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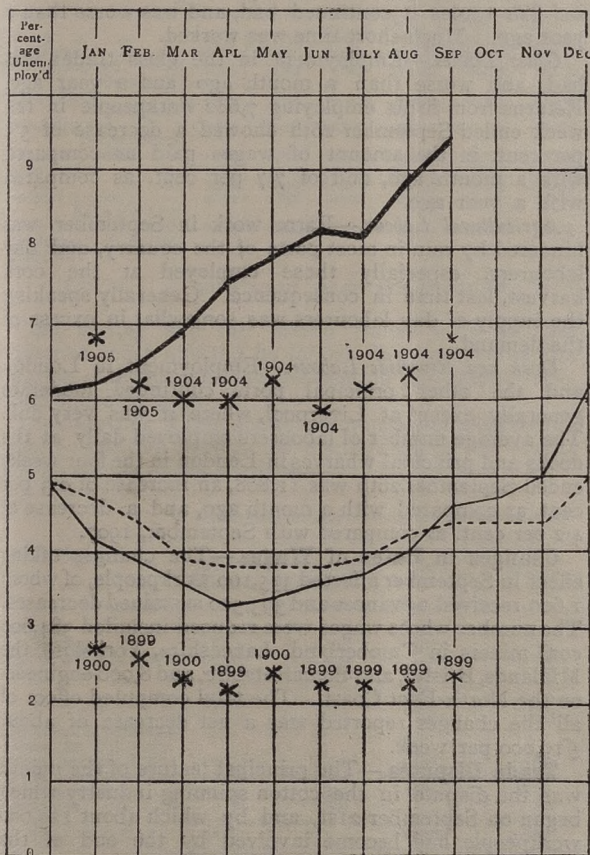
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1908. —— Thin Curve=1907.
----- Dotted Curve=Mean of 1898-1907.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1898-1907 with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For September, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 593,444 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 63,308	Printing & Bookbinding ... 55,579
Coal Mining 128,753	Woodworking and Fur-
Engineering 155,317	nishing 35,028
Shipbuilding 60,927	Miscellaneous 20,848
Other Metal Trades ... 31,387	
Textiles 42,297	
	Total 593,444

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN SEPTEMBER.

[In addition to the 2,685 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,733 were received from employers relating to 1,096,411 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,418 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in September was, on the whole, not so good as in August. There was a decline in the building, engineering and shipbuilding trades, but some improvement was noticeable in the pig-iron and tinplate industries, and in the woollen, worsted and linen trades.

As compared with a year ago employment in all the principal industries, excepting boot and shoe manufacture, showed a decline.

There was a net fall during the month in the rates of wages of 395,000 workpeople, amounting to £19,000 per week.

In the 257 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 593,444, making Returns, 55,793 (or 9.4 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of September, 1908, compared with 8.9 per cent. at the end of August, 1908, and 4.6 per cent. at the end of September, 1907.

Coal Mining.—Employment during September continued fairly good, but it was not so good as a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended September 26th was 5.34, as compared with 5.63 a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during September was moderate. It was better than a month ago, but considerably worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 21,400 workpeople showed 279 furnaces in blast at the end of September, as compared with 270 in August, 1908, and 343 in September, 1907.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed little change as compared with the previous month, and was worse than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended September 26th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received was 0.2 per cent. more than in the week ended August 22nd, 1908, but 12.3 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during September continued very good, and was better than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 446 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of September as compared with 437 a month ago and 449 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continued slack, with a considerable amount of short time, and was

much worse than a year ago. The dispute on the North-East Coast was settled on September 22nd, but work had not been fully resumed at the end of the month. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 12.3, as compared with 12.0 a month ago and 4.1 in September, 1907.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 26.6, as compared with 25.2 in August, 1908, and 11.7 per cent. in September, 1907.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the spinning branch was entirely disorganised by the dispute which began on 21st September; in the weaving branch employment was bad, and was also adversely affected by the stoppage in the spinning branch. In the week prior to the stoppage of the spinning mills employment in both branches was worse than in September, 1907.

Woolen Trade.—Employment was moderate; better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 29,118 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was moderate; it showed an improvement compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,694 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, but was still much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,061 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 14.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment was fair on the whole, but showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,045 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 4.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment continued moderate and was worse than a year ago. Much short time was reported. Returns received from firms employing 8,413 workpeople in the week ended September 26th, showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 8.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was quiet, with much short time. It was slightly better than a month ago, but considerably worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,401 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 13.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment in England continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago; in Scotland it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,769 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Hat Trade.—Employment in the Silk Hat trade continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In the Felt Hat trade it was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

* Members on strike are not included in these figures.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment was moderate; it was worse than a month ago, but rather better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,847 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed a decrease of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,398 had 8.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 7.5 per cent. in August, and 4.5 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Some short time was worked.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment remained bad, and was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in the printing trades at the end of September was 7.2, as compared with 7.1 a month ago and 5.9 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same dates were 7.2, 7.8, and 4.6 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment continued slack, and was worse than a month and a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 9.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 8.4 per cent. a month ago, and 4.6 per cent. a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade was bad. It was worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Much short time was worked.

Glass Trades.—Employment in the glass trades was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,682 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed a decrease of 5.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 7.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Farm work in September was hindered by rain in most parts of the country, and day labourers, especially those employed at the corn harvest, lost time in consequence. Generally speaking the supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of the demand.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment in London and the other principal ports continued moderate generally, except at Liverpool, where it was very dull. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London in the four weeks ended September 26th was 11,868, an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.2 per cent. as compared with September, 1907.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in September affected 395,100 workpeople, of whom 1,600 received advances and 393,500 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were reduced included 384,600 coal miners in Cumberland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, the Midlands, Bristol, and Somersetshire, and 8,000 engineers on the North-East Coast. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net decrease of about £19,000 per week.

Trade Disputes.—The principal feature of the month was the dispute in the cotton spinning industry which began on September 21st, and by which about 120,000 workpeople had become involved by the end of the month. In addition 14 other disputes began in September, making a total of 15, as compared with 16 in August, 1908, and 29 in September, 1907. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during September, 1908, was 137,188, or 112,977 more than in August, 1908, and 126,355 more than in September, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 1,266,800 working days, or 872,400 more than in August, 1908, and 1,194,700 more than in September, 1907.

LABOUR DISPUTES AND CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BOARDS IN 1907.

THE Board of Trade have published the annual Report* for 1907 on Strikes and Lock-outs and on Conciliation and Arbitration Boards in the United Kingdom.

Strikes and Lock-outs.

The number of workpeople involved, directly and indirectly, in strikes or lock-outs which began in 1907 was 147,498, as compared with 217,773 in the preceding year. The total for 1907 was greater than in any of the years 1903-5, but less than in any previous year for which records exist.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes in progress during the year was 2,162,000 working days, as compared with 3,029,000 working days in 1906. The figure for 1907 was the lowest in any year for which records exist, except 1904. The disputes of 1907 were mostly of short duration: 40 per cent. of the disputes, involving nearly half the total number of workpeople engaged, were over in less than a week; and only 13 per cent. of the disputes, involving less than 9 per cent. of the workpeople, lasted as long as eight weeks.

The following Table shows the extent to which the various groups of trades were affected by disputes in 1907: the corresponding figures for 1905 and 1906 are added for purposes of comparison:—

Groups of Trades.	Workpeople Involved.			Aggregate Duration.		
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Building	6,637	1,441	1,230	412,633	56,201	23,128
Coal Mining	40,448	81,550	49,944	1,129,167	793,034	530,381
Other Mining and Quarrying	4,343	2,283	2,623	126,347	129,058	38,680
Iron and Steel Manufacture	2,029	2,753	2,350	97,974	89,575	23,219
Engineering and Shipbuilding	9,600	37,498	15,791	339,972	1,004,474	405,178
Other Metal Trades	1,124	1,798	1,435	29,625	24,233	38,226
Textile Trades	15,786	75,114	47,459	126,483	762,959	612,450
Clothing	3,540	8,912	11,643	71,435	92,139	277,949
Transport (Docks, Railways, &c.)	2,112	1,888	8,708	67,086	10,021	85,471
Miscellaneous, and Employees of Public Authorities	7,884	4,536	6,345	69,464	67,072	96,419
Total	93,503	217,773	147,498	2,470,189	3,028,816	2,162,151

Coal mining and the textile trades were the two industries most affected by labour disputes; while the duration of disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding group was also large.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople directly involved in disputes, distinguishing the cases and the results of the disputes:—

Principal Cause.	Workpeople directly involved in Disputes resulting			
	In favour of Workpeople.	In favour of Employers.	In a Compromise.	Total.
Wages:				
For increase	6,417	8,755	10,021	25,193
Against decrease	569	1,399	1,881	3,849
Other	7,896	5,717	13,403	27,016
Total, wages	14,882	15,871	25,305	56,058
Hours	915	878	277	2,070
Employment of particular classes, &c. (labourers, apprentices, women, &c.)	2,349	4,933	6,417	13,699
Working arrangements	1,634	4,369	5,519	11,522
Trade Unionism	13,082	543	2,814	16,439
Other causes	11	639	...	650
Total, all causes	32,883	27,233	40,362	100,728†

Wages questions were, as usual, the principal cause of labour disputes. The number of workpeople striking for an advance in wages was not so large as in the previous year (58,942), but much greater than in any of the three preceding years. The somewhat large number engaged in "other" wages disputes is due principally to a class of disputes which occur most frequently in the coal-mining and in the textile industries, where demands are made for compensation on account

* Strikes and Lock-outs and Conciliation and Arbitration Boards in 1907. Cd. 4254. Wyman and Sons, Ltd. Price 9d.; by post 11d. † Including 250 involved in a dispute which was unsettled.

of extra difficulty in working (for example) certain seams of coal, or on account of alleged bad material supplied.

As usual, the great majority (74 per cent.) of the workpeople settled their disputes by direct negotiation. In the case of a further 13 per cent., the disputes were settled by conciliatory agencies.

Conciliation and Arbitration.

During 1907, 45 disputes, involving 13,296 workpeople, were settled by conciliation or arbitration. Nine of these cases, involving 2,264 workpeople, were settled under the Conciliation Act, 1896, and seven, involving 1,315 workpeople, were settled by Boards of Conciliation.

The various Conciliation and Arbitration Boards are concerned not only with the settlement of disputes, but also with their prevention, which is by far the more important branch of their work. The number of such Boards which are known to have taken action in 1907 was 89, and the number of cases considered by them was 1,545, of which 668 were settled—471 by the Boards themselves or committees thereof, and 197 by arbitrators or umpires appointed by the Boards. The remaining cases, with the exception of 88, which were still under consideration at the end of the year, were either withdrawn or settled between the parties independently of the Boards.

The following Table shows the number of cases considered and settled by the Conciliation Boards which took action in each of the years, 1906 and 1907, distinguishing the various industries affected:—

	1906.		1907.	
	No. of Cases.	No. of Cases.	No. of Cases.	No. of Cases.
	Con-sidered.	Settled.	Con-sidered.	Settled.
Trade Boards.				
Building Trades	45	33	58	47
Mining and Quarrying	1,296	531	1,231	454
Iron and Steel Manufacture	30	21	22	16
Engineering & Shipbuilding	75	46	74	42
Other Metal Trades	5	5	5	5
Textile Trades	25	12	1	1
Boot and Shoe Trade	62	30	72	43
Tailoring	3	2	—	—
Transport Trades	13	12	32	26
Bookbinding	—	—	1	—
Total, Trade Boards	1,551	692	1,543	667
District and General Boards	7	5	2	1
Grand Total	1,558	697	1,545	668

The cases vary greatly in importance. Thus, while the Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of the Federated Districts (Midlands, Yorkshire, Lancashire, &c.) arranged changes in wages affecting 280,000 workpeople, and the corresponding Board for South Wales arranged changes affecting 165,000 workpeople, as a rule each of the cases dealt with by the Joint Committees in Northumberland and in Durham affected only a few workpeople.

In addition to the cases settled by Conciliation Boards, a number of disputes, particularly in the cotton trade and in the engineering trade, are settled by other conciliatory agencies which do not quite fall within the description of "Conciliation Boards." In the cotton weaving industry of North and North-East Lancashire 22 cases were considered by the Joint Committee during the year 1907. In the cotton spinning industry, 465 cases were settled locally under the Brooklands Agreement; and in addition 30 cases were settled under that Agreement at central conferences in Manchester. In the engineering trades, a number of local meetings for the consideration of disputes were held under the "Terms of Settlement"; and in addition three central conferences were held, at which 35 questions were considered. In 12 of these cases an agreement was reached at the conference, ten cases were withdrawn or settled independently, and two were unsettled at the end of the year. As regards the remainder, the parties were unable to agree in ten cases, and in one case an agreement was reached at the conference, but was not accepted by the men on being submitted to a ballot vote.

RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Boot and Shoe Trade, Stafford.

Mr. T. Smith, J.P., the Arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for September, p. 272), met the parties at Stafford on September 18th. The questions in dispute had reference to the employment of boy labour on certain work.

As the result of this conference, the following terms of settlement were mutually agreed upon:—

(1) That youths over 18 years of age shall not be counted in the number of boys allowed to the total number of men employed, as provided under the award on boy labour of Sir Henry James, dated August 22nd, 1892.

(2) That boys under the age of 18 years may do all needful operations in preparing work at the assembly bench, provided the number of boys employed at any one operation, process, or assembly bench shall not exceed two-thirds of the total number of boys allowed in each department, as per the award of Sir Henry James, dated August 22nd, 1892.

(3) That the "wheel" machine, used for closing the flap or channel, may be used either by a boy or an adult workman.

(4) That the operation known as seat sinking, or attaching the upper to the seat of the insole with more than one tack, shall be performed by adult workmen.

(5) This agreement shall remain in force for one year as from this 18th day of September, 1908. Either side desiring to alter or terminate same shall give three calendar months' notice of its intention so to do prior to September 18th, 1909.

Boot and Shoe Trade, Rushden and District.

On August 14th the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough, applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an Umpire to the Conciliation Board for the ensuing year.

The Board of Trade, on September 19th, appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act in that capacity.

(b) OTHER CASES.

Pottery Trade, Staffordshire.

In February, 1908, the operatives engaged in the Staffordshire pottery trade applied to their employers for a general advance in wages in the general earthenware branch, and for other alterations in their conditions of employment. The employers refused the demand, and, after some negotiation, the operatives' application was referred to a Board of Conciliation, formed under the title of "the Board of Conciliation and Reference for the Staffordshire China and Earthenware Manufacturers and Operatives." The Board of Conciliation were unable to come to an agreement on the subject, and the questions in dispute were accordingly further considered at special meetings of the Board, presided over by the independent chairman, Mr. Ernest Moon, K.C., who had been appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons, in accordance with the rules of the Board.

Mr. Moon issued his award on September 18th, deciding as follows:—

I decide that whatever the trade prospects may have been when the operatives' notices demanding an advance in wages were handed in six weeks before March 25th, 1908, existing trade conditions do not admit of any general advance.

This decision is given without prejudice to any cases there may be where manufacturers are not paying the usual standard wages, or are not conforming to standard trade usages.

I decide that the ovenmen employed at the standard rate of wages, viz., 5s. a day, are to receive an advance of 5 per cent., unless bonuses or allowances are paid amounting to 5 per cent. or more above the standard rate.

A further claim was made that maximum sizes of flat ware should be fixed, and that sizes and counts of ware should be fixed. As regards counts, it was agreed at the hearing before me that this question should be submitted to a committee, pursuant to Rule 15 of the Rules of the Board of Conciliation and Reference.

As regards maximum sizes of flat ware, an objection was taken to my entertaining this claim unless I also dealt with the question of minimum prices. I held that no agreement had been arrived at to refer to me the question of maximum size; and that, as the question had not been dealt with by the Board under Rule 11, I had no jurisdiction to entertain it on objection being made.

A claim involving 61 separate questions was also put before me on behalf of the operatives engaged in the jet and rockingham trade, which it was arranged should be discussed before a committee appointed under Rule 15 referred to above, or before the Board of Conciliation and Reference itself.

ENGINEERING DISPUTE, NORTH-EAST COAST.

AN account of the negotiations carried on by Mr. Lloyd-George (then President of the Board of Trade) in the earlier part of the year with a view to bringing this dispute to an end was published in the Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1908.

Subsequently, during the course of the summer, further negotiations took place between the parties, but no settlement was then arrived at. On August 24th the representatives of the Unions concerned in the dispute asked the President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Churchill) to use his influence to bring the parties together again.

Informal interviews accordingly took place early in September, between the Board of Trade and certain representatives of the parties. Meetings also took place between the parties themselves, and ultimately a settlement was arrived at, and the men returned to work on September 24th.

The efforts made to secure a settlement since June last were briefly as follows:—

On June 9th a meeting of the District Committee and the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers was held at Newcastle, as a result of which negotiations were again opened up with the employers, and a joint conference of the parties to the dispute was held at Newcastle on June 15th.

At this conference Sir Andrew Noble stated that there was no hope of the terms offered by the employers in February, and twice rejected by the workpeople, being again offered; but, before the conference broke up, the employers made the following proposal:—

"Assuming that the men agree to return to work at the reduction, we agree that there shall be no alteration for six months from July 1st, 1908.

"We further agree to recommend to the members of the [Employers'] Association that, during these six months, we will meet the men in conference, in order to endeavour to arrange the constitution and mode of procedure of a wages board, which shall deal with wages questions in the future in order to avoid stoppages of work."

The employers were informed at once that this could not be accepted, but that it would be reported to the men, who subsequently decided not to resume work unless the notice of reduction was withdrawn.

At a meeting of representatives of the District Committees of the North-East Coast on August 1st it was decided to take a ballot of the men on strike on the following questions:—

1. Shall the North-East Coast Committee be empowered to obtain best terms possible, subject to endorsement by ballot vote of the North-East Coast members?
2. Shall the Executive Councils of the three Societies involved be empowered to obtain best terms possible, subject to a ballot vote of the North-East Coast members?
3. Against both of these propositions.

The vote was taken during the second week in August, and resulted as follows:—

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. North-East Coast Committee to negotiate | 1,178 |
| 2. Executives to negotiate | 4,084 |
| 3. Against both these propositions | 2,119 |

Only the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and of the United Machine Workers' Association were balloted; but the Steam Engine Makers' Society were stated to be in agreement with the course of action suggested in the second proposition.

In the meantime, the Engineering Employers' Federation had given notice to the three Trade Unions concerned in the dispute that, unless the dispute was settled, they would "actively support" the North-East Coast Engineering Trades Employers' Association, i.e., would institute a lock-out of members of the three Trade Unions in all districts covered by the Federation.

On August 24th the Executive of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers addressed a letter to the President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Churchill) informing him of the result of the ballot, and inviting him, with the concurrence of the two other Societies concerned, to use his influence to bring together again the parties to the dispute. Negotiations were accordingly resumed between the Board of Trade and the parties, and meetings were held in London on September 8th and 9th between the Employers' Federation and the representatives of the men's Unions. The President of the Board of Trade also had interviews with certain of the employers, and he also attended a conference held at the Board of Trade of members of the Executive Committees and local representatives from the North-East Coast of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, and the United Machine Workers' Association.

As the result of this conference the following memorandum was drawn up:—

"At a conference held at the Board of Trade offices on September 9th, 1908, which was attended by members of the Executive Committees and local representatives from the North-East Coast of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, and the United Machine Workers' Association, it was agreed, owing to the continued depression in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, to advise the men on the North-East Coast to accept the following terms, as, in the unanimous opinion of the delegates assembled, these are the best possible to be obtained at the present time:—

1. "To return to work at the reduction; no further alteration in wages to take place for six months from the resumption of work.
2. "That after the resumption of work, the men's representatives shall attend a conference with the representatives of the employers for the purpose of considering in what respect the present procedure for dealing with wages questions shall be amended in order to avoid stoppages of work, the first meeting to take place within one month after the resumption of work."

The representatives of the men then met the employers, and these terms were agreed upon, subject to a vote of the men.

The result of the ballot was as follows:—

In favour of the terms	...	4,609
Against	...	3,739

Majority for acceptance ... 870

Work was accordingly resumed on September 24th.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE Forty-first Annual Congress of the Trade Unions of the United Kingdom was held at the Mechanics' Institution, Nottingham, on Monday, September 7th, and the five following days. The Congress was presided over by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, Mr. D. J. Shackleton, M.P. The standing orders of the Congress provide that it shall consist only of representatives of Trade Unions who are actually working at their trades at the time of their appointment, or are permanent paid officials of the Unions they represent. Trade Unions may send one delegate for every 2,000 members or fraction thereof, but many of the larger Unions do not send the full number of delegates to which they are entitled. Voting on important questions is by card, on the principle of one vote for every 1,000 members represented. The analysis into groups of trades given below shows the composition of the Congress, and the trade groups represented are

compared with the corresponding figures for the Congress of 1907:—

Groups of Trades.	1907.			1908.		
	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.
Building	9	23	133,714	9	23	126,893
Mining and Quarrying	11	111	476,279	10	116	574,274
Engineering	15	29	135,418	13	19	46,241
Shipbuilding (including Boiler-making)	4	16	73,145	4	16	73,850
Other Metal Trades	19	38	68,975	18	33	68,815
Textiles	16*	101	192,121	13*	103	219,038
Clothing	8	23	49,301	8	24	59,268
Transport (Land and Sea)	17	53	164,111	14	49	176,161
Chemical, Gas and General Labourers	8	25	69,707	8	25	75,997
Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	13	21	55,774	13	23	60,055
Pottery and Glass	4	5	5,659	4	5	8,570
Woodworking and Furnishing, &c.	9	12	31,743	8	10	27,340
Baking and Cigar-making	2	4	6,871	3	6	7,432
Enginemakers	12	16	31,163	9	26	52,683
Post Office Employees	4	10	53,774	3	5	42,013
Miscellaneous	22	34	79,603	24	36	91,021
Total	173	521	1,627,958	163	519	1,712,031

The number of organisations accounted for in the above statement is 163, but allowing for the number of distinct societies included in Federations, and sending delegates of their own, members of about 234 separate Trade Unions attended the Congress as delegates this year out of about 1,161 Unions in existence. The membership represented, however, comprised 80 per cent. of the total membership of all Trade Unions. The number of organisations represented this year was 10 less than in 1907, while the total membership was greater by 84,073. Most of the groups of trades showed an increase in membership, the largest increase being in the mining group. The decline in the engineering group was owing to the withdrawal of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

Among the principal subjects on which the Congress passed resolutions were:—Restriction of the hours of labour to eight per day for miners and workpeople generally; old-age pensions; amendment of the Mines Regulation Act, the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Shop Hours Act, and the Cheap Trains Act; certificates of competency for persons in charge of steam engines and boilers; improved housing of the working classes; the wages and general conditions of labour of Government workers, and of workers employed by contractors for the Government; representation of trade unions at Board of Trade and at Coroners' inquests; the establishment of a legal minimum wage in selected trades; State help for blind workpeople; abolition of the premium bonus system; abolition of night work in bakeries; and free secondary education. A resolution in favour of compulsory arbitration in trade disputes was rejected by a majority of 454,000, and a resolution in favour of amending the Conciliation Act, 1896, in the direction of conferring compulsory powers on the Board of Trade to inquire into disputes when requested by either party, no strike or lock-out to take place pending such inquiry and report, was rejected by a majority of 362,000.

The voting by Congress for members of the Parliamentary Committee for the ensuing year resulted in the election of representatives of the following organisations: Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders, Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners, Card and Blowing Room Operatives, National Federation of Enginemakers, Stokers and Kindred Trades, Gasworkers' and General Labourers, Amalgamated Brassworkers, Miners' Federation, London Compositors, Railway Servants, Northern Counties Weavers, Associated Shipwrights, Musicians, Patternmakers, Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, Watermen and Lightermen, and Machine Workers. Mr. D. J. Shackleton, M.P. (Northern Counties Weavers), was re-appointed by the Parliamentary Committee as its Chairman for the ensuing year, and is thereby re-appointed President of the Congress also. It was decided that the next Annual Congress should be held at Ipswich.

* In some of the textile trades not only are amalgamated associations represented as such, but the branch associations of which they consist send separate delegates. These branch associations have not been reckoned as separate organisations.

**RAILWAY SERVANTS:
NUMBER EMPLOYED AND ACCIDENTS.***

I.—Number of Railway Servants Employed.

THE following Table shows the number of persons employed on railways in the year 1907; comparative figures are also given for the year 1904, when the last preceding enumeration was made. Contractors' servants are not included in these figures.

	1907.	1904.
Mechanics:		
Men	83,593	74,798
Boys	10,204	9,635
Permanent Way Men	67,184	66,812
Clerks:		
Men	58,503	53,676
Boys	10,672	11,417
Labourers:		
Men	58,452	53,729
Boys	1,560	1,272
Porters:		
Men	51,707	48,533
Boys	4,625	4,444
Signalmen	23,658	27,971
Signal Box Lads	2,986	2,087
Engine Drivers	28,141	25,042
Firemen	25,714	23,242
Carmen and Van Guards:		
Men	17,672	16,317
Boys	6,584	6,597
Engine Cleaners:		
Men	16,350	15,741
Boys	5,098	3,110
Goods Guards and Brakesmen	16,786	15,122
Shunters	13,158	11,856
Inspectors:		
Permanent Way	1,145	1,064
Other	8,684	7,735
Checkers (Men and Boys)	8,720	8,382
Station Masters	8,688	8,228
Passenger Guards	8,474	7,601
Carriage Cleaners (Men and Boys)	6,885	6,193
Loaders and Sheeters	4,330	4,093
Signal Fitters and Telegraph Wiremen	4,168	4,437
Ticket Collectors and Examiners	4,163	3,820
Other Classes	60,121	58,480
Total	621,341	581,664

It will be seen that there has been a total increase of nearly 40,000, or 6·8 per cent., in the three years. Nearly all the separate classes show some advance, but it varies greatly in amount: thus, of the two greatest classes, mechanics show an advance of 9,364, or 11 per cent., while permanent-way men show an advance of only 372, or 0·5 per cent. Other large increases were among labourers (5,000), clerks (4,000), porters (3,400), engine drivers (3,000), firemen and engine cleaners (2,500 each).

II.—Accidents to Railway Servants.

The total number of fatal accidents to railway servants (including contractors' servants) in the year 1907 was 454, and the number of non-fatal accidents 5,813, as compared with 438 and 4,365 respectively in the previous year. There is thus a large apparent increase in the non-fatal cases, which, however, is stated in the Report to be largely due to the operation of an order, issued in December, 1906, requiring non-fatal accidents to railway servants to be reported whenever the person injured is incapacitated thereby for a whole day at any time. (The previous standard was incapacitation for five hours on any one of the three days following the accident). Under the present system, practically all the accidents previously reported are included, with the addition of those in which the injury only causes cessation of work after three days or more. In addition a considerable number of accidents occurring in goods sheds and warehouses previously returned as "factory accidents" are included in the Returns of railway accidents this year.

The number of railway servants killed in "train accidents," i.e., collisions, derailments, &c., was 13, the same number as in the previous year; and the number injured 236, as compared with 140 in the previous year. In other accidents (coupling, shunting, men run over, &c.), the number killed was 441, and injured 5,577, as compared with 425 and 4,225 respectively in the previous year. For the reasons already given, however, the figures for non-fatal accidents are not comparable with those for previous years.

The following Table shows the number of railway

* General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during 1907. [Cd. 4287.] Price 7d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

servants (exclusive of contractors' servants) killed and injured in "train accidents" and in other railway accidents in 1907, distinguishing the various grades employed:—

Train Accidents.

Grade.	Total No. employed in each grade.	Number	
		Killed.	Injured.
Engine Drivers...	28,141	5	75
Firemen ...	25,714	2	54
Passenger Guards ...	8,474	2	21
Goods Guards and Brakesmen ...	16,786	2	68
Total ...	79,115	11*	218*

Other Railway Accidents.

Grade.	Total Number Employed in each Grade.	Number		
		Killed.	Injured, and absent from duty.	
			More than 14 days.	Not more than 14 days.
Goods Guards and Brakesmen	16,786	41	519	516
Permanent Way Men	67,184	89	123	52
Engine Drivers	28,141	21	281	309
Firemen	25,714	21	366	411
Shunters	13,158	30	474	525
Porters	56,402	55	321	375
Passenger Guards	8,474	8	69	113
Labourers	59,812	54	123	90
Other Classes	...	103	...	895
Total ...	—	433	5,560	—

FACTORY LABOUR IN INDIA.

IN June, 1907, the Report of the Textile Factories Labour Committee appointed by the Government of India was issued. The Committee was of opinion that several alterations in the present law were necessary. (See GAZETTE for September, 1907,* p. 263.) The Secretary of State therefore agreed to the appointment of a Commission to investigate, in respect of all factories in India, the questions previously referred to the Committee, and the various suggestions and recommendations made by the Committee. This Commission has now made its report.†

Limitation of Working Hours.—The Commissioners, in their Majority Report, recommend:—

- (1) The formation of a "young persons" class, to comprise all young adults between the ages of 14 and 17, with working hours limited to 12 in any one day;
- (2) The reduction of the working hours of children from 7 hours to 6 hours;
- (3) The prohibition of the employment of "young persons," women, and children before 5.30 a.m. or after 7 p.m.;
- (4) The substitution of a compulsory interval after six hours' continuous work, in place of the present mid-day interval;
- (5) The assimilation of the restrictions placed upon the employment of women to those proposed for the "young persons" class.

The Commissioners rely on these measures for an indirect restriction of the working hours of adult males to reasonable limits.

Certification of children for age and physical fitness.—The employment of children under nine years of age in factories constitutes one of the most serious abuses discovered by the Commissioners. They are of opinion that no child should be permitted to work in any factory unless certified to be not under the age of nine years, and that an examination for physical fitness should be necessary prior to permitting a child to undertake factory work. To expedite certification at the mills, the certifying surgeon for each centre should be authorised to approve of any suitable medical practitioner as a provisional certifying authority, the provisional certificates to remain in force only until the first visit of

* In addition, 2 railway servants were killed and 18 injured who were not engaged in the work of running trains.

† Report of the Indian Factory Labour Commission. Vol. I. Report and Appendices, 1908. [Cd. 4292.] Price 1s. 6d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

The demand for all classes of workmen is over till next spring, and no one should emigrate till then on the chance of obtaining work; female servants, however, may obtain employment at all seasons of the year. The regulation now in operation in Canada requiring every emigrant 18 years of age or over to have in his possession at least 25 dols. (£5) in cash, and between January 1st and February 15th, 1909, 50 dols. in cash, at the time of landing, besides a ticket to his destination, is enforced in the case of all emigrants other than farmers, farm labourers and female servants. All emigrants sent out by British charitable societies or public funds must be certified as suitable by the Canadian authorities in London. In view of several recent cases of deportation it is necessary to bear in mind that any immigrant who within two years of his landing in Canada becomes a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital or charitable institution may, after investigation of the facts, be deported, together with those dependent on him. Montreal and Toronto have taken steps to warn persons from coming there during the winter, as work is very scarce during that season. The strike on the Canadian Pacific Railway is over.

Australia.

The Government of New South Wales gives cheap passages to farmers, farm labourers, and female servants, for whom there is an excellent demand. According to the Factories Report for 1907, which has just been received, there was a satisfactory increase that year in the number of employees in factories, the largest increase being of persons engaged in metal works and machinery, clothing and woodworking trades. There was a scarcity of young girls as beginners in dressmakers' work-rooms—the dressmaking trade is described by one female inspector as "both arduous and ill-paid." The best openings in New South Wales are for persons who are prepared to engage in farm work or domestic service. Very fair openings exist in other directions, but no special encouragement is given by the Government. The supply of miners and general labourers is sufficient.

In Victoria there is a good demand for farm and general labourers, men on sheep and cattle stations, bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers, stonemasons, and female servants; there is no demand for miners.

In South Australia there is a fair demand for farm labourers, and a good demand for general labourers, station hands, blacksmiths, masons, carpenters, and female servants, but no demand for miners.

Queensland and Western Australia offer free grants of land and cheap passages to emigrants, of whom farm labourers and female servants are in great request; the demand for mechanics is limited, and there is no demand for miners.

New Zealand.

There is a good demand for farmers, farm labourers and female servants, and reduced passages are offered to these classes. During the last two or three months employment has been more difficult to obtain, as is usual in the winter season, and the outdoor trades have suffered from the wet weather. It is now the beginning of the busy summer season, and work in all trades is likely to be more plentiful. There is, however, at no time any general demand for more mechanics, and if such persons go out they must be competent and be able to keep themselves at first. There have been openings in some places for machinists and workers in the boot, clothing and tailoring trades, but in other places the boot trade has been slack.

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

the certifying surgeon to the mill in which the child works. The certifying surgeon should not be permitted to accept any remuneration from the factory owners, direct or indirect, in respect of his certifying work.

Application of the Act to Ginning and other seasonal Factories.—The Commissioners consider that the seasonal factories, which are at present excluded from the operation of the Indian Factories Act solely on the ground that they do not work for more than four months in any one year, should be made subject to its provisions. Certain modifications should, however, be allowed in ginning factories. Women and young persons should be allowed to work in gins at night.

Education.—The Commissioners do not consider that factory owners should be compelled to provide elementary education for the children employed by them. They are also opposed to the maintenance of schools within the factory enclosure. The problem of education must, in their opinion, be attacked by the educational and local authorities acting in concert.

Presence of non-working Children in Factories.—The Commissioners are of opinion that no action need be taken to prevent the introduction of non-working children under the age of 6 years into factories, but they recommend that any child over the age of 6 years who is found in any part of a factory where manufacturing processes or work incidental to manufacturing processes is carried on should be deemed to be employed in that factory, unless the contrary can be proved.

Administration of Factory Act.—The Commissioners report that, except at a few centres, the present system of factory inspection has proved a failure. They consider that the inspection of large factories by the District Magistrate or the Civil Surgeon is, so far as the enforcement of the Act is concerned, a useless formality. They consider it essential to a proper enforcement of the Act all over India that the staff of full time inspectors should be at once increased to a strength sufficient to cope with the work of inspecting all the factories in India.

The Commissioners make various recommendations with regard to purity of air, sanitary accommodation, fencing of machinery, &c.

**SWISS INDUSTRIAL CENSUS OF
AUGUST 9TH, 1905.**

Final Results.

IN the LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1905, p. 383, the preliminary results of the Swiss Industrial Census of August 9th, 1905 (the first industrial census taken in Switzerland) were shown. The final figures, as regards the number of business undertakings and the number of persons engaged therein have now been issued.*

In the following Table the undertakings and persons engaged are classified according to occupation:—

Group of Trades.	No. of Undertakings.	No. of persons engaged therein.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
Building (including Cabinet-making)	24,225	142,004	7,895	149,899
Mining and Quarrying	2,101	13,219	255	13,474
Metal and Engineering	27,222	112,700	22,642	135,342
Textile	55,892	60,958	121,096	182,054
Clothing and Cleaning	59,118	38,339	72,215	110,554
Transport	14,209	75,949	10,849	86,798
Agriculture	257,444	450,819	332,232	783,051
Printing and Paper	2,415	17,214	5,767	22,981
Woodworking	6,032	12,235	882	13,117
Chemical, Glass and Pottery	2,213	21,520	2,248	23,768
Food and Tobacco	16,876	42,024	22,675	64,699
Hotels and Restaurants	29,834	32,223	69,531	101,754
Commerce	53,459	69,862	46,291	116,154
Public Administration, Science, Art, &c.	14,023	21,093	12,289	33,382
Other	6,622	18,132	2,129	20,261
Total ...	571,498	1,128,601	722,998	1,851,599

Of the 92,136 home workers included in the above Table 71,390 were engaged in textile industries, over 35,000 of these being lace makers. The clothing trades as a home industry gave employment to about 7,000 persons.

* Ergebnisse der eidg. Betriebszählung vom 9. August, 1905. Band I. Die Betriebe und die Zahl der darin beschäftigten Personen. Heft 8, zugleich Schlussheft des I. Bandes. Schweiz und Kantone. Statistisches Department of the Ministry of the Interior. Berne, 1905. A. Francke. Price 1s.

South Africa.

Persons are not allowed to land in Cape Colony or Natal, or to enter the Transvaal or Rhodesia unless they have secured definite employment in the Colony or possess sufficient means of support, *i.e.*, about £20.

In Cape Colony employment in the building, engineering and other trades is difficult to obtain in all the chief towns, such as Cape Town, East London, Kimberley, Queenstown, &c.

In the Transvaal a large number of persons are still unable to obtain employment; there is therefore no demand for anyone, except occasionally for female servants.

In Natal and the Orange River Colony the local supply of all kinds of labour is ample. No one may enter the Orange River Colony without a permit from the Colonial Secretary, Bloemfontein.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 301 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.

*Employment in August.**—Employment in the building and allied trades was good. In the metal trades it showed no appreciable change; the partial improvement of July in employment among tin-box makers on the coast of Brittany was not maintained. The depression in the textile trades continued in nearly all the centres in the Nord Department and in Normandy; in the Ardennes, however, employment continued satisfactory, and weavers experienced a slight improvement in the departments of Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres. In silk manufacture an improvement was reported for power-loom weavers in certain centres, and at Croix-Rousse (Lyons) weavers were busy. The garment-making trades were in their slack season. In the printing trades there was a decline in the provinces, but an improvement in Paris. There was still much unemployment among leather dressers. There was more unemployment among vineyard workers in the South of France than in the previous month owing to partial, and in some centres total, cessation of work prior to the vintage. Wood cutters, who have to resort to agricultural work at this part of the year, found less employment in threshing in August than they did in harvesting in July. Employment continued good for gardeners in the Paris district, and for agricultural workers in the Seine-et-Marne department.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in August were received by the French Labour Department from 945 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 221,307. Excluding returns from the Miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais, 8.2 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 8.0 per cent. in the previous month, and 8.4 per cent. a year ago.

*Coal Mining in August.**—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during August was 5.66, as compared with 5.92 in July, and 5.98 in August, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together, 85.63 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 12.52 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 78.61 and 21.32, and in August, 1907, 88.87 and 11.13.

*Labour Disputes in August.**—Sixty-three disputes (60 strikes and 3 lock-outs) were reported to the French

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

Labour Department as having begun in August, compared with 75 in the previous month, and 87* in August, 1907. In 57 of the new disputes, 4,860 workpeople took part, as compared with 6,223 workpeople who took part in 67 of the July disputes, and 7,874 workpeople who took part in 74 disputes in August, 1907. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (19), mining and quarrying (8), transport and warehousing (7), metal and textile (5 each), and woodworking and printing (4 each). Of 64 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 9 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 27 in favour of the employers, while 28 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in August.†—Three instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in August. In one case a committee of conciliation met, but was unable to settle the dispute. In the second case the employer refused to take part in conciliation proceedings. In the third the dispute was settled by the parties before a committee met.

Labour on French Merchant Ships.‡—Pursuant to the Maritime Law of April 17th, 1907, regulating labour on board French merchant ships (see GAZETTE, May, 1907, p. 135), a Presidential Decree has now been issued dealing more especially with fishing and coasting vessels. Some of the main provisions of this decree are given below. The law comes into operation six months after the date of issue of the Decree (September 20th, 1908).

Fishing vessels of over 25 tons which are usually absent from port for more than 72 hours are subject to the following regulations. At sea the deck officers and crew are to be divided into at least two watches; those of the engine-room into two or three, according as the fishing waters are less, or not less, than 48 hours distant. In the fishing waters each man must have at least 8 hours' rest, which, however, may be reduced to 6 hours, but for not more than 5 days. In port or sheltered roadsteads the deck officers and crew must not work more than 10 hours, unless engaged in unloading fish, and those in the engine-room not more than 9 hours. Any extra hours must be paid for at contract or customary rates, except in cases of emergency. From 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. apprentices and boys must not be employed at any work other than fishing, and such work must not last more than 3 consecutive days, followed by 4 days' cessation. Apprentices and boys must have at least 12 hours' rest in each 24, and 8 of these must be consecutive.

On merchant vessels of 25 to 200 tons gross engaged in navigation other than upon the high seas and in international coasting, the deck officers and crew must not be required to do more than 72 hours' work per week of six days, nor those in the engine-room more than 54 (if divided into two watches) without extra remuneration. Extra work must be paid for at contract or customary rates, except in cases of emergency.

On both fishing vessels of over 25 tons and on the above-mentioned merchant vessels, where, owing to the exigencies of the service, weekly rest has not been possible out at sea, such rest must be given, where possible, on reaching a port or sheltered roadstead, to at least half the officers and crew.

The following general exception is made to the articles of the law. On ships of 200 tons gross and upwards there need be only a single watch, whether on deck or in the engine-room, if, owing to the shortness of the voyages, the service can be organised for 24 hours, so as to satisfy the following conditions:—(1) The total duration of work not to exceed 12 hours in the case of persons employed on deck, and 9 hours in the case of those engaged in the engine-room; (2) not more than 7 consecutive hours to be worked on deck, or 5 at the engines; (3) the officers and crew to have at least 6 hours' uninterrupted rest.

* Revised figure.

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

‡ Journal Officiel de la République Française, September 26th, 1908.

GERMANY.

Employment in August.—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department) for the month of September:—“The condition of the labour market in August showed little change compared with the previous month. Employment in coal mining was, on the whole, satisfactory, although the demand for manufacturing coal in the Ruhr Valley was not so great as in July, this being due more especially to the low water in the Rhine. In the pig iron industry buyers showed more reserve than in the previous month, after it had been found impossible to continue the Pig Iron Syndicate. Steel works and rolling mills were about as busy as in July. The majority of iron foundries in South Germany were still well employed, but those in North and Central Germany only moderately so; in certain establishments in the central districts reductions in the working time of half-an-hour to an hour had to be made. In general machine construction employment could still be described as tolerably good, but only few new orders were coming in. The locomotive and railway carriage industries were busy throughout the month. In the electrical industry, with few exceptions, employment was satisfactory. The decline continued in nearly every branch of the textile trades, so that the limitations of output already in force had to be maintained. The majority of reports from the chemical trades showed employment to be satisfactory, though less so than in 1907. In the building trades a decline already began to set in in several districts. Inland navigation was not particularly busy, a scarcity of bulky merchandise being particularly noticeable. In other trades employment was affected by seasonal influences. Thus, women who had been employed in agriculture returned to industrial occupations, and those who had been employed at holiday resorts returned to the towns. The busy season commenced in the clothing trades, but far less actively than in the previous year.”

BELGIUM.*

Employment in August.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department 5.9 per cent. of the 42,330 members of 199 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 4.7 per cent. in July, and 1.3 per cent. in August, 1907. (As regards foreign unemployment returns in general, see note under “Labour Abroad” above.)

Labour Disputes in August.—Six strikes, affecting 827 workpeople (657 directly and 170 indirectly), were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in August. The termination of 6 strikes (including 4 of the new ones) was reported. Of these 1 (involving 70 strikers) terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 3 (involving 219 strikers) terminated in favour of the employers, while 2 (involving 70 strikers) were compromised.

HOLLAND.†

Employment in August.—In the building trade the state of employment generally continued unfavourable, but in some parts there was a slight improvement; in several towns stonemasons (cutters) alone were well employed. The long period of activity in the larger metal and engineering establishments appeared to have terminated, but in shipbuilding employment continued good. There was no improvement in the textile trades, and the slackness also continued in the garment making and woodworking trades; employment was especially bad in the case of cabinet makers. In the printing trades employment was much less favourable than

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

† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).

in the previous month. In bulb cultivation there was full employment. In the diamond trades at Amsterdam the slackness continued, but there was less unemployment than in July. In the margarine trade employment was slack, but there was seasonal activity in the mineral water and brewing trades.

NORWAY.*

Employment in August.—The following Table shows the percentages of members unemployed in certain Trade Unions which made Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics for each of the three months August, 1908, July, 1908, and August, 1907:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Aug., 1908.	July, 1908.	Aug., 1907.	Aug., 1908.	July, 1908.	Aug., 1907.
Metal Workers	5,287	5,343	5,143	1.7	1.7	0.6
Carpenters, &c.	730	735	698	3.0	2.2	0.6
Painters	550	550	600	0.7	...	...
Boot and Shoe Makers	355	377	228	0.6	1.6	...
Printers	1,309	1,309	1,272	2.4	0.6	3.9
Bakers	200	200	185	6.5	6.0	...
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers	1,246	1,214	1,151	...	...	0.1
Sawyers and Planers	539	567	669	4.8	3.2	1.8
Cabinet Makers	340	345	326	1.2	0.9	0.3
Total	10,556	10,640	10,272	1.8	1.5	0.9

(As regards these figures, see note under “Labour Abroad” on p. 308.)

UNITED STATES.

Employment in New York State; January-June, 1908.—In the *Bulletin* of the Department of Labour of the State of New York for September, 1908, are published statistics of unemployment in New York State from January to June, 1908, based on returns received from 192 representative Trade Unions.† Of 92,814 members reporting at the end of June, 28.7 per cent. were unemployed owing to causes other than disputes and disability, as compared with 30.6 in May, and 6.2 in June, 1907. The membership reporting and percentage unemployed for each month from January to June were as under, corresponding percentages for a year ago being added for comparison:—

Month.	Members reporting in 1908.	Percentage Unemployed owing to causes other than disputes and disability.	
		1908.	1907.
January	96,792	35.1	19.0
February	95,696	35.9	17.4
March	94,542	35.9	15.5
April	94,148	32.2	8.5
May	93,534	30.6	6.2
June	92,814	28.7	6.2
Mean ... ..	...	33.0	12.4

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

Groups of Trades.	Membership reporting at end of June, 1908.	Percentage Unemployed at end of		
		June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.
Building, Stone Working, &c.	28,687	35.1	37.1	9.7
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	8,510	29.0	32.3	2.5
Clothing	10,725	45.4	49.3	7.8
Transport	15,772	31.0	34.4	3.6
Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	6,668	17.3	17.5	4.0
Woodworking and Furniture	3,681	35.0	35.6	15.9
Food, Drink and Tobacco	7,588	8.8	11.0	3.9
Hotels and Restaurants	2,500	11.0	10.5	3.0
Stationary Enginemen	3,201	2.8	2.2	1.2
Public Employment	2,145	...	...	...
Other	3,907	26.1	21.5	6.0
Total	92,814	28.7	30.6	6.2

* Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

† Statistics relating to unemployment in Trade Unions in the State of New York, having 387,450 members, were published in the “Bulletin” for June, 1908. It was there stated that, at the end of March, 1908, there were 31.9 per cent. “idle on account of lack of work,” and 2.1 per cent. “idle on account of the weather.”

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES
IN SEPTEMBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 478 Returns—420 from Employers, 45 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued fairly good during September. It was about the same as in August, but was not so good as a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,324 pits employing 637,124 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended September 26th, 1908, was 5.34, as compared with 4.93 in August, and 5.63 a year ago. In August, about two-fifths of a day per week were lost on account of holidays.

Of the 637,124 workpeople covered by the Returns 505,297 (or 79.3 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended September 26th, 1908, while 373,548 (58.6 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest averages were in North Wales, 5.81 days; and in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 5.60 days. The lowest average was in Lancashire and Cheshire, 4.75 days.

The following Table shows the average number of days worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended September 26th, 1908, together with the figures for similar periods in August, 1908, and September, 1907:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Sept., 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with	
		Sept. 26th, 1908.	Aug. 22nd, 1908.*	Sept. 21st, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	43,465	5.41	5.22	5.46	+ .19	- .05
Durham ...	115,407	5.39	5.24	5.61	+ .15	- .22
Cumberland ...	7,242	5.30	4.62	5.65	+ .68	- .35
South Yorkshire ...	67,069	5.45	5.31	5.73	+ .28	- .28
West Yorkshire ...	23,303	5.07	4.35	5.54	+ .47	- .47
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,937	4.75	4.28	5.49	+ .74	- .74
Derbyshire ...	39,444	5.19	4.57	5.62	+ .62	- .43
Nottingham and Leicester	34,732	5.20	4.47	5.36	+ .73	- .16
Staffordshire ...	28,856	5.33	4.16	5.64	+ 1.17	- .31
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	10,962	5.26	4.52	5.79	+ .74	- .53
Gloucester and Somerset	8,032	5.14	4.48	5.82	+ .66	- .68
North Wales ...	10,787	5.81	5.23	5.82	+ .58	- .01
South Wales and Mon. ...	137,955	5.60	5.11	5.88	+ .49	- .28
ENGLAND AND WALES	885,191	5.38	4.91	5.66	+ .44	- .31
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	26,475	5.13	4.90	5.26	+ .23	- .13
The Lothians ...	4,343	5.26	5.25	5.32	+ .01	- .26
Fife ...	20,429	5.46	5.31	5.55	+ .15	- .09
SCOTLAND	51,247	5.27	5.09	5.40	+ .18	- .13
IRELAND	686	5.46	5.33	5.82	+ .13	+ 1.64
United Kingdom	637,124	5.34	4.93	5.63	+ .41	- .29

Compared with August, 1908, and after making due allowances for holidays in that month, there was an improvement in the West Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Gloucester and Somerset and Fife districts; but there was some decline in South Wales and Monmouthshire. In the other districts there was but little change. Compared with September, 1907, there was a decline in every district; this decline was most marked in the Lancashire and Cheshire district, in the West Midland Counties, and in West Yorkshire.

* The figures in this article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

† The number of days worked in August, 1908, is affected by holidays.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, classified according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were employed. At pits employing 210,376 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." As compared with a year ago there was a decline at pits producing all classes of coal, which was most marked in the cases of coking and house coal pits.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Sept., 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with	
		Sept. 26th, 1908.	August 22nd, 1908.*	Sept. 21st, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.	
Anthracite ...	8,448	5.74	4.91	5.73	+ .83	- .04	
Coking ...	33,677	5.30	5.24	5.73	+ .06	- .43	
Gas ...	40,173	5.41	5.01	5.49	+ .40	- .08	
House ...	81,730	5.10	4.43	5.59	+ .67	- .40	
Manufacturing and Steam	162,714	5.44	5.08	5.69	+ .36	- .25	
Mixed ...	210,376	5.27	4.86	5.61	+ .41	- .36	
All Descriptions	637,124	5.34	4.93	5.63	+ .41	- .29	

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in September, 1908, amounted to 5,664,307 tons, or 202,518 tons more than in August, 1908, and 10,411 tons less than in September, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 82 Returns—68 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good in iron mines, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. It continued good in shale mines.

It was fair generally in tin and copper mines and in lead mines. In quarries it continued moderate on the whole.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended September 26th, 1908, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.82, as compared with 5.71 a month ago and 5.92 a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. employed in Sept., 1908, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in September, 1908, as compared with	
		Sept., 26th, 1908.	August 22nd, 1908.	Sept., 21st, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,237	5.98	5.88	5.97	+ 0.10	+ 0.01
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,744	5.73	5.59	5.94	+ 0.14	- 0.21
Scotland ...	750	5.64	5.43	5.65	+ 0.21	- 0.01
Other Districts ...	2,376	5.57	5.47	5.80	+ 0.10	- 0.23
All Districts	15,105	5.82	5.71	5.92	+ 0.11	- 0.10

Of the 15,105 workpeople covered by the Returns 13,405, or 88.7 per cent., worked 22 or more days during the four weeks ended September 26th, as compared with 84.7 a month ago and 96.6 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,386 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended September 26th, as compared with 3,374 in the previous month, and 3,145 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended September 26th, 1908, was 5.77, as compared with 5.69 in August and 5.66 a year ago.

* This period was affected by holidays.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment was fair generally; but it continued bad at Calstock.

Lead Mining.—Employment in North Wales continued fairly good. It was good in Derbyshire and moderate in Weardale.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was bad in North Wales, and much short time was worked. At Ballachulish (Argyllshire) it was quiet.

Granite.—Employment continued good in the macadam branch in Leicestershire. It was dull in Aberdeenshire, and worse than a month ago. It was bad on Dartmoor and in Cornwall.

Limestone.—Employment was fair in North Wales, and moderate in the Cleveland district and in Weardale. In the Buxton and Plymouth districts it was slack.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good in the Clee Hill road material quarries. It was fair in the Forest of Dean, and slack in the Bath stone quarries. In the Sheffield district employment was fairly good. With grindstone makers at Barnsley it was slack. In the building and grindstone quarries in the Rowsley district it was moderate. At sandstone quarries in North Wales it was fair. With freestone quarries in the Gateshead district employment was quiet, and short time was worked. There was some improvement at the Bakewell chert quarries, and full time was worked. In Forfarshire employment continued bad.

Sett-making.—Employment was good in Leicestershire, and better than a month ago. It was fair on the whole in Scotland. In the Sheffield district it was fair; in the Clee Hill district it was dull.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 113 Returns—108 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during September was moderate. It was better than a month ago, but considerably worse than a year ago.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of September, 1908, was 279, as compared with 270 in August, 1908, and 343 in September, 1907. During September 12 furnaces were re-lit (3 in the Cleveland district, 3 in Derbyshire, 2 in Cumberland, 2 in Staffordshire, and 1 each in South Wales and in Lanarkshire), and 3 were blown out (2 in South Wales, and 1 in Cumberland). The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 21,400 in September, 1908; an increase of 1.9 per cent. as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 14.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with	
	Sept., 1908.	August, 1908.	Sept., 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	77	74	89	+ 3	- 12
Cumberland & Lancs.	26	25	36	+ 1	- 10
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	10	10	16	...	- 6
Derby & Nottingham	30	27	42	+ 3	- 12
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	26	...	...
Stafford & Worcester	32	30	37	+ 2	- 5
S. Wales & Monmouth	9	10	16	- 1	- 7
Other districts ...	6	6	8	...	- 2
England & Wales	216	208	270	+ 8	- 54
Scotland	63	62	73	+ 1	- 10
Total	279	270	343	+ 9	- 64

The Imports of iron ore in September, 1908, amounted to 514,436 tons, or 67,211 tons more than in August, 1908, and 37,072 tons less than in September, 1907.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in September, 1908, amounted to 116,999 tons, or 998 tons less than in August, 1908, and 27,988 tons less than in September, 1907.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 212 Returns—198 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 3 from Trade Unions; and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works during September remained about the same as in the previous month, and was worse than a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended September 26th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received, was 0.2 per cent. more than in the week ended August 22nd, 1908, but 12.3 per cent. less than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended September 26th, 1908, by all the workpeople included in the Returns, was about 464,300, as compared with 463,400 a month ago, and 529,600 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.	
	In week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	In week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.
IRON:				
Puddling Forges ...	9,730	+ 65	949	+ 0.08
Rolling Mills ...	3,929	+ 212	640	+ 0.03
Forging ...	466	- 1	20	+ 0.35
Founding ...	1,735	- 25	413	+ 0.06
Other Departments ...	669	+ 41	76	+ 0.06
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,837	+ 5	24	+ 0.05
Total, Iron ...	18,368	+ 297	2,122	+ 0.04
STEEL:				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,570	- 124	1,233	+ 0.04
Crucible Furnaces ...	527	+ 7	25	- 0.08
Bessemer Converters ...	1,564	- 46	45	- 0.01
Rolling Mills ...	14,023	+ 24	1,851	...
Forging and Pressing ...	2,710	+ 11	99	+ 0.10
Founding ...	6,856	- 178	1,131	- 0.01
Other Departments ...	6,905	+ 179	6	+ 0.06
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,516	- 57	1,033	+ 0.03
Total, Steel ...	47,680	- 184	5,311	+ 0.03
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):				
Rolling Mills ...	10,470	+ 136	709	- 0.01
Forging and Pressing ...	663	- 11	37	- 0.08
Founding ...	668	+ 5	63	...
Other Departments ...	2,859	- 32	40	+ 0.05
Mechanics, Labourers ...	5,764	- 190	496	- 0.02
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	20,224	- 92	1,345	- 0.01
Grand Total	86,470	+ 21	8,778	+ 0.01
Districts.				
Northumberland & Durham	8,966	- 403	3,186	+ 0.01
Cleveland ...	7,915	- 33	1,105	+ 0.03
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,051	- 77	692	+ 0.01
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,294	- 69	325	- 0.03
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	7,481	+ 160	2,526	+ 0.04
Staffordshire ...	10,024	+ 261	335	+ 0.07
Other Midland Counties	4,797	+ 39	384	+ 0.14
Wales and Monmouth	10,404	+ 262	103	+ 0.03
Total, England and Wales	70,012	+ 158	7,657	+ 0.01
Scotland ...	16,458	- 137	1,121	+ 0.03
Total	86,470	+ 21	8,778	+ 0.01

Compared with a month ago there was an increase in the number of workpeople employed in Cumberland and Lancashire, in the Midland counties, and in Wales and Monmouth; but a decline in Northumberland and Durham, in Yorkshire, and in Scotland. As regards departments, the chief increase was at iron rolling mills, and the chief decrease at steel foundries.

As compared with a year ago the number employed decreased in every district. This decrease was greatest in Northumberland and Durham, in Cumberland and Lancashire, and in Scotland. All the principal departments were affected by the decline.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.37, as compared with 5.36 in August, 1908, and 5.56 in September, 1907. Compared with a month ago there was but little change either in any of the important districts or in any of the principal departments. As compared with a year ago, the number of shifts worked showed a decline in every district except Cleveland, where there was a slight increase. The decline was most marked in Northumberland and Durham. The departments most affected by this decline were crucible furnaces and rolling mills (both iron and steel).

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during September, 1908, amounted to 103,075 tons, or 22,848 tons more than in August, 1908, and 39,959 tons more than in September, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during September 1908, amounted to 179,845 tons, or 8,756 tons less than in August, 1908, and 45,506 tons less than in September 1907.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

(Based on 57 Returns—55 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very good, and was better than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 399 tinplate mills were working at the end of September, as compared with 391 a month ago, and 394 a year ago. The numbers of sheet mills working during the same months were 47, 46 and 55 respectively. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,300 workpeople.

District	Number of Works open.*		Number of Mills in operation.	
	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate Works	76	+ 1	399	+ 8
Steel Sheet Works	8	- 1	47	+ 5
Total	84	- 1	446	+ 13

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

District	Sept., 1908.		Aug., 1908.		Sept., 1907.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.						
To United States	1,500	4,498	2,592	- 2,998	- 1,090	- 1,090
" British East Indies	4,411	3,789	3,010	+ 622	+ 1,401	+ 1,401
" Germany	2,355	1,972	3,281	+ 383	- 926	- 926
" France	1,530	1,578	1,407	- 48	+ 123	+ 123
" Netherlands	1,373	2,558	1,766	- 1,185	- 392	- 392
" Other Countries	17,247	15,130	12,888	+ 2,117	+ 4,359	+ 4,359
Total	28,416	29,825	24,941	- 1,109	+ 3,475	+ 3,475
Black Plates for Tinning.						
Total	4,094	5,452	5,802	- 1,388	- 1,408	- 1,408

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

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 987 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 935 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 42 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued slack, showing little general change compared with a month ago. It was much worse than a year ago, especially in the Northern Counties and Scotland. Short time was very frequent.

Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 155,317 show that at the end of September the percentage unemployed was 12.3 as compared with 12.0† a month ago, and 4.1 in September, 1907.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Sept., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
		Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	5,196	29.5	31.3†	7.6	- 1.8	+ 21.9
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,344	12.3	11.7	3.8	+ 0.6	+ 8.5
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,431	11.0	10.0	2.6	+ 1.0	+ 8.4
West Riding Towns	13,298	14.4	13.1	4.4	+ 1.3	+ 10.0
Hull and Lincolnshire District	4,120	9.9	8.4	2.2	+ 1.5	+ 7.7
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,457	9.3	10.7	3.3	- 0.9	+ 6.5
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District	4,590	9.3	13.4	3.5	- 4.1	+ 5.8
London and Neighbouring District	12,072	7.3	6.6	5.0	+ 0.7	+ 2.3
South Coast	4,410	5.6	5.9	2.5	- 0.3	+ 3.1
South Wales and Bristol District	6,828	8.4	8.4	4.1	...	+ 4.3
Glasgow and District	15,840	23.1	24.0	5.2	- 0.9	+ 17.9
East of Scotland	4,079	19.5	18.9	4.5	+ 0.6	+ 13.0
Belfast and Dublin	3,578	14.5	13.7	8.2	+ 0.8	+ 6.3
Other Districts	6,245	13.0	11.4	2.6	+ 1.6	+ 10.4
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	185,317	12.3	12.0†	4.1	+ 0.3	+ 8.2

On the North-East Coast employment continued bad, work not having been fully resumed since the strike of turners, fitters and machinemen. (For particulars of the settlement of this dispute, see p. 304.) There were, however, signs of coming improvement, and a few firms began working double shifts. On the Wear employment was very bad. On the Humber, work in connection with fishing vessels was slack, with short time, but improved towards the end of the month.

In Lancashire employment remained slack generally, short time being worked in general engineering shops; but at Oldham textile machine makers were well employed, with overtime. With ironfounders at Oldham employment was moderate.

In Yorkshire employment continued slack generally, with much short time, but at Leeds makers of railway wagons and textile machines were fairly well employed on foreign orders.

In the Midland Counties employment was slack generally, but it was fair with brass bobbin makers at Nottingham, with shoe machinery builders at Leicester, and with builders of refrigerating machinery at Derby. Employment at Crewe was fair on the whole. It was fair at Lincoln, Peterborough, Colchester and Ipswich.

Employment was slack in London and on the South Coast. It was fair at the Royal Dockyards and moderate at Bristol. In South Wales it was slack generally, but fair with some branches of ironfounders.

In Scotland employment was still bad generally, short time being worked to a considerable extent. At Belfast and Dublin employment continued bad.

The Imports of machinery in September, 1908, amounted to £271,919, as compared with £293,374 in August, 1908, and £374,511 in September, 1907; and the Exports for the same months to £2,413,179, £2,245,893, and £2,579,535 respectively.

* Exclusive of Superannuated members.
† Exclusive of members engaged in the recent dispute on the North-East Coast.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 349 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 329 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 60,927 members had 16,203 (or 26.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, 1908, as compared with 25.2 per cent. in August, 1908, and 11.7 per cent. in September, 1907.

Compared with a month ago there was a considerable increase in the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed on the Tyne, Tees, Humber and Mersey; and a considerable decrease in the Bristol Channel, Thames and Medway, and East Scotland districts. Compared with a year ago there was an increase in the percentage unemployed in every district except the South Coast, the most marked increase being on the Wear, Tees, Tyne, Humber and in Scotland.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Sept., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
		Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	30,116	27.1	20.8	13.1	+ 6.3	+ 1.1
Wear	5,618	53.1	53.7	14.8	- 0.6	+ 38.3
Tees and Hartlepool	5,083	43.5	39.2	11.4	+ 4.3	+ 32.1
Humber	2,745	25.0	22.9	7.2	+ 2.1	+ 17.8
Thames and Medway	4,283	12.4	14.6	11.5	- 2.2	+ 0.9
South Coast	4,906	3.3	2.8	4.3	+ 0.5	- 1.0
Bristol Channel Ports	2,791	19.8	23.5	16.9	- 3.7	+ 2.9
Mersey	4,022	18.1	25.2	18.5	+ 2.9	+ 2.6
Dundee	13,087	25.3	25.1	11.4	+ 0.2	+ 13.9
Dunfermline, Leith and Aberdeen	2,488	40.4	42.8	16.9	- 2.4	+ 23.5
Belfast	2,920	16.6	15.1	4.3	+ 1.5	+ 12.3
Other Districts	2,874	14.1	13.9	6.1	+ 0.2	+ 8.0
United Kingdom	60,927	26.6	28.2	11.7	+ 1.4	+ 14.9

On the Tyne employment was slack generally, but with shipwrights at Blyth it was fair, though worse than a month ago; with shipwrights, caulkers and riveters at Elswick it was also fair. On the Wear employment continued very bad. On the Tees and on the Humber it was bad, and worse than a month ago. At Barrow it was moderate.

Employment was slack in London. On the South Coast it continued fair. At the Bristol Channel ports an improvement was reported. On the Mersey it continued slack.

On the Clyde employment was slack generally. At Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen it was bad, as also at Belfast and Cork. At Dublin it was fair with shipwrights.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyds Returns for the quarter ended September, 1908, there was a decrease in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom of 65,800 tons gross (or 8.2 per cent.) as compared with the quarter ended June, 1908, and of 346,709 tons gross (or 32.1 per cent.) as compared with the quarter ended September, 1907. The figures relating to war vessels show an increase of 586 tons displacement as compared with the June quarter, but a decrease of 13,399 tons displacement as compared with the September, 1907, quarter.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	Quarter ended Sept., 1908.	Quarter ended June, 1908.	Quarter ended Sept., 1907.	Quarter ended Sept., 1908.	Quarter ended June, 1908.	Quarter ended Sept., 1907.
Clyde	228,046	270,655	366,356	6,966	6,011	52,523
Belfast	157,420	123,430	169,424	...	...	...
Tyne	177,383	180,295	211,350	84,917	83,285	82,726
Wear	56,905	72,861	126,337	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby	26,160	35,880	50,005	...	...	...
Middlesbrough and Stockton	36,996	47,952	81,400	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	5,050	9,040	11,700	42,060	42,680	37,120
Other Districts...	45,418	59,045	64,085	4,375	5,766	7,238
Royal Dockyards	...	...	...	112,820	112,820	84,930
Total	733,378	799,178	1,080,087	251,138	250,552	264,537

* Exclusive of superannuated members.

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with the quarter ended June, 1908, there was an increase at Belfast; in the other principal districts there were decreases. As compared with the quarter ended September, 1907, there was a decrease in every district, that in the Wear district amounting to over 50 per cent.

War Vessels.—There were slight increases on the Tyne and on the Clyde, and a slight decrease at Barrow, as compared with the quarter ended June, 1908. As compared with the September quarter, 1907, there was some improvement on the Tyne and at Barrow; but on the Clyde there was a very marked decrease, the tonnage under construction having dropped from 52,523 to 6,966. At the Royal Dockyards no change was shown as compared with the June quarter, 1908, but there was an increase of nearly 28,000 tons as compared with the September quarter, 1907.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 97 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 68 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during September was dull, and showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 16,124 had 4.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 3.8 per cent. at the end of August and 3.6 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brass-workers was reported as better at Manchester, and slightly better at Birmingham; at Leeds and Nottingham, and in London it was bad, and worse than a month ago; and at Wolverhampton it was slack. With bedstead workers at Birmingham and Dudley employment continued bad, with short time.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment continued quiet at Blackheath and Halesowen. With nut and bolt makers at Darlaston it was worse than a month ago; at Birmingham it was still quiet. It continued fair with wire nail and shoe rivet makers at Birmingham; with cut nail makers employment was moderate.

Wire.—Employment continued slack generally, with much short time. It was, however, fair with wire drawers at Manchester; and moderate at Halifax, at Sheffield, and at Glasgow.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—In the lock and latch trade at Wolverhampton employment continued bad. It was quiet in the galvanised hollow-ware trade in the Midlands, but showed an improvement at West Bromwich towards the end of the month.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment continued slack, and was worse than a month ago, a considerable amount of short time being worked.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment at Sheffield continued slack generally, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Redditch an improvement was reported in the needle trade; in the fish-hook trade employment was moderate.

Tubes.—Employment at Landore was fair, but not so good as a month ago; in South Staffordshire it was moderate; at Birmingham it was normal in the brazed brass and copper tube sections.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—Employment at Cradley Heath was bad, and worse than a month ago. With railway axle, wheel and girder makers at Wednesbury it was moderate; at West Bromwich it was fair with spring makers. With railway spring fitters and vicemen at Sheffield it was bad. It continued slack with anvil and vicemen. Employment with chainmakers at Cradley Heath and Winlaton was slack; with anchor smiths at Cradley Heath and on the Wear it continued bad.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers was bad at Hull and in Lancashire, and moderate at Leeds. At Aberdeen and at Belfast it was good. Employment with tinplate workers was bad at Wolverhampton, Oldham, Edinburgh and London; at

Birmingham it was quiet. With iron-plate workers at Birmingham and in the Lye district employment was fair, with some overtime; at Dudley it was good; at Wolverhampton and Bilston it was bad.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment in London and Sheffield was moderate with silver and electro-plate workers; in Birmingham a slight improvement was reported. With goldsmiths and jewellers employment was slack, but better than in August, in London; in Birmingham it was bad. With watch-makers at Coventry employment continued bad.

Farriers.—Employment continued fair generally.

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

Table showing Imports and Exports of Cutlery and Hardware for Sept., 1908, August, 1908, and Sept., 1907. Includes columns for Description, £ value, and % change.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 470 Returns—380 received from Employers, 80 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning branch was entirely disorganised by the dispute which began on September 21st; in the Weaving branch employment was bad, and was also adversely affected by the stoppage in the spinning branch. In the week prior to the stoppage of the spinning mills employment in both branches was worse than in September, 1907.

Returns from firms employing 117,705 workpeople in the week ended September 19th (the week prior to the commencement of the dispute) showed no change in the number employed, but an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with the end of August. As compared with a year ago the number employed decreased by 3.5 per cent. and the amount of wages paid by 12.5 per cent.

Table showing Employment and Earnings in the Cotton Trade. Includes columns for Departments, Districts, No. employed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in number employed, and Earnings.

It will be seen that as compared with the end of August, there was a slight increase in the numbers employed in the preparing and spinning departments, and that the amount of wages paid showed an increase in all departments except the "not specified" class. As compared with a year ago there was a general decrease in both numbers employed and wages paid, the decrease amounting to over 13.0 per cent. in the wages paid in the spinning and weaving branches.

As compared with the end of August, the amount of wages paid showed an increase in eight districts, and was most marked in the Oldham and Ashton districts; in the remaining four districts there were decreases. As compared with a year ago every district showed a decline, amounting to over 18.0 per cent. in the Burnley and Manchester districts, and to between 10.0 and 14.0 per cent. in seven of the remaining ten districts.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of September the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.36d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5.54d. per lb. and the lowest 5.20d. The price for August, 1908, was 5.77d. per lb., and for September, 1907, 7.06d. per lb. For the period from October 1st to 10th, the average price of "middling American" was 5.04d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during September averaged 7.15d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.6d., and the lowest 6.1d. per lb. The price for August, 1908, was 7.11d. per lb., and for September, 1907, 9.96d. per lb. For the period from October 1st to 10th, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.38d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on October 9th, 1908, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 433,880 bales, as compared with 633,420 bales on October 11th, 1907.

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

Table showing Description of Cotton, Sept., 1908, August, 1908, Sept., 1907, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a Month ago and Year ago.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Table showing Exports of Cotton Goods, including Cotton Yarn and Twist, Cotton Piece Goods, and Dyed Yarn. Includes columns for Description, Sept., 1908, August, 1908, Sept., 1907, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a Month ago and A year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 408 Returns—379 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 17 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was moderate; better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 29,118 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table showing Employment and Earnings in the Woollen and Worsted Trades. Includes columns for Departments, Districts, Workpeople covered by returns, and Earnings.

In the Huddersfield district employment showed an improvement, and several firms have returned to overtime or nightwork. In the Leeds district employment continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district it showed an improvement, and was fair. Employment was reported as fair at Selkirk and Galashiels, and as slack at Hawick.

Worsted Trade.

Employment was moderate, and showed an improvement compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 46,694 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table showing Employment and Earnings in the Worsted Trade. Includes columns for Departments, Districts, Workpeople covered by returns, and Earnings.

Employment in the Bradford district was still quiet, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago. In the Keighley and Halifax districts it showed a slight improvement. In the Huddersfield district employment was fair, and the weaving branch showed an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago. Some short time was worked in all the above districts.

Prices of Raw Material.

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

Table showing Average Prices of Raw Material (Wool and Tops) for Sept., 1908, August, 1908, and Sept., 1907. Includes columns for Description, Pence per lb., and Pence per lb. for different grades.

Imports and Exports.

Table showing Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (Sheep or Lambs') for Sept., 1908, August, 1908, and Sept., 1907. Includes columns for Description, 1,000 lbs., and Pence per lb.

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

Table showing British and Irish Manufactures Exported for Sept., 1908, August, 1908, and Sept., 1907. Includes columns for Description, 1,000 lbs., and Pence per lb.

British and Irish Manufactures Exported.

Table showing Piece Goods for Sept., 1908, August, 1908, and Sept., 1907. Includes columns for Description, 1,000 yds., and Pence per lb.

Table showing Total Piece Goods for Sept., 1908, August, 1908, and Sept., 1907. Includes columns for Description, 1,000 yds., and Pence per lb.

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 116 Returns—107 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, but was still much worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 47,061 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 14.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table showing Employment and Earnings in the Linen Trade. Includes columns for Departments, Districts, Workpeople covered by returns, and Earnings.

As compared with a month ago there was an improvement in the weaving department, the other departments showing little change. Compared with a year ago there was a marked decline in every branch. In the Belfast district employment continued bad, and much short time was reported. In other parts of Ireland employment was still very slack, with much short time. In Fifehire employment showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago; in the other parts of Scotland it showed a slight decline; some short time continued to be worked, and employment was worse than a year ago.

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

Description.	Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Cordilla) ... Tons	4,768	7,874	4,409	- 3,106	+ 359
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	10,578	10,362	11,763	+ 216	- 1,185
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	126,624	129,098	133,608	- 2,474	- 6,984

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 36 Returns—33 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued fair, but showed a decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Some short time was reported.

Returns received from firms employing 18,045 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,045 workpeople covered by the Returns, 15,718 (or 87 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago there were decreases in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid in every department except spinning, which showed a slight increase in the number employed compared with a year ago; the decline was most marked in the weaving branch.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
Preparing ...	4,264	- 0.4	2,723	- 0.2
Spinning ...	3,262	+ 1.5	3,167	- 0.5
Weaving ...	5,716	- 2.4	4,203	- 1.5
Other ...	1,904	+ 1.3	1,950	- 0.3
Not specified ...	899	+ 0.9	664	+ 0.6
Total ...	18,045	- 1.0	12,707	- 0.7

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

Description.	Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	14,118	14,631	7,524	- 513	+ 6,594
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	45,434	39,692	54,521	+ 5,742	- 9,095
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	184,917	125,419	131,938	+ 57,49	+ 50,979

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 89 Returns—82 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was quiet, with much short time. It was slightly better than a month ago, but considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 7,401 workpeople, and paying £6,952 in wages in the week ended September 26th, showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 6.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Description.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a
Branches.				
Lavers ...	2,291	- 0.2	2,324	+ 4.3
Curtain ...	2,691	+ 1.4	2,663	+ 1.3
Plain Net ...	1,593	+ 1.6	1,182	+ 5.3
Others ...	826	+ 2.9	581	+ 7.2
Total ...	7,401	+ 1.1	6,952	+ 3.5
Districts.				
Nottingham City ...	1,568	+ 2.3	1,454	+ 4.7
Long Eaton and other outlying districts ...	1,542	- 2.3	1,819	+ 1.7
Other English districts ...	2,433	+ 1.4	1,890	+ 3.9
Scotland ...	1,868	+ 3.0	1,779	+ 4.0
Total ...	7,401	+ 1.1	6,952	+ 3.5

At Nottingham employment continued bad in the levers branch and fair in the curtain and plain net branches. Much short time was worked, but on the whole there was a slight improvement as compared with August. In the Long Eaton district employment continued bad. In the West of England it was still quiet, but showed some improvement on a month ago. In Scotland an improvement was shown.

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

Description.	Sept., 1908.	August, 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Silk Lace ...	£ 17,926	£ 25,004	£ 14,147	- £ 7,078	+ £ 3,779
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace ...	282,832	274,148	335,433	+ 8,694	- 53,601
Silk Lace ...	10,459	4,481	8,727	+ 5,978	+ 1,732

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 111 Returns—103 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in England continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. In Scotland it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 19,769 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 0.6 per cent., but the wages paid a decrease of 1.7 per cent.

At Leicester employment was reported as slack, and was worse than a year ago; at Hinckley it was quiet; at Loughborough it was moderate; some short time was reported by a number of firms. With power-frame

workers at Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was moderate, and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago; some short time was reported; with hand-frame workers in the country districts employment was moderate. In Scotland it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a
Leicester ...	9,759	+ 0.3	7,662	- 1.7
Leicester Country District ...	2,647	+ 0.6	2,054	+ 2.1
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	4,212	- 0.3	3,091	+ 2.8
Scotland ...	2,115	+ 2.4	1,488	+ 3.0
Other Districts ...	1,036	+ 1.0	632	+ 1.1
Total, United Kingdom ...	19,769	+ 0.5	14,897	+ 0.3

The Imports (less re-exports) of woollen and cotton hosiery in September, 1908, amounted to £35,823 and £149,257 respectively, as compared with £24,306 and £140,104 in August, 1908, and £14,345 and £109,224 in September, 1907.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in September, 1908, amounted to £109,294 and £35,724 respectively, as compared with £116,025 and £38,631 in August, 1908, and £138,304 and £44,178 in September, 1907.

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 55 Returns—52 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Much short time was reported. Returns received from firms employing 8,413 workpeople, and paying £5,540 in wages in the week ended September 26th, showed that, as compared with a month ago, there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 6.6 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 8.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Description.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a
Branches.				
Throwing ...	561	- 0.2	398	+ 1.3
Spinning ...	7,745	- 0.6	1,972	- 2.6
Weaving ...	3,562	- 0.6	2,299	- 1.2
Other ...	1,144	+ 4.8	871	+ 8.3
Total ...	8,413	+ 0.2	5,540	- 0.2
Districts.				
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire ...	3,357	- 0.7	2,453	- 3.2
Macclesfield, Congleton and District ...	829	- 1.2	572	- 5.0
Eastern Counties ...	2,274	+ 1.0	1,330	+ 7.7
Other Districts, including Scotland ...	1,953	+ 1.1	1,185	+ 0.7
Total ...	8,413	+ 0.2	5,540	- 0.2

With throwsters and spinners employment was moderate at Macclesfield, and short time was worked. It was also moderate with throwsters at Congleton. With both handloom and powerloom weavers employment at Macclesfield was bad, and worse than a

month ago and a year ago. With trimming weavers employment was bad at Congleton. At Leek employment was bad in all branches of the industry, and short time was general. In the Bradford district there was a slight improvement. In the Eastern Counties employment continued dull, but had improved slightly as compared with a month ago. It was, however, worse than a year ago.

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

Description.	Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk ... Lbs	132,895	92,081	117,973	+ 42,814	- 14,922
Thrown Silk ... "	37,632	36,996	50,215	+ 636	- 12,583
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	22,806	18,499	16,036	+ 4,307	+ 6,750
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	5,654,086	5,142,401	4,967,541	+ 511,685	+ 686,545
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs	5,638	4,923	3,480	+ 715	+ 2,158
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	44,749	55,094	67,267	- 10,345	- 22,518
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	283,055	354,812	293,591	+ 28,243	+ 89,464

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 61 Returns—21 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 27 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

Carpet Trade.

Employment in this industry during September continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. A good deal of short time was reported. Returns received from firms employing 5,213 workpeople, and paying £3,880 in wages in the week ended September 26th, showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago the number employed decreased by 6.8 per cent., and the amount of wages paid by 17.1 per cent.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The majority of the Trade Union dyers worked less than four days a week.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago; it was affected by the dispute in the cotton trade.

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

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment generally with machine calico printers was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; much short time was reported. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire it was quiet. In Glasgow it continued bad with calico printers and engravers; with block printers it was fair.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester employment was slack, at Hinckley it continued bad, with much short time, at Loughborough it showed an improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago. With dyers at Nottingham employment continued moderate, with bleachers at Basford and Bulwell it was slack, with hosiery trimmers it was bad; on the whole employment in Nottinghamshire was worse than a year ago, and short time was reported throughout the district.

Calenderers, &c.—At Glasgow employment continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. At Dundee it continued fair.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 126 Returns—96 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during September showed a seasonal improvement as compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Firms paying £9,347 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended September 26th showed an increase of 13·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 7·5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment on the whole continued moderate, and was about the same as a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment continued moderate, and was not so good as a year ago. Firms employing 6,733 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended September 26th showed a decrease of 0·6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1·4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment with Jewish operatives showed a slight improvement.

Other Centres.—Employment at Manchester, Bristol, and Norwich was moderate, and slightly worse than a year ago. At Glasgow it was fair.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in September, 1908, were valued at £302,192, as compared with £246,471 in August, 1908, and £279,865 in September, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £414,023, £460,504, and £477,229 respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 498 Returns—482 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 7 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, slightly worse than a month ago, but rather better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 62,847 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed a decrease of 0·1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2·9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3·6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES.			£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
London	2,306	- 0·9	2,432	- 4·3	+ 2·2	
Leicester	12,930	- 0·5	12,130	- 4·6	+ 6·9	
Leicester Country District	3,161	+ 0·8	2,816	- 4·8	+ 1·5	
Northampton	9,611	- 0·6	9,104	- 2·8	+ 7·6	
Northampton Country District	9,041	+ 0·3	8,320	- 2·9	+ 1·0	
Kettering	3,894	+ 0·6	3,843	- 2·4	+ 1·4	
Stafford & District	2,630	- 1·5	2,166	- 9·0	+ 2·0	
Norwich & District	3,371	+ 1·3	2,859	- 1·7	+ 1·1	
Bristol & District	2,057	+ 1·2	1,888	- 0·2	+ 3·0	
Kingswood	1,364	+ 1·6	1,387	+ 7·4	+ 0·1	
Leeds & District	2,141	- 0·8	1,905	- 3·2	- 6·2	
Manchester & District	2,665	+ 1·8	2,558	+ 0·4	+ 1·7	
Birmingham & District	921	+ 0·9	748	+ 2·3	+ 15·4	
Other parts of England and Wales	2,615	+ 1·0	2,241	+ 0·6	+ 5·6	
ENGLAND & WALES.	58,717	- 0·1	54,397	- 2·9	+ 3·7	
SCOTLAND	3,837	+ 0·5	3,603	- 0·1	+ 2·5	
IRELAND	293	+ 2·1	221	+ 11·1	+ 11·6	
UNITED KINGDOM	62,847	- 0·1	58,227	- 2·7	+ 3·6	

Employment at Leicester showed a further decline, but was better than a year ago; a number of firms reported short time. At Northampton employment was

quiet; at Kettering it continued slack; with army bootmakers there was no improvement. At Bristol employment showed little change compared with a month ago, but was slightly better than a year ago. There was a further improvement in the heavy boot trade at Kingswood. At Leeds employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

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

Description.	Sept., 1908.	August, 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	31,596	26,292	22,532	+ 5,104	+ 8,864
Value £	72,942	54,275	62,018	+ 18,667	+ 10,924
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	90,269	94,025	100,375	- 3,756	- 10,006
Value £	210,024	207,712	216,412	+ 2,312	+ 6,388

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

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 14 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, and 12 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during September in the *Silk* hat trade continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade it was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 16·2, compared with 16·1 a month ago, and 10·9 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 3·0, compared with 2·7 a month ago, and 2·0 a year ago. Employment at Denton and Stockport was bad, with much short time. In Warwickshire it was fairly good.

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

Description.	Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds	25,174	23,543	22,452	+ 1,631	+ 2,722
Exports:					
Felt	45,873	51,757	47,079	- 5,884	- 1,206
Straw	30,935	36,177	34,970	- 5,242	- 4,035
Other Sorts	8,707	7,314	5,775	+ 1,393	+ 2,932
Total	85,515	95,248	87,824	- 9,733	- 2,309

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 45 Returns—29 from Trade Unions and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,398 had 8·2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 7·5 per cent. in August, and 4·5 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—Employment with skinner was fair at Birmingham, but bad in London; at Leeds it was rather better than in August. With curriers it was bad generally; fair at Glasgow and Edinburgh. With leather workers generally employment was quiet at Leeds; fair at Bolton, Bury, and Wigan; bad at Manchester.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—With saddlers it was bad at Walsall, improving in London, fair at Glasgow. With harness makers in London it was bad. At Dublin employment was good.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment continued bad generally and much short time was worked. With portmanteau and trunk makers employment was very quiet, and short time was worked.

Imports and Exports.

The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, for the months stated:—

Description.	Sept., 1908.	August, 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	40,245	39,359	30,382	+ 886	+ 9,863
Ditto, wet	57,190	54,284	32,042	+ 2,906	+ 25,148
Total, hides, dry and wet	97,435	93,643	62,424	+ 3,792	+ 35,011
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	1,124,077	1,198,340	714,006	- 174,263	+ 409,171
Sheep skins " (value) £	198,977	222,055	255,259	- 23,078	- 56,282
Leather*	98,205	112,565	80,720	- 14,350	+ 17,485
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value)	£ 33,158	£ 34,505	£ 51,202	- £ 1,347	- £ 18,044

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 181 Returns—169 from Employers, 7 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trades showed a seasonal improvement; it was slightly worse than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades in London employment was fairly good. In the shirt and collar trade generally and in the corset trade it was moderate.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 840 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd, and 1,593 in the week ended September 26th, showed a decrease of 1·0 per cent. in the number employed compared with the week ended September 28th, 1907. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers employing 412 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd, and 965 in the week ended September 26th, showed a decrease of 3·5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. With milliners in the West-End employment was fair.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,307 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 13·7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1·8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 1,767 workpeople in the week ended September 26th showed an increase of 0·2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 6·8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fair, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,359 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,027 in wages, in the week ended September 26th, showed an increase of 1·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared

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

with a month ago, and a decrease of 9·3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,114 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended September 26th, showed an increase of 2·6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 4·9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 431 Returns—141 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 271 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Some short time was reported, especially in the Northern Counties.

Returns received from firms employing 22,729 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was a decrease of 0·3 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 2·8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

Description.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of September, 1908, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,532	- 0·6	+ 0·6
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland	2,014	+ 2·5	+ 7·2
Southern Counties	7,231	+ 0·2	+ 7·2
Scotland	6,952	- 1·2	- 0·4
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,868	- 0·2	+ 3·0
Hand-made Paper	861	- 1·3	- 0·8
Total	22,729	- 0·3	+ 2·8

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,741 members had 2·8 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 2·7 per cent. a month ago and 1·9 per cent. a year ago. In the *hand-made paper* trade, Trade Unions with 584 members had 6·0 per cent. unemployed, compared with 4·9 per cent. a month ago, and 6·0 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of paper in September, 1908, amounted to £488,537, as compared with £460,037 in August, 1908, and £503,268 in September, 1907; and the Exports for the same months amounted to £179,531, £170,268, and £188,307, respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	20,333	9·0	8·1	8·2	+ 0·9	+ 0·8
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,295	6·2	6·4	4·7	- 0·2	+ 1·5
Lancs. and Cheshire	6,632	6·0	7·6	4·6	- 1·6	+ 1·4
East Midlands and Eastern Counties	2,398	4·8	4·9	3·8	- 0·1	+ 1·0
West Midlands	2,543	5·4	6·4	5·0	- 1·0	+ 0·4
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,793	4·6	5·1	3·0	- 0·5	+ 1·8
Scotland	5,470	4·8	4·6	2·3	+ 0·2	+ 2·5
Ireland	2,448	11·1	10·4	8·0	+ 0·7	+ 3·1
United Kingdom	48,830	7·2	7·1	5·9	+ 0·1	+ 1·3

London.—Employment was bad generally and worse than a month ago and a year ago, except with machine managers, who were fairly well employed. At the end of September 9·0 per cent. of the Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 8·1 per cent. a month ago and 8·2 per cent. in September, 1907.

Other Centres.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than a year ago. Compared with a month ago there was a slight improvement on the whole. With letterpress printers at Edinburgh employment was fair, though not quite so good as a month ago. Employment was fairly good at Bolton and Derby and in the Eastern Counties. At Bristol and Cardiff it was worse than a month ago. At Aberdeen it was fair, but declining. Lithographic printers were fairly well employed at Birmingham, and at Edinburgh an improvement was reported, but at other towns employment was worse than a month ago, a considerable amount of short time being worked.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In London and Edinburgh there was some improvement compared with August, less short time being reported.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	3,582	6.6	6.6	4.4	...	+ 2.2
Other Districts ...	3,167	8.0	9.2	4.9	- 1.2	+ 3.1
United Kingdom ...	6,749	7.2	7.8	4.6	- 0.6	+ 2.6

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,749 Returns—758 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 935 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 56 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in September continued slack. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from 690 firms employing 45,172 workpeople at the end of September are summarised below. These Returns show that in London compared with a month ago there was a decrease of 10.3 per cent. in the number of skilled tradesmen, and of 8.5 per cent. in the number of labourers employed; while compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 6.6 per cent. in the number of skilled tradesmen, but an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number of labourers. In the provinces the number of skilled tradesmen showed decreases of 1.5 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago, and the number of labourers decreases of 2.5 and 4.3 per cent. respectively.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.				Labourers.			
	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Sept.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Sept.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		A month ago.	A year ago.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
London ...	8,038	- 922	- 570	5,601	- 520	+ 64		
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,444	- 27	- 147	1,938	+ 12	- 141		
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,730	- 103	- 27	3,176	- 108	+ 101		
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,835	- 66	- 77	2,345	- 92	+ 187		
England and Wales ...	20,073	- 1,254	- 884	14,980	- 772	- 296		
Scotland ...	3,379	+ 123	- 19	1,818	- 25	+ 8		
Ireland ...	660	- 39	- 235	748	- 31	- 190		
United Kingdom ...	24,112	- 1,170	- 1,138	17,546	- 828	- 478		

District.	Lads and Boys.				Total.			
	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Sept.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Sept.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		A month ago.	A year ago.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
London ...	505	- 11	- 34	14,168	- 1,453	- 840		
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	489	- 10	- 74	4,851	- 28	- 382		
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	886	- 24	- 6	7,792	- 235	+ 71		
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	362	- 1	- 27	5,842	- 188	+ 287		
England and Wales ...	2,691	- 46	- 220	37,744	- 2,072	- 1,400		
Scotland ...	703	- 23	- 128	5,800	+ 75	- 189		
Ireland ...	120	-	+ 35	1,828	- 70	- 390		
United Kingdom ...	3,514	- 63	- 313	45,172	- 2,067	- 1,929		

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of September was 11.0, as compared with 8.9 a month ago and 5.9 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 11.7, 12.2, and 8.0 respectively.

London.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Union Returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 12.0 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 9.9 per cent. a month ago, and 7.8 per cent. in September, 1907. The corresponding percentages for plumbers were 13.2, 11.5, and 12.9 respectively.

Other Districts.—Employment continued slack in nearly all districts. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago.

At Leeds carpenters and joiners were fairly well employed during the first part of the month; employment then declined, but was better than in August. Employment was moderate at Oldham, and also with carpenters at Burnley, plumbers at Bolton, and painters at Manchester. It was good with bricklayers at Wolverhampton, and fair with carpenters at Cambridge. Masons were still fairly well employed in South Wales, and at Bristol they reported an improvement. At Torquay employment was fair on the whole.

Employment was fair at Falkirk, and also with bricklayers at Edinburgh, masons at Dundee, and painters at Cork.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 192 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 156 from Trade Unions, and 32 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,028 reported 9.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 8.4 per cent. a month ago, and 4.6 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment generally continued bad, and worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 11.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 10.4 per cent. a month ago, and 5.9 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in September, 1908, were valued at £25,898, as compared with £29,399 in August, 1908, and £41,708 in September, 1907, and the Exports for the same periods at £63,445, £54,755, and £84,988, respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. It continued fair, however, at Hull and Belfast. Trade Unions reported 9.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 8.7 per cent. a month ago, and 5.0 per cent. a year ago.

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

Description.	Sept., 1908.	August, 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn ...	Loads. 87,868	Loads. 92,764	Loads. 107,273	Loads. - 2,896	Loads. - 17,405
" sawn ...	739,605	695,592	795,575	+ 44,013	- 55,970
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 17,630	£ 19,003	£ 20,055	- £ 1,373	- £ 2,425

Coopers.

Employment continued fair on the whole. It was, however, dull and worse than a month ago at Burton.

Coachbuilding.

Employment generally continued bad, and worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 9.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, compared with 8.2 per cent. a month ago, and 4.1 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment continued bad, and worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 9.5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 9.9 per cent. a month ago, and 3.9 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—Employment remained slack with packing-case makers. It was bad and worse than a month ago with skipmakers and with other basket-makers at Oldham.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in September, 1908, were valued at £26,743, as compared with £27,116 in August, 1908, and £26,654 in September, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £16,321, £13,513, and £19,849 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 95 Returns—60 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 24 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the glass trades was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 7,682 workpeople in the week ended September 26th, and paying £9,158 in wages, showed a decrease of 3.5 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 5.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. The decline was entirely in the glass bottle branch, and principally in Yorkshire.

As compared with a year ago there were decreases of 9.8 per cent. in numbers employed and of 7.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the decline being most marked in Lancashire and in Scotland.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Glass Bottle ...	4,935	- 57	- 12.3	5,983	- 9.3	- 10.2
Plate Glass ...	705	+ 0.1	- 15.9	890	+ 3.3	- 7.6
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,778	+ 1.0	- 0.1	1,944	+ 2.5	+ 0.8
Other Branches ...	264	+ 0.4	- 2.6	335	+ 0.9	- 5.9
Total ...	7,682	- 3.5	- 9.8	9,158	- 5.5	- 7.7

Districts.	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Sept. 26th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
	North of England	754	- 0.5	- 9.7	870	+ 1.4	- 4.5
Yorkshire ...	3,957	- 5.9	- 8.8	4,749	- 11.6	- 7.4
Lancashire ...	676	- 4.5	- 23.3	775	-	- 22.4
Worcester and Warwick	1,212	-	- 4.9	1,496	+ 2.6	-
Scotland ...	751	- 0.1	- 12.0	950	+ 6.0	- 9.4
Other parts of the United Kingdom	329	+ 1.5	+ 1.2	308	- 2.8	- 4.0
Total ...	7,682	- 3.5	- 9.8	9,158	- 5.5	- 7.7

Employment with glass bottle makers was good at Bristol; fair at Castleford and Dublin and in the North of England; moderate at Leeds and in Scotland; slack at Barnsley; bad at Mexborough and Wakefield; and very bad in Lancashire. With medical glass bottle makers at Leeds employment was moderate. With flint glass makers employment was fair on the whole. With cutters it was slack. Employment with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was slack. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens it was

dull. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was moderate, and showed a decline on the previous month, short time being general. Employment with decorative glass workers at Manchester was quiet. Employment with London glass blowers showed a further decline.

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

Description.	Sept., 1908.	August, 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 96,360	cwts. 87,137	cwts. 74,315	+ 9,223	+ 27,045
Plate ...	25,565	27,935	29,441	- 2,370	- 3,876
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	68,607	60,418	59,501	+ 6,189	+ 7,105
Manufactures, other sorts...	223	125	505	+ 98	- 282
Bottles ...	112,122	100,193	97,974	+ 11,929	+ 14,150
Exports:					
Plate ...	cwts. 18,350	cwts. 13,159	cwts. 9,869	+ 5,191	+ 8,481
Flint ...	5,418	4,635	6,047	+ 783	- 629
Manufactures, other sorts ...	45,487	30,942	42,660	+ 15,545	+ 3,827
Bottles ...	60,115	55,905	72,660	+ 4,210	- 12,545

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 28 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 8 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade was bad. It was worse than a month ago and considerably worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued bad and was worse than a year ago. Much short time was worked.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was bad, short time being general. It was also bad at Bristol. In Glasgow it was bad and worse than a month ago. It was fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne and in Devonshire, and good at Portobello and Kirkcaldy. With earthenware makers in South Yorkshire employment continued bad, and much short time was worked. It was dull with makers of china at Longton, but showed some improvement on the previous month. With clay tobacco-pipe makers employment was quiet at Manchester, bad at Gateshead and at Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was good in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and at Chelmsford. It was fair in North Wales and at Oldham, and moderate at Ipswich, Sudbury and in the Tees and Hartlepoons district. Employment continued very slack at Peterborough. It was also slack in Leicestershire and Shropshire. It was slightly better at Stourbridge. It was very dull in Devonshire and South Staffordshire, and quiet at Birmingham. In Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, and at Nottingham employment was bad.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in September, 1908, were valued at £74,734, as compared with £67,497 in August, 1908, and £80,134 in September, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £165,998, £191,317, and £201,391 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 215 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

FARM work in September was hindered by rain in most parts of the country, and day labourers, especially those employed at the corn harvest, lost time in consequence. Generally speaking the supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of the demand.

Northern Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire, but many day labourers lost time on account of wet weather. The supply of extra men was quite equal to the demand, and in Cumberland some surplus was reported. In Yorkshire the corn harvest provided employment for most agricultural labourers; in several districts, however, day labourers lost time through rain.

Midland Counties.—In Cheshire and Derbyshire the corn harvest was much hindered by wet weather, and the employment of day labourers was consequently irregular. Similar reports come from Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Rutland. There was an ample supply of extra labour in these counties, and in Leicestershire the supply was said to be more than sufficient. Employment was fairly regular in Staffordshire and Shropshire. On wet days, when harvest work was interrupted, day labourers were in some cases provided with other work. Although the corn harvest was much interrupted by rain in Worcestershire, employment on the whole was fairly regular on account of other work (picking hops and fruit, potato lifting, and manure carting). There was a demand in this county for men to take charge of animals. The supply of extra men was somewhat in excess of the demand in Warwickshire. Harvest work and manure carting provided fairly regular employment in Northamptonshire, and the supply of and demand for extra labour were generally about equal. In Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire the employment of day labourers was reported to be somewhat affected by the wet weather, and in certain districts the supply of this class of men was in excess of requirements. The corn harvest, hoeing, and potato raising generally provided full and regular employment in Hertfordshire. There was but little time lost through rain in Bedfordshire; day labourers, however, were somewhat in excess of the demand in certain districts.

Eastern Counties.—In Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire wet weather somewhat interrupted employment and caused harvest work to be delayed. In some cases, however, autumn work was proceeded with in the meantime, and the supply of and demand for extra labour were on the whole about equal. Similar reports come from Lincolnshire. In Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex the corn harvest, threshing, ploughing, manure carting, hedge trimming, potato raising, and hoeing afforded fairly regular employment, but in many districts the supply of extra men tended to be in excess of the demand.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Kent hop-picking provided work for a number of day labourers, while threshing, hoeing, and other work also caused a fair demand for such men; the supply, however, was generally more than sufficient. Finishing the corn harvest, hoeing, manure carting, potato lifting, and hedge trimming caused a good and fairly regular demand for labour in Surrey and Sussex, but there was a full supply, and in several districts a surplus was reported. Similar reports come from Hampshire and Berkshire. Wet weather interrupted the employment of day labourers in Wiltshire, and the supply of this class of men was generally in excess of the demand. Threshing and hoeing caused a fairly good demand for labour in Dorset, but work on the land was hindered by rain. Employment was fairly regular in Somerset, and the supply of day labourers about equal to the demand. There was generally a good demand for extra labour in Herefordshire, but the supply was sufficient. A scarcity of carters and stockmen was reported from the Ledbury Union. Some irregularity of employment was reported from Gloucestershire on account of wet weather. Men for permanent situations were said to be somewhat scarce. Harvest work, lifting potatoes, and trimming hedges caused a fairly good and constant demand for extra men in Devonshire and Cornwall, but the supply was ample.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

Based on 138 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 8 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

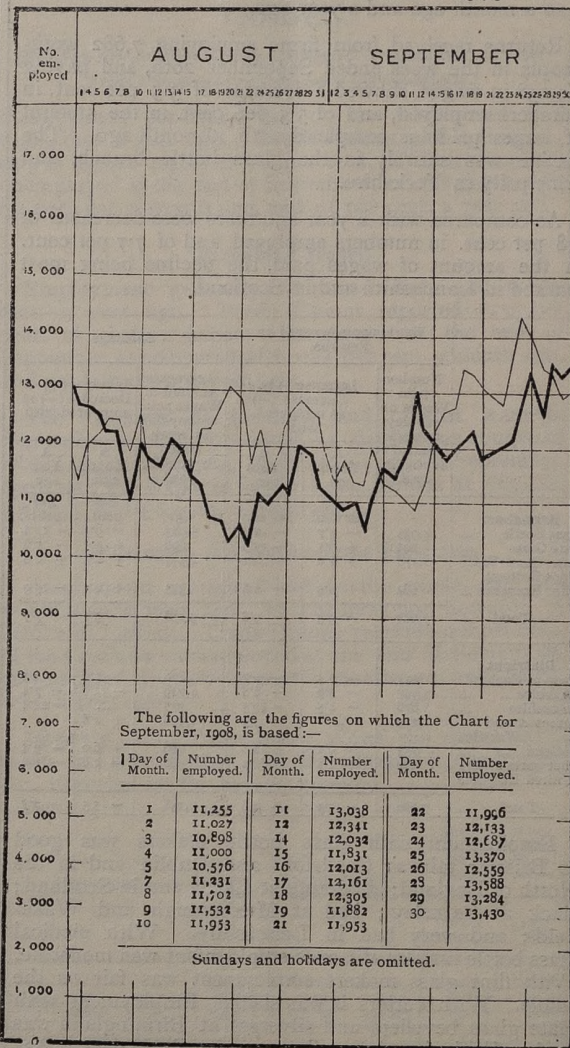
EMPLOYMENT in London and the other principal ports continued moderate generally, except at Liverpool, where it was very dull.

London.*—Employment was moderate generally during September, about the same as a month ago, but not so good as in September, 1907. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended September 26th was 11,868, an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Period.	In Docks*			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Sept. 5th	3,568	2,054	5,622	5,399	11,023
" " 12th	3,786	2,323	6,111	5,855	11,966
" " 19th	4,211	2,054	6,265	5,262	12,037
" " 26th	4,222	2,505	6,727	5,922	12,150
Average for 4 weeks ended Sept. 26th, 1908	3,947	2,187	6,134	5,734	11,868
Average for Aug., 1908	4,307	2,193	6,400	6,434	11,834
Average for Sept., 1907	3,991	2,800	6,481	6,909†	12,390†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of August and September, 1908. The corresponding curve for August and September, 1907, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1908, and the thin curve to 1907.]



* Exclusive of Tilbury. † Revised figures.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 16 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed in September, 1908, showed a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value, as compared with September, 1907.

Employment at the principal ports during September continued fair on the whole.

At Yarmouth it was good with fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Grimsby employment continued good with all classes, and was better than a year ago. At Hull it was moderate with fishermen and fish dock labourers and fair with fish curers. At Lowestoft it was fair with all classes, and better than in September, 1907. At Aberdeen it was good generally and better than a month ago; at Macduff employment was moderate; at Fraserburgh it was moderate with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers; at Peterhead it was bad with all classes, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Off the south-western coast of England fishing operations were hindered by stormy weather; steam trawlers, however, landed fair catches.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in September, 1908 and 1907:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Sept., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Sept., 1908.	Sept., 1907.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 1,320,186	Cwts. 1,261,564	£ 758,353	£ 693,953
Scotland	441,096	537,332	160,121	174,727
Ireland	55,182	42,431	24,089	22,769
Total	1,816,464	1,841,327	942,563	891,449
Shell Fish	—	—	35,936	38,876
Total Value	—	—	978,504	935,375

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in September, 1908, were valued at £508,788, as compared with £675,353 in August, 1908, and £760,440 in September, 1907.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

LIST OF MEMBERS ELECTED.

THE persons named below have been duly returned on behalf of the employees as members of the Conciliation Boards on the following Railways:—

CORK, BANDON AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. Traffic Department.—T. Ahern, signaller, Cork; D. McCarthy, shunter, Cork; F. Bennett, parcels porter, Bandon.

Sectional Board B. Locomotive Department.—M. Field, engine driver, Skibberceen; D. Kelly, fireman, Cork; J. O'Sullivan, engine driver, Cork.

Sectional Board C. Permanent Way and Signal Department.—T. Crowley, ganger, Cork; W. Daunt, milesman, Dunmanway; H. McCarthy, milesman, Bandon.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY.

Sectional Board No. 1. District No. 1.—G. A. Rhind, signaller, Edinburgh (Haymarket Junction); C. Douglas, signaller, St. Boswell's. **District No. 2.**—J. Gold, spare signaller, Cowdenbeath; D. Duncan, spare signaller, Dundee (Tay Bridge). **District No. 3.**—J. M. Cuthbertson, signaller, Glasgow (Bridgeton Cross); W. Kinnear, spare signaller, Glasgow (Queen Street). **District No. 4.**—T. Dudgeon, spare signaller, Coatbridge, Central; F. Monaghan, signaller, Bathgate, Upper.

Sectional Board No. 2. District No. 1.—W. Methven, passenger guard, Edinburgh (Waverley); J. Borthwick, special ticket examiner, Edinburgh (Waverley). **District No. 2.**—W. K. Husband, ticket collector, Montrose; A. Ness, passenger guard, Dundee (Tay Bridge). **District No. 3.**—J. Milne, passenger guard, Glasgow (Bridgeton Cross); J. Nicholson, ticket collector, Glasgow (Bridgeton Cross). **District No. 4.**—R. Lauder, passenger guard, Airdrie.

Sectional Board No. 3. District No. 1.—T. S. Cameron, passenger porter, Edinburgh (Waverley); J. Cormack, passenger porter, Edinburgh (Waverley). **District No. 2.**—J. Meiklejohn, lampman, Dunfermline, Upper; J. Dolan, passenger porter, Dundee (East). **District No. 3.**—H. Monaghan, passenger

The daily numbers in September, 1908, ranged from 10,576 on the 5th to 13,588 on the 28th. During September, 1907, the numbers ranged from 11,033* on the 12th to 14,298* on the 26th.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,224 during September, 1908, as compared with 1,029 during August, and 1,105 during September, 1907.

At Liverpool employment was very dull both with dockers and with quay and railway carters; a slight improvement was, however, reported with dockers at Bootle towards the end of the month.

Other Ports.—On the Tyne and Wear employment was generally dull, but it was good with trimmers and teamers. At Hartlepool employment continued slack, and at Middlesbrough it was moderate. It was bad on the whole with dock labourers at Hull, Grimsby and Goole, and worse than a month ago; but fair with coal porters at these ports. Employment was fairly good at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Lynn. There was a decline at Plymouth. At the South Wales ports employment was fair, and better than a month ago. It was moderate and better than a month ago at Bristol. Dock labourers were slack at Leith. Employment was dull at Glasgow and Aberdeen; but there was an improvement at Dundee. At Dublin and Belfast employment was bad.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN SEPTEMBER.

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

RETURNS from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during September 44,098 seamen†, of whom 3,927 (or 8.9 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with September, 1907, there was an increase of 996. The greatest increase was at the Tyne Ports and at London; at Southampton, Liverpool and Glasgow there were decreases.

For the nine months ended September, 1908, the total number of seamen‡ shipped was 370,082, a decrease of 1,467 as compared with the corresponding period of 1907. The chief increases were at Southampton and Liverpool; but there were large decreases at Glasgow, Cardiff, Hull, and Middlesbrough.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen‡ shipped in					
	September,			January-September,		
	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.
ENGLAND AND WALES						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	2,096	2,708	+ 612	23,478	22,585	- 893
Sunderland	467	397	- 70	3,637	3,360	- 277
Middlesbrough	344	510	+ 166	3,681	2,616	- 1,065
Hull	986	901	- 85	11,402	9,607	- 1,795
Grimsby	64	110	+ 46	1,163	7,651	+ 483
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	575	586	+ 11	5,607	5,309	- 298
Newport, Mon.	856	1,014	+ 158	8,219	8,819	+ 570
Cardiff	4,479	4,558	+ 79	45,881	43,044	- 2,837
Swansea	331	466	+ 135	4,554	3,835	- 719
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	16,943	16,822	- 121	138,251	140,031	+ 1,770
London	6,638	6,899	+ 261	54,835	55,293	+ 458
Southampton	4,803	4,576	- 227	29,575	36,338	+ 6,763
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	330	383	+ 53	4,136	3,510	- 626
Kirkcaldy, Methill and Grangemouth	283	270	- 13	2,161	1,952	- 209
Glasgow	3,731	3,616	- 115	32,498	29,476	- 3,022
IRELAND.						
Dublin	57	81	+ 24	503	519	+ 16
Belfast	119	201	+ 82	1,920	1,937	+ 17
Total	43,102	44,098	+ 996	371,549	370,082	- 1,467

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

porter, Glasgow (Bridgeton Cross); J. A. Corbett, passenger porter, Kilpatrick. District No. 4.—A. Watson, passenger porter, Airdrie South.

Sectional Board No. 4. District No. 1.—J. Burrell, shunter, Portobello; A. J. B. Niven, goods guard, Edinburgh (Waverley). District No. 2.—R. M. Cant, shunter, Dundee (Tay Bridge); W. McLaren, goods guard, Dunfermline, Upper. District No. 3.—W. Campbell, pilot guard, Grangemouth; D. Dobinson, shunter, Glasgow (Port Dundas). District No. 4.—T. H. Henderson, goods guard, Bathgate Upper; T. Young, goods guard, Shettleston.

Sectional Board No. 5. District No. 1.—J. Palmer, checker, Edinburgh (Waverley); A. McBain, checker, North Leith. District No. 2.—I. B. Robertson, checker, Dundee (Tay Bridge); W. Harrison, checker, Dundee (East). District No. 3.—P. Martin, night foreman, Glasgow (Sighthill); W. McCaffery, number taker, Glasgow (Stobcross).

Sectional Board No. 6. District No. 1.—W. Scott, engine driver, Hawick; G. Craig, engine driver, Edinburgh (St. Margaret's). District No. 2.—J. Moodie, engine driver, Dundee (Tay Bridge); P. McRae, fireman, Perth. District No. 3.—T. Wilson, engine driver, Eastfield; W. Weir, engine driver, Eastfield. District No. 4.—R. Baxter, engine driver, Glasgow (Parkhead); G. Dickens, engine driver, Coatbridge (Kippis).

Sectional Board No. 7. District No. 1.—J. Walker, platelayer, Edinburgh (Abbeyhill); W. Gusthart, signal fitter, Portobello. District No. 2.—W. Maguire, foreman surfaceman, Cardenden; W. Blyth, foreman platelayer, Dunfermline Upper. District No. 3.—F. Ferran, surfaceman, Glasgow (Cowliars); A. Wagstaff, signal fitter, Glasgow (Queen Street). District No. 4.—T. Dunnion, foreman surfaceman, Whifflet; P. Cronin, platelayer, Shettleston.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. District No. 1 (Western).—R. Atkinson, locomotive driver, Liverpool (Brunswick). District No. 2 (Manchester).—W. Tomkinson, locomotive driver, Gorton; J. Healey, locomotive driver, Sheffield. District No. 3 (London).—H. Bailey, locomotive driver, Neasden. District No. 4 (Northern).—G. W. Cotton, locomotive driver, Mexborough. District No. 5 (Eastern).—T. H. Parker, locomotive driver, Grimsby.

Sectional Board B. District No. 1 (Western).—J. Taylor, signalman, Culcheth (Glazebrook Moss Junction). District No. 2 (Manchester).—W. A. Bell, signalman, Ardwick; W. J. Lyon, signalman, Woodhouse. District No. 3 (London).—J. M. Davies, relief signalman, Nottingham (Arkwright Street). District No. 4 (Northern).—E. Moutt, signalman, Barnsley (Oakwell Junction). District No. 5 (Eastern).—G. Pickering, signalman, Grimsby.

Sectional Board C. District No. 1 (Western).—W. H. Maybury, goods guard, St. Helen's. District No. 2 (Manchester).—W. Bancroft, goods guard, Sheffield; G. M. Carter, passenger guard, Manchester (London Road). District No. 3 (London).—G. Dobbs, goods guard, Leicester. District No. 4 (Northern).—J. T. Twiby, goods guard, Mexborough. District No. 5 (Eastern).—H. N. Jackson, travelling shunter, Grimsby Docks.

Sectional Board D. District No. 1 (Western).—J. G. Woolhouse, carriage and wagon examiner, Northwich. District No. 2 (Manchester).—E. Brennan, foreman carriage cleaner, Manchester (London Road); E. R. Neal, wagon examiner, Staveley Town. District No. 3 (London).—E. Burns, electrical examiner, Leicester. District No. 4 (Northern).—E. J. Hemming, wagon examiner, Frodingham and Scunthorpe. District No. 5 (Eastern).—J. W. Allan, porter shunter, New Holland.

Sectional Board E. District No. 1 (Western).—J. Higginson, goods porter, Ashton-in-Makerfield. District No. 2 (Manchester).—T. Haydon, checker, Ardwick; A. Lewis, checker, Glossop. District No. 3 (London).—A. W. Everard, checker, London (Limehouse Depot). District No. 4 (Northern).—F. B. Ellis, goods porter, Barnsley. District No. 5 (Eastern).—T. Q. Metcalf, checker, Grimsby Docks.

Sectional Board F. District No. 1 (Western).—S. Vickers, ganger, Blaenau. District No. 2 (Manchester).—T. Sheppard, relayman, Guide Bridge; W. Prickett, ganger, Hucknall Town. District No. 3 (London).—R. H. Lockwood, ganger, New Basford. District No. 4 (Northern).—G. H. Kirman, ganger, Kirton Lindsey. District No. 5 (Eastern).—W. Marchant, ganger, New Holland.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

Sectional Board No. 1. District No. 1 (North).—T. Irvine, engine driver, Corkerhill; F. Swan, engine driver, Corkerhill. District No. 2 (South).—A. Dobie, engine driver, Dumfries; J. Dunlop, engine driver, Hurlford.

Sectional Board No. 2. District No. 1 (North).—W. Lowden, signalman, Glasgow (College); W. Montgomerie, signalman, Barrhead. District No. 2 (South).—J. Stevenson, signalman, Kilmarnock; A. McLeod, signalman, Kilmarnock.

Sectional Board No. 3. District No. 1 (North).—A. Robertson, goods guard, Glasgow (St. Enoch); A. Howard, shunter, Johnstone. District No. 2 (South).—M. Constantine, goods guard, Carlisle; J. Rorison, goods guard, Hurlford.

Sectional Board No. 4. District No. 1 (North).—R. Benzie, passenger guard, Greenock (Princes Pier); W. Bell, ticket collector, Glasgow (St. Enoch). District No. 2 (South).—W. Robinson, passenger guard, Carlisle; J. Brechany, passenger guard, Dalmeilington.

Sectional Board No. 5. District No. 1 (North).—J. Brown, checker, Glasgow (College); J. Greer, checker, Glasgow (College). District No. 2 (South).—A. McMillan, number taker, Dumfries; J. C. Sherry, goods porter, Kilmarnock.

Sectional Board No. 6. District No. 1 (North).—J. Lang, foreman surfaceman, Corkerhill; J. Carty, foreman surfaceman, Shields. District No. 2 (South).—W. Cumming, surfaceman, Dumfries; J. Gemmell, foreman surfaceman, Hurlford.

GREAT NORTH OF SCOTLAND RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. First District.—J. Craig, fireman, Kittybrewster; R. Esson, engine driver, Kittybrewster. Second District.—W. Sim, engine driver, Boddam; J. Murphy, fireman, Keith.

Sectional Board B. First District.—W. Milne, guard, Aberdeen Joint; G. Thomson, signalman, Kittybrewster. Second District.—J. Rothney, signalman, Dyce Junction; J. Gordon, guard, Keith; W. Geddes, signalman, Cairnie Junction; J. Brown, guard, Keith.

Sectional Board C. First District.—R. Lumsden, foreman wayman, Kittybrewster; W. Scott, foreman wayman, Lonmay. Second District.—G. Stewart, wayman, Keith; G. Alexander, foreman wayman, Knock.

COCKERMOUTH, KESWICK AND PENRITH RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A.—G. Schollick, signalman, Threlkeld; J. S. Codling, signalman, Redhills Junction; J. Temple, yardsman, Cockermonth.

Sectional Board B.—J. Taylor, platelayer, Embleton; J. Nicholson, labourer, Keswick; W. Nicholson, platelayer, Troutbeck.

HIGHLAND RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A.—G. Reid, engine driver, Inverness; G. Clark, engine driver, Inverness; A. Reid, engine driver, Perth.

Sectional Board B.—D. A. Mowatt, foreman surfaceman, Georgemas Junction; P. Fisher, surfaceman, Carr Bridge (Slochd); D. Gray, foreman surfaceman, Fearn.

Sectional Board C.—W. Birken, goods guard, Inverness; C. Munro, assistant passenger guard, Perth; J. Jamieson, foreman porter, Blair Atholl.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

The results of the latest ascertained prices of the selling prices of coal and iron in various districts are given in the Table below. The movements in wages which resulted from these ascertained prices are shown in the paragraphs following the Table:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with		
	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	
Coal. Northumberland:— (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth.)	1908.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
	June-Aug.	8 7/4	- 0 2/26	- 0 8/15	
Pig Iron. Cleveland ...	July-Sept.	49 11/30	- 1 1/58	- 7 3/70	
	Cumberland ...	58 3/67	- 2 3/151	- 18 11/248	
Manufact'd Iron. North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	July-Aug.	134 3/66	+ 0 5/05	- 11 7/59	
		129 8/75	- 6 3/53	- 18 10/17	
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, etc.)	July-Aug.	118 11/61	- 3 5/60	- 28 7/62	

Coal.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Northumberland coal, it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board on October 3rd that the wages of underground workers and "bankmen" should be reduced by 2½ per cent., and of other surface workers by 2 per cent., leaving their wages 41¼ per cent. and 33 per cent. respectively above the standard of 1879.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertained prices of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen were reduced by 3½ per cent. in West Cumberland, and by 1½ per cent. in the Cleveland district.

Manufactured Iron.—The wages of puddlers and millmen in the North of England and the West of Scotland remain unchanged as a result of the ascertained prices of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts. In the Midlands also the wages will remain unchanged, as the effect of the fall in the selling price is counteracted by an increase in the premium paid under the sliding scale arrangements. This premium now stands at a fixed rate of 2s. 3d. per ton, and is paid in addition to the rates calculated under the sliding scale, which vary with the ascertained selling price.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of bread on October 1st, 1908, have been received from the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from other sources. These Returns are summarised in the following Tables:—

District.	1st Oct., 1908.			1st Sept., 1908.			1st Oct., 1907.		
	Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.			Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.			Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W.	5½	4½	5/3	5½	5	5/8	6	5½	5/6
E. & N.E.	5½	4½	5/3	5½	4½	5/3	6	5½	5/4
S.E.	6	5½	5/6	6	5½	5/6	6	5½	5/5
S.W.	6	5½	5/6	6	5½	5/6	6	5½	5/7
W. & W.C.	6	5½	5/7	6	5½	5/7	6	5½	5/8
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	4½	5/7	7	5	5/7	6½	5	5/6
Midlands ...	6	5	5/4	6	5	5/4	6	5	5/5
Eastern Counties ...	6½	5	5/4	6	5	5/4	6½	5	5/5
Southern Counties	6½	4½	5/9	6½	4½	5/9	6½	5½	5/6
S. Western Counties and Wales	6	5	5/5	6	5	5/5	6	5	5/6
Scotland ...	7	5½	5/2	7	5½	5/2	7	5	5/0
Great Britain ...	7	4½	5/6	7	4½	5/6	7	4½	5/7

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices remains unaltered. As compared with a year ago a slight decrease is shown.

Price of Bread in 28 Large Towns.

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lbs. at Oct. 1st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London ...	d. 5½	d. ...	- ½	Oct. '07	- ½
Birmingham ...	5 & 5½	...	- ½	Aug. '08	+ ½
Bolton ...	6	...	+ ½	Oct. '07	+ ½
Bristol ...	5½ & 6	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Cardiff ...	5 & 5½	...	- ½	Mar. '08	- ½
Derby ...	5	...	...	April '08	- ½
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ...	5½	...	...	Mar. '08	- ½
Ipswich ...	6	...	+ ½	Oct. '07	+ ½
Leeds ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ 1
Leicester ...	5	...	- ½	Feb. '08	- ½
Liverpool ...	5½	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Manchester ...	4½	...	- ½	April '08	- ½
Middlesbrough ...	5½	...	- ½	Sept. '08	- ½
Newcastle ...	5½	...	+ ½	Jan. '08	- ½
Norwich ...	5	...	...	Feb. '08	- ½
Nottingham ...	5½	...	+ ½	Sept. '08	+ ½
Oldham ...	4½	...	...	Aug. '08	+ ½
Plymouth ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Potteries ...	5	...	...	Aug. '08	+ ½
Wolverhampton ...	5	...	- ½	Feb. '08	- ½
Aberdeen ...	5½	...	...	May '08	- ½
Dundee ...	5½ & 6	...	...	Dec. '07	- ½
Edinburgh ...	6½	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Glasgow ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Belfast ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Dublin ...	6	...	+ ½	Mar. '08	+ ½

The above Table shows that at Nottingham the predominant price is now 5½d. per 4lbs., instead of 5d. and 5½d. as in the previous month. At Manchester, though a rise (from 4d. per 4lbs. to 4½d.) in the lowest quality of bread occurred during September, the

predominant price is nevertheless lower, viz., 4½d., the change being due to the increased sale of the lowest quality. As compared with a year ago, 17 of the towns show no change, 2 (including London) show decreases of ½d., 4 show decreases of ¾d., and 1 (Cardiff) a decrease of ¾d. per 4lbs. The remaining 4 towns show increases of ½d. per 4lbs.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports. (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1907.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
September ...	7 4	8 1½	10 3½	11 6
1908.	7 3	8 2½	10 6½	11 3½
August ...	7 3	8 6	10 7½	11 4½
September ...	7 3	8 6	10 7½	11 4½

The imports of wheat during September, 1908, amounted to 8,247,300 cwt., or 414,900 cwt. less than in September, 1907. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in September, 1908, amounted to 981,010 cwt., or 146,590 cwt. less than in the corresponding month of 1907.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for September.

	September.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 19,923,429	£ 20,259,346	£ 23,398,348	+ 2,139,002	+ 2,474,919
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured	£ 13,120,460	£ 13,187,194	£ 13,225,909	+ 38,715	+ 105,449
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	£ 11,860,387	£ 11,624,480	£ 12,208,664	+ 516,184	+ 348,277
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	£ 155,559	£ 195,431	£ 195,286	- 1,145	+ 39,727
Total value of Imports	£ 45,060,835	£ 45,338,451	£ 49,028,207	+ 2,692,756	+ 2,968,372

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

	September.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 2,159,199	£ 2,327,413	£ 2,038,167	- 289,246	- 101,032
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured	£ 3,638,625	£ 4,851,831	£ 4,373,170	- 478,661	+ 734,545
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	£ 24,282,220	£ 27,509,761	£ 24,734,250	- 2,775,511	+ 452,030
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	£ 465,109	£ 467,315	£ 475,610	+ 8,304	+ 10,510
Total value of Exports of British produce.	£ 30,525,153	£ 35,156,320	£ 31,621,206	- 3,535,114	+ 1,096,083

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £5,520,763 in September, 1906; £5,942,312 in September, 1907; and £5,287,814 in September, 1908.

* In accordance with Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, the rate of conversion from quarters to cwt. is made at the rate of 60 imperial pounds = 1 bushel of wheat.
† Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
‡ Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.
§ Coal, wool, oil seeds, &c. hides and skins, &c.
|| Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during September was 46, consisting of 43 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of mercurial poisoning, and 2 of arsenic poisoning. In addition to the above, 22 cases of lead poisoning (5 of which were fatal) were reported during September among house painters and plumbers. There were 2 cases of anthrax reported during September.

During the nine months ended September, 1908, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 563, as compared with 432 in 1907. The number of deaths during the same period was 28, as against 33 in 1907. In addition there were 158 cases of lead poisoning (including 27 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first nine months of 1908, as compared with 122 cases (including 30 deaths) in the first nine months of 1907.

Analysis by Industries.

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

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.			
	Month of Sept., 1908.	Nine Months ended Sept., 1908.	Month of Sept., 1908.	Nine Months ended Sept., 1908.		
					1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.
Lead Poisoning.						
Smelting of Metals ...	4	59	16	—	2	2
Brass Works ...	1	5	4	—	—	1
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	2	11	3	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	4	22	12	—	—	2
Printing ...	1	22	23	—	—	2
File Cutting ...	—	7	6	—	1	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware ...	—	5	17	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	2	55	47	—	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	1	7	5	—	—	—
China and Earthenware* ...	10*	95	65	1	9	8
Litho-Transfer Works ...	—	1	6	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	2	3	—	1	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	—	5	1	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	2	22	10	—	1	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	3	39	19	—	1	—
Coach Making ...	4	61	51	—	1	1
Shipbuilding ...	—	8	17	—	—	1
Paint used in other Industries ...	2	50	31	—	—	1
Other Industries ...	7	55	36	—	5	2
Total in Factories and Workshops	43	491	369	1	21	21
House Painting and Plumbing ...	22	158	122	5	27	30
Other Forms of Poisoning.						
Mercurial Poisoning—						
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	2	—	—	—	—
Printers' Processes ...	1	4	4	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	3	1	—	—	—
Total ...	1	9	5	—	—	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—						
Lucifer Match Works ...	—	1	1	—	—	1
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	1	1	—	—	1
Arsenic Poisoning—						
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	16	4	—	1	—
Other Industries ...	2	6	4	—	—	2
Total ...	2	22	8	—	1	2
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	3	32	14	—	1	3
Anthrax.						
Wool ...	1	15	20	—	2	3
Handling of Horsehair ...	—	10	15	—	1	4
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	1	11	9	—	1	1
Other Industries ...	—	4	5	—	2	1
Total, Anthrax ...	2	40	49	—	6	9

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

* Of the 10 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, 4 were females.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during September, 1908, was 213, a decrease of 61 as compared with a month ago, and of 63 as compared with a year ago.

The mean number for September in the years 1903-1907 was 237, the maximum year being 1907 with 276 deaths, and the minimum year 1903 with 202 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in September, 1908, was 101, as compared with 172 in August, 1908, and 129 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during September, 1908, was 74, as compared with 81 in the previous month, and 93 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 35, 21, and 50 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during September, 1908, was 115, as compared with 80 in August, 1908, and 103 in September, 1907.

During the nine months ended September, 1908, the total number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment was 2,176, as compared with 2,192 in the corresponding period of 1907. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 917 in 1908, and 1,044 in 1907.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1908, as compared with a	
	Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	—	1	+ 2	+ 1
Engine Drivers ...	1	1	3	—	- 2
Firemen ...	1	—	1	+ 1	—
Guards (Passenger) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	9	6	9	+ 3	—
Porters ...	4	2	7	+ 2	- 3
Shunters ...	2	3	1	- 1	+ 1
Miscellaneous ...	14	7	28	+ 7	- 14
Contractors' Servants ...	2	2	—	—	+ 2
Total, Railway Service	35	21	50	+ 14	- 15
Mines—					
Underground ...	84	156	108	- 72	- 24
Surface ...	10	8	11	+ 2	- 1
Total, Mines	94	164	119	- 70	- 25
Quarries over 20 feet deep ...	7	8	10	- 1	- 3
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton ...	5	2	4	+ 3	+ 1
Wool and Worsted ...	4	1	3	+ 3	+ 1
Other Textiles ...	2	3	1	- 1	+ 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals ...	6	5	1	+ 1	+ 5
Founding and Conversion of Metals ...	2	3	13	- 1	- 11
Marine and Locomotive Engineering ...	2	1	1	+ 1	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building ...	11	6	8	+ 5	+ 3
Wood ...	3	3	3	—	- 3
Chemicals ...	3	5	6	—	+ 1
Laundries ...	—	—	—	—	+ 1
Other Non-Textile Industries ...	24	26	23	- 2	+ 1
Total, Factories ...	62	85	63	+ 7	- 1
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays ...	6	11	12	- 5	- 6
Warehouses ...	—	1	3	—	- 3
Buildings to which Act applies ...	6	14	15	- 8	- 9
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	12	26	30	- 14	- 18
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894					
Total, exclusive of Seamen	213	274	276	- 61	- 63
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing ...	54	6	7	+ 48	+ 47
Steam ...	53	65	92	- 12	- 39
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing ...	—	5	1	—	- 5
Steam ...	8	4	3	+ 4	+ 5
Total, Seamen	115	80	103	+ 35	+ 12
Total, including Seamen	328	354	379	- 26	- 51

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—The principal feature of the month was the dispute in the cotton spinning industry which began on September 21st, and by which about 120,000 operatives had become involved by the end of the month. In addition, 14 other disputes commenced in September, by which 5,276 persons were directly and 236 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before September, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 137,188 workpeople involved in trade disputes during September, 1908, compared with 24,211 in August, 1908, and 10,833 in September, 1907.

New Disputes in September, 1908.—In the following Table the new disputes in September are summarised by trades involved:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved		
		Directly	Indirectly.	Total.
Building ...	1	70	—	70
Coal Mining ...	6	3,633	4	3,687
Cotton Trade ...	1	†	†	120,000
Other Trades ...	7	1,523	232	1,755
Total, September, 1908	15	—	—	125,512
Total, August, 1908	16	1,836	761	2,597
Total, September, 1907	29	8,425	787	9,212

Causes.—Of the 15 new disputes, 3 arose on demands for increased wages, 3 on objections to reduction in wages, and 3 on other wages questions, 3 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 2 on details of working arrangements, and 1 out of a refusal to work with non-unionists.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 11 new disputes, directly involving 3,187 persons, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 8,098 persons. Of these 15 new and old disputes, 3, directly involving 1,540 persons, were decided in favour of the work-

people; 7, directly involving 9,320 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 5, directly involving 425 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 1 other dispute, involving 54 persons, work has been resumed pending arbitration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in September of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 1,192,500 working days. In addition, 74,300 working days were lost in September owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in September of all disputes, new or old, was 1,266,800 working days, as compared with 394,400 in the previous month and 72,100 in the corresponding month of 1907.

Summary for the First Nine Months of 1907 and 1908.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the nine months January—September, 1907 and 1908, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.-Sept., 1907.			Jan.-Sept., 1908.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ...	18	963	21,900	18	2,783	71,200
Mining and Quarrying...	83	41,351	426,100	99	47,045	867,400
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	80	14,341	384,900	40	57,126	3,782,900
Textile ...	118	35,258	503,300	52	130,911	1,506,800
Clothing ...	39	2,322	58,400	25	3,772	65,500
Transport ...	22	7,161	88,100	14	2,747	16,700
Other Trades ...	59	4,419	73,300	56	3,091	58,800
Total ...	419	110,818	1,596,000	284	246,975	6,369,300

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations §	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began in 1908.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object. §	Result. §
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly. §				
Coal Mining—							
Coal Miners ...	Cwmillery ...	1,440	—	24 Sept.	4	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Engineering—							
Fitters, Turners, Machine Workers, Labourers and other Workpeople in Engineering Trades	North-East Coast	8,000	3,000	20 Feb.	179	Against proposed reduction in wages of 2½ per cent. off piece rates and 1s. per week off time rates	For terms of settlement, see p. 304.
Cotton Trade—							
Operatives in Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills	S. & S. E. Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire	120,000†	—	21 Sept.	—	Claim of employers to a reduction in wages of 5 per cent.	Still unsettled.
Clothing Trade—							
Shirt and Collar Makers	Londonderry	1,023	—	12 Sept.	5	Strike against reduction in one department, followed by lock-out	Reduction accepted.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
† This is the estimated total of workpeople directly or indirectly involved at the establishments immediately affected by this dispute; it has not been found possible to distinguish between those directly involved and those thrown out of work at these establishments.
‡ In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.
§ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e. thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

NEW MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN ROUMANIA.*

By a law dated April 1st/14th, 1908, certain functions hitherto appertaining to the Roumanian Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce and Domains are transferred to a new department entitled Ministry of

Industry and Commerce, the former department receiving the title of Ministry of Agriculture and Domains. Among the functions of the new Ministry are all matters appertaining to industry, and the protection of women and minors in industrial establishments. Until the passing of a law for the organisation of the new Ministry, the services handed over to it will continue to be carried on in accordance with their respective special laws.

* Based on a despatch dated September 28th, 1908, from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in September.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in September, 1908, was a decrease of £19,136 per week, as compared with a decrease of £3,140 per week in August, 1908, and an increase of £26,519 per week in September, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 395,111, of whom 1,593 received advances amounting to £28 per week, and 393,518 sustained decreases amounting to £19,164 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 160,290, and in September, 1907, 540,630.

One change, affecting 83 workpeople, was settled by arbitration; four changes, affecting 317,100 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; two changes, affecting 1,990 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and one change, affecting 8,000 workpeople, was settled by mediation following a dispute causing stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting 67,938 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for the nine completed months of 1908.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in the nine months ended September 30th, 1908, was 899,983, as compared with 1,200,217 in the corresponding period of 1907. The changes arranged gave 61,298 workpeople a net increase of £4,344 per week, and 458,895 workpeople a net decrease of £59,276 per week, whilst the remaining 379,790 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of the changes was thus a decrease of £54,932 per week, as compared with an increase of £180,274 per week in the corresponding period of 1907.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by these reported changes, and the net result in their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Table with 5 columns: Groups of Trades, No. (1907), £ (1907), No. (1908), £ (1908). Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron, &c., Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Other Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Printing, &c., Trades, Glass, &c., Trades, Other Trades, Employees of Local Authorities, and Total.

Hours.

No changes in hours of labour were reported as taking effect in September. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the nine months ended September 30th, 1908, was 15,949. Of these, 3,099 had their aggregate working time increased by 13,186 hours per week, and 12,850 had reductions amounting to 22,044 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in September.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN SEPTEMBER.

Table with 6 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1908, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics). Rows include Coal Mining (Cumberland, Federated Districts, South Staffs. and East Worcester-shire), Bristol District, Somerset (Radstock District), Iron and Steel Manufacture (Workington, Eston), and Engineering (North-East Coast).

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—Early in October it was arranged that the rates of wages of miners in Northumberland should be reduced by 2½ per cent. In the Bristol and Radstock Districts the miners received the usual winter advance of 2½ per cent. at the beginning of October. Pig Iron Manufacture.—In accordance with the sliding scale arrangements, the rates of wages of blastfurnacemen have been reduced in October by 1½ per cent. in Cleveland, by 3 per cent. in West Cumberland, and by 1 per cent. in South Wales and Monmouthshire. Iron and Steel Manufacture.—The rates of wages of iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire were reduced by 1 per cent. early in October. Full particulars will appear in the November GAZETTE. * Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c. † Including Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, North Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Shropshire and North Wales.

PAUPERISM IN SEPTEMBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in September, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 220 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with August, 1908, the total number of paupers increased by 9,285 (2·4 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 5. The number of indoor paupers increased by 3,841 (2·3 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 5,444 (2·5 per cent.). Increases occurred in 32 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (49 per 10,000), in the Manchester district (20 per 10,000), and in the Leicester district (19 per 10,000); in two districts there were decreases, and in the Leeds district there was no change.

Compared with September, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 11. The number of indoor paupers increased by 12,644 (7·8 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 11,544 (5·6 per cent.). In twenty-nine districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (159 per 10,000); in the remaining six districts there were decreases.

Table with 7 columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Sept., 1908. (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES* (Metropolis, West District, North District, Central District, East District, South District, Total, Metropolis, West Ham, Other Districts, Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Leicester District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea, Total, "Other Districts"), SCOTLAND* (Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock District, Edinburgh & Leith District, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie, Total for the above Scottish Districts), IRELAND.† (Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, Galway District, Total for the above Irish Districts), and Total for above 38 Districts in Sept., 1908.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN SEPTEMBER.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 330.

THE following Table shows the number of applicants to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of September, by those Committees whose registers were open at that date. The following Distress Committees re-opened their registers during September:—29 Committees in London, and the committees at Aston Manor, Birmingham, Blackburn, Burnley, Erith, Gorton, Ipswich, King's Norton and Northfield, Leeds, Middleton, Northampton, Norwich, Plymouth, Portsmouth, St. Helens, West Bromwich and West Hartlepool. A large number of other Committees re-opened early in October.

The Committees were requested, in making up their returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work, or to have left the neighbourhood, since registration; and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified.

Table with 4 columns: Distress Committees, No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of Sept., 1908, Distress Committees, No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of Sept., 1908. Rows include London (29 Committees), Outer London, Aston Manor, Barrow-in-Furness, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bolton, Bradford, Burnley, Devonport, Halifax, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Norwich, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Salford, Sheffield, South Shields, Sunderland, West Bromwich, West Hartlepool, Other Towns (20), Total, England and Wales, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Govan, Partick, Other Committees (3), Total, Scotland, Ireland, Total, United Kingdom.

The following Table shows the amount of employment-relief provided by all Committees, including those whose registers were not open for the receipt of new applications:—

Table with 4 columns: Distress Committees, No. given Employment-relief, Aggregate duration of Employment-relief, Total Amount of Wages paid. Rows include London (Central Body), Outer London, Kettering, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Salford, Smethwick, Sunderland, Other Towns (6), Total, England and Wales, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Govan, Leith, Partick, Total, Scotland, Total, Great Britain.

It will be seen that the average number of days' employment-relief given was nearly 11, and the average amount of wages paid was about 27s. per man, or 2s. 6d. a day.

* This is the number on the register of the Distress Committee proper; the number on the "unemployment register" was 4,369. † New register opened; number of applicants cannot at present be stated. ‡ Including some not registered by the Distress Committees. § The number given employment-relief includes 86 on piecework, the aggregate duration of whose employment cannot be stated. ¶ All on piecework: the aggregate duration of the employment-relief cannot be stated.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

† Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.*

NOTE.—Labour bureaux whose registers are identical with those of Distress Committees are excluded from this Table. For statistics of the work of Distress Committees in September, see page 329.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 48 Labour Bureaux during September; of these Bureaux 29 were in London (including West Ham), and 19 in the Provinces. Of the 29 London Bureaux, 26 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 26,982, of which 15,908 were in London, and 11,074 in the Provinces. The number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 4,215, or 15.6 per cent. of the applications received, and 74.9 per cent. of the situations offered. The number of permanent situations filled was 2,473 (or 58.7 per cent.), and temporary 1,742 (or 41.3 per cent.). The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades, as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 216; wood-working trades, 49; metal and engineering trades, 152; other skilled trades,

68; "transport and general," 301; other trades, men and boys, 465; women and girls, 706. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 105; metal and engineering trades, 90; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 617; general labourers, 102; bill distributors, 222; employees of local authorities, 413; charwomen and domestic servants, 198; other occupations, 298. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 213 men.

At 45 of the Bureaux mentioned below, figures for 1907 are available. The number of applicants registered at these Bureaux was 26,386 in September, 1908, as compared with 13,809 in September, 1907. Employers offered 5,432 situations during September, 1908, of which 4,036 were filled. In September, 1907, 4,216 situations were offered, and 2,873 filled. The number of workpeople on the registers at the end of September, 1908, was 24,402, as compared with 17,326 in September, 1907.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING SEPTEMBER, 1908.

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

* The figures for the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange relate to the 4 weeks ended September 25th, 1908; for the other Bureaux the particulars relate to work done during the calendar month.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.

DURING September 1,014 fresh applications (527 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 9 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 790 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 258 persons, of whom 134 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 258 situations found for applicants, 203 were of a more or less permanent character, while 55 were temporary only.

The demand for cooks and parlourmaids was greatly in excess of the supply; the supply of housekeepers, ladies' maids, companions, children's nurses and housemaids was in excess of the demand.

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

Table with columns: Applications by Workpeople during (Sept. 1908, Sept. 1907), Situations offered by Employers during (Sept. 1908, Sept. 1907), Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily) (Sept. 1908, Sept. 1907). Includes Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

In addition to the above registered applications, the Returns show that 25 persons in London and 12 in Edinburgh were referred to other Agencies; 299 persons in London and 41 in Dublin were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended October 3rd, 1908, amounted to £5,450,074, a decrease of £303,988 (or 5.3 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

During the forty weeks ended October 3rd, 1908, the receipts amounted to £41,658,149, a decrease of £1,877,221 (or 4.3 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

Table with columns: 5 weeks ended October 3rd, 1908, 40 weeks ended October 3rd, 1908, Amount, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907. Includes English Lines, Glasgow Lines, and Irish Lines.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING SEPTEMBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Official Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.)

Mines and Quarries—General Report and Statistics for 1907. Part II. Labour. Persons employed and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom, enforcement of the Mines and Quarries Acts. Home Office. [Cd. 4305: pp. 50 to 117: price 9d.]

Report to Home Office on the Circumstances attending Explosion in Carriage Hut at Factory 154, Kent. [Cd. 4295: pp. 9: price 1½d.] At Factory No. 157, Derby. [Cd. 4293: pp. 7: price 1d.] At Dawson Street, Hulme, Manchester. [Cd. 4294: pp. 7: price 1d.]

Report upon an Irruption of Water at Breerton Collieries, South Staffordshire, February 15th, 1908. [Cd. 4290: pp. 10: price 1½d.]

Railway Servants (Hours of Labour). Report by the Board of Trade respecting their Proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended July 27th, 1908. [H.C. 278: pp. 12: price 1½d.]

Railway Servants (Hours of Labour). Return of Railway Servants of certain classes on duty more than twelve hours at a time, &c., during the month of April, 1908. Board of Trade. [Cd. 4301: pp. 25: price 3d.]

General Report to the Board of Trade on Railway Accidents that have occurred in the United Kingdom during 1907. Includes results of enumeration of different classes of railway servants in 1907. [Cd. 4287: pp. 66: price 7d.]

Railway Accidents. Summary of Accidents and Casualties reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies of the United Kingdom during the Three Months ending March 31st, 1908. With reports by Inspecting Officers upon certain accidents which were inquired into. [Cd. 4307: pp. 161: price 1s. 10d.]

Fifty-fourth Report of the Postmaster-General on the Post Office. Staff mortality, &c. [Cd. 4240: pp. iv + 102: price 5½d.]

Pauperism (England and Wales). Half-yearly statement, January 1st, 1908. [H.C. 130: pp. xxiii + 41: price 7d.]

Deaths from Starvation or accelerated by Privation (London) in the year 1907. Return. [H.C. 267: pp. 13: price 2d.]

Trustee Saving Banks. Return for year ended November 20th, 1907. [H.C. 265: pp. 13: price 2d.]

Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Ireland for year ended March 31st, 1908. Proceedings under Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, Housing Acts, &c. [Cd. 4243: pp. xviii + 17 + 627: price 2s. 9d.]

Labourers (Ireland). Return showing number of cottages and allotments provided under the Labourers' Acts by each District Council in Ireland, and other particulars. [H.C. 232: pp. 11: price 1½d.]

Report of the 40th Annual Co-operative Congress, 1908. Held at Newport (Mon.), June 8th, 9th and 10th, 1908. [Manchester: Co-operative Union, Ltd.]

The Economic Journal. September, 1908. Contains paper on "Labour organisation in the Cutlery Trade of Solingen," by G. J. H. Lloyd. [Macmillan & Co., Ltd., price 5s.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. The Labour Gazette, August 1908. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during July 1908; Ontario legislation affecting labour, 1908; recent immigration regulations and instructions. [Ottawa: S. E. Dawson, King's Printer.]

New Zealand. Seventeenth Annual Report of the Department of Labour 1908. Reports of factory inspectors, proceedings under various Acts, statistics of factories and workshops—persons engaged, weekly wages, charts, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 2 + 117.]

Awards, Recommendations and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Vol. IX. Part 4. August, 1908. List of industrial associations and unions registered under the New Zealand Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act up to June 30th, 1908. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

Journal of the Department of Labour, August 1908. Condition of employment and trade, cases under the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

Victoria. Thirtieth Annual Report on Friendly Societies. Report of the Actuary for Friendly Societies for 1907, with Valuation Returns, &c. [Pp. 118: price 3s. 6d.] Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1907. [Pp. 8; price 6d.] Twenty-second Annual Report on Trade Unions, 1907. [Pp. 6: price 6d.] [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States. Department of Commerce and Labour. Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour. No. 76. May, 1908. The Canadian Industrial Disputes Investigation Act of 1907, by Victor S. Clark. What is done for the Unemployed in European Countries, by W. D. P. Bliss. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 388.]

Illinois. *First Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics on Industrial Accidents in Illinois*, for the six months ending 31st December, 1907. [Springfield: Phillips Bros., State Printers: pp. 149.]

State of Kansas. *23rd Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour for 1907.* Strikes and labour difficulties, child labour and factory inspection, wage earner statistics, &c. [Topeka: State Printing Office: pp. 351.]

Missouri. *29th Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics for the year ending November 5th, 1907.* Labour organisations, statistics of industries and manufactures, wages, &c., investigation into prison labour. [Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Company: pp. xi. + 797.]

State of North Carolina. *21st Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour and Printing, 1907.* Condition of agriculture, statistics of industries, railroad employees, wages paid, &c. [Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell & Co., State Printers: pp. 344.]

Massachusetts. *Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth.* No. 60. June-July, 1908. Labour legislation in Massachusetts, 1908; reduction in wages at Fall River, &c. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Company, State Printers.]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, August, 1908. Savings Banks in 1906; law of July 17th, 1908, on Consultative Labour Councils. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie: price 2d.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, September, 1908. Prices of meat January-June, 1908; employment in August; wages of Prussian miners in second quarter of 1908. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

Yearbook of General Federation of Co-operative Societies, 1907 (Dr. Crüger). [Berlin: J. Guttentag: pp. lxxxvi. + 243.]

Housing Statistics of Dresden (including Rents), 1907. Municipal Statistical Office. [Dresden: Zahn & Jaensch: pp. 54.]

Statistics of Königsberg, 1907. Municipal Statistical Office. [Königsberg: pp. 19.]

Quarterly Journal of Statistics of the German Empire. Part III., 1908. Prices in German and other towns; strikes and lock-outs in second quarter of 1908 (provisional figures). [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: price 2s.]

Austria-Hungary.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, July-August, 1908. Establishment of new branch of Ministry of Commerce to deal with social questions; trade unions in Austria in 1907; wages, hours, &c., of municipal employees in Vienna. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d.]

Statistical Journal of Hungary, July, 1908. Proposed Government grant for workmen's dwellings; statistics of Budapest labour registry in 1907. [Vienna: A. Hölder.]

Savings Banks in Styria in 1903 and 1904, with summary for 1894-1904. Statistical Office of Styria. [Graz: Leuschner & Lubensky: pp. vi. + 55.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, August, 1908. Statistics of trade unions at beginning of 1908. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

Statistical Yearbook of Italy, 1905-1907. Part II. Statistics of savings banks, friendly societies, workmen's insurance, trade unions, labour disputes, industrial accidents, &c. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: pp. 447: price 2s. 5d.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, August 31st, 1908 (Labour disputes in July) and September 15th, 1908 (Employment in August). [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhucdt: price 1d. each.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, August, 1908. Employment and disputes in July. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

Switzerland.

Immigration into Zürich. Statistical Office of Zürich. [Rascher et Cie: pp. 52 + map.]

Swiss Population Census of December 1st., 1900. Vol. IV. General Results. Federal Statistical Office, 1908. [Berne: A. Francke: pp. 100 + 63.]

Report of the Swiss Workmen's Secretariat to the Swiss Industrial Department on Wage Statistics. Part I, 1908. [Zürich: Kommission-verlag der Buchhandlung des Schweiz, Grütlivereins: pp. 152.]

Denmark.

Statistics of Denmark. Fourth Series. Vol. 26. Prices of cereals in 1907. Danish Statistical Office, 1908. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel—Nordisk Forlag.]

Population Statistics of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg and Gøtøfte, based on Census of February 1st, 1906. Danish Statistical Office, 1908. [Copenhagen: pp. 30 + 74.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, August, 1908. Industrial accidents in 1907. [Madrid: Calle Mayor 93: price 2½d.]

(1) *Material for the basis of a Bill relating to accidents in agriculture.* (2) *Social Congresses in 1907.* (3) *Statistics of Co-operative Societies, &c., November 1st, 1904.* Spanish Labour Department, 1908. [Madrid: D. V. Suarez, Calle de Precidos, 48: pp. 383, 232 and 156 respectively.]

Portugal.

Journal of the Portuguese Labour Department, No. 16, 1908.

Russia-Finland.

Journal of the Finnish Labour Department, No. 3, 1908. Text of Bill on insurance against old age and invalidity; trade unions in Finland, January 1st, 1908.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

(The Consular Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct or through any bookseller.)

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 4110. Foreign Commerce of Russia and Trade of the Consular District of St. Petersburg for the year 1907. Statistics of industries, agriculture, &c. [Cd. 3727-193: pp. 53: price 5d.]

No. 4111. Trade of the Consular District of Para, 1907. Portuguese immigration into Brazil, supply of labour, &c. [Cd. 3727-194: pp. 62: price 7½d.]

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING SEPTEMBER.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in September was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 17; under the Friendly Societies Act, 37 (including 23 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 2; in all, 57.

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

Trade Unions.—*England.*—1, viz., London Society of General Engravers and Carvers, 44, Poland Street, W. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—Nil.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—14, viz., *Co-operative Agricultural Societies:* (3) Crymmych and Dist. Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., Co-operative Store, Crymmych, S.O., Pembroke; Rhondda Dist. Agricultural Soc., Ltd., Messrs. Treherne and Treherne, Pentre, Rhondda, Pontypridd; Devizes and Dist. Poultry Soc., Ltd., 44, Market Place, Devizes. *Working Men's Clubs:* (7) Reading Beaconsfield Club, Ltd., 128-9, Friar Street, Reading; Poplar Constitutional Club, Ltd., 1, Newby Place, Poplar, E.; Tow Law and Dist. Workmen's Social Club and Inst., Ltd., 55, High Street, Tow Law, S.O., co. Durham; East Stanley Workmen's Club and Inst., Ltd., Front Street, East Stanley, Stanley, S.O., co. Durham; Barnard Castle and Dist. Workmen's Club and Inst., Ltd., 54, Bridegate, Barnard Castle; Heworth, Felling, and Dist. Constitutional Club, Ltd., Heworth, Felling, S.O., co. Durham; Westerhope Excelsior Social Club and Inst., Ltd., Ivy House, Westerhope, Newcastle-on-Tyne. *Miscellaneous:* 4. *Scotland.*—2, viz., *Co-operative Agricultural Society* (1) St. Andrews and East of Fife Farmers' Club, Ltd., Balcomie, Crail; and 1 other society. *Ireland.*—1 *Co-operative Agricultural Society*, viz., Inniskeel Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Fintown, co. Donegal.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—13, viz., Colne and Dist. Constitutional Club, Colne; Thorne Working Men's Club and Inst., 1, Thorne, Doncaster; North-West Leeds Working Men's Club and Inst., Leeds; Bradford Moor Independent Labour Club, Bradford; Horse and Groom Mutual Loan and Provident Club, Plumstead, Kent; Rutland Permanent Money Soc., Leicester; All for Each Credit Soc., Southall; Victoria Friendly Credit Soc., Batley; Liverpool Mersey Carters' Friendly Soc., Liverpool; Masters' Improvement Sick Benefit Divisional Soc., 21, Leman Street, E.; Stork Sick and Dividend Soc., Handsworth, Birmingham; Swan Pool Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Stansty Tontine Benefit Soc., Rhosddu, Wrexham. *Scotland.*—1, viz., Aberdeen Steam Fishers' Provident Soc., Aberdeen. *Ireland.*—Nil.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in Sept. of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions	1	...	2
Industrial and Provident Societies	4	1
Friendly Societies...	12	4
" Branches	31	...
Building "	3	6	...

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