the actual wages earned by the workwoman, she appeared to be sufficiently protected by the proviso that in any event the deductions from the wages in any one week should not exceed one penny in the shilling. He therefore dismissed the summons. He added that he had decided the case on the evidence before him, not as a precedent to govern future cases.—*Birmingham Police-court, August 11th and 15th.*

(3) Miscellaneous.

NEGLECT BY SERVANT: RIGHT TO DISMISS WITHOUT NOTICE.

A workman, employed by a firm of printers, who had been dismissed without notice, claimed from his employers two weeks' wages in lieu of notice. The magistrate found the following facts to be proved: On December 16th, 1898, this workman was engaged in the care and management of a printing press of the value of £800, used by him in the defendants' printing business, when a roller, known as the "top-rider," jammed under the cylinder, doing damage to the machine to the extent of £30. Upon being asked by the defendants' manager for an explanation of the cause of the accident, the plaintiff stated that the "top-rider" had jumped out of the forks in which it should revolve. The manager, believing that the accident was due to the plaintiff's want of care, and that he had caused it by neglecting to place one end of the "top-rider" in the forks before starting the machine, as it was his duty to do, paid the plaintiff his wages up to that day and dismissed him without notice. The magistrate was satisfied upon the evidence that the only way in which the accident could have occurred was by the plaintiff's forgetfulness to fix the "top-rider" in the forks before starting the machine, notwithstanding his own strong belief that he had done so, and he held that such forgetfulness in the performance of an important part of his duty amounted to neglect which justified his dismissal without notice. The magistrate dismissed the complaint and stated a case. The Queen's Bench Division held that habitual neglect or forgetfulness was not necessary to justify dismissal without notice, and that, although to forget to do some trivial or not very important thing might not be enough to justify dismissal without notice, yet, if the forgetfulness were with respect to an important thing, this might well be good ground for such dismissal; that it was a question of degree for the magistrate to decide upon; and that in this case there was evidence on which the magistrate could come to the conclusion that the act of neglect justified the dismissal. The Court accordingly dismissed the appeal.—*Baxter v. London and County Printing Works, Queen's Bench Division, April 25th, reported August 5th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, etc., mostly dated July and August last. †

Canada.—At Toronto work is better than it was last year, and all kinds of mechanics are well employed; there is even a demand for a limited number of first-class machinists. In the Port Arthur district there has been a demand for miners, general labourers, and railway navvies. At Calgary, in the north-west, there is an opening for a few tailors and harness-makers. In the large towns throughout Canada the supply of mechanics is generally quite sufficient. The crops this season have been good, and there has been plenty of employment in nearly all parts for farm labourers and harvest hands; in Ontario, however, there was very little demand for any more hands.

New South Wales.—The supply of mechanics and general labourers at Sydney is quite sufficient. A report from the large Broken Hill silver mines states there is a constant demand for good hard ground miners at 9s. a day, but none for general labourers: that the supply of mechanics is about equal to the demand: but that there is a great scarcity of female servants. Other reports from Hillston, Dubbo, Orange, Queanbeyan, etc., state that there is no demand for more labour, except female servants.

Victoria.—There is very little improvement, if any, in the general demand for labour at Melbourne. There are still considerable numbers of men out of employment, and mills and other establishments are not doing full work. At the same time the building trades are said to be in a better condition than they were. A report from Carisbroke states that there is no demand for labour there.

Queensland.—The annual report of the Government Labour Bureau states that 6,272 unemployed persons registered themselves in 1898, and that 6,074 of these were assisted to work. The demand for labour distinctly improved during the year, especially in the North. Men in the building trades at Townsville have been fully employed during the last few months. Free passages are still being given to *bonâ fide* farm labourers and female domestic servants from 17 to 35 years of age; for both these classes of labour there is a considerable demand throughout the colony.

Western Australia.—The demand for all kinds of labour is limited. A really first-class workman can

* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

† Handbooks with maps of the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office at a penny each, post free.

always obtain employment in the building and kindred trades, but the best openings are for miners, farm labourers, and domestic servants.

Tasmania.—The building trades at Queenstown and Gormanston, and other small mining towns in the West, have been busy, and miners also have been well employed. In the more settled parts of the Colony the supply of mechanics is sufficient. There is some demand for good railway navvies.

New Zealand.—There has been a general falling off in the demand for general labourers in country districts during the last two months, and many have been out of work. This has been owing to the wet weather, and to the fact of its being the winter season. Employment for mechanics in the towns has also been somewhat slack, more especially at Wellington; but there is still plenty of work at Napier, New Plymouth, Nelson, Christchurch, Ashburton, Timaru, Waimate, Oamaru, Invercargill, and (except in the building trades) at Dunedin. Skilled miners have little difficulty in finding work in the mining district of Reefton, and there is the usual demand everywhere for female servants.

Cape Colony.—A large number of persons continue to arrive in the Colony from England and Australia, notwithstanding the repeated warnings which have been published. At the present time there are stated to be several thousands of unemployed persons in Cape Town alone, and the numbers are likely to be increased, unless affairs in the border States speedily assume a more favourable character.

Natal.—There is no demand for more labour in Natal at the present time.

Transvaal.—Persons are warned against going to the Transvaal in search of work.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in August.*—The state of employment continued favourable during the month of August in the building and accessory trades, and also in the mining and quarrying, metal (smelting and manufacture) and engineering (machine construction and electrical work) trades, and in the watch and clock-making, cotton and wool spinning and weaving, glove-making, coach-building, coopering, food, etc., preparation and hide and skin-working industries. A resumption of activity took place in the hat-making trade; but seasonal slackness prevailed in textile dyeing and printing works, in the boot and shoe trade, and in the garment-making and typographical trades, and also among confectioners and pastrycooks. Employment was moderate only in silk manufacture and in the ribbon and trimmings-making industries.

Rather less than 6 per cent. of the 80,000 members of 560 trade unions (exclusive of the trade unions of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments) furnishing reports were out of employment on August 15th.

The area affected by the decrease in the price of bread has extended; but, as a result of the great heat and the drought, the price of vegetables, fruit, eggs, and butter has increased.

The French Labour Department.—Under an order of the French Minister of Commerce, dated August 3rd, the organisation of the Labour Department has been placed upon the following basis. The Department, which will have the name of "Direction du Travail," will consist of the "Office du Travail," and of two Bureaux. The Office du Travail will deal with the statistics of labour and of industrial insurance, and will have attached to it the Higher Council of Labour ("Conseil Supérieur du Travail"). The First Bureau, to which will be attached the Higher Council of Statistics, will be concerned with general statistics, including the compilation of annual statistical volumes and of publications showing the results of the quinquennial census. The Second Bureau will deal with labour legislation, trade disputes, conciliation and arbitration, unemployment, trade unions, and

* Information supplied by the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

employers' associations, labour bureaux, co-operative societies, profit-sharing, etc.

In addition to the Direction du Travail, there will be a "Division of Insurance and Thrift," to which will be assigned the duty of exercising supervision over institutions of this nature, including societies carrying on accident insurance business, pension funds (national and other) and savings banks, and which will also deal with questions relating to the housing of the industrial classes.

Coal Mining in July.*—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in July was 5'91 (compared with 5'93 in the previous month, and 5'92 in July 1898). In July, full time (6 days and over) was worked by 84 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 15 per cent. of the miners, the percentages in the previous month being 81 and 18 respectively. The above particulars are supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relates to over 100,000 (three-fourths of all employed in and about the coal mines).

"Fair Wages" Clauses in Public Contracts.—Three Decrees of the President of the French Government relating to the conditions with respect to labour in public contracts were published in the *Journal Officiel* of August 11th. These Decrees refer respectively to contracts made by the State, to contracts entered into by the Departments, and to contracts made by communes and public charitable institutions. With respect to State contracts, it is ordered that all such contracts shall contain provisions binding the contractor (1) to allow his workpeople a weekly day of rest; (2) not to employ more than a certain proportion of foreign workpeople, such proportion to be specified in each case by the contracting Office; (3) to pay to all his employees the rates of wages current in the district in which the work shall be carried out; and (4) not to employ his workpeople for a greater number of hours in the day than the hours usually worked as a day's work in the district. So far as concerns the Departments, communes and public charitable institutions, these authorities are given power to adopt in contracts made by them, if they shall think fit, conditions similar to those just stated.

The current rates of wages and hours of work are to be ascertained by the office or authority concerned, with special reference, in each case, to existing agreements between trade unions and employers' associations. The rates and hours thus fixed are to be inserted in the contracts and posted up in the factories, &c., where the work is carried out.

In all public contracts without distinction (whether made by the State, by a Department, a commune, or a public charitable institution) it is ordered that a clause shall be inserted forbidding the contractor to sub-let any part of his contract except with the express sanction of the contracting authority, and upon condition that he shall remain, notwithstanding any such sub-contract, personally responsible for the due fulfilment of the obligations imposed by the original contract.

A contractor found guilty of repeated failure to comply with the conditions in regard to labour may be punished (in addition to the exaction of the ordinary penalties for non-compliance contained in the contract) by being refused permission to compete for future contracts, the disability thus imposed being either temporary or permanent, as the contracting authority may decide.

GERMANY.

Employment in August.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the state of employment in the German Empire continued to be satisfactory in August. The proportion which applications for work bore to offers of situations at the public employment registries which made returns to this journal fell from 100'7 per cent. in July to 92'5 per cent. in August. The latter proportion compares favourably with that of August 1898, which was 108'5.

Labour Disputes in August.—Forty-five disputes are noted in the same journal as having begun in August, as compared with 48 in the preceding month. The group of trades, in which the greatest number of the disputes reported took place, was that of the building trades (as was also the case in July).

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, July and August, 1899.

AUSTRIA.

Labour Disputes, August 3rd to August 30th.—Notices of 17 disputes, which began between August 3rd and August 30th, are published in *Die Gewerkschaft* (the organ of the Austrian Trade Union Central Committee). Of these disputes 8 were in the textile trades; 4 in the metal and engineering trades; 2 in the woodworking trades; one each in the pottery and clothing trades; while the remaining dispute was in a trade which does not fall within any of the foregoing groups. With the exception of a strike at certain blastfurnaces and ironworks at Kladno (Bohemia), in which 515 workmen took part, none of the above disputes are reported to have affected a large number of workpeople.

The strike in the building trades at Jungbunzlau, referred to in last month's GAZETTE (p. 235), is now stated to have terminated unfavourably for the workpeople.

DENMARK.

Lock-out in the Building and Other Trades.—Reporting to the Foreign Office under date of August 28th, Sir E. Fane, H.M. Minister at Copenhagen, stated that the general lock-out in the Danish building trade and dependent industries, an account of which was given in the GAZETTE for July (page 202), still continued. On August 22nd, the Employers' Federation resolved to extend the lock-out to certain other trades, with the purpose of preventing the workmen employed therein from contributing support to the locked-out builders. The trades in question included all the tailors, cement workers, blacksmiths (except shoeing smiths), locksmiths, carters, and paviors in Denmark. By this step on the part of the masters the number of workmen affected was raised to about 50,000.

According to newspaper reports, this dispute has now terminated, a settlement having been arrived at between the employers and employed, the terms of which were embodied in an agreement finally signed on September 5th, of which the full text has not yet been received.

ITALY.

Old Age Pensions.—The Italian law (of July 17th, 1898), establishing a National Pension Fund, providing benefits for workmen on account of old age or infirmity (see GAZETTE, October, 1898, p. 291), enacted that this Fund should begin operations one month after the publication of the Royal Decree approving the rules. The publication of the decree in question took place on July 27th, and a translation of this document, with the rules for the Pension Fund annexed to the decree, has been supplied through the Foreign Office by Sir G. F. Bonham, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Rome. The rules provide that the contributions of workmen to the Fund shall be paid either through one of the Post Offices of the kingdom or through the Central Office or one of the branch offices of the Fund. No contribution of less than 5d. at a time will be received to the credit of the Fund; but this sum may be made up by affixing postage stamps to cards (to be supplied without charge by the postal authorities and the Central and branch offices of the Fund) until this minimum amount is reached. Pensions falling due under the law will be paid by quarterly instalments, to be received through a Post Office or a branch office of the Fund. In those cases, in which, on the death of a workman, a lump sum will become payable to his family or legatees, the money must be claimed through the Central Office.

SPAIN.

Termination of Strikes at Ironworks in Bilbao District.—According to a despatch to the Foreign Office from Mr. C. S. Smith, H.M. Consul at Bilbao, under date of August 22nd, the strikes at the Altos Hornos Works at Desierto and at the Vizcaya Works at Sestao, mentioned in the August number of the GAZETTE (p. 235), are practically at an end. The strikers returned to work at the latter establishment on July 26th. At the former, the employers brought in a certain amount of labour from outside, and by degrees the workpeople re-engaged themselves, so that by August 14th work was in full swing. At Altos Hornos, however, some 200, and at the Vizcaya works about 400 of the strikers were refused re-engagement.

UNITED STATES.

In a despatch, dated August 9th, Mr. A. R. Getty, H.M. Acting Consul at Chicago, sends information with respect to a strike of brickmakers in all the Union brickyards in Cook County, Illinois, which took place on July 27th.

The strike was called in sympathy with Union No. 6, composed of men who had been working in the yards on the North side of the City of Chicago, the object being to secure a recognition of the Union by the North side manufacturers. The question of wages did not come into consideration to any great extent. A meeting of the North and South side manufacturers was held on July 19th, and at this the South side men, all of whom employ Union labour, agreed to put no brick on any yard where there was North side brick at that time. A meeting was held on July 24th between employers and employees, but no agreement was arrived at, the manufacturers declining to reconsider their action.

The strike was then ordered, and from 2,000 to 3,000 men thereby thrown out of employment.

The manufacturers claim that it is the object of the Union to aim through them at the non-Union yards, of which there are several on the North side.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN AUGUST.

[NOTE.—The following tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.]

The average number of days worked at coal mines in August* was, on the whole, practically the same as in July last and in August, 1898. Returns with regard to holidays tend to show that pits at which about one-third of the workpeople were employed were not idle on account of holidays, whilst in the case of about half the workpeople the holidays amounted to only one or two days.

Returns relating to 1,122 pits, at which 387,376 workpeople were employed, show that an average of 5.18 days per week was worked by these pits in the four weeks ended August 26th. The average in July was also 5.18 days, and in August, 1898 was 5.19 days per week.

The following table shows the average time worked in each division of the United Kingdom in the three periods specified:—

District.	No. employed in Aug., 1899, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		26th Aug., 1899.	20th Aug., 1898.	22nd July, 1899.
England and N. Wales ...	359,799	5.16	5.18	5.23
Scotland ...	36,005	5.30	5.31	4.69
Ireland ...	572	5.15	4.82	5.20
United Kingdom* ...	387,376	5.18	5.19	5.18

In the following table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 72.9 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, as against 74.0 per cent. in July, and 77.7 per cent. a year ago.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	August, 1899.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	August, 1898.	July, 1899.
24 days (full time) ...	39,295	10.2	12.5	12.3
20 and under 24 days ...	243,045	62.7	65.2	61.7
16 " " 20 " " ...	75,919	19.6	13.6	18.5
12 " " 16 " " ...	21,823	5.6	6.1	5.3
8 " " 12 " " ...	7,123	1.8	2.1	1.7
Under 8 days ...	171	0.1	1.5	0.5
Total ...	387,376	100.0	100.0	100.0

* In August last year the dispute in the South Wales and Monmouthshire coal trade was in progress, and as this fact would disturb the general comparison with August, 1899, this district has been excluded from the general remarks and tables. A separate account is, however, given at the end of the report as to employment in this district.

From the following table, in which detailed particulars are given for the different mining districts, it will be seen that in the majority of the districts there was a falling off in the average time worked as compared with the July figures. The increases in West Scotland and Fife represent to a large extent a return to normal employment, the figures for July having, in those districts, been considerably affected by local holidays.

As compared with a year ago, there is a decline of half a day per week in Gloucester and Somerset, and over one-third of a day in North Wales, whilst the greatest improvements are those of one-third of a day in Ireland, and about one-fifth of a day in Yorkshire.

The highest averages during the month were those of 5.58 days per week in Durham, a district practically unaffected by holidays, and of 5.50 days in Cumberland. In four districts the average fell below 5 days per week, viz., in Nottingham and Leicester (4.47 days), Staffordshire (4.55 days), Derbyshire (4.86 days), and Salop, Worcester and Warwick (4.89 days). In the remaining districts the average was between 5 and 5½ days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN AUGUST, 1899 AND 1898, AND IN JULY, 1899.

District.	No. employed in Aug., 1899, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1899 as compared with	
		26th Aug., 1899.	20th Aug., 1898.	22nd July, 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & N. WALES		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	35,134	5.20	5.24	5.34	-.04	-.14
Durham ...	89,118	5.58	5.53	5.48	+.05	+.10
Cumberland ...	6,149	5.50	5.62	5.71	-.12	-.21
Yorkshire ...	60,519	5.33	5.11	5.36	+.22	-.03
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,192	5.04	5.18	5.12	-.14	-.08
Derbyshire ...	37,644	4.86	4.98	5.12	-.12	-.26
Nottingham and Leicester	26,286	4.47	4.55	4.52	-.08	-.05
Staffordshire ...	22,253	4.55	4.46	4.80	+.09	-.25
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ...	7,796	4.89	4.80	5.14	+.03	-.25
Gloucester and Somerset	8,096	5.02	5.52	5.09	-.50	-.07
North Wales ...	11,612	5.28	5.65	5.38	-.37	-.10
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	20,851	5.26	5.31	4.62	-.05	+.64
The Lothians ...	3,526	5.30	5.27	5.61	+.03	-.31
Fife ...	11,628	5.38	5.33	4.53	+.05	+.85
IRELAND. ...	572	5.15	4.82	5.20	+.33	-.05
Grand Total & Averages*	387,376	5.18	5.19	5.18	-.01	...

Returns relating to 146 pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire, at which 62,416 workpeople were employed, show that the average number of days worked per week at these pits during the four weeks ended August 26th was 5.57, as compared with 5.70 in July.

If this district be included with those dealt with in the preceding tables, the average for the United Kingdom in August is raised to 5.23 days per week, as compared with 5.25 days per week in July.

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during August amounted to 3,758,781 tons, as compared with 3,993,942 tons in July, and 3,078,525 tons in August, 1898.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues good, the average time worked in August being, on the whole, practically the same as in July and in August, 1898. The increase in Scotland, and decrease in Staffordshire and Shropshire, as compared with July, shown in the table below, are to be largely accounted for by local holidays, which were held in July in the former, and in August in the latter district.

Returns relating to 129 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked by these mines in the four weeks ended August 26th was 5.74 per week, as compared with 5.72 days per week in July, and 5.76 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed in August was 16,853, of whom 92.3 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as compared with 88.2 per cent. in July, and 87.3 per cent. a year ago. The number employed in August, 1898, was 16,869.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—IRON MINING, IRON AND STEEL, PIG IRON, AND TINPLATE INDUSTRIES.

The following table summarises the returns received:

District.	No. employed in Aug., 1899, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1899, as compared with	
		26th Aug., 1899.	20th Aug., 1898.	22nd July, 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	6,034	5.82	5.88	5.87	-.06	-.05
Cleveland ...	6,677	5.80	5.94	5.68	-.14	+.12
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	664	5.99	5.78	5.86	+.21	+.13
Northamptonshire Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	675	5.74	5.83	5.95	-.09	-.21
Other places in England ...	1,242	4.98	5.07	5.67	-.09	-.69
Scotland ...	270	5.51	5.35	5.66	+.16	-.15
IRELAND ...	1,176	5.65	5.00	4.95	+.65	+.70
Total ...	11,512	5.81	5.95	5.85	-.10	...
Total ...	16,853	5.74	5.76	5.72	-.02	+.01

(c) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS* IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT has remained good during August, the numbers employed at the 223 works covered by the returns received showing an increase as compared with both a year and a month ago. Several reports, however, state that work has been interrupted by the hot weather, and also in a few cases by local holidays.

The returns received show that these 223 works were employing 81,655 workpeople in the week ended August 26th, being 792 more than at the end of July and 5,068 more than a year ago. The following table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers Employed.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1899, as compared with	
	Numbers employed in week ending			a year ago.	a month ago.
	Aug. 26th, 1899.	Aug. 27th, 1898.	July 29th, 1899.		
England and Wales ...	69,035	64,282	68,808	+4,753	+227
Scotland ...	12,620	12,305	12,055	+315	+565
Total ...	81,655	76,587	80,863	+5,068	+792

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to about 87 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.47 during the week ended August 26th, 5.53 in the week ended July 29th, and 5.50 in the week ended August 27th, 1898:—

Number of Shifts worked per man.	Weekly Number of Shifts worked per Man.		
	Number employed in Aug., 1899, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in Aug., 1898.
Under 5 per week ...	5,353	7.5	7.2
5 " " ...	24,009	33.7	33.4
6 " " ...	1,195	1.7	2.0
6 " " ...	39,614	55.6	56.3
Above 6 " " ...	1,109	1.5	1.1
Total ...	71,310	100.0	100.0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first table may be estimated at 446,973 in the week ended August 26th, 447,460 in the week ended July 29th, and 421,301 in the week ended August 27th, 1898.

(d) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry has improved, and is much better than a year ago, at which time the South Wales coal dispute was in progress.

* Including iron puddling and rolling, and steel making and rolling.

Returns relating to the works of 114 ironmasters show that 376 furnaces were in blast at their works at the end of August, employing an estimated number of 25,209 workpeople, or 35 more furnaces and 2,463 more workpeople than at the end of August, 1898, and 4 more furnaces and 378 more workpeople than a month ago.

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.		Present time compared with a month ago.	
	Aug., 1899.	Aug., 1898.	Aug., 1899.	July, 1899.
ENGLAND & WALES—				
Cleveland ...	98	94	+4	98
Cumberland and Lancs. and S.W. Yorks...	52	47	+5	52
Lincolnshire ...	19	19	...	19
Midlands ...	16	14	+2	16
Glamorgan and Mon. Other districts ...	99	95	+4	99
Total England and Wales...)	311	281	+30	311
SCOTLAND ...	65	60	+5	65
Total furnaces (included in returns ...)	376	341	+35	376

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during August amounted to 108,541 tons, as compared with 146,281 tons in July and 121,887 tons in August, 1898.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS IN AUGUST.

THE improvement in employment in this industry has been maintained. It continues much better than a year ago. In some districts the output has been affected by the scarcity of water.

At the end of August 52 works with 257 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 30 others with 208 mills were giving partial employment, 133 of these mills being at work. Thus, in all 390 mills were working and giving employment to an estimated number of 19,683 workpeople, as compared with 396 mills employing 19,614 workpeople at the end of July, and 290 mills employing 15,414 workpeople a year ago.

The following table shows the number of mills and workpeople employed at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,* at each of the three periods:—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.			Estimated No. of Workpeople employed.
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.	
Works giving full employment	52	257	—	257	13,061
Works giving partial employment	30	133	75	208	6,622
Total at end of August, 1899	82	390	75	465	19,683
<i>Corresponding Total for July, 1899*</i>	81	316	63	380	19,614
<i>Corresponding Total for August, 1898*</i>	64	250	62	312	16,414

The exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above table were as follows:—

	Tinplates.	Blackplates.
	Tons.	Tons.
August, 1899 ...	22,408	7,162
July, 1899 ...	21,190	9,294
August, 1898 ...	17,869	6,678

* The figures in the table relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates but also to the manufacture of blackplates. It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures in the table are believed to give approximately the total number of works, mills and persons actually employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN AUGUST.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department on the basis of 221 returns received from various parts of England reports as follows:—During August agricultural labourers have been fully employed at harvest work. The corn crops have ripened rapidly, and as they have not been laid by storms it has been possible to employ self-binding machines to a very large extent. Thus, with a steady run of fine weather, the harvest has been gathered rapidly with much less manual labour than usual, and though a scarcity of labour has been reported in most districts it has not been severely felt, especially as there has been comparatively little hoeing to be done.

A report on harvest wages in 1899 will appear in a later issue of the GAZETTE.

Northern Counties.—Agricultural labourers are reported as regularly employed in *Cumberland* in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Longtown, Penrith, Whitehaven, and Wigton. Reports from these districts state that there has been much difficulty in obtaining extra hands. It is said that in the Carlisle Union the crops have been a good deal laid, and consequently a much greater amount of labour required. In connection with the scarcity of labour a correspondent in the Penrith Union writes that "both the corn and hay harvests were on at the same time, and the roots required thinning and clearing. Labourers are very scarce . . . and, consequently, are commanding high wages. I know of several cases where women have been getting 3s. to 3s. 6d. per day for hoeing turnips." It is stated that in South *Westmorland*, and in the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, and Ulverston in North *Lancashire* it was very difficult to get extra labour at any price that the farmers could afford to pay. Labourers are said to be fully employed in *Durham* in the Chester-le-street and Darlington Unions, extra men being difficult to procure. Employment is reported as regular in *Yorkshire* in the Unions of Beverley, Guisborough, Howden, Knaresborough, Malton, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. The supply of labour in most of these Unions is reported to have been insufficient. A correspondent in the Ripon Union writes that the bulk of the harvest was gathered in in an unusually short time. From the Beverley Union it is reported that self-binding reapers have been extensively used, and, consequently, less manual labour required, while in the Howden and Ripon Unions the harvest is said to have been an unusually short one.

Midland Counties.—Reports from *Cheshire* from the Unions of Chester, Nantwich, Macclesfield, and Tarvin state that employment has been generally regular during the month, no labourers being unemployed and extra hands difficult to obtain. Agricultural labourers have had constant employment in *Derbyshire* in the Hayfield Union and in the *Derbyshire* portions of the Workop Union (*Notts, Derby, and Yorks, W.R.*), Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs and Derby*), and Mansfield Union (*Notts and Derby*). Employment has been regular in *Shropshire* in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Market Drayton, Oswestry, Wellington, Wem, and Whitchurch. Extra labour is said to have been rather scarce in this county. Reports from *Staffordshire*, from the Unions of Tamworth and Leek state that, although there has been some scarcity of labour, few extra hands were required for the harvest owing to the increased use of machinery.

Favourable reports come from *Warwickshire* from the Unions of Alcester, Coventry, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon, and from the *Warwickshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon, Northants, and Warwick*). Employment for agricultural labourers is said to be quite regular in *Leicestershire* in the Unions of Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, Lutterworth (*Warwick and Leicester*), Market Bosworth, and Melton Mowbray. The reports from these Unions show that some scarcity of labour was experienced owing chiefly to the rapid and simultaneous ripening of the crops, but on the other hand most of the corn was cut by self-binders, and was got in quickly with a minimum amount of labour. Favourable reports as to employment also come from the Retford and Southwell Unions of *Nottinghamshire* and from the Oakham Union of *Rutland*. It is stated that there has been a great demand for harvest labourers in the Retford Union owing to the corn harvest having commenced before the hay had been entirely gathered.

Labourers have been busily employed at harvesting in *Worcestershire* in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Tenbury, and Upton-on-Severn, and some scarcity of labour has been experienced. A correspondent from the Martley Union writes that "a considerable increase took place in the number of reaping machines employed this season, otherwise

the paucity of labour would have been felt to a greater degree." The reports from *Worcestershire* state that, as a rule, sufficient labour has been obtained for fruit-picking, and also for hop-picking which commenced at the end of the month. Full and regular employment is reported from *Oxfordshire* in the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and in the *Oxfordshire* portion of the Wallingford Union (*Oxon and Berks*), and in *Northamptonshire* in the Unions of Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, Wellingborough, and in the *Northamptonshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon, Northants and Warwick*). In these counties corn was not laid by storms to any extent, and the harvest was rapidly completed with the aid of machines. Owing to this circumstance and to the effect of the drought upon root-crops, the scarcity of labour has not been very much felt.

Employment is said to have been regular in *Huntingdonshire* in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neots (*Hunts and Beds*), and also in *Bedfordshire* in the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, and Luton. Reports from these counties state that owing to fine weather and the corn standing well, much machinery was used and the harvest was over quickly and at less cost than usual.

Eastern Counties.—In *Essex* agricultural labourers are said to be very fully employed in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Maldon, Orsett, and Tendring, and also in *Suffolk* in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lotingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. The harvest has been gathered rapidly, the weather being very favourable. The corn is, however, stated to have been laid by storms in parts of the Unions of Maldon, Dunmow, Colchester, Sudbury, Plomesgate, and Mutford and Lotingland. A report from the Bosmere and Claydon Union states that much of the corn was laid and was bulky, causing a lot of troublesome work, but on the other hand no rain or weeds necessitated anything being done to it but simply to cut and cart. There appears to have been no marked scarcity of labour, but a correspondent from the Colchester Union reports that "skilled agricultural labourers are scarce. . . . I find great difficulty in getting the stacks of corn put up well, and also in finding capable thatchers."

Agricultural labourers in *Norfolk* are said to have been fully employed in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Gaultcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Landitch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Theford, and Walsingham. The supply of labour for the harvest in this county has been, generally speaking, sufficient, owing in a great measure to the large use made of self-binding machines. There was, however, some difficulty in obtaining hands on heavy lands where reaping machines could not assist much. A correspondent in the Walsingham Union writes: "Crops stood up well, so binders and reapers were able to work, and with splendid weather harvest only lasted from 12 to 20 working days."

Reports from *Cambridgeshire* state that employment has been regular in the Unions of Chesterton, North Wilchford, Whittlesea, and the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Royston Union (*Herts and Cambs*). The corn ripened quickly, and caused a demand for extra labour, which was in many cases difficult to obtain; but the harvest was rapidly got in, machinery being largely used. Reports from the Chesterton Union show that sufficient labour has been secured for fruit-picking, except for a short time when the raspberries were ripe.

In *Lincolnshire*, agricultural labourers have been very well employed in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, Sleaford, and Spilsby, and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Notts and Lincoln*). The supply of labour has been short of the demand in most of these Unions. A report from the Sleaford Union states that "if it had not been for Irishmen and self binders, the work could not have been done." It is said, too, that in the Lincoln Union "weeding is much behindhand. In fact, second hoeing of swedes and turnips dispensed with owing to scarcity of labour."

Home Counties.—Employment is stated to be regular in *Buckinghamshire* in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, and Winslow, and also in *Berkshire* in the Unions of Bradfield, Wantage, and Newbury. The supply of labour in these counties is said to have been generally short during the month, but as stated by a correspondent from the Wantage Union, "The crops all stood up, so that it was nearly all cut by machinery, and the weather being fine it was done by less than half the manual labour." Reports from *Surrey* show that agricultural employment has been good in the Unions of Godstone, and Hambledon, and in the *Surrey* portion of the

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; TEXTILE TRADES; SEAMEN.

Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). A very short supply of labour is reported from the *Farnham Union*. Full and regular employment is reported from Kent from the Unions of Blean, Cranbrook, Eastry, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Sevenoaks, and Tenderden. A general scarcity of labour for harvest is referred to in returns from this county, though there appears to have been a sufficient supply of labour for fruit-picking and also for hop-picking in places where this work was commenced before the end of the month. It is stated, however, that in the Faversham Union fruit-pickers have been scarce, and have had to be paid high wages. The same correspondent, who states that he has consulted several large hop-growers in the district, sends the following scale of payments in connection with the hop crop for 1899:—Picking, 2½d. to 3½d. per bushel. A good single picker earns about 3s. 6d. to 4s. per day. Pole pullers are paid 24s. to 27s. per week; head dryer, 36s. to 40s. per week; second dryer, 25s. to 30s.; third dryer, 24s. to 27s.; also 1s. per pocket for pressing and 3d. per pocket for making and marking. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in *Hertfordshire* in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, St. Albans, and Watford.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment is stated to be regular in *Sussex* in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. There has been a general scarcity of labour for harvest in the county, but the crops stood well, and were mostly cut by self-binding machines, and this fact, coupled with the very favourable weather, resulted in most instances, it is stated, in a substantial saving in the labour bill. Reports from the Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, and Rye Unions state that there is sufficient labour for the hop gardens, but a correspondent from the Battle Union writes that "there will be very considerable difficulty in getting labour enough to secure the hop crop, although there has been a considerable reduction in the acreage during the last few years." In the Chailey and Uckfield Unions there has been no scarcity of fruit pickers, but higher wages have been obtained than last year by women engaged in picking small fruit. Favourable reports come from *Hampshire* as to agricultural employment in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Droxford, Fareham, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Kingsclere, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the *Hampshire* portion of the *Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey)*. Scarcity of labour is referred to in the reports from the Unions of Basingstoke Droxford, Fareham, Havant, and Petersfield. A correspondent from the Fareham Union writes: "If it had been an ordinary summer I fear we should not get our turnips and swedes set out. The long drought has done away with most of them." Employment is said to be regular in *Dorsetshire* in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne. No scarcity of labour appears to have been experienced during the month, and a report from the Wareham and Purbeck Union states that "the weather was so dry that the harvest was never so short as this year. Consequently there is no lack of labourers." Agricultural labourers are reported to be well employed in *Wiltshire* in the Unions of Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. The supply of labour is stated to be short in the Unions of Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Mere, and Pewsey, but, generally speaking, there was just sufficient labour available for the harvest, the weather being fine and there being very little hoeing of root crops in consequence of the drought.

In *Gloucestershire* work is said to be plentiful for agricultural labourers in the Unions of Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Thornbury, Wheatonhurst, and Winchcombe, and also in *Herefordshire* in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore, Ledbury, and Ross. Scarcity of labour is reported, except in the case of the Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach and Thornbury Unions. With reference to the supply of harvest labour a correspondent from the Ross Union states that the weather was fine and many self-binders used, and the crops were hauled a few days after cutting without a great portion being stacked, which was a great saving of labour. Reports from fruit growing districts show that the picking is mostly done by the regular hands, not much casual labour being employed. Hop-picking commenced in some parts of *Herefordshire* about the end of the month, and it is said that there is a scarcity of pickers. A report from the Bromyard Union states that "the iron trade being good in the Black Country, where the majority of the pickers come from, the men there state that if they leave their work now it will mean discharge on going back."

Employment is said to be generally regular in *Somerset* in the Unions of Bridgwater, Langport, Taunton, Wellington,

Wincanton, and Yeovil, but a report from the last named union states that since the harvest, which was finished by the middle of the month, "the severe drought has interfered very much with the employment of labour, as the men have been doing daywork instead of turnip hoeing, which is always done by the piece, and have earned less money in consequence." Employment has been generally regular in *Devonshire* in the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, and Torrington, and in *Cornwall* in the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton. It is reported from these two counties generally that the corn crop, owing to the continuous fine weather, took but little labour. There has been less hoeing on account of drought, and consequently less demand for labourers, but all men have been fully employed.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN AUGUST.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month continued very good in the textile trades, with a further improvement in the weaving branch of the cotton trade. Information has been received with regard to 552 cotton, woollen, and worsted mills, employing about 97,480 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time.	Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.	
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
August, 1899	87	1	1	1
July, 1899	98	1	1	—
August, 1898	90	2	4	4
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
August, 1899	97	2	—	1
July, 1899	92	7	1	—
August, 1898	75	23	1	1
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
August, 1899	96	3	—	1
July, 1899	97	1	2	—
August, 1898	74	18	7	1
Total of above Trades—				
August, 1899	87	2	—	1
July, 1899	95	4	1	—
August, 1898	79	16	3	2

Cotton Trade—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 26,290; of these, 97 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 98 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in July, and with 90 per cent. in August, 1898.

Cotton Trade—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 52,640; of these, 97 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 92 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in July, and with 75 per cent. in August, 1898.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,550; of these, 96 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 97 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in July, and 74 per cent. in August, 1898.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN AUGUST.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)
THE number of seamen shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 37,237 during August, an increase of 2,624 as compared with the number shipped in August, 1898, at which period, however, the South Wales ports were affected by the dispute in the coal trade. At Bristol the supply of seamen is stated to have been not quite equal to the demand, while firemen

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—SEAMEN; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; LONDON.

and trimmers were scarce at Swansea in the latter part of the month, crews having to be supplied from Cardiff. Both seamen and firemen are reported to have been scarce at Leith. At the other ports included in the table the supply was equal to, or in excess of the demand.

During the eight months ended August 31st, 1899, the number of men shipped was 275,739,* of which number 40,837 (or 14.8 per cent.) were foreigners, as compared with 14.1 per cent. in the first eight months of 1898, during which the total number shipped was 268,666. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in August, 1899 and 1898 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the eight months ended August in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in August, 1899.*			Total in August, 1899.*	Total number shipped in 8 months ended August*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in 1899.		1899.	1898.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	100	3,593	3,693	4,088	25,899	31,210
Sunderland ...	—	614	614	580	4,046	5,268
Middlesbrough ...	28	348	376	449	2,751	2,962
Hull ...	16	1,211	1,227	1,606	10,572	11,491
Grimsby ...	—	130	130	196	750	1,180
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	—	491	491	649	3,712	3,888
Newport, Mon. ...	81	836	917	299	8,873	5,039
Cardiff ...	159	4,410	4,569	1,667	41,279	26,008
Swansea ...	65	937	1,002	762	4,974	5,389
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	293	12,126	12,419	17,777	86,081	83,081
London ...	302	6,284	6,586	6,383	48,037	49,401
Southampton ...	—	1,603	1,603	1,296	11,533	12,133
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth Glasgow ...	90	2,912	3,002	3,271	19,239	20,703
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	174	174	97	957	861
Belfast ...	7	298	305	246	2,194	2,301
Total, August, 1899	1,411	36,096	37,507	—	275,739	—
Ditto, August, 1898	—	—	—	34,613	—	268,666

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves continues fairly steady, and is better than a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 14,460 during the four weeks ended August 26th, as compared with an average of 14,486 in the preceding five weeks, and with 13,813 in the corresponding period of 1898.

(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

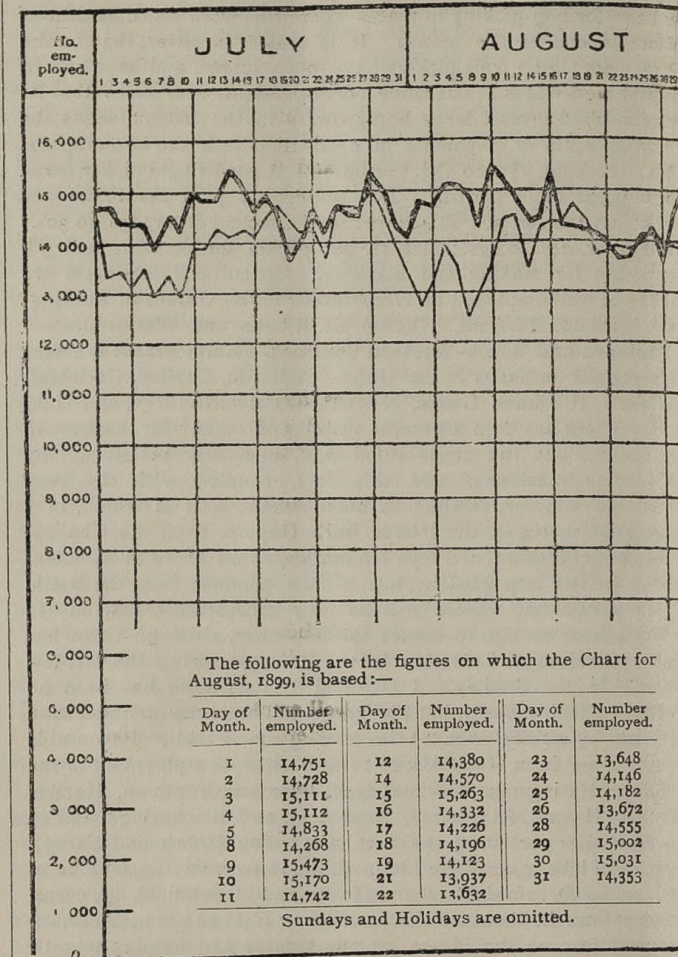
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Aug. 5	5,970	3,067	9,037	5,734	14,771
" " " 12	5,487	3,458	8,945	5,862	14,807
" " " 19	5,597	2,750	8,347	6,105	14,452
" " " 26	5,552	2,511	8,063	5,806	13,869
Average for 4 weeks ending Aug. 26th, 1899	5,659	2,924	8,583	5,877	14,460
Average for Aug, 1898†	5,852	2,233	8,085	5,728	13,813
Average for July, 1899	6,483	2,478	8,961	5,585	14,546

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and the principal wharves during July and August is shown on the chart below. The numbers in August ranged from 15,473 on the 9th to 13,632 on the 22nd.

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

During August, 1898, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 12,514 on the 6th to 14,719 on the 18th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of July and August, 1899. The corresponding curve for July and August, 1898, is also given for comparison.
[The thick curve applies to 1899, and the thin curve to 1898.]



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," below.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—There has been a falling off in employment during the month in certain industries, owing to seasonal causes, but on the whole employment still remains good for the time of year. Returns from 446 branches of 110 unions, having an aggregate membership of 75,093, show that 2,775 (or 3.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 3.1 in July, and 3.8 per cent. in August, 1898.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding* trades has remained steady and good. Reports from 148 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,635, show that 367 (or 1.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.6 in July, and 3.4 per cent. in August of last year. With sailmakers employment is good.

The *Building* trades still continue brisk. Returns from 178 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,957, show that 64 (or 0.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.6 in July, and also in August, 1898. The bricklayers, stonemasons, carpenters and joiners, and painters and decorators describe employment as good; the plasterers and stone-carvers as fair; the plumbers as moderate.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades is scarcely so good, though quite up to the average for the season. Reports from 48 branches of 12 unions, with a membership of 6,685, show that 209 (or 3.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.8 in July and 3.6 per cent. in August, 1898.

Coopers remain busy. Reports from two societies, with a membership of 1,000, show that 8 (or 0.8 per cent.) were unemployed, com-

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

pared with 0.6 in June and July. In August, 1898, no members were returned as unemployed.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights continue well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,412, show that 17 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.9 in June and July. The percentage for August, 1898, was 2.2.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades are slack, which is usual at this season. Returns from 22 unions with a membership of 23,360, show that 1,562 (or 6.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.1 in July, and 5.0 per cent. in August, 1898.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades is quiet. The West-end bespoke tailoring trade has been dull; the East-end bespoke trade quiet; the contract trade also quiet; the stock trade fair; the military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been only partially employed; with ladies' tailors and mantle-makers employment has remained bad. With hatters employment has been dull; capmakers have been busy; fur skin dressers have been slack; silk-weavers fairly well employed.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the West-end handsewn trade has been fair for the season, but was quiet at the close of the month; in the East-end sewn trade it has been fair; with boot and shoe operatives quiet.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has improved. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,624, show that 25 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.2 in July, and 4.0 per cent. in August, 1898.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,494, show that 77 (or 5.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.0 in July and 5.3 per cent. in August of last year.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane-Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 895, show that 28 (or 3.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.7 in July and 4.4 per cent. in August, 1898.

Gold and Silver Workers are fairly well employed, though short time is being worked in some branches. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,120, show that 3 (or 0.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.2 in July, and 1.8 per cent. in August of last year.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades has slightly improved. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,494, show that 172 (or 6.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7.5 last month, and 4.3 per cent. in August, 1898.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 14,460 in the four weeks ended August 26th, as compared with 14,486 in the preceding five weeks, and with 13,813, in August, 1898. Employment in mid-stream has been fairly good during the month. Employment has been good with lightermen, stevedores, deal porters and lumpers; moderate with coal porters and winchmen; slack with corn porters at the Surrey Docks, but moderate with those at the docks on the North side. Employment with the fruit porters in Thames street has been rather dull, the average daily number employed being 275, compared with 294 in July.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—All pits were idle on Bank Holiday. Steam and house coal collieries have each averaged 5.13 and 5.18 days per week for the four weeks ended August 26th, as against 5.23 and 5.33 days in July. The 22,173 union miners are all employed. Colliery mechanics and deputies are fully employed. *Durham.*—Coking coal collieries have worked well, having averaged 5.69 days, as against 5.58 days in July. Returns from 122 pits employing 57,325 men and boys, show an average of 5.52 days per week, as compared with 5.23 days in July. Of unemployed union miners there are 149 (or 0.24 per cent.), as against 113 (or 0.18 per cent.) in July. The 2,939 colliery enginemen and deputies have 3 members idle. The 3,300 cokeyard workers continue exceptionally brisk.

Metal Mining.—Lead mining continues quiet. Iron ore miners are working fairly steadily.

Quarrying.—One or two whinstone quarries in Weardale have worked much extra time. In Gateshead and district employment is reported as fairly good. At Stanhope and Frosterley quarries have worked full time. At Blyth and Haswell work has not been so good.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Night shifts at one or two engine shops have ceased. Boilermakers and locomotive builders are very busy. Much activity prevails in several departments of the ordnance works. Repair work is still slack. Riveters

are exceptionally good demand. Branches of these trades with 12,642 members have 314 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 290 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. Sailmakers on the north side of the Tyne are slack. *On the Wear.*—Iron shipbuilders in all branches are busy; two or three engine shops are quiet owing to being ahead with the work. Of the 5,142 members of these trades 91 (or 1.8 per cent.) are off work, as against 70 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. Employment of shipjoiners on the Wear has not been quite so good. Shipwrights on both rivers are better employed. Pattern-makers and iron and steel moulders continue fairly brisk. Steel plate and angle mills as well as smelting shops have worked full time. Chain and anchor-makers 5 1/2 days per week. Of the 1,450 engine and crane men 6 are unemployed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Trimmers and teamers have been somewhat slack. Coal porters and shippers have averaged full time. The demand for sailors and firemen is good.

Building Trades.—Painters are rather slack. Plumbers continue dull. Bricklayers, masons, slaters and tilers are busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with bookbinders is only moderate; with letterpress printers on the Tyne it is slack; at Sunderland it has improved. Three paper mills have been fully employed; five others have worked 155 shifts out of a possible 250.

Woodworking Trades.—Coopers are very brisk; cabinet makers and upholsterers are slightly slacker; mill-sawyers and lathrenders are all employed.

Other Chemical, Metal and Glass Trades.—Copper and white lead works are steadily busy. At one chemical factory employment has been somewhat slack. Bottle-workers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour report employment as very good; pressed glass-makers as moderate.

Fishing.—The supply of herring has been only moderate; prices have been exceptionally high. Trawlers have landed good supplies; line fishing has been poor.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—Cleveland miners report employment as good. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines reported on was 5.80 per week during the four weeks ended August 26th, as compared with 5.68 days in July, and 5.94 days per week in August, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,677, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,673.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Iron and steel works at Hartlepool are reported as busy. In other parts of the district employment continues good. Blastfurnacemen report employment as good. Metal expansion works and pipe foundries are busy; general foundry work is good; employment in chair foundries is moderate.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is good at Stockton and Bishop Auckland, moderate at Middlesbrough, Darlington, Hartlepool and South Bank. Ironfounders, smiths and strikers and pattern-makers report employment as good throughout the district. Branches with 3,737 members have 63 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed as against 43 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Shipbuilding.—Employment is reported as good generally at all the yards. Shipwrights, smiths and strikers report employment as good; shipjoiners as fair.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as continuing fairly good at Middlesbrough and fair at Hartlepool. Employment at the Middlesbrough docks has been slack; at Hartlepool fair. Riverside labour is good all along the river.

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as good at Hartlepool, moderate at Stockton and Middlesbrough; other branches as good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as good at Hartlepool and Stockton, moderate at Darlington and Middlesbrough. Sawmill, cement and concrete workers, pulp workers, salt workers, cabinetmakers, wood cutting machinists and mill sawyers are well employed.—*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry is good, although there is a falling-off in the average number of days worked as compared with both a month and a year ago, owing to the occurrence of holidays in the period under review. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended August 26th at the twenty pits covered by the returns was 5.50 per week, as compared with 5.71 days in July and 5.62 in August, 1898

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE.

The number of workpeople employed in August, 1899, at these pits was 6,149, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,114.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended August 26th at the 44 mines from which returns have been received was 5.82 per week as compared with 5.87 in July and 5.88 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at these mines in August, 1899, was 6,034, the corresponding figure for August, 1898, being 6,027.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces from which returns have been received is better than either a month or a year ago, four furnaces having been re-lit during the month. The number in blast at the end of August was 52, as compared with 48 in July and 47 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces was 4,229, or 363 more than in July and 309 more than in August, 1898.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—In Oldham and neighbourhood employment remains good; employment is also reported as good in Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Rochdale and Stockport districts, full time being worked. The twiners continue slack. Cardroom workers, throstle frame tenters and ring frame spinners are fully employed. Winders report employment as moderate and reelers as slack. **Weaving.**—Employment is reported as good in calicoes, as moderate in velvets, and as bad in fustians. Twisters, drawers, slashers, beamers and ball warpers report employment as good, and sectional warpers as fair.

Woollen and Silk Trades.—The woollen operatives in Rochdale and Milnrow districts report employment as good; in Stockport as moderate. Silk-dressers in the Rochdale district are indifferently employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate with the engineers and toolmakers; as good with brass-founders, ironfounders, pattern-makers, gas meter makers, plate and machine moulders, and tinplate workers. Employment is brisk with the boiler-makers. Iron-grinders report employment as good in machine shops, and as slack in cycle works.

Building Trades.—Employment in all sections is reported as good. **Coal Mining.**—In Oldham, Royton, Shaw, and Chadderton the miners are working full time.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—In Bolton and neighbourhood employment is reported as abnormally brisk. In Bury, Ramsbottom, Heywood, Leigh and Farnworth as fairly good. Cardroom operatives are well employed throughout the district. **Weaving.**—Employment is fairly good in Bolton, Farnworth, Walkden, Leigh, Chorley and Bury.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment with engineers, steam-engine makers, roller turners, machine fitters and brassfinishers continues steady at most firms in Bolton, and at Wigan, Bury, Leigh and Bedford iron and steel-rolling mills are busy.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fairly good throughout the district.

Coal Trade.—Some decline is shown in employment in all the mining districts.

Miscellaneous.—Printers, belt-makers, cloggers, and general labourers are moderately well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The state of employment continues good in the Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Darwen, Nelson, and Colne districts. Winders and warpers, twisters and drawers, and warp dressers in Colne, Nelson, and Brierfield continue fully employed.

Spinning.—Spinners report employment as very good at Blackburn, good at Preston and Darwen, fair at Accrington and Burnley. Card room workers continue fully employed in all the districts. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers, and warp dressers with 4,017 members have 85 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 97 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good throughout the district.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continues good, with few unemployed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report employment as good in the Burnley, Accrington, and Townley districts. Stone quarries are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors report employment as quiet; boot, shoe,

and slipper makers in the Rossendale district as moderate; cabinet-makers as very fair; woollen block printers as good, letterpress printers as fair.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 22,393 members have 533 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 422 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Ironfounders and machine-workers in Manchester, Warrington, and Stockport report employment as good. Boiler-makers in Northwich and Warrington are busy. Engineers and smiths and strikers report employment as moderate in Northwich and Manchester. Sheet metal-workers are busy; brassfounders and finishers and ironworkers report employment as fair.

Building Trades.—In Manchester employment is reported as good with bricklayers, bricklayers' labourers, concreters, and asphalters; with stonemasons in Manchester and Stockport as fair; with bricklayers and others connected with the building trades in Stockport, Macclesfield, and Northwich as moderate. Plasterers, decorators and glaziers report employment as moderate in Manchester; plumbers as bad. Employment in Warrington is moderate. In Stockport labourers in all branches are busy. Carpenters and joiners report employment as good; with house-painters and decorators it has declined.

Textile Trades.—In Macclesfield, employment in the silk trade is fairly good. Hand and power loom weavers, silk dressers, dyers and finishers are working full time. Cotton workers are busy; fustian cutters are moderately so. In Stockport the textile trades are fully employed. Employment is slack with dressers, dyers and finishers. In Manchester spinners report employment as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Tailoring in the bespoke department is quiet, the majority working short time. The Hebrew section report employment as moderate. Felt hatmakers and trimmers are busy on ladies' felts, slack on men's felts. Boot and shoemakers and shirtmakers report employment as moderate, but shirtmakers in Macclesfield are fairly busy. Cap makers are busy. Employment in ready-made mantle, wholesale tailoring and waterproof garment-making is quiet.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinetmakers generally in Manchester and Stockport report employment as moderate, the Hebrew branches as good; French polishers and upholsterers as fair. Cabinetmakers in Warrington are fairly well employed. Coachmakers are busy in Manchester, Warrington and Stockport.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers are not so busy in Manchester. Bookbinders and pattern cardmakers report employment as dull; electrotypers and lithographic artists as fair; lithographic printers as moderate.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, drillers, shipwrights, ship joiners, fitters and turners report employment as moderate; iron and brass founders, whitesmiths, and hammermen as good; ship painters and scrapers as dull.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen report employment as good; dock labourers as fair generally, good in the timber trade; quay and railway carters as moderate; Mersey flatmen as fair; coal-heavers as improved.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinetmakers and French polishers report employment as rather quiet; upholsterers as fair; coach builders and painters, sawyers and woodworking machinists as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors is falling off; with ready-made tailoring operatives and boot and shoe makers it is good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as moderate; letterpress printers and stereotypers as fair.

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as moderate; joiners and house carpenters as fair; all other branches as good.

Coalmining and Quarrying.—Coalminers are working on an average five days per week. Quarrymen continue busy.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as good; glassmakers, flatteners, and decorators as fair. Chemical workers continue dull.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has declined. Moulders report employment as fair; the building trades at Winsford and Middlewich as moderate; the boat-builders, boiler-smiths, and fustian-cutters as good in both towns; chemical workers at Middlewich as normal.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE; MIDLAND COUNTIES.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, steam engine makers, machine-workers, brassfounders and finishers, ironfounders and iron and steel dressers report employment as good; the smiths and strikers, patternmakers, sheet metal workers, boiler-makers, drillers and hole cutters, shipwrights and general labourers as moderate; the sailmakers as bad; the smiths, boiler-makers, and engineers at Beverley, Grimsby, Goole and Selby as good. At Doncaster the smiths and boiler-makers report employment as good; pattern-makers as fair; brassworkers and engineers as moderate.

Building Trades.—The continuance of the dispute is affecting the employment of those trades not directly included. The stonemasons and painters report employment as moderate; the slaters, tilers and plumbers as bad. The bricklayers at Goole report employment as moderate; the joiners as good at Grimsby; fair at Beverley; moderate at Driffield.

Transport Trades.—The seamen and firemen at Hull, Grimsby and Goole, and the railway workers and dock labourers at Hull, Goole, Grimsby and Selby, report employment as good.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen report employment as fairly good; the steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull and Grimsby, and general fishing trade labourers as fair; and the curing house workers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers at Doncaster report employment as good, at Hull as bad; the lithographic printers at Hull as moderate; the bookbinders and machine-rulers at Hull and Doncaster as quiet.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coach builders at Hull and Doncaster report employment as good; the mill-sawyers and wood machinists, cabinetmakers and brushmakers as moderate the cooperers as bad.

Leather Trades.—The curriers and leathersmiths at Doncaster report employment as good; the tanners, leather belt and lace-makers at Hull as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners at Hull report employment as good; the tailors at Hull and Doncaster as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,602 members have 172 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 190 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Leeds the engineers are steadily employed, with overtime at many firms; ironfounders are still busy. Other metal trades are fairly employed, except brassworkers and spindle and flyer-makers. At Wakefield engineers and ironfounders continue busy. At Stanningley and Radley ironfounders are busy; employment with boiler-makers is moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Ready-made tailoring operatives have been well employed, many firms working overtime; bespoke tailors are moderately busy. At Leeds boot and shoe factories continue busy; at Heckmondwike employment is good; at Bramley fair.

Textile Trades.—In Leeds the improvement in employment has been well maintained. Woollen spinners, blanket raisers, linen workers, willeys and fettleers are well employed. Dyers are improving. At Wakefield, in worsted and cloth mills, employment is steady; at Bramley good; at Yeadon and Guiseley slightly improved.

Building Trades.—Most of the bricklayers affected by the dispute have found work elsewhere. The labourers are the most adversely affected, and the plumbers and joiners have a few unemployed. At York and Harrogate the building trades are brisk.

Mining.—In Leeds and district the principal pits continue to work full time; ironstone and clay miners are well employed. In Pontefract, Castleford, and Wakefield districts coalminers generally are fully employed.

Leather Trades.—Tanners have been moderately well employed; curriers and leather-shavers are quiet; saddlers and harness-makers are not so busy as in July.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders and machine rulers as fair. Paper mill workers are busy.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle makers at Leeds, Wakefield and Castleford have been well employed; flint glass makers fairly so.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with brushmakers, cabinet-makers and mill sawyers is fair; with coachmakers good.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in Bradford and district is now considered good all round. Work is good in the weaving branches, and in the wool-sorting and machine wool-combing branches is said to be excellent. In Huddersfield, Halifax, Keighley and the Worth Valley employment continues good.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield remains good; overtime still continues, and night work obtains at one or two places. In the heavy woollen district employment is described as good all round.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham is described as moderate; at Halifax and Brighouse as fairly good. In the cotton trade it is fairly good in Huddersfield, Halifax, and Brighouse. Employment in the carpet trade is still fairly good.

Metal Trades.—The engineers in Bradford, Huddersfield, and Dewsbury report employment as good, in Keighley as moderate; the ironfounders as very good in Bradford and Keighley, and good in Halifax, Huddersfield, and Dewsbury.

Building Trades.—Employment is still very good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Glass workers are still fairly employed, whilst tailors and printers are still rather quiet. Employment with rag workers is fair.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Workmen in all sections continue well employed. Branches with 6,068 members have 47 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 41 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Cutlery and Tools.—Workmen in all branches of the tool trade are busy. Saw and filemakers are well employed. Razormakers are fairly busy. The pen and pocket-knife-makers are moderately employed on work for the home and colonial markets, but the American trade continues bad. Employment with haft and scale-pressers is slack; with handle and scalecutters moderate. Wool sheargrinders and finishers are fairly busy.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 55 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.45 days per week worked during the month. Several of the large collieries have stood two days owing to local holidays.

Other Metal Trades.—The brassworkers are fairly busy. Silver-platers and gilders report employment as good; all other branches are moderately employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair, lithographers as moderate, bookbinders as busy.

Building Trades.—All sections throughout the district continue well employed.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coachbuilders, cabinet-makers, box and bobbin makers and railway-carriage and wagon builders are well employed.

Linen Trade.—Employment is moderate.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors continue fairly busy. Employment in the ready-made tailoring section is busy; in the boot and shoe trade it is good.

Glass Trade.—Bottle-makers and flint glass workers throughout the district are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants, brickmakers, colliery surface-men, and general labourers continue well employed. Upholsterers and paper-makers report employment as good; down quilt-makers as improving.—*S. Utley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,457 members have 89 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 117 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Cycle workers in Long Eaton and Draycott report employment as bad. In all other branches employment is reported as good throughout the district.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 66 collieries employing upwards of 31,000 men show an average of 5 days per week worked, as against 5½ days in July.

Quarrying.—Limestone and chert quarrymen are all well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good throughout the district.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in Derby and Long Eaton continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders; it is fair with carriage builders in private shops. Coopers

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

at Burton-on-Trent report employment as good. All timberyards are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues good with cotton operatives and surgical bandage makers. Elastic web weavers report employment as bad; lace workers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton as improving; calico printers and engravers as fair generally; silk and merino workers, dyers and bleachers as good; hosiery workers as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives are fairly well employed. Factory tailoring operatives are fully employed; bespoke tailors report employment as dull generally; dress and mantle makers as fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers, lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment as good.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment, on the whole, shows a further decline; it continues full in the plain net, and moderate in the warp lace branches, but is bad in the curtain and levers sections. Auxiliary male lace workers, curtain readers and correctors report employment as moderate, warpers as fair, designers and draughtsmen as quiet, card punchers as good, women workers as moderate in factories, and very irregular in the finishing department. Employment is fair at Beeston, Stapleford and Bulwell; rather slack at Kimberley and Southwell. Bleachers at Basford and Bulwell are fairly well employed. Dyers are busy on silk and skein goods, slack in lace and fancy departments.

Hosiery Trade.—The hand frame branch report an improvement, full time being general. Other branches are well employed. Elastic bandage makers are brisk. Wool shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard report employment as bad. Employment is reported as good and regular in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Kirkby, Mansfield and Arnold.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment generally is on the decline with fitters and machinists. Lace and hosiery machine-builders are well employed, but rather quieter. Employment in the cycletrade is only moderate, and many are working short time. Ironfounders and boiler-makers report employment as good; tool machinists as good at Nottingham and fair at Beeston; machine-workers, boiler-makers and ironfounders as good at Grantham, moderate at Newark. Employment is reported as fair at Mansfield, good at Retford. Branches with 2,828 members have 79 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 81 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Coal Mining.—Returns from twenty-nine collieries employing some 15,400 men, show an average of about 4½ days per week, as against 4¾ days in July. The decline is in the pits engaged in house coal supply. Employment generally is good for the time of the year. Pits in North Notts are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, masons, slaters and plasterers are well employed; labourers report employment as moderate; painters as dull for the time of year; plumbers as not brisk.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers, coach-builders, coopers, basket-makers, perambulator-makers, upholsterers, polishers, picture-frame makers, packing-case makers and mill-sawyers report employment as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as bad; lithographic printers, lithographic artists and bookbinders report employment as only moderate; printers' labourers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as quiet; boot and shoe operatives as moderate at Nottingham; fair at Mansfield; good at Hucknall Torkard.

Railways.—Employment in all grades continues full. In some districts overtime is frequent.

Miscellaneous.—Gasworkers report employment as improving at Bulwell, Basford, and Newark; fair at Nottingham. Colliery enginemen, stationary engine-drivers, engine and crane men, and maltsters as improving; women cigar-makers as not so well employed; silkdressers as improved; bakers and confectioners as busy for the time of year. Cab and hackney carriage drivers are well employed. General labourers are well and regularly employed at Grantham, Mansfield and Retford.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment at Higham, Rushden, Melton, Desborough and Kettering continues good. It is moderate at Wellingborough, slack at Leicester, Hinckley and Northampton in all branches.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is improving in the ready-made tailoring trade, but remains quiet in the bespoke department. It is regular with corset-makers and mantle-makers, moderate with milliners and dressmakers, quiet with silk and felt hatters, and bad with capmakers.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—In all branches of the Leicester hosiery trade employment is good. At Loughborough it is fairly regular except in the shirt and pant department. It is good with dyers and trimmers, and operatives in woolspinning mills.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment is fairly regular in the cord and braid branches, slack with weavers.

Engineering Trades.—At Leicester, Northampton and Rugby employment is only moderate with general engineers; at Loughborough it is good. Ironfounders, tool-makers, needle makers and cycle-makers are fully employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment has further improved at the South Leicestershire coal pits. Stone quarrymen and lime and cement workers are still busy.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment is good with letterpress printers at Northampton and Leicester, moderate at Loughborough and Rugby. It is fair with lithographic printers and bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Nearly all branches report employment as satisfactory at Northampton, Kettering, and Wellingborough. It is quiet at Hinckley. In consequence of the continuance of the dispute at Leicester work is unsettled.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment with coach-makers, railway wagon and road car builders continues good. Cabinet-makers and upholsterers are fully employed.

Leather Trades.—At Northampton tanners and curriers are fairly well employed, but work is slack at Market Harborough and Leicester.

Miscellaneous.—Employment continues good with railway workers. It is fair with cigarmakers and millsawyers, good with bakers and confectioners.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Hollow-ware pressers are well employed. Sanitary-pressers, with few exceptions, are fully employed. Flat-pressers report an improvement. Printers and transferrers continue busy. Women gilders and decorators and men artists are fairly busy. Throwers, turners, and handlers are well employed, except in the electrical branches. Designers, modellers, and mould-makers report improvement.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment continues exceptionally good, but owing to the excessive heat, puddlers were unable to complete all the turns.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Throughout North Staffordshire engineers, boiler-makers, and moulders continue busy. At Stafford all branches are better employed. Copper and brass workers at Oakamoor and Frogghall continue well employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners continue busy, except at Cheadle, where short time prevails. Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are well employed.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade continues good. At Congleton silk dressers report a further improvement. Fastian cutters are well employed. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives are working full time. At Rostecr in the cotton mills short time is the rule.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors are not so busy; boot and shoe operatives at Stafford report a further decline. Corset makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne continue busy.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good in all branches.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers and lithographic artists and printers report a decline; bookbinders and machine-rulers are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with railway workers continues good. Basket-makers and brushmakers are fairly busy. Gasworkers report an improvement.—*J. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire and Shropshire employment continues good in all branches.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment with engineers continues good. Moulders, girder, tank and gasometer makers, and boiler and bridge makers are busy. Cycle makers report no improvement. At Walsall full time is being worked in the malleable iron trade. At Madeley and Coalbrook Dale employment continues good.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, axles, spring and coach iron-work, stamped hollow-ware, black castings, gunlocks, builders'

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

**ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.
Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives are fairly busy in some departments, dull in others. Ready-made tailoring operatives are working full time. Bespoke tailors, dressmakers, corset and shirt makers are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—All branches are well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment with electrical engineers, general engineers and boiler-makers is good. At Yarmouth shipwrights are dull; at Lowestoft shipwrights and boat builders are busy.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Bookbinders and lithographic printers are fairly busy. Letterpress printers are slack.

Fishing Industry.—At Yarmouth the fishing has slightly improved. The trawl fishing at Lowestoft is dull. Shell fishing at Lynn, Wells, Cromer, and Sheringham is fair.

Textile Trades.—Mat and matting and horsehair weavers are fairly busy. Silk and crape factories are on full time.

Woodworking Trades.—All branches are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Steam flour, oil cake, and saw mills, confectionery works, and mineral water factories are on full time. Electrical workers are fairly busy. Horticultural builders, tramway constructors, navvies, and timber carriers, and riverside workers are well employed.—*G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers, boiler-makers, moulders, and shipwrights report employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with boot and shoemakers and ready-made tailoring operatives. Corset-makers, dressmakers, and milliners are well employed.

Textile Trades.—Silkworkers at Sudbury and Halstead report employment as good; at Braintree as quiet; employment is good with mat weavers at Hadleigh, Lavenham and Long Melford; fair at Sudbury and Glemsford.

Building Trades.—Employment is good throughout the district.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment is good with letterpress printers at Colchester, Chelmsford and Southend; dull at Ipswich and Beccles. Bookbinders and lithographers have been steadily employed.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping has been good at Ipswich, Harwich and Parkeston; general labourers, riverside labourers, brick-makers, gas-workers and horticultural builders are well employed.—*R. W. Mather.*

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol and District.**

General.—Branches with 9,620 members have 59 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 109 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Kingswood boot and shoe trade continues good, and in Bristol there are signs of improvement at some of the factories. Bespoke tailors are fairly well employed; wholesale garment makers are busy. Employment with silk hatters is slack, with glovemakers moderate.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Branches of the iron and brass founders, engineers, patternmakers, smiths, and toolmakers report employment as good; the shipwrights as improving; the tinplate workers as fair; the brass finishers as quiet.

Coal Mining.—Employment is good in the Forest of Dean, Bristol and Radstock coalfields.

Building Trades.—Employment is brisk all through the district, except at Tiverton, where it is reported as quiet.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The upholsterers, mill-sawyers, cabinet-makers, turners, and coopers report employment as good; the woodcarvers as dull; the shop and barfitters as improving; the basketmakers as quiet.

Printing Trades.—The lithographic printers, bookbinders, and machine-rulers report employment as fair; the paper bag and stationery workers as good. The letterpress printers are not so busy as in July.

Textile Trades.—The West Somerset mills are busy, all departments working full time. In the Stroud Valley also employment is good, particularly on worsted coatings. At Trowbridge some slackness is reported on fancy woollens, otherwise employment is good. Twerton-on-Avon weavers are working about five days a week. Cotton operatives in Bristol, and silk laceworkers at Tiverton continue busy.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—A brisk demand is reported for seagoing men. Corn porters have been fairly busy; general cargo hands moderately so.

ironmongery, traps and hinges; moderate with makers of edge-tools, locks, keys and latches, tips and cut nails, electrical and cycle castings, and malleable nails and protectors, and with brass-workers. Employment is quiet with filesmiths, stampers and piercers, galvanisers, tinplate-workers, and spectacle-frame makers. Employment with the ironplate-workers is quiet at the Lye; moderate at Bilston and Wolverhampton. At Halesowen the wrought nailmakers continue dull. At Old Hill and district the chainmakers and strikers report employment as fair. At Cradley Heath block chainmakers are well employed; anchor-smiths are quiet. At Dudley the anvil and vice makers report no improvement. At Wednesbury the iron and steel forges continue busy.

Coal Mining.—The pits on Cannock Chase have been working on an average half time, in Old Hill and district 4½ days per week; in the Oldbury, Tipton, and Dudley districts 5 days. In Shropshire the pits are working full time. At the Tamworth pits miners are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is good in all branches.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass cutters, makers, etchers, bevellers, engravers, and intaglio workers at Stourbridge and Wordsley, and the glass bottle makers at Brierley Hill report employment as good.

Leather Trades.—At Walsall the harness makers and gig saddlers are busy; the brown saddlers are fairly well employed; the buckle, chain, cart gear, case hame and spring hook makers continue well employed.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster employment in the carpet trade keeps steady. The Bridgnorth mills are fully employed. The Tamworth tape mills are busy.

Clothing Trades.—There has been a slight falling off in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments during the month. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is rather quiet.—*C. Anthony.*

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches with 20,523 members have 392 (or 1.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 442 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Engineering.—In Birmingham eight branches of engineers report employment as moderate, two as good, and one as bad; toolmakers as moderate; patternmakers, ironfounders, and smiths and strikers as good. In Coventry and West Bromwich employment is good at Redditch moderate. The motor industry at Coventry continues fairly brisk. Employment in the cycle trade throughout the district is quiet.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment continues fairly good in the brass trades. Copper tube makers are reported as fully occupied; brass and copper wire drawers as quiet.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Jewellers return employment as brisker. Silversmiths and electro plate workers are moderately well employed. Plate-glass bevellers and silverers return employment as good.

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of bedsteads, nuts and bolts, wrought iron and steel hinges, rivets and screw blanks, steel toys, and steam, gas and water tubes report employment as good; makers of scale beams, weighing machines, matchettes, edge tools and nails, and tinplate workers as fair; iron plate workers, and file cutters by hand as quiet. At West Bromwich iron and hollow-ware workers report employment as good; springmakers as fair; hame and coach axle makers as quiet. At Redditch the needle and fish-hook makers continue busy.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as very fair, but as declining at Coventry.

Glass Trades.—The flint-glass makers and flint-glass cutters return employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe makers are fairly employed. Tailors are reported as quiet.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers, carvers, coachmakers, woodworkers and woodworking machinists, and coopers report employment as good. In the railway and wagon shops employment though rather quiet is improving.

Miscellaneous.—Gasworkers and general labourers return employment as good; letterpress printers and brickmakers as moderate; saddlers as quiet; bagmakers as fair; other branches of the leather trade as busy; gunmakers as fair in the sporting, bad in the military section. Employment with the watchmakers and ribbon weavers at Coventry is reported as steady; with the fancy case-makers at Redditch as busy.—*A. R. Jephcott.*

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—WALES; SCOTLAND.

Miscellaneous.—The curriers, butchers, and provision workers, brushmakers, glass bevellers and cutters, glass bottle makers and brick makers report employment as good; floor cloth makers, saddlers, and general labourers as moderate.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—In the tin and copper mines work continues plentiful. In iron mines work is steady. In the granite quarries employment continues good, and in the slate and limestone quarries fair. China clay workers are regularly employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers continue well employed in Plymouth, Devonport, and Redruth; moderately so in Newton and Exeter. Boiler-makers, ironfounders, and iron and steel ship-builders are well employed. Shipwrights report work as good in Plymouth and Devonport, falling off at Falmouth, and quiet at Brixham and Dartmouth. In the Government yards employment is good, and some overtime continues to be worked. Branches with 2,135 members have 13 unemployed, compared with 10 at the end of July.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good with masons, carpenters and joiners, and plasterers; moderate with plumbers and bricklayers.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Work is fair with letterpress and lithographic printers. Bookbinders and paper-rulers continue steadily employed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and wood-working machinists are well employed; work continues fair in cabinet factories and joinery works. French polishers are moderately employed; upholsterers are quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors is dull; with ready-made tailoring and boot and shoe operatives, fair.

Dock and Quayside Work.—Employment though slack at first, has improved; grain work has been quiet the whole month.

Fishing Industry.—At Brixham fishing is reported as irregular; at Plymouth as quiet at first, but improved since; at the western stations as fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Work continues satisfactory with excavators, brickyard workers and general labourers. Work in the market and fruit gardens is still falling off.—*W. Hedge.*

WALES.

North Wales District.

Mining.—Employment at the coal mines continues good, although the number of days worked shows a falling off owing to the holidays. Employment with the lead and blende miners continues good; a lead mine which was flooded out some time ago has been restarted.

Quarrying.—Employment continues good at the slate quarries. Owing to an accident at one slate quarry some 500 men and boys will be unemployed for some time. Employment continues good at the freestone, lime and roadstone and granite sett quarries.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers at Wrexham and Oswestry report employment as good; the carpenters and joiners at Bangor as fair; at Colwyn Bay as quiet; the plasterers at Llandudno as good; the plasterers and painters at Wrexham as fair.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good with iron and steel workers. It is moderate with the engineers at Sandy-croft and Oswestry, quiet at Ruabon, brisk at Cefa. The ironfounders at Wrexham report employment as good; the coach-makers at Oswestry as moderate; at Rhyl as good; the wagon-makers at Ruabon as good. The tinplate workers at Mold are fully employed.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The woollen and tweed factories of Montgomeryshire have worked full time. The bespoke tailors at Bangor report employment as quiet; at Wrexham as slack; at Oswestry and Rhyl as fair.

Brick and Terra Cotta Industries.—Employment continues good.—*G. Rowley.*

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Blaenavon, Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Rhymney Valley, and Tredegar collieries have worked full time, and throughout the district collieries have worked with exceptional regularity. Returns from the Aberdare, Merthyr and Rhondda Valleys show that out of 80 collieries 60 have worked full time, 13 have stopped one day, and one colliery has stopped two days, the stoppages being due generally to holidays.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been moderate,

and general cargo above the average. Employment in the iron ore, pitwood and timber trade has been good; in the corn trade quiet. Dock hoblors have had a quiet month. Shipment of crews has been moderate.

Ship-Repairing and Engineering.—All branches report less regular employment than during the previous months. Branches of engineers and ironfounders with 2,903 members have 140 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 124 (or 4.4 per cent.) at the end of July. Fitters' helpers, boiler-makers' helpers, and general labourers report employment as quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment continues fairly good. Branches of carpenters, and joiners and plumbers, with 1,835 members return 40 (or 2.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 29 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The works, with two exceptions, are reported as giving full employment.

Miscellaneous.—Fuel workers have been busy. Metallurgical and chemical industries are quiet. Wagon builders and lifters report employment as good; lithographers and letterpress printers as moderate.—*T. Davies.*

Tin-plate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—The improvement in employment has been maintained, although in some districts, especially around Swansea, the output has been affected by the scarcity of water. At the end of August 377 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), giving employment to an estimated number of 19,128 workpeople, as compared with 383 mills employing 19,064 workpeople at the end of July, and 276 mills, employing 14,855 workpeople a year ago.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches with 16,500 members have 282 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 241 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good.

Shale Miners and Oilworkers.—Returns from 29 mines employing 3,077 workpeople (as compared with 2,908 in August, 1898) show that 2,123 of these workpeople were in mines working 24 days in the four weeks ending August 26th, and 954 in mines working 22 and under 24 days.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,228 members have 32 (or 1.4 per cent.) idle, as against 40 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. Branches in Falkirk with 3,585 members have 50 (or 1.4 per cent.) idle, as against 9 members at the end of July.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 605 members have 63 (or 10.4 per cent.) idle, as against 51 (or 8.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Textile Trades.—Employment with woollen spinners and weavers continues good in Hawick, Selkirk, and Galashiels. Employment in the hosiery industry continues good in Selkirk and Hawick. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,470 members have 12 (or 0.2 per cent.) idle, as against 60 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,301 members have 31 (or 2.4 per cent.) idle, as against 10 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as good. The coal porters and dock labourers have been fully employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,282 members have 61 (or 2.7 per cent.) idle, as against 44 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Miscellaneous.—The settmakers, curriers, glass cutters, and saddlers report employment as good; the bakers and shoemakers as quiet; the glassmakers and tailors as bad.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment generally is not so good. Branches with 14,505 members return 288 (or 2.0 per cent.) as idle, as against 200 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is hardly so good. Branches with 29,190 members return 653 (or 2.2 per cent.) as idle, as against 574 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Building Trades.—Employment continues fairly good.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SCOTLAND; IRELAND.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as good.

Metal Trades.—The ironfounders, engineers, electrical workers, and boiler-makers report employment as good; the silver-plate workers, smiths and horseshoers as fair; the whitesmiths as moderate.

Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as bad; the upholsterers as fair; the coachmakers and wagon-builders as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as dull; the electrotypers as fair; the lithographers as dull; the book-binders as good; the machine-minders and despatch assistants as fair. Branches with 1,348 members return 125 (or 9.3 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 130 (or 9.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Miscellaneous.—The bootmakers report employment as bad; the corporation labourers, dockers and grain labourers, and the bottle-makers as good.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Societies with 8,601 members have 297 (or 3.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 270 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. The blacksmiths' helpers and strikers and sailmakers report employment as bad; the blacksmiths as moderate; the carpenters and joiners as dull; the engineers and machine-workers as quiet; the brass founders, furnishing trades, enginemen, cranimen and firemen, and general labourers and platers' helpers as fair; the drillers and hole-cutters as busy; the pattern-makers as steady; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, iron-founders, shipwrights, and sheet metal workers as good.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 4,105 members have 71 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of July. The yarn bundlers report employment as quiet; the flaxdressers as moderate; the tenters as improving; the women-workers as busy; the beetling enginemen, flax-roughers, linen-lappers, yarn-dressers, and hackle and gill-makers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches having 2,135 members have 103 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. The builders' labourers report employment as bad; the plumbers as dull; the carpenters and joiners as quiet; the bricklayers and painters as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 853 members have 31 (or 3.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 20 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. The upholsterers, mill-sawyers and coopers report employment as dull; the cabinet-makers and packing casemakers as fair; the French polishers and coachmakers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Societies with 935 members have 79 (or 8.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 4.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; the bookbinders as slack; the letterpress printers as dull; the lithographic artists and designers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair; the hand-sewn bootmakers as good. A number of the tailors are only partially employed.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,955 members have 46 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 36 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. The municipal employees report work as dull; the butchers and carters as fair; the bakers, locomotive engine-drivers, railway workers, and paviors as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron ship-builders report employment as good throughout the district; engineers as having slightly declined; shipwrights and shipjoiners as fair; riggers and sailmakers as dull.

Building Trades.—Employment continues fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and wood cutting machinists, cabinetmakers, upholsterers, and coachmakers report employment as moderate.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment is quiet with flax, tweed, and feather operatives, tailors, and boot and shoe makers.

Transport Trades.—Railway servants and tramway employees report employment as good; dock and quay labourers, coal porters, sailors and firemen as fair.—*P. O'Shea.*

Mining.—In Stirlingshire men are still working an average of five days per week. In Dumbartonshire and Ayrshire work is good at all the pits. In Lanarkshire employment is fairly good, but at several collieries time is lost for want of wagons. In Renfrewshire employment is well maintained.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are hardly so busy. Clothiers' operatives report employment on ready-made clothing as very busy. Boot and shoe operatives and knee boot and shoe makers are quiet. Curriers continue well employed.

Textile Trades.—With a few exceptions employment generally is good throughout the district.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as improved; lithographic printers as moderate; electrotypers and stereotypers as fair; bookbinders as still dull.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass cutters and makers, and decorative glassworkers report employment as dull; glass bottle makers as busy.

Miscellaneous.—The spindle and flyer makers, saddlers, sett-makers, paviors, potters, calico engravers, scale beam makers, corkcutters, tobacco pipe makers and finishers, gilders and stone-ware throwers, and labourers are well employed. Seamen have been dull. Carters, tramwaymen, railwaymen, and hackney carriage-drivers are fairly busy.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—There is at present much activity in the jute industry, and employment remains good. The linen trade, too, is unusually busy, and machinery is in full operation.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the Fifeshire collieries remains steady. Returns from pits employing 11,336 workpeople show an average of 5.4 days per week worked during the four weeks ending August 26th, as compared with 4.6 days per week during July.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Dullness prevails in certain sections of the engineering trade; but in the shipbuilding industry employment continues good. Branches of societies with 2,279 members return 131 (or 5.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 117 (or 5.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in the building and woodworking trades continues good. Societies with 1,764 members give 20 as idle, as compared with 8 at the end of July.

Dock Labour.—Considerable briskness has prevailed at the harbours, and dock labour has been fairly well employed.

Fishing Industry.—The season for the herring fishing is now nearing a close. The white fishing has been poor. The salmon fishing, which closed on 26th August, has proved a little better than last year, though behind average seasons.

Miscellaneous.—In the printing and allied trades employment has continued fairly good; in the boot and shoe trade it is moderate; in the tailoring trade quiet; floorcloth and linoleum-makers and bleachers are busy.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,834 members have 94 (or 1.4 per cent.) idle, as against 71 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Quarrying.—The masons, quarrymen and settmakers report employment as good; granite polishers as fair.

Building Trades.—The masons and carpenters and joiners report employment as good; painters and slaters as fair; plumbers as moderate; plasterers as quiet.

Transport Trades.—The railway workers and carters report employment as good; dock labourers as moderate.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,475 members have 22 (or 1.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 27 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. All branches still report employment as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives, and mill and factory workers report employment as good; boot and shoe makers, and carpet weavers as bad; tailors as fair.

Fishing.—In August at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 70,833 cwt. of fish, with a value of £38,983, a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value, as compared with July. A number of boats are still engaged in the herring fishing.

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

Miscellaneous.—The sawmillers, saddlers and cabinetmakers report employment as good; upholsterers as fair; combmakers and bakers as bad.—*W. Johnston.*

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN AUGUST, 1899.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during August affected about 26,380 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected was an increase of about 1s. 3½d. per head. About 26,126 received advances averaging 1s. 3½d. per head, and 254 sustained decreases averaging 2s. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 2,830 steel smelters in the West of Scotland, the North-East coast of England and the Midlands, to 3,778 steel workers in the West of Scotland and at Workington, and to 6,022 cotton spinners and weavers in Lancashire and Cheshire. A provisional increase of 1s. per week was also granted to 5,300 engineers in Mid-Lancashire, pending the decision of an arbitrator.

Decreases.—About 120 fitters' helpers at Newport (Mon.), and 82 A.B.'s and firemen shipped at Swansea sustained decreases.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 2,001 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. One change affecting 2,000 workpeople was arranged under a conciliation and arbitration board, and changes affecting 22,379 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or conceded voluntarily by the employers.

Summary for First Eight Months of 1899.—For the eight months, January to August, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 978,183. Of these, 975,598 obtained a net average increase of 1s. 3d. per head, and 2,585 sustained a net average decrease of 1s. 5½d. per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 1s. 3d. per week in the wages of the 978,183 workpeople affected.

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

Main table for page 280 showing changes in wages for various occupations and localities. Includes sections for Building Trades, Mining and Quarrying, and Iron and Steel Manufacture.

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

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

Continuation of the wage change table for page 280, covering Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, Textile Trades, Employees of Public Authorities, and Miscellaneous Trades.

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. ‡ This advance is for three months certain. Its continuance beyond that period depends upon the decision of an arbitrator who is now holding an inquiry at Salisbury. § Per month.

STATE ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The annual report of the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation in Massachusetts for the year ended December 31st, 1898, deals in detail with twenty-two cases to which the attention of the Board was directed, fifteen of these cases concerning boot and shoe operatives. In one case affecting hotel firemen an agreement between the parties was concluded under the Board's auspices. In five other cases, of which four affected boot and shoe operatives, and one affected leather shavers, the Board issued awards at the request of the parties concerned. In one of these five cases the workpeople at first refused to accept the award of the Board, but ultimately resumed work on the terms of the award, at the same time giving sixty days' notice for alteration of these terms. Before the expiry of the notice modified terms were agreed upon between the parties.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS IN FRANCE.

The law on the above-mentioned subject, of which an account appeared in the GAZETTE of May, 1898 (page 132), provides that all societies or funds undertaking insurance against employers' liability for compensation for accidents shall be supervised by Government, and are bound to form reserve funds or give security in such manner as shall be fixed by official order. The order contemplated by these provisions having been issued on February 28th, 1899, the Government has addressed a circular, under date of August 12th, 1899, to the official representatives of the State (procureurs généraux) attached to the Appeal Courts directing their attention to the requirements of this order, and enjoining these officers to take strict measures to check any contravention of its provisions.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN AUGUST, 1899.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during August were all decreases and affected 1,942 workpeople, whose hours were reduced on an average by 2'37 hours per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect in 1899.	Approximate number of work-people directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week.*			Extent of De-crease per week.
				Before change.	After change.	Hrs.	
Sunderland	Cabinet makers; Riggers and Lumpers	14 Aug. 17 July	20	53'00	50'00	3'00	1'00
Leeds	Cabinet Makers	25 Aug.	30	52'00	49'50	2'50	3'00
Altrincham	Cabinet Makers; Chair and Sofa Makers	1 Aug. 4 Sep.	50	51'00	48'00	3'00	3'00
South Staf-fordshire	Tram Drivers and Conductors	5 & 12 Aug.	39	73'00	66'25	6'75	1'00
Northamp- ton	Carpenters and Joiners; Bricklayers; ...	2 Sep.	492	54'00	53'00	1'00	1'00
Welling- borough	Bricklayers; ...	5 Aug.	65	54'31	53'56	0'85	1'00
Worcester	Plasterers; ...	26 Oct.	36	53'19	51'42	1'77	1'00
London	Bill Posters; ...	29 July	137	60'00	53'00	7'00	1'50
London	Tramway Men	2 Aug.	120	79'50	78'00	1'50	6'00
Newport	Deal Carriers	1 Aug.	98	60'00	54'00	6'00	6'50
(Mon.)							
Aberdeen	Tram Drivers and Conductors	24 Aug.	80	63'25	56'75	6'50	28'00
Johnstone	Gas Stokers and Labourers	26 Aug.	15	84'00	56'00	28'00	

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

DURING August 482 fresh applications for work were registered by eight bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns and 474 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 98 persons, of whom 56 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency and the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following table, which shows the work done by the eight bureaux during August:—

WORK DONE IN AUGUST.

	Month of August,		Eight months ended August,	
	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.
	No. of Fresh Applications offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Work-people seeking Situations.	No. of Fresh Applications offered by Employers.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.
Summary by Bureaux.				
Central Bureau—				
60, Chancery-lane	26	40	5	
Society for Promoting Training and Employment—				
22, Berners-street	12	28	88	
Y. W. C. A.—				
26, George-street (1)	355	280	51	
Hanover-square (2)	49	57	18	
Other Bureaux	32	77	16	
Total of 8 Bureaux	474	482	98	
Total in July	586	468	155	
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc....	14	49	5	
Shop Assistants	2	10	1	
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	40	35	18	
Apprentices and Learners	14	26	7	
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	5	4	2	
Domestic Servants	369	251	56	
Miscellaneous	30	107	9	
Total Number in August	474	482	98	
Total Number in July	586	468	155	

The number of situations for superintendents fell from 36 in July to 14 in August; the number offered to dressmakers rose from 35 in July to 40 in August, and the number applying for such work fell from 47 in July to 35 in August. The number of persons engaged by employers fell from 155 in July to 98 in August.

* Exclusive of overtime.
 † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the hours for five summer and two winter weeks.
 ‡ See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.
 § In addition to 4 temporary engagements as waitresses in private houses.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following table shows the number of cases of lead poisoning (classified by industries) and of mercurial poisoning and anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during August. Nearly all the cases of lead poisoning reported affected males (79 out of 82), while in August, 1898, 93 cases affected males and 21 cases affected females. Lead works accounted for 34, and the china and earthenware industry for 8 cases in August last, the figures for a year ago being 36 and 23 respectively.

The death of one female is reported in August from lead poisoning. Fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Lead Poisoning—									
China and Earthenware	6	2	—	—	—	—	6	2	8
Glass	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White, Red, and Orange Lead Works	33	1	—	—	—	—	33	1	34
Paints and Colours	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Smelting	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Pile Making	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Coach Making, &c.	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	7
Other Industries	25	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	25
Total Lead Poisoning	79	3	—	—	—	—	79	3	82
Corresponding Total for August, 1898	91	21	2	—	—	—	93	21	114
Mercurial Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Anthrax	3	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	5
Ditto, August, 1898	7	—	7	—	—	—	2	—	2

NOTE.—No cases of phosphorus or arsenic poisoning have been reported in August, 1899. In August, 1898, there were four cases of phosphorus poisoning reported from lucifer match works, affecting three males and one female.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of August, and the eight completed months of the year 1899, with comparative figures for 1898:—

	Month of August,		Eight months ended August,	
	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.
Imported	79,699	85,043	2,157,946	2,459,227
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	199,238	208,190	2,075,250	2,111,996
Exported	45,747	25,582	406,328	293,556

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended September 2nd, amounted to £7,656,717, an increase of £413,936 (or 5'7 per cent.), over the corresponding period of 1898. The receipts from passenger traffic were £4,205,803, an increase of £395,984, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,450,914, an increase of £17,952.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during August was £1,090,410, an increase of £226,981, as compared with August, 1898. In England and Wales there was an increase of £33,698, in Scotland of £187,915, and in Ireland of £5,368.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during August numbered 333, being 41 less than in August, 1898, 11 more than in August, 1897, and 24 more than in August, 1896.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office, issued in July, contain information useful to intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, the rates of wages, and cost of living in the various British colonies. Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the colonies, and as to the arrangements in force for the reception of emigrants.

A summary of the Consular Reports in 1898, from North and South America, has also been issued, and contains extracts from the reports likely to be of interest to intending emigrants. The summary can be obtained for twopence, and the quarterly circulars free, on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN AUGUST.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during August was 326, being 26 more than in July, and 34 more than in August, 1898.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,383,534 persons (according to the latest available figures), 315 were reported killed, and 6,895 injured by accidents during August, as compared with 267 reported killed and 6,126 injured in August, 1898. These figures give one death in August for every 17,091 persons employed in those industries. During the eight completed months of 1899, 2,843 persons were reported killed and 54,708 injured, as against 2,322 reported killed and 42,516 injured in the corresponding period of 1898.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 11 persons were reported as killed, and 885 injured in August, as compared with 25 reported killed and 805 injured in August of last year.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	August, 1899.	August, 1898.	August, 1899.	August, 1898.	
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	47	41	446	394	534,141
Other Accidents	5	5	940	739	
Total Railway Service	52	46	1,386	1,133	534,141
Mines	84	82	400	367	741,125
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	7	14	102	147	134,478
Shipping	114	79	177	231	230,372*
Factories	58	46	4,830	4,248	3,743,418
Total of above	315	267	6,895	6,126	5,383,534
Workshops	12	9	Cannot be stated.
Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23	8	20	656	642	
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	3	5	217	154	

DETAILED TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	5	68	—	17	85
Engine Drivers	2	38	—	40	78
Firemen	2	54	—	56	110
Guards (Passenger)	1	10	—	6	16
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	12	18	—	93	111
Porters	9	75	2	222	297
Shunters	1	72	—	5	77
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	15	111	3	501	612
Total for August, 1899	47	446	5	940	1,386
Total for August, 1898	41	394	5	739	1,133
Mines—					
Explosions of Firedamp	26	31	—	—	26
Falls of ground	32	149	—	—	32
In shafts	3	14	—	—	3
Miscellaneous	17	152	6	54	206
Total for Aug., 1899	78	346	6	54	400
Total for Aug., 1898	70	331	12	36	367
Quarries over 20 feet deep					
Explosives or Blasting	2	3	—	—	2
Falls of ground	1	25	—	—	1
During ascent or descent	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	3	63	1	11	74
Total for Aug., 1899	6	91	1	11	102
Total for Aug., 1898	12	87	2	60	147

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	
Shipping—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	45	1	16	35	61
Steam	—	—	53†	136	53
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	—	—	2	—	2
Steam	—	—	3	—	3
Total for August, 1899	45	1	69†	176	114
Total for 3 months June, 1899, to August, 1899	205	8	199	675	683
Total for 3 months June, 1898, to August, 1898	70	8	181	763	771
Factories—					
(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—					
Adults	49	934	—	120	49
Young Persons	9	382	—	89	9
Children	—	11	—	4	—
Total	58	1,327	—	213	58
(b) Other Accidents—					
Adults	—	2,772	—	51	—
Young Persons	—	436	—	26	—
Children	—	5	—	—	—
Total	—	3,213	—	77	—
Total Factories—					
August, 1899	58	4,540	—	290	58
August, 1898	44	3,989	2	309	46
Workshops—					
Adults	—	8	—	1	—
Young Persons	—	1	—	2	—
Children	—	—	—	—	—
Total Workshops—					
August, 1899	—	9	—	3	—
August, 1898	—	8	—	1	—
Factories & Workshops (classified by trades).					
Textiles—					
Cotton	1	153	—	86	1
Wool and Worsted	3	65	—	47	3
Other Textiles	—	30	—	35	—
Non-Textiles—					
Extraction of Metals	2	30	—	—	2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	11	454	—	5	11
Machines, Engines and Engineering	14	1,370	—	5	14
Ship and Boat Building	6	850	—	—	6
Wood					

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty-three fresh disputes were reported as having begun in August, 1899, compared with 51 in July, and 44 in August, 1898. In these 33 disputes 8,125 workpeople were directly affected and 2,107 indirectly affected, a total of 10,232, compared with 10,022 in July, and 10,457 in August, 1898.

Trades Affected.—In the building trade 5 disputes took place, involving 354 workpeople; mining, 8 disputes, involving 5,873 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 6 disputes, involving 611 workpeople; textile trades, 6 disputes, involving 1,711 workpeople; and in other industries, 8 disputes, involving 1,683 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 33 new disputes, 24 arose chiefly on wages questions, 2 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 4 on questions of working arrangements, and 3 from other causes.

Results.—Twenty-five new disputes, involving 9,091 workpeople, and 18 old disputes, involving 2,548 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 43 new and old disputes terminated, 14, involving 5,575 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 13, involving 1,929 persons, in favour of the employers; 15, involving 4,085 persons, resulted in a compromise; while in the case of the remaining dispute, involving 50 persons, work was resumed pending further negotiations. At the end of August, 27 old disputes were reported to be unsettled, involving altogether about 2,400 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The total duration in August of all the disputes, new and old, was about 120,700 working days, compared with 190,000 in July, and 2,594,000 in August, 1898.

Summary for the First Eight Months of 1899.—For the eight completed months of 1899 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 487 disputes which commenced in those months was 102,296, as compared with 198,725 in the 439 reported in the corresponding period of 1898. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 1,684,000 as compared with 14,500,000 for the corresponding period of 1898, which included the South Wales coal dispute.

Table with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST, 1899.

Table for Building Trades (354 Workpeople affected) with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

MINING. 5,873 Workpeople affected.

Table for Mining (5,873 Workpeople affected) with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 611 Workpeople affected.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (611 Workpeople affected) with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

TEXTILE TRADES. 1,711 Workpeople affected.

Table for Textile Trades (1,711 Workpeople affected) with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* 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.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued.)

Table with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST, 1899.—(continued.)

Table for Other Trades (1,683 Workpeople affected) with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE AUGUST, 1899, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for Building Trades (256 Workpeople affected) with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Mining and Quarrying (1,637 Workpeople affected) with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (276 Workpeople affected) with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Other Trades (479 Workpeople affected) with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* 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.

DANGEROUS TRADES.

The fourth interim report of the Dangerous Trades Committee to the Home Office has been published (C.9420; price 3d.), and contains a supplementary report and evidence on the manufacture and use of grindstones, and on file-cutting. The final report of the Committee has also been issued (C.9509; price 5d.). It includes another report on the manufacture and use of grindstones, and also reports on the manufacture and use of emery wheels, basic slag works, the manufacture of silicate of cotton, the manufacture of salt, flour mills, metalochrome powder in lithographic works, the use of lead in various forms in print and dye works, the process of dyeing with arseniate of soda, and the licking of labels for reels in thread mills. The Committee recommend that all deaths among workpeople who have been employed at any time within three months immediately preceding death in a trade in which Special Rules are established should be compulsorily reported to the Coroner.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

West Scotland District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under Manager of a Mine will be held on 24th and 25th November, 1899. Intending candidates should communicate, on or before 15th November, with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Stuart Foulis, 140 Hope-street-Glasgow.

Midland District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under Manager of a Mine will be held on 19th, 20th, and 21st October. Intending candidates should communicate, on or before 18th October, with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. William Saunders, Wilson-street, Derby.

Manchester District.—An examination for certificates of competency as Manager or Under Manager of a mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King-street, Wigan.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

DURING August the 10 bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,721 fresh applications for work, as compared with 2,074 in August, 1898, a decrease of 353.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of August, 1899, was 1,202, as against 1,508 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in August.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications offered by Employers during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Bureaux, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during August, 1899.

Table with columns: Category (Engaged by Private Employers, Local Authorities, Salvation Army), Gender (Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls), Occupation, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total.

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month.

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of August, 1899, August, 1898.

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.) The number of paupers relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of August was 315,673.

Compared with July, 1899, the number of persons relieved has increased by 814, but this small increase has not affected the rate per 10,000, which remains the same.

Compared with August, 1898, the number relieved has decreased by 7,710, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 7.

In the 35 districts there are decreases, the most important being in the Bristol district (42 per 10,000).

Stockton and Tees (32), Leicester, and Cardiff and Swansea districts (22 each), Newcastle (19), Bradford and Wolverhampton districts (15 each).

Five districts only show increased rates, the largest increases being in the Dublin and West Ham districts (17 and 16 per 10,000 respectively).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of August, 1899, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with August, 1898, Amth ago, A year ago.

* 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.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade:—

The trade returns for the month of August last show an increase as compared with the corresponding month of 1898 in the value of imports from foreign countries and British Possessions, in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for August, 1899, were valued at £40,693,398, as compared with £37,204,185 for August, 1898, showing an increase of £3,489,213 or 9.3 per cent.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for August, 1899, as compared with August, 1898, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table with columns: Category, Month ended Aug. 31st, 1898, 1899, Increase, Decrease.

In the imports of corn, Indian corn, or maize shows an increase of £260,869; wheat and wheat meal and flour of £398,495; but oats have decreased £115,398, and decreases are also found in the imports of barley and peas.

Exports.—The following table shows the value of British and Irish produce and manufactures exported during the month ended 31st August, 1899, as compared with a like period of 1898, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table with columns: Category, Month ended Aug. 31st, 1898, 1899, Increase, Decrease.

The value of the exports of herrings has decreased £174,321 in August, 1899, as compared with August, 1898.

linen piece goods of £90,716, and woollen and worsted tissues of £207,313. The category of yarns and textile fabrics shows a net increase in the value of exports for the month of £964,687.

Totals for first Eight Months of Year.—In the eight months ended 31st August, 1899, the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions were valued at £317,327,164, as compared with £309,064,153, for a similar period of 1898, showing an increase of £8,263,011, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value for the first eight months of 1899 to £171,976,390, as compared with £152,784,073 for 1898, an increase of £19,192,317, which, however, includes £5,970,483, the value of new ships (not registered as British) not recorded prior to 1899.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared, with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions during August, 1899, with cargoes, amounted to 3,408,495 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,789,524 tons, as compared with 3,354,173 tons entered and 3,398,759 tons cleared in August, 1898.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—During August 29,853 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, or 7,241 more than in August, 1898. Comparing the first eight months of 1899 with the corresponding period of 1898, the number of emigrants has increased by 27,406, viz., from 129,911 in 1898 to 157,317 in 1899.

British and Irish.—Of the 29,853 passengers, 18,925 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 2,984 as compared with a year ago. For the eight completed months of 1899 the number amounts to 97,353, as against 89,038 in the corresponding period of 1898, an increase of 8,315, chiefly due to a larger number proceeding to the United States.

Table with columns: Destination, August, 1899, August, 1898, Total for eight months ending August, 1899, August, 1898.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 29,853 passengers in August, viz., 10,928 were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 4,257 as compared with August, 1898.

Alien Immigration.—During August 11,797 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 4,669 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,806 as compared with August, 1898.

Table with columns: Category, August, 1899, August, 1898, Total for eight months ending August, 1899, August, 1898.

* The figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,071 in August, 1899; 978 in August, 1898; and 8,877 and 8,315 respectively in the eight months ending August in each year.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN AUGUST.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in August, it will be seen that 4 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 1 Co-operative Association for Production, 4 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 1 Building Society, 27 Friendly Societies, and 39 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during August. One Trade Union, 4 Industrial and Provident Societies, 8 Building Societies, and 33 Friendly Societies (including 15 branches) are reported to have ceased to exist, or to have had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Pilkington's Branch of Miners' Protection in connection with the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation, Green Dragon Inn, Ormskirk-st., St. Helens; Cardiff Master Bakers' and Millers' Assoc., Temperance Club, St. John's-sq., Cardiff. *Scotland.*—Scottish Amal. Soc. of House and Ship Painters, 11, Bothwell-st., Glasgow. *Ireland.*—Drogheda Operative Bakers' Trade Union, 26, Peter Street, Drogheda.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Shirebrook and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Shirebrook, Derby; Shenley and Loughton Industrial and Provident Soc., Ltd., Schoolhouse, Shenley, Bletchley; Bingham and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Market-street, Bingham, Nottingham; Willesden and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 202, High road Willesden Green. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. (B) *Association for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Leeds Builders, Ltd., 18, Moor-crescent-road, Dewsbury road, Leeds. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Bolton Socialist Hall, Ltd., 51, Lupton-street, Bolton; Labour Exchange Assoc. Ltd., 83, Guthlaxton-street, Leicester; Newhouse Club and Institute, Ltd., Club House, Esh Winning, Durham; Licensed Victuallers' and Hotel Assistants Employment Soc. Ltd., 19, Maida-val., N.W. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 10; Dividing, 7; Juvenile, 3; Collecting, 1; Specially authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 5. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—24. *Scotland.*—12. *Ireland.*—3.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—1. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Notice of dissolution registered.—City of Dublin Regular Pork Butchers and Bacon Curers Trade Society.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Registration cancelled:—Forward Painters and Decorators, Ltd., 77, Rotherfield-street, Essex-road, N. Dissolved by Instrument:—Grange Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Northington, Alresford, Hants. Liquidator's Final Return received; Wareham District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Co-op. Stores, Wareham; Productive Co-op. Cabinet-makers Soc., Ltd., 17, Victoria Park Square, E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 9; Dividing, 2; Female, 1; Branches, 2. Registry Cancelled:—Dividing, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 3; Working Men's Club, 1; Branches, 13. *Scotland.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 2; notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; notice of termination of dissolution, 2. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

The Fourth Annual Report (Part I.) on Building Societies in the United Kingdom has been issued by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

Forty-two societies were incorporated during the year 1898; 37 of these—including 8 old unincorporated societies—being in England and Wales, 1 in Scotland, and 4 in Ireland. Two hundred and forty-seven dissolutions and notices of commencement or termination of dissolution, or winding up were registered, 230 being in England and Wales, 15 in Scotland, and 2 in Ireland, and the registry of 14 societies in England and Wales was cancelled on the ground of their having ceased to exist.

A summary of the returns from 2,590 societies, published in Part II. of the Report for 1897, is included in this Report, together with comments thereon by the Chief Registrar.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN AUGUST.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office).

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions.	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:-				
Neglecting to Limewash	4	3	£ 2 0 0	£ 1 1 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	12	12	13 15 6	7 11 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	44	44	23 5 6	22 2 6
<i>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</i>				
Before or after the legal hour	89	87	53 19 6	25 2 9
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	48	28	24 6 0	15 9 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	35	34	13 8 6	8 4 6
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays	5	3	1 1 0	0 16 6
At night	27	27	38 4 6	10 4 0
Outside factory or workshop after employ- ment therein both before and after dinner	7	2	3 1 0	0 15 0
Other	2	2	3 2 0	1 2 0
<i>Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—</i>				
Not keeping Registers	34	32	22 0 0	13 9 3
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	7	7	6 15 6	2 18 6
Not sending Notices required by Act	9	9	2 8 6	5 16 6
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules	6	6	0 5 0	1 9 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts	3	2	3 5 0	1 7 6
Other Offences	5	3	7 0 0	2 2 0
Other Offences	2	2	6 0 0	1 9 0
By Workmen:-				
Allowing children to clean machinery in motion, &c.	1	1	0 5 0	0 18 0
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules	2	2	0 10 0	0 16 6
Making false entry in Register or Notice	1	1	0 10 0	0 12 0
By Parents:-				
Connivance at personation of child	3	3	1 2 6	1 17 6
Total for August, 1899	316	310	226 4 6	125 5 0
Total for August, 1898	322	303	264 9 0	131 6 2

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:-					
Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children	1	1	—	—	£ 2 0 0
Fencing	2	1	—	1	6 14 0
Ventilation	2	1	—	1	6 14 0
Miscellaneous	1	—	—	1	—
By Workmen:-					
Safety Lamps	5	5	—	—	4 10 6
Shot-firing and Explosives	2	2	—	—	2 2 0
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	4	4	—	—	6 4 6
Riding on Trams	4	3	—	1	3 6 0
Miscellaneous	17	17	—	—	17 6 6
Total for August, 1899	38	34	—	4	48 17 6
Total for August, 1898	99	96	—	3	97 17 11
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:-					
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	4	3	—	1	£ 2 5 0
Other Special Rules	11	10*	—	1	15 5 0
By Workmen:-					
Explosives and Blasting	1	1	—	—	1 0 0
Total for August, 1899	16	14	—	2	38 10 0
Total for August, 1898	10	9	1	—	10 15 8

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:-				
Carrying an excess of passengers	1	1	£ 46 18 0	...
Not providing life saving appliances	1	1	6 0	3 14 0
Obstructing Inspector in execution of his duty	1	1	1 0 0	10 0
Total for August, 1899	3	3	48 4 0	4 4 0
Total for August, 1898	6	6	47 10 0	1 10 0

* Eight of these convictions were for breaches of rules relating to explosives and blasting.